“Increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and in some cases, terrorism”
Beyond the well-known dynamics, the evidence is thin particularly on trends at global level.
Corruption

Sectors vulnerable to corruption

**Drug Production**
- Supply chain
- Vulnerable sectors
  - Eradication teams
  - Alternative development projects
  - Law enforcement (police, customs, etc.)
  - Criminal justice system
  - Chemical companies
- Actors
  - Farmers seek to avoid eradication on their fields
  - Farmers and communities seek to benefit from alternative development investment
  - Entrepreneurs seek to sell their products and services
  - Producers and manufacturers seek to avoid controls, dismantlement of production sites and arrest
  - Producers and manufacturers seek to avoid sentencing
  - Manufacturers seek to divert precursor chemicals

**Drug Trafficking**
- Low enforcement (police, customs, etc.)
- Criminal justice system
- Transport companies
- Traffickers seek to avoid controls, dismantlement of groups and arrest
- Traffickers seek to avoid sentencing
- Traffickers seek to ship drugs by air, sea, land

**Drug Consumption**
- Medical doctors
- Pharmacies
- Drug users seek to obtain prescriptions for non-medical use of drugs (e.g., opioids, amphetamines, medical cannabis)
- Drug users seek to obtain medicines without prescription

Prevalence of bribery


Note: The average of eight types of public official includes officials from the following sectors: education, judiciary, medical and health, police, registry and permits, utilities, tax revenues and customs, and land services.
Many open questions....

Is it High-level or Low-level corruption that facilitates drug trafficking/manufacture?

At what stage of the criminal justice system, corruption becomes an essential enabler of drug trafficking/manufacture?

Are drug trafficking routes and modus operandi linked to corruption?

Is corruption related to drugs increasing?
Terrorist group marginally involved in drug trafficking

Drugs are one of the many revenue streams of the terrorist group

Drugs are a significant source of income of the terrorist group

Al-Qaida and ISIL related groups operating in North and West Africa

Taliban, FARC

The links are blurred: some terrorist groups operate as drug trafficking organizations and some drug trafficking organizations operate like terrorist groups
Beyond assessing the links, more fundamental questions....

Do terrorist activities depend on drug trafficking? Are terrorist groups what they are because of drug trafficking/manufacture?

Is conflict and insurgency driven by drug trafficking/manufacture?

Is drug trafficking/manufacture an increasing source for terrorism and conflict?
Drugs and Organized Crime

Some open questions, particularly beyond Europe....

Are drugs a more prominent business for OC groups in other regions?

Are drugs a fundamental element of OC? How versatile are OC groups in replacing drugs?

Source: UNODC, adapted from Europol, SOCTA 2017.
The status of the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ)