



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# الرّسالة التّرحيبية من رؤساء اللجنة:



**Khawla Al Nuaimi**

**Ahmad Al Khaledi**

**Mais Al Atallah**



المفوضون الأعزّاء،

نحن متشوقون لإقامة المؤتمر السنوي الثالث عشر لنموذج الأمم المتحدة التابع للجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة ونتمنى أن يكون هذا المؤتمر تجربة لا تنسى تساعد في تعزيز مهارتكم في النقاش والبحث، ومعرفتكم بالشؤون العالمية والأمن. في هذا المؤتمر، سيتم مناقشة موضوع مهم وهو حقوق الإنسان الفلسطيني وذلك لمدة ثلاثة أيام.

وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين (الأونروا) هي هيئة تابعة للأمم المتحدة والتي تلتزم بمساعدة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين من خلال توفير السلام والتنمية والتعليم، وتتكفل هذه اللجنة بمساعدتهم في العثور على مأوى للعيش، كما تشمل أهمية احترام ثقافة وحرية الأفراد، وأهمية العدالة وحقوق الإنسان، وسيتم مناقشة موضوعين مهمين في هذا العام وهما "إصلاح الأونروا ونزوح الفلسطينيين بعد الصراع السوري" و"زيادة التمويل للأونروا، للمساعدة في دعم تعليم الأطفال الفلسطينيين".

نود تهنئكم جميعاً لاختياركم خوض هذه التجربة لكسب المعرفة، ونحن نأمل أن يساعدكم هذا المؤتمر في فهم الصراع الفلسطيني ومعرفة المواضيع التي تلمس اهتمامكم وتتماشى مع شغفكم للبحث عنها والمساعدة بها.

رجاءً لا تترددوا في التواصل معنا لأي استفسار من خلال البريد الإلكتروني التالي: [ausmununrwaarabic@gmail.com](mailto:ausmununrwaarabic@gmail.com)

متشوقون للقائكم،  
رؤساء لجنة الأونروا



الأونروا

وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين

# القضية الأولى

## إصلاح الأونروا ونزوح الفلسطينيين بعد الصراع السوري

### 1. ملخص ونبذة تاريخية

اللاجئون الفلسطينيون هم الذين كانوا يعيشون في فلسطين خلال الفترة من 1 يونيو 1946 إلى 15 مايو 1948، والذين فقدوا منازلهم ووسائل رزقهم كنتيجة لنزاع عام 1948 ("لاجئي فلسطين"). يعيش حوالي 1.5 مليون لاجئ فلسطيني في 58 مخيمًا في الأردن، لبنان، الجمهورية العربية السورية، قطاع غزة والضفة الغربية، بما في ذلك القدس الشرقية، كما يعيش 560,000 منهم في سوريا، ومنذ الخمسينات كانت الأونروا نشطة في سوريا من خلال عملياتها الميدانية لمساعدة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين حيث قامت بتغطية ثلث احتياجاتهم اليومية من خلال توفير الغذاء لحوالي 418,000 فلسطيني، وكما قامت بتقديم المساعدات لجميع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا كالرعاية الصحية الأساسية وذلك بتوفير 26 مرفقًا للرعاية الصحية الأولية في جميع أنحاء البلاد. لقد قامت الوكالة بتعليم أكثر من 50,000 طفل في جميع أنحاء البلاد من خلال البرامج الدراسية المقدمة في المخيمات، بالإضافة إلى برامج الدعم التي قدمتها الوكالة في سبيل تحسين الحالة المعيشية للفلسطينيين من خلال برامج التمويل الأصغر والنقد ("أين نعمل"). في عام 2011 حدثت الأزمة الكبرى التي كان لها التأثير الأكبر على حياة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا، وذلك مع بداية الحرب الأهلية السورية حيث أقرت الوكالة عملياتها لضمان تلبية احتياجات اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في البلاد حيث كانت الأونروا المصدر الرئيسي لحماية ومساعدة حوالي 438,000 لاجئ فلسطيني في سوريا، وهم كانوا الأكثر تضررًا من الحرب الأهلية، وقد قام العديد من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا بتقديم طلب اللجوء فيما نزح ما يقارب 60% من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا. منذ بداية الأزمة السورية، قدرت الأونروا أنه حوالي 120,000 من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين نزحوا إلى خارج سوريا ("أين نعمل"). وما يقارب 30,000 لاجئ فلسطيني من سوريا (ل.ف.س) حاليًا مسجل في لبنان مع الأونروا. دخول ل.ف.س إلى لبنان سبب مشاكل أكثر منذ مايو 2014. ل.ف.س قد سمحوا الدخول إلى الأراضي اللبنانية في ظروف محدودة، مما صعّب دخولهم إلى لبنان بحثًا عن أمان وملجأ. من أولئك الذين تمكنوا من دخول لبنان، ل.ف.س هم الأقل تحصنًا، بالأخص في القطاعات التالية: الاقتصادية، التعليمية، الغذائية، الأمنية، الصحية، البضاعات غير الغذائية، المأوى، الصرف الصحي والنظافة. معظم ل.ف.س يعيشون في مجتمعات مع عائلات مضيقة أو مناطق تاجير. مجموعة صغيرة من الفلسطينيين، الذين وصلوا للأردن في أوائل النزاع، يعيشون في "سايبير سيتي" (المدينة الإلكترونية)، وهي منظمة حكومية في مدينة الرمثا. عدد اللاجئين الفلسطينيين المغتربين من سوريا المسجلين في الأردن وصل إلى 20,000 في عام 2014 ("ل.ف.س في الأردن").

### 2. خطاب حول القضية

نظرًا لتعرض الفلسطينيين من الانتهاك المستمر لحقوق الإنسان، ومحاولات أخذ أراضيهم منهم، تقع مسؤولية توفير المساعدات والملجأ لهم على الدول المجاورة. بالنسبة إلى ميثاق الأمم المتحدة، الأمم المتحدة مصممة على "تعزيز الإيمان بحقوق الإنسان الأساسية، بكرامة ومكانة الإنسان، بالمساواة بين المرأة والرجل بجميع الأمم الكبيرة والصغيرة (الأمم المتحدة، 1945، ص. 2). منذ بداية القضية الفلسطينية، خسر المدنيون شعورهم بالكرامة، ومن المهم للدول المستقرة أن تساهم في استعادة حقوق هؤلاء المدنيين. نظرًا لكون أحد أهداف الأمم المتحدة ضمان الأمان والصحة لكل الناس، مهما تكن الجنسية، الجنس أو العرق، إنه واجب كل عضو المساهمة في استعادة أمان وحقوق الفلسطينيين. والدول المجاورة، كالأردن، لبنان، وسوريا، هم الأكثر تأثرًا باللاجئين الفلسطينيين. في عام 2019، قُدِّر أن 560,000 من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين، المسجلين في الأونروا، يعيشون في سوريا. الأونروا حرصت على زيادة أعمالهم بعد الحرب السورية حتى يحصل اللاجئون على احتياجاتهم (وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين). الولايات المتحدة ساهمت مساهمة مادية، ولكنها قررت وقف المساعدة المالية للأونروا لاعتبارها عبئًا ماديًا (يومونت وهولمز، 2018). قلة المساهمات المادية من قبل الدول الأعضاء أدت لأن تقلل الأونروا من مساعدتها للاجئين في سوريا. كما أنه صعب على الأونروا تحقيق أهداف الإصلاحات نظرًا للميزانية المحدودة.

### 3. إجراءات تم اتخاذها في السابق من قبل منظمات دولية و آخر التطورات التي تليها

خلال الأزمة السورية، الأونروا كانت المزود الرئيسي للخدمات الإنسانية للاجئين الفلسطينيين. المنظمة قدمت مساعدات من الناحية الصحية، التعليمية، والمالية. من خلال برنامج الاستجابة لحالات الطوارئ، المنظمة تقدم للاجئين الفلسطينيين من سوريا المتواجدين في لبنان والأردن الراحة، الخدمات الاجتماعية والحماية. اللاجئون يحصلون على خدمات الأونروا المتوفرة في الدول المجاورة، كالخدمات التعليمية والصحية، وسعة هذه الخدمات تزداد بازدياد عدد الفلسطينيين النازحين. وأحد أكبر البرامج المالية في العالم برنامج أدارته الأونروا، حيث حصل فيه 400,000 لاجئ فلسطيني على مساعدات مالية خلال فترة نزاع قائمة ("أين نعمل"). البرنامج المالي أثر تأثيرًا كبيرًا على مستوى الفقر؛ 90% من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين يعيشون في حالة فقر مطلق. مستوى الفقر هبط من 90% إلى 74% منذ بدء البرنامج. أما بالنسبة للغذاء والصحة، المنظمة زوّدت 418,000 من الفلسطينيين النازحين بسلال غذائية، كما وقّرت مرافق صحية ونقاط

تتضمن، إسرائيل وإندونيسيا وتايلند وزامبيا وكندا وليتوانيا ومالطا وماليزيا والمكسيك والمملكة المتحدة وهنغاريا والولايات المتحدة. في ديسمبر (كانون الأول) عام ٢٠١٦، أعلنت مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين أيضاً انضمام ثمان دول وهي بلجيكا وبوتسوانا وبلغاريا والتشيك واليابان ومقدونيا وجنوب إفريقيا وزيمبابوي. وبذلك يصل العدد الإجمالي للبلدان المنضمة إلى عشرين بلداً مما يدل على نجاح خطة الخمس سنوات. كل دولة تشارك في وضع خطط عمل وطنية والبحث والإبلاغ عن الاحتجاز وتعزيز الشراكات، بالإضافة إلى تأييد ورفع الوعي من خلال تنفيذ البرامج والأنشطة (الأمم المتحدة، ٢٠١٨). وقد نُشرَ تقريران مرحليان طوال الفترة الإستراتيجية. وعلى الرغم من أن الإستراتيجية تتضمن عشرين بلداً، فقط اثنا عشر بلداً قدمت حديثاً مفصلاً حول التغييرات التي حدثت بسبب التطبيقات الحديثة. وفي يناير (كانون الثاني) عام ٢٠١٧، تم نشر موقف المفوضية ونوقشت المبادئ التوجيهية للاحتجاز لعام ٢٠١٢ التي تنص على أنه ينبغي احتجاز الأطفال اللاجئين على الرغم من وضعهم كمهاجرين أو وضع الأوصياء عليهم.

#### 4. أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودة القرار

- ما هي الخطوات اللازمة لضمان سلامة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا؟
- كيف يمكن للدول المضيفة أن تساهم في اندماج النازحين الفلسطينيين؟
- هل على الدول المضيفة تقييد دخول اللاجئين الفلسطينيين؟ ولماذا؟
- بما أنّ الأونروا قد أطلقت المبادرات لمساعدة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين، ما الطرق الأخرى التي يمكن للوكالة من خلالها أن توفر المساعدات الإنسانية بشكل أيسر؟

#### 5. مقترحات للبحث الموسع

- الوضع الحالي للاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا.
- مساهمة دول الجوار في إعانة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين خلال وما بعد الحرب الأهلية في سوريا.
- ما هي التأثيرات بعيدة المدى على اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سوريا جراء الحرب الأهلية؟



# القضية الثانية

## رفع تمويل الأونروا، للمساعدة في دعم تعليم الأطفال الفلسطينيين

### 1. ملخص ونبذة تاريخية

تواجه الأونروا حالياً أسوأ أزمة مالية في تاريخها. بالنسبة إلى لجنة الأونروا، نظام الدعم المالي الرئيس هو الاتحاد الأوروبي والحكومات الوطنية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية. خلال السنوات القليلة الماضية، انخفض تمويل المنظمة انخفاضاً كبيراً. تحتاج الأونروا الآن (2019) إلى حوالي 1.2 مليار دولار كما طلب المفوض العام. إن الأونروا في حاجة إلى التمويل المناسب لعدة أسباب. أولاً، لأنه يستخدم لتمويل مبادرات المنظمة. على سبيل المثال، في 2018، استقطع المتبرع الأكبر للأونروا 300 مليون دولار من مساهمته. حوالي 300 مليون دولار كانت مطلوبة لإغاثة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الأردن، سوريا، الضفة الغربية و لبنان، حيث يقطن جميعهم في مخيمات للاجئين. تجلّت تداعيات انخفاض التمويل في عدم إمكانية الكثير من اللاجئين من الحصول على الكهرباء والماء أو حتى الملابس. أجبرت الأونروا على خفض مصروف الشخص الواحد من 32 دولار إلى 23 دولار بسبب خفض التمويل. ولذلك أثار سلبية على الرعاية الصحية للاجئين ورفاهيتهم وتعليمهم؛ كما تعطل اندماجهم وتطورهم في المجتمع بسبب هذا الانحسار في الميزانية (الأمم المتحدة، 2018). أصدرت الولايات المتحدة قراراً باستقطاع 6 أشهر من التمويل المستحق. بينما يتم التعامل مع فجوة تمويلية تقدر بـ 446 مليون دولار من 2018 وحتى يونيو 2019، واجهت الأونروا خسارة في الميزانية تقدر بـ 211 مليون دولار (بومونت وهولمز، 2018). مع مرور الأيام ستظل هذه الخسارة في ازدياد والآثار المترتبة عن الحاجة المتزايدة للمال ستكون خطيرة.

مع ذلك، ومع كل هذه القرارات التي تؤثر سلباً بالحالة المادية للأونروا تهب دول كإندونيسيا للمساعدة. المعونة المادية السنوية المعتادة التي تساهم بها الهند هي 1.25 مليون دولار أمريكي، ولتحسين الحالة المادية للأونروا قررت الهند أن تزيد تبرعاتها من 1.25 مليون دولار أمريكي إلى 5 مليون دولار أمريكي (الأونروا، 2019 ب). الدول المماثلة للهند تساهم في استدامة عمل الأونروا وتسعى لتعويض النقص المادي. ولكن لا تزال الأونروا تعاني حتى يومنا هذا وتطلب المساعدة.

### 2. خطاب حول القضية

إنّ حرمان شخص من حقه في التعليم يعد انتهاكاً لحقوق الإنسان. بناءً على المادة 26 من الإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان "لكل شخص الحق في التعليم ويجب أن يكون التعليم في مراحله الأولى والأساسية على الأقل بالمجان" (الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة، 1948، ص. 7). لقد عانت الأونروا في توفير التعليم للعديد من الأطفال الفلسطينيين، وذلك غالباً بسبب طبيعة المنظمة المبنية على العمل التطوعي والتبرعات. إن التعليم هو أساس التنمية البشرية، لأنه يتيح للشخص الوصول إلى مستويات معيشة أفضل. والدول الأعضاء تنتهك ميثاق الأمم المتحدة بعزوفها عن المساهمة في توفير التعليم للأطفال الفلسطينيين. لقد وعدت الأمم المتحدة (1945) بأن "تدفع بالرقي الاجتماعي قدماً وأن ترفع مستوى الحياة في جو أكبر من الحرية" (ص. 2). وإنّ حرمان الأطفال الفلسطينيين الحق في التعليم يعيق التطور الاجتماعي. هناك أكثر من 274 مدرسة في قطاع غزة تديرها الأونروا، فيها 278,991 طالب مسجل (وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتسجيل اللاجئين). هذا العدد الهائل من الطلاب يصعب على المدارس العمل وتلبية احتياجات الأطفال، لأنه يتطلب تمويلاً كبيراً. بالإضافة إلى أن أكثر من نصف المدارس التابعة للأونروا التي تقع في سوريا توقفت عن العمل بسبب الصراع المسلح، كالحرب السورية. ونتيجة لهذا، تحولت العديد من مدارس الأونروا إلى ملاجئ للعائلات النازحة نظراً لعدم توفر أماكن لاستيعابها (شيرود، 2016). ويمكن حل هذه المسائل عن طريق زيادة الإمدادات المادية للأونروا لاستيعاب هذه التغييرات غير المتوقعة. يوماً بعد يوم، يفقد الأطفال الفلسطينيون مزيداً من الأمل لعدم توفر معايير السلامة الأساسية، ناهيك عن التعليم. لذلك، تدعو الأونروا الدول لتقديم المعونة للأطفال الفلسطينيين وتأكيد حصولهم على التعليم.

### 3. إجراءات تم اتخاذها في السابق من قبل منظمات دولية و آخر التطورات التي تليها

أكبر 5 مانحين للأونروا هم الاتحاد الأوروبي، ألمانيا، المملكة العربية السعودية، المملكة المتحدة، والسويد. على الرغم من أن الدول المانحة ما زالت تقدم بعض الدعم المادي للأونروا، إلا أن مشاريعها كمشروع إصلاح غزة الرئيسي لا يتلقى أي دعم من معظم الدول المانحة، باستثناء ألمانيا والمملكة العربية السعودية. يجب أن يكون تمويل غزة من أولويات الدول المانحة، وذلك لأن سكان غزة يواجهون الإرهاب على نحو يومي. هيئة الإغاثة الإسلامية الكندية، مؤسسة الإغاثة الإسلامية بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، مؤسسة الرحمة الأمريكية، ريال مدريد، البنك الفلسطيني، مؤسسة الخير، ومؤسسة المعونة الإسلامية والعديد من الأفراد، كالتابعين لهذه المؤسسات يساهمون جميعاً في التمويل الذي يعود للاجئين الفلسطينيين. هذه الموارد المالية وصلت إلى قيمة تقدر بـ 1.6 مليون دولار أمريكي سنوياً. ولكن الاعتماد على هذه

الإمدادات بعدّ مخاطرة لأنّ هذه الإمدادات غير مستقرّة، فمن المحتمل أن لا تتلقّى الأونروا المبلغ الذي تحتاجه. هذا سيضع الأونروا في موقفٍ سيءٍ، ولذلك تسعى الأونروا لتعزيز علاقاتها مع منظماتٍ غير حكوميّةٍ مما سيقلّل المخاطر المحتملة ويسمح بتقدير الموارد بدقّة أكثر (وكالة الأمم المتّحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين).

تسعى الأونروا دائماً على التّعاون مع شركات ومنظّمات غير حكوميّة لزيادة الموارد الماديّة. ففي 2018 نجحت المنظّمة في جمع حوالي 64.45 مليون دولار من شركاتٍ خارجيّة والمؤسّسات التي تم ذكرها سابقاً (ريال مدريد، شركة تومز، هيئتي الإغاثة الإسلاميّة الأمريكيّة والكنديّة، إلخ.) (وكالة الأمم المتّحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين).

#### 4. أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسوّدّة القرار

- كيف يمكن أن تتغلّب الأونروا على أزمتها الماليّة؟
- من عليه أن يموّل الأونروا؟ أين على المنظّمة البحث للحصول على مزيدٍ من التّمويل؟
- كيف على الأونروا أن توفرّ لآلافٍ من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين الخدمات الصحيّة والتعليميّة وغيرها من المرافق مع الحفاظ على ميزانيّتها؟

#### 5. مقترحات للبحث الموسّع

- البحث عن منظّمات أخرى تساهم في تمويل الأونروا وأثر مساهمتهم ، إذا كانت كافية أو لا، وكيفيّة توزيعها.
- دور الدّول الأخرى وتأثيرها على تمويل الأونروا.
- الأسباب وراء انخفاض الميزانيّة المخصّصة للأونروا.

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- وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين. (سنة النشر غير معروفة). لاجئي فلسطين. تم الاسترجاع من الرابط <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>
- وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين. (سنة النشر غير معروفة). لاجئي فلسطين من سوريا في الأردن. تم الاسترجاع من الرابط <https://www.unrwa.org/prs-jordan>
- وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين. (سنة النشر غير معروفة). لاجئي فلسطين من سوريا في لبنان. تم الاسترجاع من الرابط <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees-syria-lebanon>



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# الرّسالة التّرحيبية من رؤساء اللجنة:

**Mohammed Al Zaabi**

**Obida Othman**

**Rahaf Sheiko**

المفوضون الأعزاء،

إنه لمن دواعي سرورنا أن نرحب بكم في نموذج الأمم المتحدة في الجامعة الأميركية في الشارقة لعام ٢٠٢٠. كرؤساء للمفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين (مفوضية اللاجئين)، نتطلع قدماً للقائكم جميعاً وسماع أفكاركم وقراراتكم لحل النزاعات الدولية وتعزيز قيم هذه اللجنة: كحماية اللاجئين والمجتمعات النازحة والأناس المشردين مع المساعدة في دمجهم المحلي وإعادة توطينهم. الأمم المتحدة تأسست على التعاون بين أعضائها المائة وثلاثة وتسعون رغم المصالح المختلفة والمخاوف الشخصية.

تأسست مفوضية اللاجئين في عام ١٩٥٠ خلال أعقاب الحرب العالمية الثانية. تتعاون المفوضية مع عدة برامج ووكالات لتأمين إعادة توطين اللاجئين وزيادة الوعي العام حول القضايا التي يتعرضون إليها في أنحاء العالم. غير أن عدة تحديات تعيق عملها كالارتفاع الحالي الحاد في عدد اللاجئين وزيادة التوترات بين الدول. تدرك مفوضية اللاجئين ضرورة التعاون الدولي لحل أزمات اللاجئين وتهدف إلى جمع الدول لتأمين ظروف أفضل لهم حول العالم.

نأمل أن نواصل رؤية هذا المؤتمر لإلهام الشباب وتوفير فرص متساوية لكل المفوضين للتعبير عن أنفسهم داخل وخارج اللجنة. سواء كنت متمرساً في نموذج الأمم المتحدة أو بكل بساطة قادماً جديداً، نأمل أن تحظى بتجربة رائعة وتذكارية في هذا المؤتمر. إذا كان يوجد لديكم أية استفسارات أو مقترحات نرجو عدم التردد في التواصل معنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني التالي:

b00071715@aus.edu

مع خالص الاحترام والتقدير،  
رؤساء مفوضية اللاجئين





## مفوضية اللاجئين

المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

# القضية الأولى

## تحسين ظروف مرافق الاحتجاز ومعالجة القضايا المتعلقة بها

### 1. ملخص ونبذة تاريخية

كما يشير الاسم، مراكز احتجاز المهاجرين هي مرافق تُحتجز غير المواطنين لوقت من الزمن حتى يتم ترحيلهم أو حتى يتم تقييم قضيتهم (فلاين، ٢٠١١). لقد كبر النطاق الذي يتم بموجبه احتجاز المهاجرين بشكل هائل في العقود القليلة الماضية، وخصوصاً في الدول المتقدمة (ويلشير، ٢٠١١). تاريخياً، كان يتمتع الأجنبي بحرية التنقل عبر الحدود كما يشاء إلا في حالات الحرب. غير أنه مذ بدأت أنماط جديدة من الترابط الاقتصادي في الارتفاع في أواخر القرن التاسع عشر، بدأت حرية التنقل تصبح مقيدة أكثر (ويلشير، ٢٠١١)، ويُنظر إليها على أنها تهديد.

يقيم احتجاز المهاجرين باستخدام مستويات مختلفة من التحليل. يقيم على المستوى الدولي من أجل تحديد التزامات الدولة. ثانياً، يقيم على مستوى الدولة من أجل دراسة سياساتها وقانونها. أخيراً، يقيم على المستوى الفردي من أجل دراسة حالات المعتقلين الأفراد (فلاين، ٢٠١١). مراكز الاحتجاز تعتبر وسيلة لتنفيذ وتطبيق سياسات احتجاز الدول. وبالتالي، تقييم مراكز الاحتجاز له أهمية بالغة لتقييم سياسات الدول الموضوعة للمهاجرين. مع الأسف، يتم الإبلاغ عن حالات انتهاك وسوء معاملة كثيرة داخل هذه المنشآت من قبل وكالات حقوق الإنسان. يجب أن تركز هذه الوكالات على دراسة الظروف في مرافق الاحتجاز وتقييم ما إذا كانت مناسبة للعيش فيها (فلاين، ٢٠١١). أخذاً بعين الاعتبار أن هناك أنواع كثيرة من المرافق، نستطيع أن نخبركم الكثير عن كيفية رؤية الدول للمهاجرين بناءً على نوع المرفق الذي يتم احتجازهم فيه. الفئات الرئيسية الثلاث للمرافق هي إجرامية وإدارية ومخصصة (فلاين، ٢٠١١). مع الأسف، تحتجز دول كثيرة كالولايات المتحدة وكندا المهاجرين في مرافق إجرامية مشابهة للسجن بجانب المجرمين المدانين. من المفترض احتجاز المهاجرين المشتبه بهم في مرافق إدارية تستخدم خصيصاً لاحتجاز المتهمين لأسباب غير جنائية (فلاين، ٢٠١١). في الولايات المتحدة، مات المئات من الناس في حجز الهجرة بموجب أي سي إي (ICE) (وونغ، ٢٠١٥).

### 2. خطاب حول القضية

وفقاً لمفوضية اللاجئين، التعاون بين الدول الأعضاء والدول والأطراف الأخرى مبدأ أساسي لبناء القدرات التي بموجبها توجد ظروف عمل محسنة ومبدأ تعتمد عليه المفوضية من أجل الوفاء بمهمتها ("بناء القدرات - مفوضية اللاجئين رواندا"، ٢٠١٥). التعاون بين المنظمات الدولية كالمُنظمة الدولية للهجرة (IOM) والدول الأعضاء والقطاع الخاص والمنظمات الإقليمية كالاتحاد الإفريقي (AU) ركيزة أساسية في تحسين فرص العمل لدى اللاجئين والنازحين داخلياً (الأمم المتحدة).

قد يكون الحصول على فرص العمل محظوراً أو محدوداً من قبل الأطارات القانونية الحالية. وفي كثير من الأحيان، اللاجئين الذين يتمكنون من إيجاد عمل يقومون بذلك من خلال القطاع غير الرسمي، وهو قطاع العمل الرئيسي غير المراقب في الكثير من البلدان المتأثرة باللاجئين (مفوضية اللاجئين). بحسب تقرير منظمة العمال العالمية عنوانه "تمكن اللاجئين وغيرهم من النازحين قسراً من سوق العمل" لعام ٢٠١٦، تتمكن أقلية من ١٧،٤ مليون طالب لجوء واللاجئين المعترف بهم من الحصول على عمل في القطاع الرسمي (مفوضية اللاجئين).

بحسب القواعد الإرشادية لقطاع التعليم التابع لمفوضية اللاجئين، إكمال الدورة الكاملة من التعليم يزيد من احتمال توافر سبل العيش المستدامة للاجئين والأشخاص النازحين داخلياً، بينما تعزز مجتمعات لاجئين آمنة والاعتماد الذاتي (الأمم المتحدة، "القواعد الإرشادية لقطاع التعليم"). غير أن اللاجئين لا زالوا يواجهون محدودية الحصول على تعليم، حيث أن الكثيرين غير قادرين على إكمال الدورة الكاملة من التعليم (درابدين-بييرسون). علاوة على ذلك، تبقى معدلات التحاق اللاجئين الأطفال عالمياً منخفضة بمعدل يقدر بنسبة ٦٣٪ مع معدل الالتحاق العالمي للأطفال بنسبة ٩١٪ (الأمم المتحدة، "خطوة للأعلى: تعليم اللاجئين في أزمة - تقرير ٢٠١٩").

### 3. إجراءات تم اتخاذها في السابق من قبل منظمات دولية و آخر التطورات التي تليها

احتجاز اللاجئين أو طالبي اللجوء أمرٌ قد وقع في عديد من الدول، مما أثر على حياة الكثيرين بشكل هائل (الأمم المتحدة، ٢٠١٤). وتشعر مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين بالقلق إزاء العدد المتزايد للمهاجرين المحتجزين، ولا سيما الأطفال. في يونيو (حزيران) عام ٢٠١٤، أصدرت المفوضية "الاستراتيجية العالمية — ما وراء احتجاز ٢٠١٤-٢٠١٩" مجموعة من السياسات التي تهدف إلى مساعدة الحكومات في خفض نسبة الاحتجازات من خلال دعمهم في تنفيذ بدائل وحماية الأطفال. وتتمحور الإستراتيجية العالمية حول العمل مع اثنا عشر بلداً إلى جانب حكوماتها، بالإضافة إلى المنظمات غير الحكومية الوطنية والدولية وغيرها من البلدان. وهذه الدول

تتضمن، إسرائيل وإندونيسيا وتايلند وزامبيا وكندا وليتوانيا ومالطا وماليزيا والمكسيك والمملكة المتحدة وهنغاريا والولايات المتحدة. في ديسمبر (كانون الأول) عام ٢٠١٦، أعلنت مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين أيضاً انضمام ثمان دول وهي بلجيكا وبوتسوانا وبلغاريا والتشيك واليابان ومقدونيا وجنوب إفريقيا وزيمبابوي. وبذلك يصل العدد الإجمالي للبلدان المنضمة إلى عشرين بلداً مما يدل على نجاح خطة الخمس سنوات. كل دولة تشارك في وضع خطط عمل وطنية والبحث والإبلاغ عن الاحتجاز وتعزيز الشراكات، بالإضافة إلى تأييد ورفع الوعي من خلال تنفيذ البرامج والأنشطة (الأمم المتحدة، ٢٠١٨). وقد نُشرَ تقريران مرحليان طوال الفترة الإستراتيجية. وعلى الرغم من أن الإستراتيجية تتضمن عشرين بلداً، فقط اثنا عشر بلداً قدمت حديثاً مفصلاً حول التغييرات التي حدثت بسبب التطبيقات الحديثة. وفي يناير (كانون الثاني) عام ٢٠١٧، تم نشر موقف المفوضية ونوقشت المبادئ التوجيهية للاحتجاز لعام ٢٠١٢ التي تنص على أنه ينبغي احتجاز الأطفال اللاجئين على الرغم من وضعهم كمهاجرين أو وضع الأوصياء عليهم.

#### 4. أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودة القرار

- كيف يمكن تنفيذ منع احتجاز اللاجئين، وخاصة الأطفال؟
- كيف يمكن التأكد من اتباع توجيهاً المفوضية من قبل جميع البلدان التي تعمل مع المفوضية؟
-

# القضية الثانية

## النظر في أهمية الدمج الاقتصادي للاجئين

### 1. ملخص ونبذة تاريخية

مع استمرار اشتداد الحرب الباردة، انتقلت تدفقات اللاجئين من الشرق إلى الغرب. بسبب هذا التدفق المفاجئ، تطورت المفوضية بهدف استيعاب هؤلاء اللاجئين ومساعدتهم بإعادة توطينهم في البلدان المضيفة (لوشر، ٢٠١٧). عندما بدأ اللاجئون بالتوسع خارج أوروبا وامتدوا في إفريقيا وآسيا، أصبحت هناك ضرورة كبيرة لتكريس الاهتمام لإعادة توطين اللاجئين. أولئك الذين يلتمسون اللجوء في بلدان أخرى يفعلون ذلك لغرض تحسين ظروف معيشتهم. عادةً ما يختلف اللاجئون في أصولهم وخلفياتهم العرقية. على الرغم من هذه الاختلافات، فإنهم يشتركون جميعاً في رغبتهم بإعادة بناء حياتهم التي فقدوها في وطنهم (سميث، ١٩٦٦). يواجه اللاجئون دائماً مشكلة في الاندماج في البلدان المضيفة لهم، لا سيما عندما يكون هناك توتر يتصاعد بينهم وبين السكان المحليين. في مثال أزمة اللاجئين السوريين، وجهت البلدان المضيفة لهم في بلاد الشام اتهامات ضدّهم أخذوا وظائف السكان المحليين (فيريس وكيريشي، ٢٠١٦). بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن المواطنين المحليين غاضبون من حقيقة أن اللاجئين غير ملزمين بدفع الضرائب، ومع ذلك بإمكانهم الوصول إلى الخدمات العامة مثل الرعاية الصحية والتعليم (فيريس وكيريشي، ٢٠١٦). بالتأكيد هذا النوع من المشاكل عبء إضافي على اقتصاد الحكومة المضيفة ويجب أن يتم إيجاد حل لهذه المشاكل. قد تقوم الحكومات في بعض الأحيان بإعطاء الأولوية لمساعدة اللاجئين على كسب أموالهم بأنفسهم من أجل تجنب اعتماد اللاجئين على أموال الحكومات والمساعدات الدولية. يعد تكامل سوق العمل مؤشراً قوياً على نجاح دمج اللاجئين بشكل عام (مفوضية اللاجئين).

### 2. خطاب حول القضية

تم تسجيل أن الولايات المتحدة لديها أكبر نظام احتجاج في العالم حيث يوجد ٤٠٠٠٠ شخص يتم احتجازهم يومياً ("الخط الزمني للاحتجازات"). طبقاً لتقارير أصدرت مؤخراً، الظروف التي يحتجز فيها المهاجرون واللاجئون في الولايات المتحدة مروعة وتنتهك قوانين مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين مثل القانون الدولي ضد احتجاز الأطفال المهاجرين (جونسون، ٢٠١٩). صرحت المفوضة السامية لحقوق الإنسان ميشيل باشلييت في مقابلتها أن "الأطفال يجبرون على النوم على الأرض في مرافق مكتظة، دون الحصول على الرعاية الصحية أو الطعام الكافيين، إضافة إلى ظروف الصرف الصحي السيئة" (جونسون، ٢٠١٩).

وفقاً للمفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين، فإن احتجاز المهاجرين لا يخدم مصلحة الطفل على الإطلاق، حتى لفترة قصيرة من الزمن. يمكن أن يكون لوضع الأطفال في مراكز الاحتجاز آثاراً دائمة على صحتهم العقلية ونموهم. يقترح عالم النفس تشارلز نيلسون أن الأطفال الذين يقيمون في مراكز الاحتجاز يعانون من اضطرابات التعلم وغالباً ما تكون سعة تخزين الذاكرة لديهم محدودة (سانثانام، ٢٠١٩). قد لا تعمل وظائفهم المعرفية مثل التفاعل والتعامل مع العواطف بشكل جيد مقارنة مع الأطفال الذين تربوا في دور الرعاية (سانثانام، ٢٠١٩).

الولايات المتحدة لديها أعلى معدل أطفال معتقلين في العالم، تتبعها بوليفيا وبوتسوانا وسيريلانكا (رويترز، ٢٠١٩). أعلن المتخصص مانفريد نواك أنه هناك أكثر من سبعة ملايين شخص في العالم تحت عمر الثامنة عشر محتجزون في السجون وفي حجز الشرطة، منهم ٣٣٠٠٠٠ شخص معتقل في مراكز حجز الهجرة (رويترز، ٢٠١٩).

### 3. إجراءات تم اتخاذها في السابق من قبل منظمات دولية و آخر التطورات التي تليها

يسعى اللاجئون إلى إعادة بناء حياتهم من جديد بعد أن اضطروا إلى الفرار من بلادهم بسبب ظروف متعددة. تسعى مفوضية اللاجئين إلى تطوير سبل العيش (تأمين الاحتياجات الأساسية للحياة مثل الغذاء والماء والمأوى... الخ)، وذلك من خلال الاندماجات الاقتصادية. الاندماج الاقتصادي هو قدرة المساواة بين جميع أعضاء المجتمع للمشاركة في اقتصاد الدولة والاحتفاظ بأرباح مشاركتهم. في عام ٢٠١٤، أعلنت مفوضية اللاجئين عن "الإستراتيجية العالمية لسبل العيش (٢٠١٤-٢٠١٨)". أهداف هذه الإستراتيجية تكمن في تعزيز حق العمل وحق التطوير وتمكين الناس من حفظ وحماية أصول إنتاجهم فضلاً عن مراعاتهم لاحتياجات استهلاكهم الفوري وتطوير وتوسيع طرق مؤكدة ومبتكرة لدعم اعتماد الناس على المال الذاتي وتطوير التخطيط والتعلم والتدريب على طرق ناجحة لتطوير سبل العيش وتأثيرها على الاعتماد على النفس" (الأمم المتحدة، ٢٠١٤). التدخلات التي قامت بها مفوضية اللاجئين تحتوي على تدريب على إدارة الأعمال وتدريب مهني مع توفير خدمات مالية بالإضافة إلى تدخلات زراعية. في عام ٢٠١٩، عملت مفوضية اللاجئين بجانب برنامج الأغذية العالمي (WFP) لتطوير إستراتيجية لخمس أعوام تدعى "إستراتيجية سبل العيش والاندماج الاقتصادي ٢٠١٩-٢٠٢٤". تناقش مذكرة

المفهوم لهذه الإستراتيجية أهمية الاندماج الاقتصادي للاجئين وحلواً يمكن تنفيذها مثل سبل العيش والاندماج الاقتصادي لبرامج اللاجئين بالإضافة إلى القطاعات العديدة ووكالات ومعاهد مشتركة مع مفوضية اللاجئين للاندماج الاقتصادي للاجئين (الأمم المتحدة، ٢٠١٩).

#### 4. أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودة القرار

- ما هي العلاقة بين سبل العيش والاندماج الاقتصادي والاعتماد على الذات؟
- ما هي التدخلات الإضافية التي من الممكن تنفيذها من قبل مفوضية اللاجئين لتأمين سبل عيش اللاجئين؟

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Ali Nizar Soufi**

**Jana Aljamal**

**Sara Abu Iktish**

Dear Delegates,

We are excited to commence the thirteenth annual AUSMUN, and we hope that it will be a memorable experience for each one of you. We hope that this conference enhances your debate skills, research skills and your knowledge on global affairs and security. The topic we will be discussing for three days are of crucial importance, as it discusses the human rights of Palestinians.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is a United Nations (UN) body that promised to aid Palestinian refugees by providing peace, development and education. This committee aims to help Palestinian refugees find a shelter where they can live a normal, peaceful life. Hence, universal respect to one's culture, justice and human rights of individual freedom are encompassed. This year we will discuss two vital topics, addressing "the reformation of UNRWA and the displacement of Palestinians post Syrian conflict" and "Increasing funding to the UNRWA, to help support educating Palestinian children."

As the conference approaches, we would like to congratulate all delegates, novice or accomplished, for choosing to be here. You chose to make a difference in the world, but most importantly, you chose to enlighten yourself. We truly hope that this conference will not only help you in understanding the complexity of the Palestinian conflict, but also to find your own interest and cause to fight for. We look forward to meeting you all. If you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [ausmununrwa@gmail.com](mailto:ausmununrwa@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
UNRWA Chairs



**UNRWA**

**United Nations Relief and Works Agency**

# Topic I

## The reformation of UNRWA and the displacement of Palestinians post the Syrian conflict.

### 1. Summary & History

Palestine refugees are defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict” (“Palestinian Refugees,” n.d.). Around 1.5 million Palestinian refugees live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, of which 560,000 are residing in Syria. Ever since the 1950s, UNRWA has been active in Syria with its field operations to assist Palestinian refugees. UNRWA has covered one-third of their daily caloric needs by providing food baskets to around 418,000 Palestinians. UNRWA has also provided all registered Palestine refugees in Syria basic healthcare as the agency provides 26 primary health facilities around the country. The Agency has educated more than 50,000 children across the country by the school programs provided in the camps. Moreover, the livelihoods of the Palestinians are maintained through the microfinance and cash programs (“Where we Work,” n.d.). In 2011, however, yet another predicament has occurred that profoundly affected the lives of the Palestinians refugees in Syria. With the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, the agency has endorsed its operations to guarantee that the necessities of life for the Palestinian refugees in the country are met. UNRWA has been the main provider of protection, humanitarian assistance, and basic services to around 438,000 Palestine refugees who remain in Syria, and who have been among those most affected by the civil war. On the other hand, many Palestinian refugees in Syria have sought refuge; almost 60 percent of Palestine refugees in Syria have been displaced at least once in their lifetime. Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011, UNRWA approximated that 120,000 Palestine refugees have been displaced outside of Syria to neighboring countries (“Where we Work,” n.d.) Nearly 30,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) are also currently registered in Lebanon with UNRWA. Entry into Lebanese territory of PRS has become more problematic since May 2014. PRS have only been permitted to enter the Lebanese territories in restricted circumstances, making it tremendously tough for most PRS to enter the country to seek safety and shelter. For those who have managed to enter, PRS in Lebanon are the most vulnerable in the country, especially in the following sectors: economic, education, food, security, health, non-food items, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. The vast majority of the Palestinian refugees from Syria are now living in communities with host families or in rental premises. A small group of Palestinians, who arrived in Jordan early in the conflict, are held in what is called ‘Cyber City’, a government facility in Ramtha city. The number of Palestine refugees expatriated from Syria registering with UNRWA in Jordan reached up to 20,000 by 2014 (“PRS in Jordan,” n.d.).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Due to the long on-going human rights’ violations on the Palestinians, and the attempts of stripping them out of their land, it falls upon the hands of the neighboring countries to provide the necessary aid and shelter to those in need. According to the United Nations Charter, the United Nations is determined “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small” (United

Nations, 1945, p.2). For as long as the Palestinian conflict has been going on, civilians have lost their fundamental feeling of dignity, and it is quite necessary for stable countries to help restore their right. As it is one of the United Nations objectives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all humans, disregarding their race, gender or ethnicity, it is every member's obligation to help Palestinians retain their safety and rights. Neighboring countries, such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, are affected the most with regards to the Palestinian refugees. As of 2019, it was estimated that 560,000 of the Palestinian refugees, who are registered with UNRWA, reside in Syria. The UNRWA has made sure to increase their operations post Syrian conflict to meet the needs of these refugees (United Nations Relief and Works Agency, n.d.). The United States has contributed a large amount of financial support; however, they have decided to stop funding the UNRWA as they deemed it to be a financial burden (Beaumont & Holmes, 2018). The lack of financial support from member countries has caused the UNRWA to start minimizing refugee support in Syria's Region. The reformation goals of the UNRWA also became harder to achieve as the budget continues to stay limited.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

During the Syrian crisis, UNRWA has been the main provider of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees. The agency has provided assistance in the health, educational and monetary sector. Through the emergency response program, the agency provides Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Jordan with relief, social and protection services. The refugees have access to all UNRWA facilities and programs put in neighboring countries such as education and health services and the existing capacities of the agency as the number of displaced Palestinians grow. One of the largest cash programs in the world is run by UNRWA during an active conflict, where 400,000 Palestine refugees are provided with cash assistance ("Where we Work," n.d.). The cash program has profound effects on the poverty levels; 90 percent of the Palestinian refugees live in absolute poverty. The poverty level has dropped from 90 to 74 percent since the launch of the program. Regarding nutrition and health, the agency has provided 418,000 displaced Palestinians with food baskets as well as health facilities and checkpoints. Also, 103 schools are operated by UNRWA to provide 50,000 children access to education. Overall, UNRWA has employed a wide range of trained professionals to aid the operations carried out by the agency; 4,000 staff members have been employed by UNRWA including teachers, engineers and doctors that operate in 150 UNRWA programs ("Where we Work," n.d.). For the service provision in Syria that has been affected by the civil war, UNRWA currently lost access to two of the registered camps; the agency has access to 10 out of 12 camps in Syria. Multiple of the installations are still inaccessible or have been severely damage over the course of the conflict. Due to the conflict, around 40 percent of the UNRWA-provided schools and 25 percent of the health centers are currently non-functioning, unusable or damaged. However, the agency has compensated for the damages by establishing health care checkpoints and using government schools.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- What steps should be taken to ensure the safety of Palestinian refugees in Syria?
- How can host countries contribute to integrating displaced Palestinians?
- Should host countries restrict the entree of the Palestinian? Why or why not?
- Since UNRWA has taken initiative to help Palestinian refugees, what are some other ways the agency can further facilitate humanitarian aid?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- The current state of the Palestinian refugees in Syria.

- The contributions of neighboring countries.
- Physical and mental effects of living in a war-stricken country.



# Topic II

## Increasing funding to the UNRWA, to help support educating Palestinian children

### 1. Summary & History

The UNRWA is currently facing one of the worst financial crises in its history. For a committee like the UNRWA, the main financial support system is the EU and the national governments in the USA. Over the past few years, funds supporting the organization have decreased greatly. The UNRWA (2019a) is now in need of around 1.2 billion dollars, as requested by the Commissioner-General.

The UNRWA requires appropriate funding for many reasons. Firstly, the funding is used to run the organization's initiatives. For example, in 2018, the biggest donor to the UNRWA cut their donations by 300 million dollars of their contribution. About 300 million dollars was required to fund Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, the West Bank and Lebanon, all who live in refugee camps. The result decreasing funds resulted in many refugees not having access to electricity, water or even clothes. Because the fund cuts, the UNRWA is forced to reduce its spending from 32 USD to 23 USD per person. This creates a damaging impact on the refugees' healthcare, wellbeing and education; their development into society is put on hold because of budget cuts (United Nations, 2018).

The United States made a decision to cut off 6 months' worth of funding. While dealing with a total of 446 million funding gap from 2018 by June of 2019, the UNRWA was faced with a budget loss of 211 million dollars (Beaumont & Holmes, 2018). As the days go by, this amount will keep increasing, and the effects of that increasing need for money will be detrimental.

However, with all those decisions made that contribute negatively to the financial state of the UNRWA, countries like India come for the rescue. The usual annual funding that India contributes is 1.25 million dollars, and in order to help improve the financial state of the UNRWA, India decided to increase its donations from US 1.25 million dollars to US 5 million dollars (UNRWA, 2019b). Countries like India keep the UNRWA running and attempt to balance the lack of funds. The UNRWA is still suffering till this day and is seeking help.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

To deny a person the right for education is a violation of a human right. According to article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages." (UN General Assembly, 1948, p.7). The UNRWA has struggled to provide education to many Palestinian children, mainly because the organization is operated by volunteerism and donations. Education is the foundation of human development, because it gives an individual access to better standards of living. Member countries are violating the United Nations Charter by not contributing to help provide education to Palestinian children. The United Nations (1945) have promised to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" (p.2). Denying Palestinian children, the right for education restricts social progress. There are over 274 UNRWA operated schools in the

Gaza Strip, with 278,991 enrolled pupils (United Nations Relief and Works Agency, n.d.). The large number of pupils makes it difficult for schools to operate and meet the needs of every child, because it requires a huge amount of funding. Furthermore, more than half of UNRWA schools in Syria have stopped functioning due to armed conflict, such as the Syrian Civil War. Because of this, many of the UNRWA schools have turned into shelters for displaced families, since there is no place to accommodate for displaced families (Sherwood, 2016). These issues could be resolved if funding for UNRWA was increased to accommodate these unforeseeable changes. On a daily basis, Palestinian children lose more hope as they are not provided basic safety, let alone an education. The UNRWA calls upon countries to provide aid for Palestinian children and ensure that they have access to an education.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The UNRWA's top 5 donors are the EU, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the UK and Sweden. Even though the donors still provide some funds to UNRWA, projects like the Gaza Major Repair receive almost zero funding from almost all funders, with the exception of Germany and Saudi Arabia. Funding Gaza should be considered a priority for donors, as citizens of Gaza face terrorism almost daily.

Private individuals like the Islamic Relief Canada, Islamic relief USA foundation, Mercy USA Foundation, Real Madrid, Bank of Palestine, Alkhair Foundation and Muslim Aid Foundation collectively contribute to the funding that goes to all Palestinian refugees. Such funds have reached about 1.6 million USD yearly. However, these types of funds keep fluctuating, and depending on them can be risky as the UNRWA might not receive the amount needed. This would place them in a bad position, which is why the UNRWA tries to increase its relations with NGOs because funding can be more accurately predicted and will keep the risks lower (United Nations Relief and Works Agency, n.d.).

UNRWA is always on the hunt to make collaborations with businesses and other NGOs to help increase the funding. In 2018, the organization it made a successful collection of 64.45 million USD from external businesses and foundations that were previously mentioned (Real Madrid, TOMS, Islamic relief USA & Canada, etc.) (United Nations Relief and Works Agency, n.d.).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can UNRWA overcome its financial crisis?
- Who should fund the UNRWA? Where can the organization turn to for further funding?
- How can the UNRWA provide thousands of Palestinian refugees with health, education and other facilities while keeping a well-maintained budget?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- Research other organizations that contribute to the funding of the UNRWA and the impact of their funding, whether it is enough or not and how is it being distributed.
- The role of other countries and their impact on the funding of the UNRWA.
- The reasons behind the decrease in budgets given to the UNRWA.

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

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This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

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Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Parham Dadashpour**

**Artemis Zadeh**



**Ameera Hamdan**

**Muhammad Annas**



Dear Delegates,

It is an honour to welcome you all to AUSMUN 2020 and to welcome you especially to the World Trade Organization (WTO) committee. We are all looking forward to meet you, interact with you, and communicate with you. In this committee we will be tackling two important topics. The first topic is 'Strengthening the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership', and the second topic is 'Brexit: The aftermath.'

Formed in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an organization which regulates the trade relationship between countries and tries to remove barriers to benefit all -parties. This organization has 164 members and WTO regulates 98 percent of trade within these countries. The main focus of WTO is on trade monitoring by introduction of different trade policies. WTO also has a special vision for developing countries and economies by means of aiding different trade initiatives.

The Transatlantic trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a trade agreement between the United States and the European Union countries which aims to counter the recession in these nations. Moreover, Brexit will have many consequences for the United Kingdom, of which the most important one is economic. This committee will look more in-depth into these two topics. We are all looking forward to meeting you in February 2020 and we hope that you enjoy the conference to the fullest. Use this background guide as a base for drafting your position papers.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us through [wto.ausmun2020@gmail.com](mailto:wto.ausmun2020@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
the WTO Chairs.



**WTO**

**World Trade Organization**

# Topic I

## Strengthening the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

### 1. Summary & History

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a trade proposal between the United States of America and the European Union – the world's two largest economies. Combined, both these nations contributed to about 42% of the world's GDP in 2018 (18.8 trillion U.S. Dollars was the EU's figure while the U.S.A. had a slightly higher value of 20.5 trillion U.S. dollars). TTIP is based on three pillars of Deregulation, Privatisation, and Corporate Courts with the aim of countering the recession in Europe and the U.S.A.

TTIP is different from other international trade agreements such that the deregulation does not aim to reduce border tariffs and border control, rather it aims to remove inspection barriers that make trade in one of the concerned nations difficult. Privatisation is when a business transfers into the private sector from the control of the public. Under TTIP, services like the National Health Service (NHS) will be permanently privatised. The corporate courts will equip companies to sue any government in a corporate court for loss of profits. This is known as Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and has drastic effects on the economy as well as the democratic structure of the state. Africa is a prime example. African states have been ordered to pay 4.6 billion U.S. dollars since 2013 and one-third of the 106 arbitrary claims remains unknown, signifying that this number is much too high. However, this amount itself is twice the GDP of the Central African Republic and thrice the GDP of Gambia in 2018 (European Commission, 2013). The African case study also tells us that states have lost the majority of these cases, specifically, the investors' claims were upheld in 64% of these cases. *TransCanada vs U.S.A.* and *Vettenfall vs Germany* are two other such examples.

TTIP deals very little with actual trade and more with the regulations related to trade. It is in fact a free trade agreement which advocates for less regulation of goods. For example, the E.U. tests oysters by measuring the temperature of the oysters itself, however the U.S.A. tests them by measuring the temperature of the water surrounding the oysters when they are fished out. While both these methods yield the same result and no one way is better than the other one, bureaucratic red tape is the reason why oysters fished from the U.S.A. cannot be traded in the E.U. and vice versa. Moreover, trade regulations are directly related to international trade standards, and the E.U. and the U.S.A. both have very different standards in many sectors, including the food industry. Hence, the goal of TTIP is to eliminate tariffs and all other trade barriers which would also result in an increase in direct foreign investment for both the E.U. and the U.S.A.

On a national level, TTIP aims to produce two million jobs while lowering transaction processes for consumers and boosting the combined GDP by 1%. Whereas, on an international level it could very well diminish the bilateral and multilateral trade deals both the parties have with other nations such as Canada and Mexico. TTIP could also turn out to be a building block towards improved functioning of the WTO or it could jeopardise its standing entirely.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The above-mentioned oysters' example is one which can be solved easily as none of the parties are losing any measure of quality from their products, however this becomes an issue when standardization come into play. For example, the E.U. prohibits injecting hormones into cattle for sale and using genetically modified crops. However, the U.S.A. has no such restrictions. This leads to an obvious answer that the cattle bred and crops raised in U.S.A. cannot be sold in the E.U. due to their quality control. Similarly, the E.U. bans cosmetics that have been tested on animals, while there is no such regulation in the U.S.A. There is in fact no possibility of standards being harmonised unless a compromise is made from either of the two parties, which is highly unlikely.

The introduction of TTIP would also threaten protectionism for most of the E.U. countries. As international trade increases, there is always a risk to protectionism. However, TTIP would turn the risk into a full-fledged reality. If agreement falls through staple products, like with Parma ham in Italy, they will no longer remain staple goods and this is a violation of protectionism in Italy.

Furthermore, the introduction of TTIP would also affect trade in Asian countries. As the partnership strengthens trade in the Western region, developing nations such as India are projected to see a decline in their international trade. TTIP would also put pressure on international trade in China. Projections show that if the partnership agreement falls through, U.S.A. and E.U.'s trade with China will decrease exponentially and this in turn would affect the entire global economy.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will undoubtedly change the WTO laws and regulations. The European Union has made some developments on the TTIP and the topic of sustainable development. The position paper suggested by EU includes a model of progress that would resolve the issues surrounding social development and economic growth. The EU will be committed to these developments by engaging with partners to design and modify its policies. The EU has also assured that these developments would not affect labour rights. Hence, the TTIP negotiations should also include members from International Labour organization (ILO) in order to ensure the labour rights (European Commission, n.d.).

## **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How does the TTIP affect the US and EU countries?
- How does the TTIP affect trade worldwide?
- How can WTO monitor TTIP?
- How will TTIP affect small business owners?

## **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- WTO and TTIP relationship
- Trade and sustainable development EU paper
- TTIP and tariffs

# Topic II

## Brexit, the aftermath

### 1. Summary & History

Founded in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been responsible for monitoring tariffs and trade barriers around the world. The primary purpose of WTO is to have open trade for the benefit of everyone. Removal of trade barriers and having measurement quotas that restrict trade are the two most important concerns for the WTO. Brexit stands for British exit, which refers to the United Kingdom (UK) leaving the European Union (EU). The EU is comprised of 28 European countries. UK had joined this Union in 1973 which if it leaves, would be the first country that leaves the EU since its establishment. A referendum had been held on 23rd June 2016, that determined whether UK should stay or leave the EU. With more than 30 million voters, leaving the EU was favored by the people. One of the main reasons that this referendum had been favored is that the British people were not happy with EU decisions concerning their country. Brexit was due to happen on the 29th of March 2019, but the EU accepted to further increase the deadline up until the 31st of January. If the UK would leave the EU without a deal, which refers to as "no-deal" Brexit, there would be severe consequences to the move. The most important consequence would be effects on the trading flexibility of UK with other European countries. Staying with the EU allows UK to trade goods and other consumer products easily without any barriers (BBC, 2019). Exiting the Union would possibly make UK unable to have tariff-free trades under World Trade Organization rules. This inability could lead to inflations in currency exchange rates. In addition, it could also increase the price of imported goods from the EU to UK. The current Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, had changed parts of the existing deal that haven't yet been approved by the parliament. One of the most important changes made by the Prime Minister was with regards to trade, where the revised band would allow UK to implement its own trade agreement with other countries that is trading with (BBC, 2019).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The most notable effect of Brexit would be the increase in price of imported goods from countries in the EU. Food is one of the most important imported goods from the EU, making up around 30 percent of the UK's food consumption. According to the 'UK Balance of Payments,' 9 out of 10 of UK's top trading partners are European countries. Previously as member of the EU, UK would have been required to pay extra tariffs or taxes for imported goods from the EU and no custom checks would have been required on such products. However, after Brexit, UK would need to consider and adopt the same processes for trading with EU countries as it does with the rest of the world. This change would significantly reduce its flexibility in trade. Due to Brexit, checks at the border and at customs on ports and docks would increase. This rise in turn, would cause increased traffic, low trade rates, and decreased trade efficiency. Brexit would not violate the UN Charter Agreement and would most seriously affect the British people. With the Brexit agreement, the most affected countries would be the ones having shared land borders with the UK and the countries with the most imports to the UK. In the global context, Brexit would not have a huge impact on other countries but it might affect the nations that use Pounds for their main currency. Moreover, some British Territories around the world might also be affected by Brexit (BBC, 2019).

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

In April 2019, WTO members called upon its EU and UK members to resolve the market access concerns and price increases that would result from Brexit. The meeting led to adjustment of the tariff rate quotas (TRQs) which could then benefit both parties. It had been stated that by apportioning and adjusting the existing TRQs, smaller quantities of exports would not be commercially viable for traders (WTO, 2019). Boris Johnson revised Brexit deal was developed in a way that could further neutralize the effects of exiting from the EU. Most of the changes in the deal dealt with Irish border concerns after Brexit. For example, Northern Ireland would keep the EU rules for trade rather than the UK rules and this would remove the need for checks on goods on borders between Ireland and Northern Ireland, which would lower traffic and tariff costs (BBC, 2019).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- Would "No-Deal" Brexit be beneficial for UK?
- Is the 'Operation Yellowhammer' plan sufficient to tackle the Brexit issue?
- Do the benefits of Brexit compensate for the Divorce Bill amount?
- What are the effects of Brexit on countries other than the United Kingdom?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- No deal Brexit
- Article 50
- Operation Yellowhammer
- WTO – Council for trade in goods.

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

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Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Leena Fares**

**Ibrahim Ansari**



**Sakina Juzar**

**Mueez Khan**



Dear Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Organizers, the advisors and the executive board, we welcome you to the Thirteenth annual session of American University of Sharjah Model United Nation (AUSMUN). We at AUSMUN aim to provide a sense of solidarity and responsibility towards bringing out a polished debate and applicable resolutions.

WFP is governed by a -36member Executive Board. It works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. WFP partners with more than 1,000 national and international NGOs to provide food assistance and tackle the underlying causes of hunger. WFP is an action persistent/oriented body within the UN framework that dedicates its approach towards Humanitarian relief and aiding around 80 Countries each year. The work of WFP is closely linked to 2030 SDGS and Agenda for Sustainable Development where complete eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.

The aim is to work together to draft resolutions that will aid the conflict on hand involving member and non-member states. Moreover, due to the nature of the topics, delegates' research should be detailed and significant and focus on operationalization. We aim to provide each participant with a knowledgeable and memorable experience pertaining to the world of MUN, and as your chairs, we will be ready to help you anytime till the end of the conference.

Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the following email: [WFP.AUSMUN20@gmail.com](mailto:WFP.AUSMUN20@gmail.com). If you need any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us through the given email

Regards,  
The WFP Chairs



**WFP**

**World Food Programme**

# Topic I

## Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security

### 1. Summary & History

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a humanitarian organization dedicated to delivering food assistance in times of conflict and emergencies. It assists 86.3 million people in around 83 countries each year. Moreover, they work with communities that have experienced or are currently going through problems that impact their livelihood. As the international community has committed to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030, food and food-related assistance lie at the heart of the struggle to break the cycle of hunger and poverty. World Food Programme defines Food Security as continuous and safe access to food and healthy livelihood.

Current WFP policies include enhancing resilience capacity to assist regional and international conflicts and hunger crises. These resilient measures use advanced tech to improve the efficiency of their response saving more time. WFP acknowledges its primary responsibility of assistance in partnership with governmental organizations and associations with a helping hand. It aims to provide reinforcement that will allow easier access to the resources of livelihood. The Food For Assistance program allows communities to get food and resources for themselves in exchange for their work on infrastructure-related projects. Crisis areas like Namibia (2004) and Afghanistan. FAO supports countries with the establishment of different preparedness measures including:

- Agricultural practices at national/local level: seed and grazing fodder reserves; safe storage facility for seeds, harvest, and tools; stockpiling agricultural tools; emergency funds; etc.
- Support to national and local preparedness planning: contingency plans for agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture, forestry, and livestock; mapping, coordination arrangements, public information, and training; specific crisis/sector preparedness support for identified high threat diseases (avian influenza, aquatic animal disease, etc).

• Food insecurity can lead to stunting, wasting, regional instability, and exacerbating political and economic problems. Disasters, both natural and human-caused, are a common driver of food insecurity. The concept of disaster risk reduction, defined as the prevention and mitigation of disasters, is required to increase food security before and immediately after a disaster strikes. To improve emergency response capacities to safeguard food security, WFP has three main focuses: to provide immediate food aid, followed by mid-term food assistance, and to build long-term food security. Innovative technologies utilized and employed by humanitarian agencies, including WFP, can improve emergency response times, efficiency, and reduce aid costs. Expansive and inclusive partnerships increase funding and provide humanitarian aid agencies with opportunities for more efficient emergency responses.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Globalization has resulted in the growth of the economy and the technology of many countries. However, food security and nutrition have been at risk due to countries that are plagued with natural disasters, social conflicts and government failures. In these adverse situations, the SDG's have made the largest effort to tackle and address these issues.

The issue of food insecurity has been most prevalent in the continent of Africa where overpopulation combined with severe poverty and hunger has led the people of Africa to face a food crisis. Central Sahel, a region in Africa that includes Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has been affected by conflict and a combined population of over 20 million people are in need of food assistance. This number is projected to increase as the conflict grows and in September 2019, Central Sahel was declared a Level 3 emergency by the WFP.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) faces a similar crisis. Population displacements spread across different provinces are the main reason behind hunger and conflict. In 2017, the number of food-insecure people in DRC was 7.7 million and in 2018, this was doubled to 13.1 million. Moreover, in the DRC, over 5 million children are severely malnourished making food accessibility a difficult task for the people of DRC.

Another emergency has been declared in northeast Nigeria where over 3 million people face a hunger crisis leaving over 440,000 children malnourished. Furthermore, an estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced due to violence and insecurity which has caused thousands of people to seek refuge in neighboring countries such as Chad and Cameroon.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

Food security and nutrition are a prime international requisite for progress in the fight against hunger. The United Nations has prioritized policies and programs to tackle malnutrition and has reached out to international communities for coordination. There have been many guidelines and responsibilities ruled out by the United Nations for countries to facilitate dealing with hunger. Some of these recommendations include strengthening programs that govern food security and develop monitoring mechanisms to improve coordination.

While the country level is the most important, regional support has proven to provide political incentives and guidance, as well as build regional markets benefiting everyone in the region. The international community has consistently asserted its commitment to aid governments in combating hunger. Their constant support is very essential in fighting hunger especially for the least developed countries, which usually lack the resources to manage many partnerships. Since 2016's 5% increase in global hunger, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have all collectively collaborated to face the challenge together. Today, these organizations stand strong with major impacts around the world, constantly looking for further improvement. To continue and expand upon the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) introduced in 2000, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), to address the current challenges facing the world. According to the statistics division of the UN (2019), Goal 2 of the SDGs focuses on defeating hunger and malnutrition and focusing on maintaining midterm aid and long term security. Goal 17 focuses on building development connections through financial, tech and operational means to contribute assistance to implement the other Sustainable development goals, especially SDG-2 on eliminating hunger.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- What strategies do you have for delivering food to civilians during emergencies?
- How can you use technology to help aid in perfecting your project?
- Will you have certain remote areas ready with food during emergencies?
- How will you finance your project?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

In this regard, how can WFP develop cost-saving measures, improve efficiency, and acquire more funding to close the funding gap? What technologies and innovative strategies could be utilized to improve the overall effectiveness of emergency food aid programs in addition to already in place systems such as the EWSs? In what ways can WFP utilize food to aid in the development of resilience and food security?



# Topic II

## Granting the WFP operational independence in Yemen to carry on with food assistance operations after partial suspension

### 1. Summary & History

The Yemen conflict can be traced back to the spring of 2011 when an uprising forced the long-time authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over his powers to his deputy, Abdurabbuh Mansour Hadi. This process was meant to bring political stability to one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, but Hadi failed to deal with the ongoing corruption in the country, including military attacks, food insecurity and the underlying loyalty of many soldiers to the former president Saleh. As summarized by the BBC News in 2018, the tensions saw a dramatic escalation in March 2015 when Saudi Arabia and eight other Arab-Sunni states backed by the US, UK, and France began Air strikes against the rebel camps, with an aim to restore the government of Abdurabbuh Mansour Hadi. The conflict between the two parties plays a major role in accounting of the starvation and epidemic (Cholera) outbreak. According to the Clarke (2017), 8.4 million people are at the brink of starvation, with over 75% of the population in need of assistance and 40,000 children under five facing the horrors of life-threatening malnutrition.

The WFP, as a resilience partner, drew a relief plan that involved providing food and vouchers monthly to 12 million people in Yemen by 2019. The relief measures also included providing nutritional support to 1.5 million pregnant and nursing women. The world food program prioritizes taking responsibility of starving citizens to shield that from food insecurity in a wider sense. But like any other conflict zone, relief resources are not always safeguarded. Such an environment becomes the perfect prey for those who wish to take advantage of the vulnerable situation and its victims.

The United Nations World Food Programme has started a partial suspension of food assistance operations in areas of Yemen under the control of the Sana'a-based authorities. The decision was taken as a last resort after lengthy negotiations stalled on an agreement to introduce controls to prevent the diversion of food away from some of the most vulnerable people in Yemen. According to the CBC News (2019), WFP have suspended its operations in the capital Sanaa, which has been under Houthi control since 2014; the suspension would affect 850,000 people (para. 1). WFP said it would maintain nutrition programs for malnourished children, and pregnant and nursing mothers throughout the period of suspension. The move resulted from a dispute over control of biometric data between the WFP and the Iran-aligned Houthi group, which controls the capital Sanaa in 2014 from the Saudi-backed government.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The WFP emergency response in Yemen has been the largest response by the organization in the world. This response aims to feed over 12 million people and 1.5 million children in Yemen who are most vulnerable every month in 2019.

Despite this emergency response, over 16 million people are left without food every day and this number is estimated to increase to 20 million. Yemen has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. Recent surveys show that the families have difficulty getting access to nutri-

tious food such as vegetables, fruit or meat. WFP's emergency response has been highly effective as 29 of the 45 districts facing food insecurity are no longer in adverse conditions.

The WFP has also provided help in the following ways:

In-kind food assistance - offer monthly food assistance to over 12 million people through direct food distribution or retail vouchers.

Cash assistance - provide cash of up to \$12 per month to each person.

Assistance to refugees - provide food assistance to 8,500 refugees in the Kharaz camp.

School feeding - provide schooling to over 600,000 students in 2018-2019.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The United Nations and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland met on 26th February 2019 and held the third High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. This event helped in spreading awareness and gathering support for the humanitarian response in Yemen. Over US\$2.6 billion was donated to continue the humanitarian operations in Yemen. Over 16 donors including KSA, UAE, EU, UK, Canada and Germany have significantly increased their donations over the last year.

Owing to the misplacing of alleviating resources and diverting food away from the needful areas, WFP sought to seek the support of the government authorities of Sanaa, with whose help they can introduce a biometric security system that will assure safe distribution. Unfortunately, the sides failed to reach an agreement that would satisfy the concern, resulting in the suspension of aid to Yemen effective from June 20, 2019. The termination did not include nutrition programs for malnourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers.

In the month of October, WFP provided food assistance to over 12.3 million people. 9.2 million people received in-kind food assistance, 2.7 million people received retail vouchers and 469,895 were provided with cash assistance.

WFP is faced with a shortage of funding of USD 655 million which is needed to continue food assistance operations for the next 6 months (December 2019 - May 2020).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What restrictions should be put in Yemen to keep the situation under control?
- How to avoid any future suspensions?
- Under what rules should the WFP have independence in Yemen?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

FAO or Al Jazeera may be used to search further topics including why it all started and how can we prevent it from happening again.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu593e.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca3113en/CA3113EN.pdf>

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Gouthami Pillai**

**Youssef Aboutaleb**



**Maha Siddiqui**

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure and honor that we, the moderators of UN Women, welcome you all to AUSMUN 2020. We are eagerly anticipating our interactions during the committee, as well as the discussion and debate on the issues we'll be tackling. Every stage of the process demands creativity and diplomacy. As your committee's chairs, we will work to ensure that the committee is functioning smoothly. We will do our best to help you understand parliamentary procedures and to ensure that the views of all delegates are heard and respected. We expect each delegate to come to the conference with an understanding of his/her country's foreign policy/positions and a willingness to forge agreements.

The UNW is a United Nations organization that comprises of representatives from 41 Member States elected by the UN Economic and Social Council to three-year terms with the following regional allocations: Africa (10), Asia and the Pacific (10), Latin America and the Caribbean (6), Western Europe and other states (5), Eastern Europe (4), and contributing countries (6). As your committee's chairs, we are looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas for solving the issues at hand. The United Nations depends on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 Member States because each state has its own unique interests and concerns, it is challenging to write, negotiate, and pass resolutions.

With that being said, we are as excited as you are for the conference and cannot wait to convene in committee with all of you and we look forward to meeting you all and hearing your voice for change in the sessions. If you need any help regarding the topic and conference in general, please do not hesitate to contact us at [mahashajee2011@gmail.com](mailto:mahashajee2011@gmail.com). Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the mentioned email. Best of Luck!

Regards,  
The UNW Chairs





**UNW**

**United Nations Women**

# Topic I

## The Urgency and Nature of Change in the Era of #MeToo

### 1. Summary & History

The MeToo movement, with a large variety of local and international related names, is a movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault. The phrase “Me Too” was initially used in this context on social media in 2006, on Myspace, by sexual harassment survivor and activist Tarana Burke. The movement was further founded in the same year to help survivors of sexual violence, particularly black women and girls, and other young women of color from low wealth communities, find pathways to healing. The vision from the beginning was to address both the dearth in resources for survivors of sexual violence and to build a community of advocates, driven by survivors, who will be at the forefront of creating solutions to interrupt sexual violence in their communities. In less than six months, because of the viral #metoo hashtag, a vital conversation about sexual violence has been thrust into the national dialogue.

What started as local grassroots work has expanded to reach a global community of survivors from all walks of life and helped to de-stigmatize the act of surviving impact of sexual violence worldwide. Sexual harassment is not complementary, humorous or unavoidable; victims have demanded that it be understood as a form of violence and abuse of power. Some journalists have listened and treated victims’ stories; policy, practice and legal changes need to follow. The greatest global challenge seen to sexual violence is in full flow, and women from every region have grasped the power of social media to expose their stories using the hashtags #MeToo and #WithYou.

Bonds have been forged between women who have named their abuser and those who have not been public about their abuse. They have inspired and strengthened each other and have found comfort in the collective outing of their traumas/consequent harms. Journalists have shaped a new media response to women’s outing of their abuse. Women have occupied the power of solidarity to name the agony of sexual harassment. They have called for an end to the normalization, tolerance, and minimization of the harms inflicted. They have shown that sexual harassment is more routine than it is exceptional and that it tends to be used by men in positions of power and authority. They have shown that beyond the harassers there are others who enable: friends, colleagues, and subordinates may either be complicit in that exercise of power or too cowed to refuse to cooperate.

Power’s gifting of protection to the privileged has been profoundly challenged, with some major names and careers being felled. The women of the #MeToo international uprising have created a pivotal moment in time, pushed open a door and demanded change. In 2015, States echoed the ambition of the movements to end sexual harassment as part of their commitment to end all violence against women, by 2030 (UN Women, 2016). This bold ambition requires considerable effort, including recognition that sexual harassment can constitute criminal behavior and may require specific legislation.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The #MeToo wave has unearthed a prolonged injustice that has affected women across the globe and initiated a public discussion that previously did not garner attention. It opened doors for thousands of women to share their own stories and experiences with sexual harassment and assault. However, it initiated more than just support groups for victims, it was a wake-up call for society.

Although many people were heartened by the rise in awareness resultant of movement, it isn't going as positively as people think. The backlash is greater than anticipated - men are shying away from one-on-one interactions with women including mentoring, meetings and socializing. Additionally, companies are less keen on hiring women. The male-dominated society, out of fear of repercussions, prefers to cut out social interactions with women all together instead of correcting their actions - making the movement seem like a push backward for women. (Twana Harris, 2019) Rather than a message of 'treat women with respect', the rule in the #MeToo era is 'avoid women at all costs'.

Globally, #MeToo is largely trending. In the UK, claims were made against famous British politicians and public figures. Celebrities, brand names and members of the power elite were all under intense scrutiny due to the scandals surrounding famous personalities such as Michael Fallon and Damian Green. In South Korea and Japan, although accusations were denied, they had a large impact on the public. However, the movement fizzled out quite early in Pakistan, when feminists remained quiet while the public slandered a victim for accusing a musician online. The movement needs to be more effective in countries that are predominantly misogynistic.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

On a comprehensive level, a treaty called the 'Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women' (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and was instituted in 1981. (UN Women 2016) It is an international treaty that dictates what discrimination against women is. It was drafted by Member States of the UN, has been ratified by 189 states and is one of the constituents of the global treaty on sex inequality. However, currently 35 of the states do not have legislation on sexual harassment, 59 states do not have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace, 123 countries do not have legislation on sexual harassment in education, and 157 do not have legislation on sexual harassment in public spaces (UN Women 2018). Since then, UN Women has led to much action to tackle discrimination against women. Significantly, in 2015, UNW led an inter-agency framework to drive action in order to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women, called "A Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence against Women" which included the ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, and OHCHR (UN Women 2018). This framework draws an evidence-based understanding of the causes, the risk and protective factors that are associated with violence, which also extends to discrimination. Additionally, it outlines the work that can be done towards eradication that can be pursued by stakeholders across communities, countries, regions, disciplines, and sectors. (UN Women 2016). UN Women has also provided leadership and coordination on existing and new Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) accountability frameworks to regional bodies and Member States; as well as, support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly, women-led organizations. UN Women has worked to ensure that the contributions of women of all ages regarding conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding are recognized and valued.

#### **4. *Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address***

- What would it take to facilitate the adoption of the dictates of the CEDAW by Member States?  
What shape can adoption take in different states under varying circumstances?

#### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

# Topic II

## Leadership and Political Participation of Women

### 1. Summary & History

Since the 1970s, women have steadily emerged in leadership roles in all societal spheres. Women bring to the exercise of leadership an arsenal of strengths, which increasingly are received to benefit the entities they lead on local, national, and global levels. Women's leadership styles are transformational, participative, and inclusive than the leadership styles of their male counterparts (Erez & Gati, 2004; Stelter, 2002). According to the results of a 2008 Pew Research initiative studying whether men or women make better leaders, participants rated women over men by five-to-one in the top eight leadership characteristics, including honesty and intelligence. Although women are filling more managerial positions, they have yet to emerge in the top executive leadership positions. With women making such substantive contributions in the exercise of leadership, this background guide concludes with the rhetorical question. The various factors that affect women's participation in politics differ around the world and constantly change with shifts in the national context

Leadership is made up of relationships that are deeply rooted in social settings (Bryman, 1996) as well as increasingly more external global layers (Leung, Bhagat, Buchan, Erez, & Gibson, 2005). Understanding institutional systems are critical for the advancement of research on leadership in varying contexts (Kirkman, Lowe, & Gibson, 2006). Leadership and political fields need representation from both women and men in the process because of the varying skill sets that each brings to the job (Denmark, 1993).

Actors function within institutions according to normative expectations, social values (March & Olsen, 1984, 1996), rules, and incentives, and consider their priorities while operating simultaneously (Peters, 2000). Institutions gain legitimacy when social practices become accepted and collectively expected as obvious behavior (Lucas, 2003). As it becomes more commonplace to observe women in political leadership and influential positions, such behaviors will become an accepted schema within society. Legitimacy is achieved when the success of women leaders is recognized by one group, which in turn influences another group etc, (Lucas, 2003). For example, an increase in working women during and following war has led generations of women to follow the example of their mothers, aunts, and neighbors into the workforce.

The increase in flow of women in leadership happens over generations, with each generation becoming more comfortable with, or institutionalized to, the idea of women working outside the home and even holding leadership positions. Globalization can also lead to a similar form of institutionalization across societies, as they become more alike and model one another. As the development of a country increases, women's political leadership participation also increases. Women's advancement to independence and leadership in each country may be affected by different factors in various ways because of the dynamic nature of the environments in which they live (Erez & Gati, 2004). Organizations have been presenting a developmental view of institutional forces to explore how society-wide institutions—the business environment, societal development, economics, technology and infrastructure, political freedom, and culture—might encourage or hamper women's participation in political leadership.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

As the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation states, "Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes and low levels of education." Eradication of these obstacles is of utmost importance to encourage women leaders. Additionally, the troubles faced once they've reached positions of power – the prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and even violence – must be brought to light.

However, in both the local and global scenarios, women are underrepresented not only in leading positions in politics but also as voters. During elections, women are forced to vote for clan-favored parties, and in some cases, are forced to engage in 'proxy voting' where male family members cast votes in the name of the women. Few women have broken out of the chains, often to the benefit of the society at large. But for the entire women community, the playing field must be further expanded to have equal opportunities for all.

Women currently make up less than a quarter of the world's politicians, with only 22% of national parliamentary positions held globally. Internationally, women account for less than 10% of the parliament in 27 states. Japan, Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo have a low number of women parliamentarians as well. However, the current scene shows an upward trend - the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has risen to 23.97%, a massive increase from 11% in 1997. Rwanda has the highest percentage with 61.3% of women have won seats in the lower house of the Parliament.

The UNDP Strategic Plan and its Gender Equality Strategy (2014-2017) focuses on the involvement of women in decision-making and leadership, in collaboration with its sister agencies such as UNW, OHCHR, and UNICEF (UNDP) Women's rights organizations help to strengthen the links between leaders and women in the communities they represent.

## **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

In 1995, during the Fourth World Conference on Women which was assembled by the UN, the resolution 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' was adopted. Critical areas that were addressed in the Beijing Declaration included inequalities of areas between women and men in sharing power and decision-making and insufficient mechanisms to promote the advancement of women. It has since taken actions across various International Organizations and bodies of the UN, towards ensuring women's full participation, equal access, and capacity to participate in power structures and decision-making. It has also driven action for the Member States to integrate gender perspectives in public policies, programs, and projects. (United Nations 1995) One manifestation of this was the UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation in 2011 (Res. 66/130) which called on all States "to enhance the political participation of women" which also extends to leadership positions. (United Nations 2011) Since then, UN Women has collaborated with electoral management bodies, legislatures, women's networks and other UN bodies to put an end to stereotypes that prevent women from rising to and assuming leadership roles, as well as increase the number of women leaders through building their skills and capacities. UN Women has helped states budget and plan based on principles of gender equality and has measured progress through data on gender and aimed to guarantee equality under law. More recently, aligning with their goals and working towards 2030 and commitments affirmed within the SDGs, UN Women launched the Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection (LEAP) program initiative in 2016 and has since launched proposals to apply this in different states under varying circumstances. (UN Women 2019) The programme was designed to make equality achievable across

the globe by supporting constitutions, laws, and policies that guarantee opportunities for women to lead.

#### ***4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address***

- How we can increase the political participation of women in the world?
- What are the programs that can be led better with women's leadership?
- What countries are most/least supporting women's participation and how it can be improved?

#### ***5. Suggestions For Further Research***

- How can UNW help women to participate more in political activities?
- Which platforms are more helpful to increase women's participation?

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Manaswi Madichetty**

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to gain a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Aisha Almaazmi**

**Haya AlSuwaidi**



**Noor Nidal**

**Borna Farshad Motlagh**

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to the 2020 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations, and specifically to the committees of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). AUSMUN follows the aim of Model United Nations in bringing students together to discuss current world issues by displaying the diplomacy and widening their knowledge.

the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes addresses issues within the United Nations that correspond to issues of the Drug Market, Criminal Justice, international terrorism and Fraud, as well as the protection of International property from illicit trafficking. One of the main goals this committee strives for is creating awareness regarding the issues at hand, and emphasizing on the significance of global acknowledgement of the problems at hand being 'Web-based arms trafficking- investigating the illegal trade of firearms through the hidden web' and 'Cultural Property Theft'.

The conference is catered to nourish student skills of debate and research; therefore, we hope to have fruitful debates and interesting conversation throughout the sessions. It is a chance for the participants to interact in thought-provoking topics, enhancing their public speaking skills and critical thinking.

We wish you all good luck with your research and preparation, and we look forward to meeting you all at the conference.

Sincerely,  
The UNODC Chairs



**UNODC**

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

# Topic I

## Web-based arms trafficking- investigating the illegal trade of firearms through the hidden web

### 1. Summary & History

Policing the internet has been one of the biggest struggles of the emerging technologies of our age. Having said that, the cases of organized crime and attacks that have been enabled by the hidden web have been too many to count. A study on the criminal cyber services market (Positive Technologies, 2018) found that Q1 of 2018 had a 32 percent increase in crime detection when compared to Q1 of 2017. The hidden or dark web, as defined by Aldridge and Décary-Héту (2014) and Martin (2014), refers to the part of the internet that is not indexed by search engines. This committee aims to investigate the illegal trade of firearms through the hidden web, which has emerged with the first crypto market – the Silk Road.

The Silk Road was launched in 2011 by the computer programmer Ross William Ulbricht under the pseudonyms Dread Pirate Roberts, Frosty, and Altoid before it was shut down in 2013 by the FBI (Paoli, Aldridge, Ryan, & Warnes, 2017). The site had an extension called “The Armory” that enabled vendors to list guns, ammunition, and explosives. Along the same lines as the Silk Road is Adamflowers, later known as The Farmer’s Market, Sheep Marketplace, RAMP, and Black Market Reloaded, to name a few. One of the biggest issues with crypto markets is as the name hints, the payment method is cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency, is a medium of exchange that uses strong cryptography to secure financial transactions – which makes them extremely difficult to trace. The focus on the link between the dark web terrorism and organized crime rose following the 2016 Munich Shootings, where the weapons used by the “lone-wolf terrorist” were connected to vendors on the hidden web. Another attack that has been linked to the hidden web is the Paris shootings in 2015, although they have not been confirmed. Such acts cemented a widespread public concern that the dark web is an enabler and facilitator for terrorists and organized criminals seeking firearms and yet, very little is known about the size and scope of the weapons trade on the dark web. A study by Paoli, Aldridge, Ryan, and Warnes (2017) found that a combined total of 91% of the listing on the hidden web were firearms, arms-related digital products and ammunition – with pistol guns being the most commonly listed firearm.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The dark web allows illegal trade at a global scale where buyers and vendors can be located across the world and are able to connect and conduct business in a few simple clicks (Paoli, 2018). That is, the dark web eliminates location barriers between consumers and merchants. This is one of the most prominent implications of the dark webs trafficking – both parties are instantly exposed to a global market, protected under anonymous profiles, using virtually untraceable transactions on crypto markets. This information is also available to everyone with an internet connection given the abundance of tutorials online. Therefore, even users with very little internet literacy and technical skill will be able to engage in transactions given a basic understanding of the process. The main intervention strategies used such as traditional investigation techniques, postal detection and interception, online detection and disruption all have barriers due to the nature of the secure crypto markets on the dark web as well as the sheer volume of orders be-



ing placed. Also, some vendors list allows 'worldwide' as a shipping destination which naturally makes tracing packages more difficult – which also happens to be the most popular 'destination'. This in turn makes current techniques very cost and time intensive with very little results.

Despite the actual scale of dark web enabled firearms trade being relatively small compared to other markets such as drugs, there is a general agreement that its potential impact on security is significant (RAND, 2017). Having said that, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated that the total value for global arms trade in 2017 was at least \$95 billion (SIPRI, 2017). The United States has been recorded to have the highest rate of illicit arms flow with an approximated 319,593 arms seized in 2017 (UNODC).

In a nutshell, the main objective of the UN is to control the supply of firearms. Taking into consideration the effects this trade has on the stability and development of nations, the UN listed this issue under the 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – peace, justice, and strong institutions. Under this, the UN aims to significantly reduce arms flow by 2030 by recording and standardizing data on seized, found, and surrendered arms (UNODC, n.d.). In order for this to be done, training is needed to strengthen and standardize data collection as well as allow opportunities for sharing and relaying of information related to illegal trafficking of firearms (UNODC, 2018).

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The issue regarding web-based arms trafficking has been in the spotlight after Europe's many terrorist attacks. Most organizations have focused on the depth of the issue; however, many failed to acknowledge the relationship between arms trafficking and the dark web. In order to investigate the nature of the relationship, many government-funded research organizations such as the RAND Corporation and the UK Economic and Social Research Council have initiated studies exploring the dark web and firearms. The main objective of RAND's study in 2018 was to estimate the scope of trade of firearms on the dark web, along with identifying the types that are dealt and sold on the web.

Furthermore, the issue has been directly addressed by the United Nations, who have held past conferences in 1997 and 1999 to address the issues of trading firearms. However, the UN shone light on the role played by the dark web, which initiates transactions of such firearms. In 2018, The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) published an Occasional Paper titled *The Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons on the Dark Web* which addressed the role of the dark web in facilitating the buying and selling of firearms. The UN called for financial and technical assistance to combat this issue and eradicate the illegal trade of firearms. The resolution also called upon international governments to establish stricter rules on firearms sellers and buyers, as well as exercising control over manufacturers. UNODA, along with UNODC also stress upon classifying illicit firearms dealing as a criminal offence with heavy fines associated.

Most of the international organizations involved stressed the importance of international cooperation, since it is an issue that could potentially affect everyone with network access. The UN, along with its associated organizations, ask for manufacturers of firearms to be licensed and government-approved.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How does the dark web encourage terrorism and terrorist attacks?
- How can technology-rich and developed nations help prevent illicit firearms dealing on the dark web, other than financial aid?

- How can governments and international organisations tighten regulations and prevent easy access to the dark web?
- What are some ways that the dark web could be monitored, and officials alerted for any impending terrorist attacks?
- To what degree should governments and international organisations be involved in monitoring the dark web?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Regulating the dark web
- Terrorist cyber attacks
- Gangs and cults on the dark web
- Types of weaponry/firearms on dark web.
- Firearms manufacturers and dealers licensing requirements.

# Topic II

## Cultural Property Theft

### 1. Summary & History

Cultural Property is defined as “an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.”(Culture in Development) Cultural property is unique and exclusive to the evolution and distinctiveness of different sets of people from different parts of the world. However, today more than ever, there is a constant threat of cultural property theft, our second topic for the committee.

The global trade of historical objects, antiques, and relics, both lawful and unlawful, was commonly managed by experts employed within an established network and adhering to centralized methods. Prized objects were classified, analyzed, and finally chosen, tailor-made transportation organized, and border crossings occasionally simplified by the use of counterfeit papers, concealed compartments, or payments of hush-money to crooked officials. An organization of classified accomplices formed a paper trail of papers that generated contracts, payments and tax charges while concealing the dealers from detection. Such proceedings have become more effortless and more uncomplicated nowadays due to globalized trade, innovative methods of shipment, and the guarded locations and wealth of associates presented by the Internet (“Protecting Cultural Heritage”, 2016).

People have been demolishing treasured cultural artifacts for eras, as far back as 700 BCE, when the Assyrians ransacked and wrecked Babylon, with its many prized objects. One of the most troublesome issues that U.N. committees like SOCHUM (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee) or the UNODC have needed to address is the conservation of cultural property in zones of conflict, like wars. During the past half a century, many sites have met their match as a result of international, or even civil wars. Some good examples of this would be sites in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War between (1955 to 1975), or ones in Cyprus during the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Another threat endangering the longevity and resulting in the loss, obliteration, relocation, or larceny of historical, cultural property sites are international organized criminal groups illicitly trafficking the property through the internet or underground markets and making substantial profits as a result. “A substantial amount of looting happens around the world, and yet so far the efforts to combat trafficking in cultural property have not been in proportion to the gravity and extent of this criminal manifestation” (UNODC). Trafficking has also developed into a significant method of money laundering and a source of funding for terrorist organizations; much of their profit goes into strengthening their recruitment efforts and increasing the capacity of operations. Sometimes, trafficking crimes can include many national jurisdictions; because an item is taken from one country, travels through air, sea, and land through multiple states, before finally reaching its final destination.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The reason why this is an important issue is that a country's cultural property is what defines its history, traditions, and essentially, culture. Historical objects can be used to learn a lot about the history of a nation and the people that came before. Upon the destruction or loss of these objects, such invaluable knowledge is gone.

The theft or destruction of cultural property directly violates the UN Charter. The UN Security Council, in accordance with Article 39 of the UN Charter, resolved that the 'unlawful destruction of cultural heritage and the looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts' constitute a threat to international peace and security and unanimously adopted Resolution 2347 on 24 March 2017. The resolution "condemns the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, including the destruction of religious sites and artefacts, and the looting and smuggling of cultural property from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives, and other sites, notably by terrorist groups" (S/RES/2347, 2017).

While many countries are victims of cultural property theft and/or destruction, some nations stand out as they have been hit the most. Two of those countries, Iraq and Syria, are victims of constant attacks by the terrorist organization ISIS. While both countries are engaged in anti-ISIS measures, they do not have sufficient man-power to withstand the annihilation of their prized artifacts. As a matter of fact, Middle Eastern countries, such as Syria, are the ones suffering the most. The Ancient City of Bosra, Khalid ibn an-Walid Mosque, and Krak des Chevaliers, all in Syria, have all been destroyed due to the conflicts taking place in the nation. Other sites, such as Cyrene in Libya and Jonah's Tomb in Iraq, were ruined due to the Libyan Civil War and ISIS attacks, respectively.

## **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

Along with UNODC, the most prominent international organizations that have been involved in finding solutions regarding this issue are UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Main topics of discussion have been the protection and consequences of cultural property theft in conflict zones. Some of which being Iraq and Syria wherein not only are cultural objects are being destroyed but heritage is slowly annihilated with the persecution of individuals and communities. The presence of fake art and artefacts filling the market seems to disrupt the authenticity and value in which the heritage is presented originally.

Though calls for safety regulations are continuously present, effective action and campaigns have slowly been initiated. In 2017, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov announced working with UNESCO, INTERPOL, and The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) along with other organizations in promoting action hoping to end the looting of cultural property. (UNODC, 2017) Moreover, the existing The World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme, initially formed to control good traded through sea, has advanced in training Port Control Units to detect illicitly trafficked cultural heritage. Current initiatives include the formation of educational workshops in hopes to provide more exposure about the importance of cultural objects; wherein emphasis is added to the methods in which creating public awareness could lead to powerful impact on signifying the issue (UNODC, 2019).

Many resolutions were proposed regarding the elimination of organized crimes, especially in regard to cultural objects and historical remnants. For example, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime resolution 8/1 of 21 October 2016, invites states to strengthen the

cooperation of authorities in criminal matters to fight transnational organized crime. However, the implementation is not as widespread as it set out to be. Other resolutions that were introduced were; 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled "International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, as well as 69/281 of 28 May 2015 on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq.

#### ***4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address***

- How can cultural property be protected in conflict zones?
- The role of media coverage in the protection of heritage. Why is this issue not widely spread?
- Why educating the youth and current education campaigns might succeed or fail?
- What issues have not been addressed, leading to failure in the prevention of illicit theft?
- What are the effects of Cultural Property Theft on the growth of countries and communities?

#### ***5. Suggestions For Further Research***

- Previous incidents and means of cultural property theft.
- Purposes and consequences for cultural property theft.
- Why certain communities are targeted and how to regulate safety.

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



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This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Ayesha Siddiqi**



**Saif Soliman**

**Samarth Rai**



**Hariharan Ramesh**



Distinguished Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure that we invite you to AUSMUN 2020's United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) committee. We are greatly excited to see the fruitful debates and creative resolutions that we are sure you will bring to our committee. As our topics are of great importance especially to our generation, we anticipate seeing a lot of passion in this committee.

UNEP was established in 1972 as an outcome of the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm. The UNEP is focused on creating better global conditions with regard to the environment. There are six main areas of concentration of the environmental program, which includes climate change, disaster management, ecosystem management, environmental governance, and resource efficiency. The UNEP is also the leader in encouraging the achievement of sustainable goals that have been set by the committee for the year 2030.

During the course of our conference, we will be focusing on the aspects of climate change, disaster management, and resource efficiency. Some notable achievements of the committee are the Montreal Protocol, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), and the provision of financial aid to implement Solar Power in Developing Countries.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at [unepausmun2020@gmail.com](mailto:unepausmun2020@gmail.com) regarding any concerns. Good luck and see you at the conference!

Warm Regards,  
The UNEP chairs.



**UNEP**

**United Nations Environment Programme**

# Topic I

## Finding the Balance between Economic Growth & Resource Efficiency

### 1. Summary & History

The whole world consumes resources yet sometimes we seem to forget that they are limited and must be rationed. Resource allocation has emerged as a serious problem in recent years as globalization and rapid increase in market competitiveness has redefined the economic structure for many countries. Minimizing the level of wastage and producing the maximum productive potential are the core values that could help in reducing risks like market failure in the long run. Cities consume over 75% of natural resources. Presently over half of the world's population resides in cities with up to 80% consumption projected for 2050. Significantly, the majority of this growth will take place in cities of the developing world. The conditions for urban inhabitants in terms of employment, environment, health, education, and overall quality of life are dependent on how cities manage the natural resources available ("Resource Efficiency and Green Economy," 2017). Many of the decisions and actions needed to move our society towards sustainable development rest largely with cities.

In recent years, many countries that have depleted their existing resources are importing resources from other countries to maintain their level of production and profits to attain steady economic growth. The efficient use of resources has solely been the reason behind the success of many countries such as Austria, Finland, and Germany ("Resource Efficiency and Green Economy", 2017). These countries have adopted various strategies to reduce wastage and employ their resources efficiently. The poorest countries are affected most by this issue as resources become increasingly scarce and expensive.

It is important to remember that humans aren't the only species on this planet and there are many more beings on this earth that need to use those natural resources. Therefore, resources must be divided equitably and used sparingly. Currently, humans destructively exploit environmental resources. The exploitation of natural resources on an industrial scale began in the 19th century. It further increased in the 20th century and today's world; about 80% of energy consumption is from the extraction of fossil fuels (Planas, 2019).

Resource efficiency and economic growth are a source of conflict between many governments and macroeconomic objectives. Many factors have turned out to be detrimental to humanity but beneficial to the economy, such as immigration, urbanization, industrialization, and globalization. Many countries continue to believe in the fact that economies have grown to such an extent that resource allocation has emerged to be almost impossible to carry out efficiently. UNEP works with public and private partners, and with a special focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries and emerging economies ("Small and Medium Enterprises Finance," 2019). UNEP works across a range of key areas that contribute to more responsible and sustainable industrial practices. These include tourism, eco-innovation, eco-labeling, consumer information, and corporate sustainability reporting.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

Resource efficiency is a vital and unique way countries can further progress without permanently harming the environment while moving towards a green economy and contributing to global sustainability. Countries must make sure they take into account the various ways resources are being wasted and where it is possible to minimize or remove resource consumption. Providing increased opportunities for consumer choices and sustainable lifestyles should also be considered.

Building a greener and more sustainable economy means changing how we consume and produce. Businesses will benefit from cleaner and safer production while also having increased resource efficiency, transparency, and corporate responsibility. Environmentally considerate solutions provide multiple opportunities for businesses to avoid higher input costs from excessive and inefficient production systems, attract and retain the best employee talent, and gain a competitive advantage while increasing efficiency and reducing waste of resources. All this will in turn help to reduce the devastating impacts on the environment. The IRP report also mentions that other than adopting resource efficiency policies, a combination of factors including extended product life cycle, intelligent product design, reuse, recycling, remanufacturing, and standardization should also be considered ("With Resource Use," 2017).

Member nations need to impose stricter control over their populations and must take accountability for their actions as the environment has been neglected and looked at as an infinite resource for too long. These nations need to keep track of the rights they give to multinational corporations and the licenses they are providing. Intentions of corporations must be well-known and safety measures at high-risk factories must be inspected by well-educated and informed governmental bodies regularly. This should be done to prevent incidents like the Bhopal gas tragedy or the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which were both caused due to negligence.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The UNEP has initiated the Green Economy Initiative (GEI), which aids governments in improving their economy by helping them invest and "[spend] towards a range of green sectors, such as clean technologies, industry, renewable energies, water services, transport, waste management, green buildings, and sustainable agriculture and forests" ("Resource Efficiency and Green Economy", 2017). GEI's three-pronged approach comprises of policy analysis, advisory services, and partnerships. GEI aims to foster a collective vision jointly with other UN agencies, public organizations, and businesses to break the links between economic growth and environmental degradation.

Over previous decades, the European Union has set up an expansive scope of environmental legislation as air, water, and soil contamination has been diminished. The 7th Environment Action Programme will guide the European environment policy up until 2020. Its long term vision aims to contain the human population within the planet's ecological limits by 2050. Key objectives include enhancing the Union's natural capital to turn it into a resource-efficient economy. It plans on achieving these goals by taking the following actions by improving legislation, knowledge, investment, and integration of environmental requirements ("Environment Action Programme to 2020," 2019).

The International Resource Panel (IRP) was established by the UNEP in 2007 to focus on improving resource usage globally ("The International Resource Panel," n.d.). The IRP report states that resource use may increase by more than double from 2015 to 2050. The report also states that with the help of resource efficiency policies and initiatives, resource usage can be cut by 26%, and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by an additional 15-20% by 2050 ("With Resource Use," 2017). Resource efficiency must be undertaken to help achieve sustainability goals set by the agen-

da for 2030 as the global material resource usage is estimated to increase by 2050 ("The Sustainable Development Agenda," 2019; "With Resource Use," 2017).

#### **4. *Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address***

- How can countries and businesses be incentivized to implement resource-efficient strategies?
- What are the main concerns that curb nations from implementing strategies, and how can we deal with them?
- What strategies can be implemented to ensure all macroeconomic objectives are met?
- Which groups are most affected by the growing concern of the detrimental factors and what measures can be introduced to help better their position?
- What kind of support is needed to implement a balance between economic growth and resource efficiency (in terms of financial aid, international cooperation, policy construction or the passing of legislation, etc.)?
- What actions can developing countries take in their current situation to improve? What incentives do they have to take action?
- How can countries stress the seriousness of the issue and relay it to their population?

#### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- What causes countries to take the easy route and put the environment on a backseat?
- Why should developing countries care about the environment and not just leave it all to the rest of the developed nations?
- How does resource usage differ between developed and developing countries?
- What policies are allowing businesses to carry out processes that are causing environmental degradation?
- How should the manufacturing and packaging process of commercial products be modified within the supply chain to more efficiently and sparingly make use of resources?



# Topic II

## Impacts of Climate Change on Forced Displacement of Refugees and Migrants

### 1. Summary & History

Climate change is an ongoing threat to the sustainability of our planet. It is a very serious issue that is highly debated today. Global warming is a big part of the climate change conundrum and is what causes the earth's average temperature to rise. 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden has recently spoken at the United Nations Climate Crisis Summit in Madrid in 2019. Greta delivered an emotional speech in which she condemned world leaders of not taking the issue of climate change seriously by accusing them of stealing her dreams and the dreams of the coming generations with their empty promises. Her message to them is, "we will be watching you" (United Nations, 2019). This shows how far the issue has come but is being neglected to the point that Greta as a young girl has felt the need to speak up and take matters into her own hands.

Conditions have been getting worse for decades due to the lack of consideration given to the matter. Many people are forced to leave their homes and the cities that they grew up in due to being victimized by climate change. The change in climate can be in the form of sea-level rise, extreme weather conditions, desertification, or salinization of agricultural land. Per the International Organization for Migration (IOM), climate change is one of the main drivers of migration (IOM, 2008).

To clarify, climate refugees and climate migrants are two different terms. The word migrant gives the connotation of voluntarily moving to seek a better life. On the other hand, the word refugee attracts more attention to itself as it refers to those displaced by force ("World Leaders Adopt," 2018). Several people have been threatened by floods, famines, and other natural disasters. In other cases, people have been trying to flee their home countries due to unsafe conditions, such as gang violence, but their attempts have been thwarted by the effects of climate change. Several countries including Afghanistan and Somalia experienced a drought that left 764,000 people displaced in 2018. Cyclone Idai in Mozambique left more than 73,000 people homeless in March of 2019 (Let's Talk About Climate Migrants," 2019). Farmers have lost their land, which is their source of income and their lifestyle in addition to losing their homes due to flooding. Therefore, necessary measures must be taken to make our planet more sustainable to reduce the number of climate change victims.

Climate change has been a reason for the displacement of people for a very long time. This dates back to the time of the ancient Egyptians as they migrated from deserted areas to riverine areas. Furthermore, it dates back to the 4th century CE the Hun and the Germans were forced to migrate from the Volga and the Rhine Rivers to the Gaul.

Recently, in August 2005 the Katrina Hurricane which struck the United States displaced over a million people (IOM, 2008). This hurricane was the result of extreme climate change.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Climate change is an important issue since it is one of the drivers of forced migration. The main reasons for climate change are human activities as industrialization increases global warming. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 17.2 million people ("Migration and

the Climate Crisis," 2019) will be displaced because of climate change disasters that affected their lifestyle resulting in them leaving the homes they grew up in.

The threat caused by climate change is estimated to result in the following: by 2099 it is expected that the world will be hotter by 1.8-4 degrees Celsius, the proportion of land of constant drought will increase from around 8% to a staggering 10% by 2050, and rainfall will change its pattern. Such changes affect the habitability of the land as they affect the usefulness of its natural resources ("Climate Change," 2019; "The Effects of Climate," 2019). Although the emission of greenhouse gases is essential for life, these gases are now present in detrimental excess ("Mitigation," n.d.). However, there is an unfair advantage as some places are more affected than others, for example, regions in Africa suffer extreme droughts while places in South Asia suffer from frequent floods.

Developing countries are already susceptible to several issues that are related to poverty, health, and violence. People fleeing the city of Boko Haram in Nigeria from gang violence found it difficult to escape and they were at great risk of being displaced due to climate change's effect on reducing Lake Chad, which made it difficult for boats to cross. Therefore, the climate change issue is ignored by developed member states as it does not harm them whilst they are the ones that are the major cause of climate change.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

A third of refugees by the end of 2018 were from the least developed countries of the world, which are more susceptible to climate change and natural disasters (Thompson, 2019). Although climate change affects developing countries the most, the rest of the world is also affected. The state of California in the USA has been a victim of a large number of wildfires in 2018. The Californian wildfires left several people displaced due to the destruction of their homes. Additionally, the Amazon forest had also been on fire in the year 2019. These fires have been connected to the amount of deforestation that leads to higher amounts of carbon dioxide being present in the air ("As Wildfires," 2019), which contributes to the greenhouse effect.

UNEP highly supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was signed by all UN member states in 2015 ("The Sustainable Development Agenda," 2019). The Agenda involves goals that tackle deforestation and resource efficiency in addition to the consideration of refugees displaced due to climate change as well as other natural disasters ("Transforming our world," 2015). Therefore, it can be seen that the agenda covers a considerable amount of issues. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also hosted a conference in February of 2018 that prolonged for 3 days to discuss halting deforestation and increasing forest area ("Halting Deforestation," 2018). The United Nations Forum on Forests established a strategic plan for forests in 2017, which builds upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ("United Nations Strategic Plan," 2017). The goals of the strategic plan include increasing forest area by 3% by the year 2030. In addition to the UN's efforts, organizations such as Team Trees have also been aiming to plant 20 million trees by the start of 2020 (Leskin, 2019).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What measures/mechanisms are to be adopted by the UN bodies and/or policymakers to ensure the reduction of the climate change effect?
- What is the responsibility of nations, both developed and developing, in the process of emission reduction?
- What are the measures and ways to ensure the people currently displaced are sheltered and receive all their rights?

- How to ensure that countries least affected don't contribute the most towards climate change?

## **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- Public awareness of climate change and how your nation tackles the issue.
- The role of your country in the reduction of the climate change issue.
- The country's stance on the issue, is it the victim or is it a major cause.
- The reasons behind such extreme climate change.
- The importance of the adoption of a solution for climate change.
- A basic idea on the greenhouse effect.
- Different instances that have occurred in your country and neighboring countries.
- Knowing how the funds and policies regarding climate change are different from developed and developing countries.
- What policies are allowing businesses to carry out processes that are causing climate change and contributing to the greenhouse effect?

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020



# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Liana Hajeir**

**Emad Toubar**

**Abdulrahman Hamdan**

**Haneen Shahin**

Dear Delegates and Faculty advisors,

It brings me great pride to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN). This year, the conference has reached its 13th edition, and with that we are delighted to welcome you to the Cyber-Security committee for this year's conference.

State governments face several cybercrime challenges, which is a significant consequence of the rise in cyberspace technology. Cybercriminals have managed to commit numerous cybersecurity breaches in multiple international financial, military, and emergency establishments. Given that, it is essential to discuss these challenges in an international assembly in order to maintain the United Nations' (UN) agenda in preserving human security.

With the introduction of the Internet of Things (IOT), where all devices connect to the internet, it is now more important than ever to protect a user's data and information. The topics of discourse for this committee are 'Cybersecurity for Energy Infrastructure' and 'Collective Defense Against Cyber-Attacks.' These aforementioned topics are of vital importance because energy is significant to world politics, as well as important to cybersecurity defense in the modern world. Therefore, in this committee, we expect nothing less than dedicated and hardworking delegates that will work together to solve issues that are rising during this very technological age.

In order to succeed in this committee, we expect delegates to perform most of their hard work prior to the conference. A delegate must research the two topics of this committee, and write a position paper that outlines their country's stance on each topic. This is very important as it will help delegates understand the topics better, resulting in an improved experience overall. Finally, on behalf of the Cyber-Security chairs, we are very excited to meet each and every one of you!

Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [b00069538@aus.edu](mailto:b00069538@aus.edu).

Sincerely,  
Cyber-Security Chairs



**CS**

**Cyber-Security**

# Topic I

## Cybersecurity for Energy Infrastructure

### 1. Summary & History

Cybersecurity is the act of protecting IT systems from cyber-attacks that could inflict physical or digital damage to hardware, software and databases. It deals with the unauthorized use of technology, or the use of technology to harm. As the world of smart devices and internet of things expands, attackers are growing more creative and innovative, which creates a challenge for governments and organizations in controlling cybercrime (Roberts, 2019). As the internet continues to become more widespread in today's society, almost everything has become integrated in a "smart" and wireless fashion. Among the many infrastructures and devices that have been successfully connected to cyberspace, energy infrastructures have become almost completely reliant on wireless connection. This shift has increased efficiency and improved the standard of living for many of the member states that have implemented such systems. However, the rising concerns of hacking and cybercrimes loom over a potentially new frontier for energy production.

Many efforts have been made by member states to ensure that cybercrimes do not become a concern when talking about critical infrastructures such as energy grids. For example, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security drafted (African Union, 2011) was an initiative that demanded that parties undertake to develop, in collaboration with stakeholders, a national cyber security policy which recognizes the importance of Critical Information Infrastructure. The European Union also implemented the Cyber Security Strategy in 2013 which aimed to assess vulnerabilities in the European critical infrastructures and encouraged the development of stronger, more powerful systems (European Commission, 2013).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The significance and impact of the cybersecurity issue is highlighted when noting that the energy infrastructure of a country is responsible for national security, the economic well-being of a country and their residents' safety, according to the office of Cybersecurity, energy, security and emergency response. To put this into perspective, in "Enhancing cybersecurity in the energy sector: a critical priority" Smith (2018) states that, the US electricity grid encompasses 7,000 power plants, 55,000 substations, 160,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and millions of miles of low-voltage distribution lines" and is referred to as the world's 'largest interconnected machine.' Any cyber breach in the energy infrastructure would clearly have drastic consequences, regardless of the country in which it occurs. The paper also elaborates that a cyber-attack on a single technological company could spiral out of control and rapidly spread to the energy infrastructure of the entire nation. Furthermore, the global impact of this issue can be additionally stressed when reviewing the quotes made by the department of homeland security secretary at the National Cybersecurity Summit, when he stated "cyber threats collectively now exceed the danger of physical attacks against us" (Homeland Security, 2018). Furthermore, at the same summit, the US Department of Energy secretary also stated that the economy of the world is driven so much by energy. It's our national security interest to continue to protect these sources of energy" (Malik and Nussbaum, 2018) which highlights the economic significance of cybersecurity on energy infrastructure.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The energy industry continues to embrace the Internet of Things (IoT) with smart metering as well as other networked technologies that bring forth potential vulnerabilities. This development brings with it concern for nations and particularly, cybersecurity authorities.

The Energy Expert Cyber Security Platform (EESCP), an expert group which provides guidance or recommendations to the European Commission in respect to the energy sector, published the 'Cyber Security in the Energy Sector' report (EESCP, 2017). This report stressed the urgency for the energy sector to rapidly address the major current and forthcoming challenges of cyber threats and the need for cybersecurity to be adequately addressed.

The report further reaffirmed two major pieces of European legislation implemented for the baseline of cybersecurity across the EU Member States; the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016), and the Directive on security of Network and Information Systems (NIS Directive) (2016). The EESCP Report settled with four key strategic priorities, but also highlighted that success depended on the capability and readiness of various stakeholders to collaborate and cooperate.

Key recommendations for energy providers included employment of a threat and risk management system, implementation of an efficient and effective cyber-incident response network, improvement in resistance and resilience to cyberattacks, and ensured technical and human competence and capability to address cyber-security issues in the energy sector.

The European Commission has also since published a 'Recommendation on Cybersecurity in the Energy Sector' (European Commission, 2019). The Recommendation stresses and builds on recent EU legislation concerning the energy sector, including the abovementioned. It puts forth guidance that pushes towards achievement of a higher level of cybersecurity. Additionally, taking specific characteristics of the energy sector into account, which include, the usage of legacy technology and interdependent systems across borders.

The Commission in the Recommendation calls on Member States to encourage industry stakeholders to cultivate knowledge and skills relative to cybersecurity and to include these considerations into their national cybersecurity framework where appropriate.

The Recommendation aims to:

- Address real-time requirements of energy infrastructure components.
- Implement relevant cybersecurity preparedness measures related to cascading effects in the energy sector.
- Protect against threats to legacy and state-of-the-art technology.

Additionally, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan cybersecurity bill titled 'Securing Energy Infrastructure Act (SEIA)' on June 27, 2019 that will study ways to substitute automated systems that have low-tech redundancies to protect the country's electric grid from hackers (Goud, 2019).

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- Who is responsible for ensuring the cybersecurity for the energy sector?
- Where will the funding for these security initiatives come from?
- To what extent will energy conglomerates sacrifice their privacy to ensure their cyber security?

- How should the exchange of data, in these security measures, be controlled and contained (who should have access to them)?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Role of energy stakeholders concerning cybersecurity
- Safety concerns

# Topic II

## Collective Defense Against Cyber-Attacks

### 1. Summary & History

Using the internet has become almost a necessity for all households in the majority of countries around the world. In fact, 3.9 billion people out of the 7.7 billion currently alive on Earth have daily access to the internet (Clement, 2019). It is safe to say that the internet has become important to keep us connected to our loved ones and with that benefit comes the responsibility of making sure that all web systems are protected against any and all threats.

For almost twenty years, the United Nations has been working continuously to combat many cyber-related issues. However, while protecting our cyberspace is a goal many members share and strive for, many rising challenges have held back progress in achieving that goal. Many member states disagree on how international laws should apply to certain cybercrimes, while others simply lack the capabilities of application and implementation of certain technologies that allow for better cyberspace defense. Despite these issues, the United Nations continues to emphasize and work on solving the issue of cyberspace defense by raising awareness and encouraging member states to strengthen some of their cyber-related policies.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The UN recognizes cybercrime as a breach of international law, and thus has implemented the principles of the law of state to fully address behaviors in cyberspace. The affirmation that the principles of the UN charter are applicable to state activities in cyberspace allows the governments to react to violations efficiently. Wolter (2019), mentions that in cyberspace, states must prohibit the use of force, and respect territorial sovereignty and independence, and must react to settle disputes by the same means as those used in the physical world.

Implications of cybercrime on world affairs could have a variable degree of severity. For example, relatively minor incidents can take place such as, individual company cybersecurity violations through digital transformation that lead to customer and employee data loss, negative exposure and revenue loss. In addition, major implications include the use of e-governments to access sensitive information and inflict harm thousands of miles away to physical infrastructure. (Agrafiotis, Nurse, Goldsmith, Creese, & Upton, 2018). Moreover, some of the biggest bank robberies in recent history have occurred through digital means (e.g. the \$ 81 million cyber heist in Bangladesh. Iyengar, 2016).

The countries which are currently considered most vulnerable to cyber-attacks are Belgium, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, Samoa, China, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, South Africa and Australia. Whereas the top 10 countries that are most prepared for Cyber Attacks include Canada, United States, Brazil, Norway, Germany, Estonia, Oman, New Zealand and Malaysia.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

Multiple worldwide international organizations have been working on the issues of cybersecurity, cybercrime and cyber-attack defenses and those include but are not exclusive to the SANS institute, the OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project), WiCyS (Women in CyberSecurity), ISSA (Information Systems Security Association), and Center for Internet Security.

The UN General Assembly committee has previously formed a resolution on the “Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures” (General Assembly, 2010), during which it recalled its previous resolutions in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The committee recognized the increasing use of information technology with average persons and governmental organizations, as well as the rising responsibility of these individuals and organizations to take steps to enhance the security of these ITs. It also focused on the importance of achieving universal access to data, including developing countries. It affirmed that the security of critical information must be addressed by governments systematically and that their national efforts must be supported by international organizations in order to enhance their cyber security.

The issue of cybersecurity was again addressed by the UN in 2018 during a panel discussion entitled “The Application of International Law in Cyberspace: State of Play” (Jabbari, 2018). During which, the representative of Austria to the UN opened the event by asking questions about what laws apply to cyberspace and what additional actions must be taken. The European External Action Service noted that the EU institute for security had been working to implement an active cyber plan for the European union. The conference also discussed cyberspace under international laws and agreements, and what constitutes a cyber-attack, and whether the attacked data is protected by International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) are conferences where governments, private sectors and members of civil society meet to discuss, promote and enhance the practical cooperation in cyberspace, cyber capacity building, and the norms for behavior in cyberspace.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- Who is responsible for ensuring the protection against cyberattacks?
- Where will the funding for these security initiatives come from?
- To what extent should the general public sacrifice their privacy for the promise of security?
- How should the exchange of data, in these security measures, be controlled and contained (who should have access to them)?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- Different approaches to solving cybersecurity issues (multi-sector and individualized)
- Accountability and responsibility of cyber attacks
- Privacy vs. Security Dilemma



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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Farah Mujahed**

**Khaled Khayatt**

**Azmi Shahal**

Most esteemed AUSMUN delegates,

With great pleasure, we would like to welcome you all to the annual session of the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations, which will take place between the 13th and 15th of February 2020. This year's conference will mark the second time ever, for the simulation of the International Court of Justice. Please note that this committee follows different rules of procedure compared to all other committees, which is what makes it both interesting and challenging in many ways. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN), which deals with judicial affairs. It was first established in 1945 in The Hague, through the UN Charter. With the use of international law, the court aims to settle disputes among Member States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions posed by UN organs of UN specialized agencies. However, the ICJ only works with the consent of the Member States. Given that, it is incapable of gaining jurisdiction over a case unless the states in question approve of it. There are fifteen judges that are selected by the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council to contribute to the ICJ's responsibilities for a term of nine years. Although the judges are not representatives of their state, no two judges may come from the same nation. Instead, an informal understanding makes certain that judges are selected proportionally from each region of the world. These judges each represent their interpretation on a legal dispute, where decisions are then taken by majority. If the votes turned out to be equal, the president of the ICJ decides on the matter. Furthermore, the parties in question of the case may choose to bring an ad-hoc judge into the case of their choice.

AUSMUN looks forward to provide a chance for all participating delegates to increase their awareness of global conflicts, and to facilitate the necessary debates that address these issues through effective conflict resolution. Delegates in the ICJ committee will be assigned the roles of judges and counsellors. Counsellors present their arguments through proposal of evidence, witness examinations and cross examinations to convince the judges to draft a verdict in their favor. The role of the ICJ in the United Nations is crucial, as it makes valuable recommendations to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the legal consequences of a member state's actions.

The following background guide will provide all of you a brief overview of the two topics for this committee. We strongly encourage that you use this background guide as a starting point for your research, and then conducting your own research to construct valid arguments based on legal precedent. The ICJ is a very unique committee, with different rules of procedure that will be explained to all of you on the first day. We hope that this conference meets all of your expectations for a fruitful and productive debate.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [b00075458@aus.edu](mailto:b00075458@aus.edu).

Welcome to AUSMUN 2020!

Best Regards,  
The ICJ Chairs



**ICJ**

**International Court of Justice**



# Topic I

## Russian Annexation of Crimea

The lawsuit that Ukraine brought to the ICJ is both extremely important and unprecedented. The Ukraine is bringing a case against the Russian Federation, arguing that Russia was in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter by annexing Crimea in 2014. This issue is incredibly important because it is the first time a UN Security Council permanent member uses force against a non-permanent member state. Therefore an immediate response by the ICJ to address this issue is paramount, because failure to respond will pose future questions about the efficacy of the United Nations as an instrument for international peace.

On March 21, 2014, the Russian Federation annexed Crimea, an area of Ukraine by municipal law. (Grant 2015, p.1) In order to have a better understanding of how this came about, it is important to review the historical events that led to this act of aggression. In November 2013 civil unrest eventually sparked the Ukrainian revolution of 2014, or the "Euromaidan Revolution". The protests were a direct response to the governments "as there was a sudden refusal to sign the Free Trade and Association Agreements within the European Union" (Onuch 2016, p.1). The protestors argued that Ukraine joining the EU has tremendous socio-economic benefits and will bring about positive political change. (Onuch, 2016). Eventually, the protests led to Ukrainian MP's (members of Parliament) voting to oust sitting President Viktor Yanukovich on 25 May 2014 (BBC, 2014). The sitting president claimed this to be an unlawful "coup" and "compared the actions of the opposition to the rise to power of Nazis in 1930s Germany" (BBC, 2014).

Armed troops entered the Crimean region in 2014 (D.Grant, 2015) and on March 6, 2014, "the local legislative organ in Crimea adopted a decree on the All Crimean Referendum" (D.Grant, 2015, p.68). This referendum presented two options: "(1) Do you support the reunification of the Crimea with Russia as subject of the Russian Federation? (2) Do you support the restoration of the Constitution of the Republic of the Crimea of 1992 and the status of the Crimea as a part of Ukraine?" (D.Grant, 2015, pp.68-69). The results for this referendum were reported to be 96.77% percent for the reunification of Crimea with the Russian Federation. (D.Grant, 2015, p.69). It is also important to examine the historical aspects that can explain Russia's actions. Going back to the 1940's the Soviet Union made reclaiming its peninsula its top priority. (Yesilot, 2014). This is because of the majority Tatar population. It can be argued that Putin had been motivated to reclaim Crimea because of the ethnic implications. Putin used this as a justification for the introduction of a second referendum. "Public support for the annexation among the ethnic Russian population in Crimea was strong. Ethnic Russians, who make up 60 percent of the peninsula's population, voted overwhelmingly for the incorporation of Crimea into Russia in the referendum held on March 18, 2014" (Larrabee, Wilson and Gordon, 2015).

### **Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- What do the protestors from the Euro Maiden protests want? Are they justified?
- Was ousting President Yankovich an organized coup or legitimate parliamentary procedure? On what grounds?
- Are the results of the referendum potentially questionable?
- Is the Russian Federation ultimately justified in their actions?

- What kind of precedent will a decision by the ICJ set for future cases of a permanent member breaking international law and state sovereignty?

# Topic II

## The Dispute regarding Jammu & Kashmir

### 1. Summary & History

In 1947, the British chose to partition British India into two independent states: The Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan. Jammu & Kashmir, a Princely state, was given 3 options– whether to join India or Pakistan, or to remain independent. The region's stance was never politically decided, causing much up rise. The dispute regarding Jammu & Kashmir is one that has troubled international organizations for seven decades and has yet to be resolved. Nuclear powers, specifically India, Pakistan and China have continuously claimed territory over Jammu & Kashmir, thus making it a constant battleground and a region of instability. Over the years, Jammu & Kashmir has been subjected to many wars; notably the Indo-Pak war of 1947, which resulted in a cease fire line, as well as the Kargil War of 1999. First, Pakistan Controls 30% of the land but not a lot of population. India had the most control over the population (about 70%) but it only occupied 55% of the land. The rest of the land is occupied by China (about 15%).

In the 1950s, India released and approved Article 370 and Article 35A. The two articles played a major role in keeping a certain form of –although not permanent – peace in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK). The articles granted Kashmir and its secondary state Jammu (K&J) an autonomous statue. The following allowed K&J to live under laws decided by themselves, to carry their own flag, and allowed Kashmiris to be the sole owners of the land. India only dealt with Kashmir's international relations but not further. On August 5th 2019, India took a sudden move of revoking article 370 and 35A. In the beginning of August of 2019, strange events of oppression within the IoK began. Additional troops were added to the region, local politicians were sentenced to house arrest, internet and telephone connections were cut and more. Soon after came the abolishment of both article 370 and 35A by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. New Delhi, the Indian capital, states that it has committed the removal of the article with the goal of stabilizing the region and merging it completely with the Indian state. The current government, under PM Modi, targeted their campaign on creating local governance and supporting investments in the “lagging” state of Jammu & Kashmir. Though this move has raised implication for major conflicts between India and Pakistan, claims have been set that this is India's attempt to override the Muslim demographics within Kashmir by allowing Hindu Indians to purchase land within the Kashmiri border. Experts have disagreed about whether the PM's move is of benefit to India or catastrophic. Furthermore, the legality of revoking the articles has been questioned. A year earlier, the Supreme Court ruled that the article has become of permanent statue and cannot be legally removed unless both India and Kashmir's “state governments” reach an agreement to revoke (which has yet to occur). On the other hand, some experts have claimed that the process and decision was completely legal. Overall, foreign countries and the UN have expressed deep concern towards the expected increase in violence rates.

### **Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What do the people of K&J want? Must that be considered in proposed solution?
- Should the disputed land be split and merged or become an independent state?

- Should the Demographics of religion be the first priority in understanding how the land is split up?
- Should previous agreements founded between K&J and India still be held?
- Are India and Pakistan's actions justifiable in this dilemma?

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020



# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Nadin Mahmoud**



**Yazan Hamdan**

**Sara Asaf**



Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to the 13th annual AUSMUN and to our committee, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It is beyond words how excited we are to meet you all and begin a journey of learning, self-development and fun with you.

Based in New York, United States, The United Nations Population Fund was a confirmed trust fund in the 1967 and began operations in 1969. Moreover, in 1987 it was officially renamed to The United Nations Population Fund and that was in reflection to their leading role in the United Nations as the sexual and reproductive health agency. The main objectives of the UNFPA are to make sure every pregnancy is wanted; every young individual's potential is fulfilled and every child birth is safe. (Unfpa.org, 2019)

During the conference, you will be getting involved with interesting debates and in return, this will help you build your public speaking and argumentative skills. We are aware that being a delegate is intimidating at times, especially when you have to think on the spot, or give your first speech, but it is all worth it. As long as you research well and present your country's perspective thoroughly and confidently, you can be guaranteed a fruitful experience.

Lastly, we would like to inform you that you are expected to submit a position paper which addresses the stance of your country on the issue being debated. The date of submission is Tuesday, 4th February 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [b00073820@aus.edu](mailto:b00073820@aus.edu) for any questions you may have. Thank you for being interested in this conference. We can't wait to meet you all!

Sincerely,  
The UNFPA Chairs.



**UNFPA**

**The United Nations Population Fund**

# Topic I

## Funding The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) to assist women protection services

### 1. Summary & History

Yemen, a nation torn by war and economic failure, is currently home to an estimated 30.5 million people; 24.1 million of which require some sort of humanitarian assistance (UNOCHA, 2019). Launched in 2013 and has since become more vital since the rise of conflict in 2015, The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), funded by international organizations, looks to supply Yemenis with food, water, medicinal needs and life-saving basic services, in addition to protection, shelter, and medical attention. Moreover, the YHRP emphasizes protection and support provision to women as there currently are 1 million malnourished pregnant women and at least 120 thousand women and girls at risk of gender-based and sexual violence (UNFPA, 2019). The number of pregnant and lactating women receiving nutritious and health support has been little due to the limited funding the YHRP is receiving. In the most recent response report released by the UNFPA (July 2019), the report states that for the months June and July the funding status has remained at \$33.7 million out of the \$110.5 million required to resume the response throughout 2019 (UNFPA, 2019). The UNFPA is trying to encourage further funding in order to be able to support the women in need, otherwise the response plan will either have to downscale its projects or completely shut down.

Ever since the rise in conflict in Yemen during late 2014 through early 2015 up until now, the safety of women has been far exposed than it ever was before. A report by the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs states that violence against women and girls has increased by around 63% since the start of the current conflict (International Rescue Committee (IRC), 2019). Even before the conflict in Yemen, inequality towards women was common due to cultural norms and a lack of female encouragement and support. Furthermore, when the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was launched in 2013, women protection services were not on the top of the list of issues to solve. However, the escalation of conflict and the gender-based violence that resulted from the war urged the response plan to prioritize women and girls' protection. Furthermore, malnourishment and malnutrition of women and children were at a rise before the 2015 conflict due to Yemen's limited resources and financially poor public healthcare system. Yemen as a geographical location faces water scarcity; the country was not able to provide a solution to this scarcity due to the high levels of poverty, both of which factor into the malnourishment of not just women, but the population as a whole.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Yemen is one of many countries which have entered a delicate transition phase towards democracy. It is time for the longstanding violations of women's human rights to be addressed; women in Yemen face systemic discrimination and pervasive violence. They are treated like second class citizens as per Yemeni laws and tribal customary practices. They face discrimination in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody. In regards to this, the state fails to take action in order to prevent, investigate and punish domestic violence.

Discriminatory laws and practices which encourage and facilitate violence against women have caused violation of women's rights as devised by the UN charter. Women in Yemen lack freedom of speech, respect and personal integrity. They are not free to marry whom they want; some are forced to marry while they are still children. Therefore, violating their child rights as well. They also lack freedom of movement as they have to obtain their husbands permission to leave their house. Furthermore, authorities in Yemen deal with women more harshly when accused of immoral acts, whereas men are treated leniently even if they murder female relatives in honor killings. Such an incident took place on October 24th, 2013, when a 35-year-old man burned his 15-year-old daughter for speaking with her fiancé. The father felt shame as his daughter spoke to a man whom she is not married to, regardless of their engagement, and in result committed an honor killing to redeem his honor and dignity in his society. Although the man was arrested at the time, there were not any public statements about the punishment he received, leaving it unclear whether the authorities had actually taken action against this man or not (Jamjoom, 2013).

Women in Yemen have contributed abundantly in order to create a vibrant society. They have played a big role in Yemen protests; however, despite their contributions, they have been constantly harassed, arrested, and in some cases beaten for their protests. Even though several women's non-governmental organizations have achieved some success in advocating for women's rights, additional pressure from the UN is still needed (Amnesty International USA, 2019).

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

Over the years, the YHRP has been able to make progress towards attaining several of its objectives such as; helping millions of Yemenis overcome hunger, reducing outbreaks of cholera and several infectious diseases, promoting the dignity of displaced families living in emergency and IDP settlements, reducing the risk of violence against citizens and facilitating the recovery of people traumatized by the conflict and lastly, preserving the capacity of public sector institutions to deliver life-saving basic services. Because Yemen's biggest problem is the civil war, the situation demands immediate attention and aid towards the health, food, water and sanitation sectors. Hence, education and women's rights are aspects that the YHRP is yet to make progress towards, however; the program has been successful in providing food and healthcare to women who were in need of it. In addition, the program has been successful in taking the domestic pressure of these women by providing their families with basic necessities (UNOCHA, 2019).

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- What are some initiatives/methods UNFPA can turn to increase funding?
- What are methods that could be implemented to raise awareness on the issue?
- How can the scarce water supply in Yemen be resolved?
- What can be done to make sure women in Yemen see their rights and privileges attained?
- How can Yemen's public healthcare system be boosted?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Awareness on the funding
- Strategies to change in the YHRP
- Ensuring women's rights are protected even under drastic circumstances
- The effect of the ongoing conflict on Yemen's resources
- Preventing malnutrition of lactating and pregnant women

# Topic II

## Promoting Family Planning Programs in Developing Countries

### 1. Summary & History

The UNFPA is a UN agency that focuses on reproductive health and family planning as one of its top priorities. According to the UNFPA itself, family planning is “the information, means and methods that allow individuals to decide if and when to have children” (Unfpa.org, 2019). In other words, the UNFPA invests its efforts into making sure that pairs can start a family when they desire to, at their comfort, with the safest methods, and give their children access to a bright and promising future. Furthermore, the UNFPA is a major partner in the Family Planning 2020 global partnership and has also constructed three strategic plans to be fulfilled by 2030, the first of which to be accomplished by 2021. The plans look to ensure worldwide access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in which they focus on women, youth, and adolescents (Unfpa.org, 2017). The issue at hand is global; some women worldwide have difficulties accessing modern contraceptives, while other women in more undeveloped regions are in no way able to access modern contraceptives. This results in unwanted offspring; the child will grow in a below the poverty line community, where there is hardly any hope for a safe or promising future. In addition to that, there is a possibility that the mother could face life-threatening consequences due to poor health and medical quality, support, and accessibility. Similarly, in certain developed regions, some parents want to conceive a child, but are afraid of what the future holds for their offspring.

Since its formation in 1967, the UNFPA had massively helped in the international population movement as new contraceptive methods were being developed. It witnessed an increase in the availability of funds in developed nations like the United States, Sweden, Finland, and Norway (Robinson, 2010). During this time period, the world population was around 3 billion people, while now the population stands at almost 8 billion. The growth in population had since become out of hand, making overpopulation a bigger issue, in consequence demanding for more emphasis and attention into family planning. In 1974, the first world population conference took place and since then, there has been focus on family planning in Asia, research and training in Latin America, population censuses in Africa, and funds world fertility surveys (Robinson, 2010). The UNFPA being funded by international governments and organizations still seeks to take control of unwanted pregnancies but has been limited by the inability to reach everyone, everywhere.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

One of the biggest problems faced by developing countries is poverty. Family planning is a fundamental tool that has the potential to alleviate poverty; it helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating poverty, combats hunger and promotes good health and gender equality. Overpopulation in developing countries such as India has been described as one of the causes of poverty. A high population results in lower GDP per capita in an economy, which reduces the standard of living for its citizens. The lack of family planning has resulted in several households having more children than they can feed and cater to. These families believe that having more children means a bigger source of income, as each child would someday go to work and earn. However, these families fail to consider the problems that come with having more children than they can provide for.

Family planning aims to provide guidance to parents and teach them about the risks and benefits that come with having children. Educating the parents through counseling sessions will likely reduce the number of children in households. This will gradually alleviate overpopulation and the pressure it asserts on a country's resources. Family planning also prevents pregnancy related risks in women as a woman's ability to choose if and when to become pregnant has a direct impact on her well-being. Family planning allows spacing of pregnancies which help reduce child mortality and prevents unintended ones which may have negative effects on women's health. In addition, reducing unintended pregnancies reduces the risk of unsafe abortion. Lastly, educating women on the benefits of having fewer children will provide them with opportunities in the workforce. They would not have to stay home and look after their children; instead, they can find jobs. This will increase family income and improve their standard of living, which would contribute to economic growth (Who.int, 2018).

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

In 1946, the United Nations founded the population commission. Later in 1966, a resolution on population was made and as a result, a trust fund was created for population activities. In 1980, the UNFPA becomes a full member of the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination. During the 1990's, the UNFPA had very strong involvements in nine major UN conferences, and in the early 2000's, the Millennium Development Goals were announced. In 2008, the 2008-2011 strategic plan was created, emphasizing on a new aid environment (Robinson, 2010). In 2017, the UNFPA strategic plan for 2018-2021 was published, and is in the works for two more strategic plans up until 2030 (Unfpa.org, 2017).

It was during the 1960's where the UN was most involved in world population issues, prior to the establishment of the UNFPA as a full member of the UN Administrative Committee. The major involvement of the UN included a population mission to India, a demographic conference in Belgrade in association with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the UN resolution on population, the foundation of the trust fund mentioned earlier, and their declaration of "ability to determine the number and spacing of one's children" a basic right (Robinson, 2010).

The UNFPA works with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), non-profit organizations, and the private sector. Currently, in the UNFPA Supplies program, the UNFPA receives funds and donations from various governments and organizations from around the world like Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Winslow Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and many more (Unfpa.org, 2007). The UNFPA Supplies program works on expanding access to family planning in 46 countries. Furthermore, the UNFPA is a "key partner" in the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020), a global partnership which works on expanding access to contraceptives throughout Africa, some parts of Southeast Asia, and minor regions in South America (Unfpa.org, 2019).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What are some ways international governments can work together to increase the uptake of family planning?
- What measures should the UNFPA make to ensure all countries are not discreetly obstructing family planning?
- What are solutions the UN has to implement to make sure that women's rights, mainly in Yemen, are granted?
- How can the development of the country be affected by the failure of instating successful family planning methods?

## **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- Family planning and religion
- Feminism and family planning
- Sustainable development
- Family planning and the workplace
- Family planning in developing countries.



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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**

**Rawya Al Lakkis**

**Rushud Abdulsalam**

**Feraas Ibrahim Tayeh**

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

We'd like to welcome you all to the 13th annual session of the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations! We're extremely eager to meet you all and see you discussing the topics in-depth. We hope the committee discussions will proceed in both a witty and spectacular manner that is bold as well as entertaining, while also aiming for a resolution.

To make sure that this process is as smooth as possible, we would like to extend our help in guiding you throughout the workings of Security Council.

Firstly, please be reminded that the deadline for submitting your position papers is 4th February 2019 and it is to be submitted to [g00074194@aus.edu](mailto:g00074194@aus.edu). It is crucial for you to stick to the deadline. If you fail to do so, you will not be eligible for an award, unfortunately. On that note, plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

As a delegate of Security Council, one must be highly aware of their country's stance on the topics discussed. We advise you to keep an open mind, and we encourage you all to be keen to debate and forming resolutions to the best of your ability.

We highly recommend you go through the "Delegate Handbook" on the AUSMUN website as it includes all the specific details you might require for the structure, procedure and awards information. Using laptops and tablets throughout the session is permitted and even recommended, given that it stays within research limits.

In regard to the dress code, the attire should be appropriate and deemed as formal or semi-formal throughout the conference. Please make sure to abide by the regulations present in the Delegate Handbook.

That being said, our generation is currently standing in the eye of the storm where a world of change and development is happening all around us. To adapt and keep the world going, we must develop the essential need to be mindful, adaptable and innovative. MUN has been long executing this role by providing a huge podium to reinforce these qualities in today's youth.

We look forward to seeing what this youth is able to bring on the table, and yet again, we cannot wait to meet you all.

If there are any questions or concerns you have, please do not hesitate to contact us at [g00074194@aus.edu](mailto:g00074194@aus.edu)!

Sincerely,  
The Security Council Chairs



**UNSC**

**United Nations Security Council**

# Topic I

## The Situation in Kashmir; the Possible Formation of a Demilitarized Zone

### 1. Summary & History

The Kashmir conflict has attracted international attention due to the incessant wars between India and Pakistan concerning the borders around the Kashmir Region. The United Nations Security Council, which seeks to maintain peace, order, and security among the other roles regarding international peacekeeping, has tried to attend to the conflict with minimal success (Ankit, 2016). The Kashmir region might be on the way to becoming a demilitarized zone due to the highly disruptive military conflict between Pakistan and India where cease-fire violation and unwillingness to solve the dispute aggravates the issue further.

The region has undergone decades of persistent wars and violence since both Pakistan and India gained Independence in 1947. After the British colonialists left the region, Kashmir leaders particularly Maharaja Singh wanted Kashmir to retain its independence as a state (Ankit, 2016). Thus, the region leaders signed treaties with Pakistan while India declined to do so. Inter-country partition-related aggression between India and Pakistan resulted in both nations pressuring Kashmir to join either nation and become part of the state.

Pakistan rebels invaded and took control of a considerable portion of the western Kashmir region in 1947. Maharaja requested assistance from India, which was accorded conditionally if he would concede to join Kashmir with India. Although he agreed through the Instrument of Accession in 1947, India only granted Kashmir partial independence as part of its states since Kashmir could not enjoy some aspects like foreign affiliations and defense (Behera, 2016). However, aligning with India plunged the region into longstanding insurgency, regional conflict, and war.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Pakistan and India have constantly battled over Kashmir, with Pakistan forming the Azad Kashmir that contends against the municipal of Jammu and Kashmir from India (Fox & Sandler, 2014). All through this battling period, the Indian government has argued that India is the legal possessor of Kashmir since there was an agreement between Kashmir and India. Thus, India views the continuous involvement of Pakistan rebels in the region as hostility from Pakistan (Ganguly, Smetana, Abdullah, & Karmazin, 2019). Moreover, India considers Pakistan as an intruder into the Indian territory when Pakistan offers assistance to rebel forces in the Kashmir region.

In contrast, Pakistan considers Kashmir as having betrayed a legal agreement arising from the standstill treaty that the state agreed to sign with Kashmir while India declined. Pakistan believes that Kashmir should not have entered into any agreement with other nations since it had the binding treaty with the nation (Bhat, 2019). Therefore, according to Pakistan, the treaty for joining India was not complete and valid since Maharaja had no powers to engage in it (Fox & Sandler, 2014). Thus, the two reserved positions of the parties have pushed efforts to amicably solve the conflicts by both the UN and other international bodies towards failure.

Currently, major conflicts exist between the Muslim and Hindu populous that mirrors conditions of regional dispute overtime (Schofield, 2010). Kashmir is the only Muslim Indian State, the main



clashes between the two religious groups occurred in 1947, 1965, and in 1999 (Fox & Sandler, 2014). India has 45% of the disputed land while Pakistan and China control only 35% and 20% respectively (Ganguly et al., 2019). While China is relatively harmless in instigating conflicts in the land, Pakistan fuels and funds the rebel movements, which are incensed by the Indian control. The obligatory role of India in defending its land sustains the conflict as Pakistan functions as the aggressor opposing the agreement.

The intense desire by both nations to control the entire Kashmir region has failed the agreed-upon cease-fires since neither of the countries have respected the agreements. Kashmir currently faces a huge economic crisis so it relies heavily on subsidies from the Indian government. The governmental disputes between the two nations have incapacitated the region dotting it with escalating violence and making the region extremely unsafe (Bhat, 2019). Terror groups are a common sight, military combat continues and worsens the situation while ceasefires are violated shamelessly (Ganguly et al., 2019). Both the UN and the US have achieved minimal success in changing the situation. Thus, the Kashmir region might become a demilitarized zone since none of the nations are ready to accept cease-fires or any other rational solution.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has constantly been involved in trying to solve global conflicts. In 1948, the council offered Resolution 47, which both countries of India and Pakistan rejected (Schofield, 2010). The 'United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan' was formed independently of the two concerned nations, to demilitarize the nuclear powers but it failed due to India's dismissal of the mediating bodies. In 2008, Kashmir conducted its elections where Omar Abdullah became the principal Minister of the Jammu-Kashmir state (Bhat, 2019).

Various developments have occurred in the region since then. October 2014 ended with a serious violation of ceasefires as Pakistani and Indian soldiers opened fire against each other injuring many civilians and evoking a strong reaction from the people within the two regions. A terrorist attack on Indian troops as seen in February 2019 and September 2016, invited retaliation from Indian troops that killed many terrorists and rebels (Ganguly et al., 2019). In 2019, the Indian government repealed article 370 that allowed Kashmir to remain as an autonomous independent state apart from engaging in international communication, foreign dealings, and defense as it had been the case since 1947 (Bhat, 2019).

The situation in Kashmir involves conflicts over the possession of the Kashmir area that began in 1947, after India and Pakistan gained independence from Britain. India maintains Kashmir in its territory since the agreement signed between India and the ruler of Kashmir in 1947. Whereas Pakistan, which had a treaty with Kashmir discounts the validity of India's agreement. Therefore, both nations continuously battle over the possession of Kashmir and Jammu. Unless Kashmir becomes a demilitarized zone, the conflict might indefinitely result in more loss of life and lead to civil unrest.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How is the matter at hand disturbing or affecting Kashmir?
- What have other countries done and how are they helping?
- What actions or movements have been created by relevant parties?
- What are some solutions that international organizations and the United Nations have suggested to resolve this issue?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- What international laws and UN Charters were disrupted and desecrated thus far?
- Previous actions or movements - how were they unsuccessful and what can be done to develop and improve them?

# Topic II

## The Situation in Colombia; Genocide of Indigenous People

### 1. Summary & History

For the past 50 years, the indigenous peoples of Colombia have resisted warfare, refusing to let go of their lands. The terms “genocide” and “ethnocide” have often been used to describe the ongoing targeted onslaught against the indigenous people of Colombia. Many of these homicides have been linked to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) (Quintana, 2019). The FARC is the longest standing and most significant military group of Colombian left-wing rebels. It is also among the richest guerilla militias in the world. Historically, the army can be linked back to the Liberal guerilla bands of La Violencia – the civil war between the right- and left-wing parties that began in the 1940’s and 1950s (UNRIC, 2019).

In the first half of 2017, according to the Defensoría del Pueblo (People’s Ombudsman, 2018), 52 social movement leaders and human rights defenders have been murdered by paramilitary groups such as the FARC, bringing the total number of deaths between January 1, 2016 and July 5, 2017 to 186 assassinations. This indicates a great and consistent increase in the number of assassinations of these people (Human Rights Watch, 2019). The report also indicates that peasants and leaders of ethnicity-based organizations aiming to protect their territorial rights are the ones with the largest number of casualties: 36% corresponds to peasants, 23% to indigenous peoples, and 7% to Afro-descendants. Additionally, among the peasants, the majority have been leaders of the legislatively mandated Communal Action Committees. Further, among the indigenous people, a majority of the cases involve attacks on territory defenders. Just North of Cauca, the Nasa people have suffered from premeditated attacks at the hands of officials responsible for maintaining territorial control and justice. 36 of the Nasa people have already been killed. Moreover, seven of them were guards or part of ancestral authorities. According to the Colombian general attorney, 43 indigenous leaders have been killed since the 1st of January, 2016 (Quintana, 2019). Additionally, according to multiple reports, around 500 community leaders and social rights activists have been murdered in the period between January 2017 and February 2019. According to ten of Colombia’s most esteemed academic centers and NGOs, these campaigns have been ‘selective and not indiscriminate... and affirm a process of planning.’ Where the FARC has not been responsible, these homicides have been linked to competition between other illegal armed groups over the production of illegal substances, trafficking routes, and other unlawful operations (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Discourse on the issue

The atrocities held in Columbia violate numerous basic rights including the Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IX, article 55.c, which reads as follows: “universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in article 2 as well, reads: “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, proper-

ty, birth or other status" (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples).

Colombia's actions break the previous two statements and it is clearly seen where the inequality is reflected by how indigenous people cannot own lands nor resources within those lands. They do not even have access to the rights for healthcare and education, the latter including education of their own history and culture.

As an attempt to save indigenous people all around the world, The UN developed a declaration called United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) on Thursday, 13th September 2007. Since then, it's been implemented by a majority of 144 states, with 4 votes against (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine).

Ever since taking on the Declaration, the 4 countries against this deposition have all withdrawn their stance for the UNDRIP and instead supported it.

Samoa and Columbia were two nonparticipants who have also accepted the Declaration. However even though it accepted the Declaration, Columbia keeps on breaking its articles with the treatment towards their indigenous people. (Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge In The Context Of The Un Framework Convention On Climate Change.)

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007. Today, the Declaration is the most all-encompassing international framework that serves to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. It sets in place an international standard of minimum requirements for the dignity and well-being of indigenous people around the world ("United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous People").

Additionally, the UN mission initiated in Security Council Resolution 2261 in 2016 was part of a "tripartite mechanism", with the government and FARC, which aimed to both observe and verify the ceasefire, termination of hostilities, and handover of weapons. It worked as a hierarchy, with a national board for resolving disputes that cannot be solved locally, eight regional offices, and a presence at each of the 28 cantonments. However, this resolution has yet to be effectively implemented, as the killings of 43 indigenous leaders as well as over 500 community leaders and social activists since 2016 clearly indicates.

Precautionary measures that have been taken have yet to become effective in protecting the rights of indigenous populations. For instance, in 2009 the Constitutional Court of Colombia declared the Siona people as a group at risk of disappearing. As a result, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) gave a warning to the Colombian state in order to tighten protection against the various militia groups linked to the disappearances. However, since delegates of the state institutions involved in the meeting had no decision-making powers that would force commitments according to the IACHR's decision, there has yet to be any progress in even the most basic demands such as the protection of the right to live (Quintana, 2019).

As the Security Council of the United Nations, we must continue to exercise our power to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments, and to recommend what actions should be taken to combat any potential disturbances or threats to peace.

#### ***4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address***

- How is the issue at hand affecting world affairs?
- Which countries are acting on the issue, and which are not?
- What previous resolutions have been formulated in discussion so far?
- How can we solve or get around this issue?

#### ***5. Suggestions For Further Research***

- What international laws and UN Charters were violated thus far?
- Previous actions - how have they failed and what can be done to improve them?

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Hamed Ali**

**Mohammad Khalail**

**Najwa Hubaishy**

Dear Delegates,

It is our honor to officially welcome you to the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations (AUSMUN) and to our committee, the United Nations Security Council (SC). We are looking forward to discussing, tackling and solving critical global issues. We also hope to see your outstanding interaction and communication skills during our committee debates.

The United Nations Security Council consists of fifteen members, five of which are referred to as the "Permanent Five (P5)". The Permanent Five include France, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation (Formally USSR), the United Kingdom and the United States. The P5 hold a power called the Veto Power that allows them to veto any substantive Security Council resolution. UNSC also includes ten non-permanent members which are elected every two years on a regional basis. The UNSC drafts resolutions that are legally binding and if not followed, sanctions can be imposed on Member states that do not conform with them.

Our aim is to make sure all delegates enjoy, and also leave the conference with valuable information that helps improve their skills of debate and general knowledge on global issues. We highly urge all delegates of the UNSC High School committee to engage and contribute on fruitful debates with their fellow delegates. If you have any issues or questions, do not hesitate to contact us at [nhubaishyy@gmail.com](mailto:nhubaishyy@gmail.com).

Regards,  
The UNSC Committee Chairs



**UNSC**

**United Nations Security Council**

# Topic I

## **Boko Haram; the escalating terrorist threats in central Africa**

### **1. Summary & History**

Boko Haram is an extremist Islamic sect in Nigeria that has caused havoc across the African Continent. This radical group is notorious for its vicious motives, terroristic efforts and religious fabrications. From kidnapping to burning down educational institutions, Boko Haram has proved its identity as a terrorist group rather than a religious and political one. The spread of Boko Haram in Africa has become a continuous and serious terrorist threat to governments as well as civilians. The groups violent attacks on government offices, the United Nations, and churches threatens to destabilize countries. A range of conflicting narratives have grown around Boko Haram as the group's origin, motivation, and future plans remain a matter of debate. Since August 2011 Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in public spaces or in churches in Nigeria's northeastern region. The group has also broadened its targets to include schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of education as a result (Walker, 2012).

### **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria has its origins in the northern region of the country, where the group runs its main operations. However, the activity from opposing forces has extended the War beyond the borders of Nigeria. The reasons for these extensions are obvious, the terrorist group believed that external involvement was crucial to achieve their overall strategic objective. For Nigeria, externalization of the conflict has ensured international support to check the insurgency. Essentially, Boko Haram is an Islamic sect that believes northern politics in Nigeria have been seized by a group of corrupt and false Muslims. These extremists wish to wage a war against "fake Muslims" and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in general, to create a 'pure' Islamic state ruled by sharia law.

In 2014, Boko Haram switched tactics by holding territory after attacks instead of retreating (Gberie, 2016). The groups tactics have become more sophisticated, both in response to increased security operations by the military, and in an effort to stir sectarian conflict. Their first attacks in 2010 were predominantly shootings, but they began utilizing IEDs in December of the same year especially in the run-up to the 2011 elections (Group, 2014). To bring any major armed conflict to an end it is important to understand the nature of the war. South African mercenaries were effective against Boko Haram, this was because they had a better understanding of the nature of the war in northern Nigeria. As a result, the mercenaries adopted tactic was dubbed 'relentless pursuit'. Nigeria has previously referred to the conflict with Boko Haram as a terrorist campaign, a religious war, and an insurgency.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

Nigeria's military has now resumed its previous hostilities against not Boko Haram, but humanitarian and non-governmental organizations. In recent months, the army has managed to shut down two active prominent NGOs that were operational amid the brutal conditions brought down by Boko Haram (Kazeem, 2019). 'Action Against Hunger,' an NGO that delivered neutral,

impartial, and independent humanitarian aid to millions of people in the Borno state had also been shut down by the army amid accusations of providing resource supplies to Boko Haram. The NGO was previously responsible for supplying basic services to the most vulnerable people, included women and children. This closure was followed by the shutdown of 'Mercy Corps' whose work lead to major discoveries about Boko Haram. The organizations findings included information about the lack of a specific demographic profile for the terrorist group, and that social influence was a key form of recruitment for them (Akwagyiram, 2019). Ultimately, the strained relationship between the army and key humanitarian groups comes at the expense of local beneficiaries who now remain without aid.

In a global context, after 9/11, counter-terrorist efforts in Africa have become more pronounced. The United States deployed a large task force in an effort to combat terrorists that were operating in Africa. In late 2002, this establishment became known as the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). To support this effort, President Bush granted 100 million dollars to initiate a series of training and military support operations in Sahel (Lyman).

#### **4. *Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address***

- What are the factors that lead to the rise of Boko Haram as a terrorist organization and with what goal?
- How should Africans nations develop an infrastructure that would eradicate terrorism?
- What political/economic elements of Africa fuel Boko Haram?
- What International/National polices are to be adopted to aid in the termination of Boko Haram?

#### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Difficulty in government – NGO operations
- Analysis of Local and International Parameters

# Topic II

## The Situation in Sudan; the International Condemnations of Violence in Sudan

### 1. Summary & History

In December of 2018, Sudanese started peacefully protesting against the lack of basic human needs provided to its civilians. The protests began against the lack of fuel and rising food costs and then was extended against the President Omar Al-Bashir. The protests were initially peaceful and eye-opening for the citizens, but this didn't last. The reason for the unrest against President Omar Al-Bashir was due to the extreme human suffering caused during Bashir's time in office. Bashir has been known for committing inhumane and brutal actions against the Sudanese people, such as being responsible for issuing orders for the death of 15,000 villagers at the hands of the Janjaweed Military. The Military was also held accountable for using chemical weapons against civilians and raping women in Darfur. After examining the inhumane actions against innocent Sudanese civilians, Omar Al-Bashir was arrested based on a decision from the ICJ. Further, Bashir regained power and continued to act in a malicious way toward the civilians. Bashir was arrested in April after continual protests. He was removed from power and the military council took over during the three-year transition period for office. This was not a decision the Sudanese people wanted and they continued to protest after the fall of Bashir in order to remove the people that took power in the transition.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The situation in Sudan has been fiercely discussed and debated as there have been several incidents that captured the attention of the international community. From the start of the revolt against former President Bashir, the Sudanese revolution went through several violent scenes as protesters were attacked and their spirits broken down. The United Nations condemned the actions of the Sudanese authorities and other pro-government groups that were targeting and attacking the peaceful protests. According to the International Human Rights laws, attacking peaceful protesters that are fighting for their rights and demanding change is seen as a war crime, violating international law. Instability and security disturbances were also observed due to the clash between civilians and authorities. Sudanese authorities justified their aggressive behavior against protesters claiming that they were following certain protocols to ensure the national security and safety of Sudan. After months of protests, the Sudanese people successfully achieved their goal of overthrowing the previous Sudanese government. Currently, Sudan is being run by a transitional government. This transitional power is aiming to fix the foreign and internal affairs of Sudan that ensured several drawbacks during the reign of Al Bashir. Sudan, along with its allies from the Gulf Countries Council are working towards removing Sudan from the United States' terrorism list.

### 3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments

The Sudanese revolution was welcomed by several states due to the economic and political misery in the state caused by the policies and strategies of Al Bashir. Sudan faced and is still facing several economic and political sanctions that create several obstacles to open trade and free travel for its people. Violence in Sudan and the threats to its security have created several

international concerns. The concern is exacerbated as several groups are creating disorder and unrest that threatens the future of the country. Not to mention that the dissent at the domestic level could snowball into more regional conflict. Given the central location of Sudan on the African continent, any violence and unrest in the region can become a cause for concern for its neighboring states. Recently, the transitional government in Sudan has been reestablishing foreign relations and strengthening foreign affairs with the help of several regional allies in the GCC. The transitional government understands the need of having strong foreign relations. Sudan and its people can benefit from a stronger relationship with other African states to ensure a more sustainable future for the nation alongside a strong international community.

#### **4. *Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address***

- Within your state's scope, did the Sudanese revolution satisfy the demands of the Sudanese people?
- How can the international community help Sudan?
- What implications does the situation in Sudan have on international security?

#### **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- Understand the Sudanese situation thoroughly.
- Learn about the objectives of the revolution and try to analyze if they're feasible or not.
- Your state's relations with Sudan.
- The history and current situation of Sudan.



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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Diala Almalik**

**Ibrahim Aldaour**



**Masa Touqan**

**Tasnim Elzini**

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). By being part of the IOM committee, you will be debating about pressing issues alongside other delegates and coming up with intuitive resolutions. During the conference, you will be participating in ongoing debates in the committee, which in turn will help you learn how to build a healthy argument and enhance your argumentative skills. Sharing your ideas and thoughts is extremely important, since everyone is different. Therefore, things are seen with different point of views, and with teamwork, these ideas can be combined to make one amazing resolution.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was first known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME). It was first established in 1951 during the displacement of Western Europe after the Second World War. Consisting of 173 member states in over 100 countries, the IOM is devoted to promoting humane and orderly migration that benefits everyone. It is the leading organization that helps to advance the understanding of migration issues, encouraging social and economic development through migration, and maintain the dignity and well-being of migrants.

We urge you to prepare well in advance for this committee, as the research will help you gain the confidence to speak about the topics discussed. Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact us on [iom.ausmun@gmail.com](mailto:iom.ausmun@gmail.com) for any inquiries you may have. Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the mentioned email. The entire team is looking forward to meeting all of you.

Sincerely,  
The IOM Chairs.



**IOM**

**The International Organization for Migration**

# Topic I

## Implications of US migration policy changes for development

### 1. Summary & History

The IOM is based on the belief that migration is beneficial to the migrants as well as society, which had gained increasing acceptance internationally. According to the IOM (2019), a migrant is a "...person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (para.1). The IOM has many functions including providing secure and reliable services for migrants, enhancing the management of migration by respecting migrants' human rights with respect to international law, offering expert advice to States in order to build national and international cooperation on migration matters, and contributing to the economic and social development of States through research and implementation of migration related programmes that benefit migrants. IOM works in four main areas of migration management including migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration. The IOM has many activities in which it focuses on promoting international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protecting migrants' health, rights, and gender dimension of migration. According to the UN website (2019), the number of international migrants worldwide reached up to 272 million. An estimate of 38 million of these migrants are children, 48% are females, and 164 million individuals are migrant workers. The source for migration - the Global Migration Data Portal - aims to help policy makers, national officers, journalists, and the public to navigate the complexity of migration data. IOM's history tracks back to multiple man-made and natural disasters such as Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Chile 1973, and the Asian tsunami and Pakistan earthquake of 2004/2005.

The 1951 Refugee Convention is one of the key documents that aims to outline the rights that each refugee has, and ensures that all 145 state parties are following their obligations to protect them. One of the major disasters that highlighted the benefits of the Refugee Convention was the Hungary incident in 1956. More than 180,000 Hungarians had to relocate to Austria and Yugoslavia, where Austria showed openness and welcomed all the refugees into their country as their own. As a party to the Refugee Convention, this shows great promise of what this convention can do around the world; therefore, the US can work on further enhancing their capabilities by looking at the various countries that have worked on continuously improving their migration policies and treatments of refugees. In addition, the disasters on Czechoslovakia 1968 and Chile 1973 caused a large number of migrants to scatter to various countries. The migrants have suffered a great deal with the loss of their homes; therefore, ensuring that they are welcome to another country is a very important and humane thing to do. The US needs to ensure that all its migration policies are continuously improved in order to adapt to the various numbers of migrants into their country. This is a very important issue, as with the tragic loss of someone's home, an individual wants to feel welcome into another society, which is why ensuring an equal treatment and providing protection is a minimum for all migrants.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Large scale movements of refugees and migrants affect all the UN Member States, which requires great cooperation and responsibilities. The UN Member States have adopted a set of commit-



ments - known as New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants - in which they recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. This declaration understands all the positive contributions that migrants have on societies, and their contributions to the sustainable and inclusive development, as well as the commitment to providing safety and freedom to all migrants - regardless of their migratory status. Due to the New York Declaration, the UN member states worked together in order to establish the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" (GCM) which began in 2018 at the intergovernmental conference on international migration in Morocco. This new initiative covers various issues including the strengthening of migrant's labor rights, improving migration data, and establishing international efforts on migrants. The GCM will hope to increase the benefits for all individuals, communities and countries. The IOM has developed an initiative that helps to improve the diversity and inclusion of migrants within the US as well as internationally through a platform referred to as " i am a migrant" which includes documentaries of experiences from various individuals, providing their perspective on migrant's experiences through their migratory journeys. This initiative hopes to expose societies to the effects and tolls that migrants face in order to help establish a society in which it provides assistance to all its migrants. Nonetheless, migration can have some negative implications on the world. For instance, it could lead to the loss of a country's culture, as the number of migrants can exceed the natives which would cause the native culture to slowly disappear. Although a mix of culture is beneficial; however, natives might feel a loss of identity as their culture has vanished with the new cultures that accompanied the migrants into their country.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The IOM and the UN worked together and developed the Migration Governance Framework which aims at facilitating the safe migration of people through various migration policies. The main principles of this framework is to firstly, follow the international standards set out for protecting migrant's rights, secondly, developing policies through specific approaches that aim to benefit migrants, and finally, engage with various partners to help resolve the migration issues. In addition, through the Migration Policy Initiative (MPI), the US hopes to improve the livelihood of migrants, and ensure their safe movement into the country. The MPI was founded in 2001, and has now become a leading institute in the research and development of migration policies, research, and learning opportunities. Within the US Department of State, the Bureau's Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Office for International Migration (PIM) works on improving the immigration process through various initiatives and targeted programs that aim to improve capacity. Some capacity building programs include providing funding to other countries that help them manage their immigration systems as well as helping them prepare for any emergencies that might cause displacement. Specifically, these programs ensure that all immigrants have all the necessary documents they need in order to ease the process for them as much as possible. Furthermore, these capacity programs aim at protecting any potential refugee, enhancing the recruitment process and opportunities for immigrant workers, and finally, assist citizens in any crisis or disaster that may occur.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How can member states improve the livelihood of migrants in the US?
- What ways can existing IOM functions be improved to benefit the migrants?
- What new initiatives can the UN and the IOM develop in order to ensure society benefits from migration?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Migration Governance Frameworks

- Migration Sustainable Development Goals
- Refugee Convention

# Topic II

## The Libyan Migration Crisis

### 1. Summary & History

The Kingdom of Libya is considered a vital destination and a transit country for Arabs and Africans who seek refuge, employment, and education opportunities in Europe. As of 2016, embassies estimated a skyrocketing number of 700,000 to about a million migrants residing in Libya. Unfortunately, the security and financial conditions in Libya do not provide a suitable environment for those migrants. Migrants in Libya often face plenty of safety hazards that include, trafficking, exploitation, and lengthy imprisonments. Due to the lack of rule of law in the country, migrants often become a target for smugglers and encounter extensive detention time, harassment, and many violations of basic human rights. Therefore, numerous migrants have chosen to leave Libya and lead a dangerous pathway across the Mediterranean Sea. IOM has made it a priority to manage the migration crisis in Libya ever since it unleashed its operations there in 2006. Furthermore, IOM Libya offers tremendous humanitarian endeavors for vulnerable migrants like women and children. Nevertheless, the situation in Libya requires widespread contributions and solutions to the hazardous atmosphere that internally displaced people and migrants live in.

Over the years, Libya's geographical location and its 1,100-mile coastline have made monitoring migrants an impossible task. Libya is positioned in an optimal location where migrants from all over the Middle East and Africa utilize the Libyan coastline to maneuver all the way to Europe. The coast was unsupervised by the government causing a flood of migrants that were snuck in and out by smugglers. The area most affected by the flood of migrants was Europe, and especially Italy. President Gaddafi was paid an accumulative \$5 billion by the European Union over 20 years to prevent further migrant invasions to Europe. After Gaddafi's fall and death in 2011, the migration crisis ignited again after the borders on the shores were loose. The conditions deteriorated even more since 5 of the 6 African countries that surrounded Libya were in constant war and conflict that caused migrants to take the Libyan route for migration. One of the most important factors contributing to the crisis is the armed conflict between two rivaling parties in Tripoli, and the fall of the government in 2014. The armed conflict caused an outburst of internally displaced people and migrants due to the massacres and violence in the vicinity. The Libyan Coast Guard has funded all kinds of lifesaving assistance from IOM in 2014 to enhance the living conditions of migrants. Especially since thousands of deaths have been recorded across the Mediterranean Sea due to the overflow of migrants. In addition, sanitary products, health care, basic necessities like food, water, and shelter, and protection from traffickers were provided to all deprived migrants. Resolving this issue is crucial to the well-being of the population and the economy of Libya and its surrounding countries. Smugglers along the borders can take advantage of the crisis and harm the migrants. However, IOM has made sure to fund nonprofit organizations and has collaborated with multiple organizations like WHO and UNHCR to provide for the needs of migrants alongside protecting them from illegal executions. For example, IOM has successfully worked on returning migrants safely from about 27 countries in 2014, and provided direct humanitarian assistance in Libya for minors, individuals affected by trafficking, and all others in need. All in all, IOM will continue supporting migrants financially and psychologically as long as the crisis is resolved.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

Libya has remained to be an important transit country for migrants and refugees searching for a haven in Europe. Despite the insecurity and political instability as well as the financial crisis, migrants from Africa and neighboring countries continue to flood the country. IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was able to identify and locate 348,372 internally displaced (IDPs) in Libya. Host communities have absorbed the bulk of the internally displaced, however, as the situation becomes protracted, their resources and basic services have become scarce and overstretched. Unfortunately, most migrants are caught by authorities (militants who currently control most of Libya) and detained in detention camps or imprisoned. Potential for return is minimal in safe areas because the overall security situation has not allowed for international assessment and assistance. With the constant tragedies of the refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea, IOM commenced activities in Libya to provide psychosocial, medical and clothing assistance. Based on estimates provided by embassies, the total population of migrants in Libya is about 700,000 – 1 million people that are mainly coming from Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Syria, and Mali. Migrants presently experience extreme insecurity in Libya, including arbitrary arrest by non-State actors, detention for indefinite periods of time, bonded labor, harassment and general exploitation. However, migrants and refugees are not receiving optimal help due to many factors. For instance, there is severely inadequate data collection by national authorities hindering international help from reaching the required capacity. Due to the lack of legal provision, there is a continuous lack of administrative forms of immigration detentions.

## **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

IOM is currently establishing a program to promote peace and build local capacities. This includes stabilization programs in various primary sectors such as Infrastructure, restoration of essential services, community outreach and social cohesion. Additionally, IOM provides humanitarian repatriation and reintegration assistance where migrants are assisted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. They also focus on capacity building to rebuild civil society organizations and train local partners in various topics including healthcare, human trafficking, and human rights. Moreover, IOM currently works with the Libyan Coast Guard to assist migrants rescued at sea.

Regardless, due to the continuous political instability and conflict, the migrants and refugees continue to relentlessly face grave humanitarian situations and unadorned human rights violations. Greater cooperation and a stable Libyan government are needed to overcome the pressing obstacles. One of these obstacles that delegates must consider is the protection of the inability to protect the migrant workers in Libya. Another issue to address is the massive number of victims due to combat and human trafficking. An IOM survey states that 91% of migrants worldwide had experienced forced labor or physical violence were migrants inside Libya. IOM will map protection services available to vulnerable migrants with particular emphasis on victims of trafficking (VoTs), Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), migrants with serious medical conditions (including HIV/AIDS), and other categories of those at-risk. IOM focuses on the capacity building of governmental and non-governmental entities from local NGOs and civil society organizations through a wide range of trainings and programs to scale up their capacities to be able to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs in the country.

## **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can the international community work with a local partner to offer alternatives to migrant detention centers?
- What are the tangible strategies that the IOM can use to achieve its objectives?

- How to protect the rights of women and children in a lawless state?
- How to address the human rights abuses that take place in detention centers?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Immigration Detention in Libya
- Libya Migration Crisis Operational Framework
- Combating the Smuggling and Trafficking of Persons

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Faisal Alali**



**Nariman Elewa**

**Hind Alhalyan**



**Leena Moeel**



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2020! It is our honor to welcome you to the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (GA-6). This committee, also known as the Legal Committee, is the primary panel for the discussion of legal issues and consideration of international law within the UN. The General Assembly and its body committees were established in 1945, under the Charter of the United Nations, as the preeminent policymaking element within the UN.

GA6 serves as the premier platform for the deliberation of all international legal issues that are covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Under Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, and by extension its subcommittees, has the authority to «initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of: (a) promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification”. In recent years, the committee’s attention has turned to international drug control, promotion of justice, the accountability of the United Nations and its internal justice matters and combatting international terrorism.

This background guide serves as the first step of your research before the conference. You are highly encouraged to use the suggested research topics for further guidance. If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [GA6.AUSMUN2020@gmail.com](mailto:GA6.AUSMUN2020@gmail.com). Also, please send your position papers to this email. We are looking forward to meeting you all in February.

Sincerely,  
GA-6 Chairs.



**GA-6**

**The 6th Committee of the United Nations  
General Assembly**

# Topic I

## Rights and Limitations of Digital Citizenship

### 1. Summary & History

According to the International Society for Technology in Education, digital citizenship is defined as “the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level.” Digital citizenship as a notion, has progressed and advanced to include behaviors and characteristics that harness the benefits and opportunities the internet offers, while simultaneously building flexibility and resilience to potential harms. Digital Citizenship is a term used to describe the appropriate and responsible use of technology among users. Mark Ribble developed three principles which are supposed to help digital users learn how to responsibly use technology in order to become a digital citizen. His three principles include: respect, educate, and protect, where each principle contains three out of the nine elements of digital citizenship. Firstly, “respect” which refers to the “elements of etiquette, access, and law which are used to respect other digital users.” Secondly, “educate” which is concerned with the elements of “literacy, communication, and commerce are used to learn about the appropriate use of the digital world.” And finally, “protect” deals with the “elements of rights and responsibilities, security, and health and wellness are used to remain safe in the digital and non-digital world” (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Within the bounds of those three core principles, we also have to consider the nine elements in regards to digital citizenship. These nine themes include digital access, commerce, communication, literacy, etiquette, law, rights and responsibilities, health, and security. To begin with, digital access is considered one of the most important aspects to being a digital citizen; however, some individuals may not have that luxury due to their location, socioeconomic status, or some other disability. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Furthermore, digital commerce refers to the user’s ability to identify that most of the economy is controlled and managed online. It also refers to the user’s understanding of certain dangers that accompany online buying and using credit cards online. In terms of legal activities, there are dangerous actions that include illegal downloads, drug deals, gambling, and plagiarism which digital commerce also encompasses. Moving on to digital communication, which entails the user’s understanding of a variety of online communication mediums such as Facebook messenger, email, instant messaging, and a variety of apps. It also includes understanding the etiquette associated with using each medium. Likewise, digital literacy deals with the user’s understanding on how to use the different digital devices such as using various online logs, and how to search for something on a search engine in comparison to a database. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Moreover, digital etiquette relates to the third element, digital communication, as it is the understanding of the etiquette that is required from various mediums, since certain mediums demand more appropriate behaviour and language than others. Similarly, digital law is where users face enforcement for plagiarizing, creating viruses, illegal downloads, hacking, cyberbullying, sending spam, and identity theft. Next, digital rights and responsibilities deals with the set of rights that digital citizens have such as the right of privacy and the right of speech. Moving on, digital health is concerned with the awareness of the physical stress that is placed on the user’s bodies as a result of internet usage, such as eye strain, headaches and stress problems.

Finally, digital security simply highlights that users must take certain measures to ensure their safety such as setting difficult passwords, backing up their data, and having virus protection. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

Digital citizenship affects the majority, if not all, of anyone who spends any time online (Council of Europe, 2016). With the rise of the internet, there was a need for proper education on digital citizenship, its components and how to practice it. Cases of stolen identities, cyberbullying, harassment, disinformation and blackmail are on the rise. At the core of all these crimes, is the misuse of internet access; and combatting this front is a keystone in digital citizenship. Moreover, not only does this affect the users of the internet, but it also affects other individuals such as artists, writers and creators, whose work is very frequently subjected to illegal downloads and usage without permission or citation. Children are usually one of the easiest targets in regards to cyber bullying and harassment, which makes education on this matter of extreme importance (Aho et al., 2017). They very easily fall for the traps set online which include entering personal information and opening videos, which subjects them to viruses and malware that continue to harass them for more information. Being unaware and uneducated about matters of security, rights, and limitations causes users to fall victim to illegal downloads, plagiarism, gambling, and in extreme cases, questioning from legal authorities. Other forms of cybercrime include, ransomware, spyware and viruses, all of which pose a threat to digital citizenship in terms of security (PanEu Youth, 2015).

Freedom of information and speech is also key in one becoming a good digital citizen. Internet users have the right to unrestricted access to all information which is beneficial for a number of reasons such as enhancing their ability to make informed decisions. In addition, they also have a right to publish information as they see fit. These two issues both raise questions of harassment and disinformation. Understanding where one's rights ends and where another's security and privacy begins must be highlighted and understood (Aho, Lyly, & Mero, 2017).

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

There is a myriad of international organisations contributing to the discussion on digital citizenship and working towards its overall betterment and enactment. Organisations such as the International Society for Technology in Education and the Digital Citizen Fund are at the forefront of efforts to make digital citizenship societal norm. Through education and research, these organisations, in collaboration with UN bodies and governments, aim to further the mandate of digital citizenship and to ensure that all those with access know how to be a good digital citizen. Moreover, they also aid governments in establishing a digital framework (data protection and encryption and unfettered access to the internet) to help uphold the nine elements of digital citizenship (Aho et al., 2017).

In addition, several nations around the globe have adopted legislation in accordance with the directives of digital citizenship. In 2010, the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications stated that by July of that same year, every person in Finland would have access to a broadband connection and by 2015, that connection would be even faster and stronger (from 1 Mbit/s to 100 Mbit/s). Countries such as the UK and Australia have included digital citizenship courses into the curriculum taught at schools (Aho et al., 2017).

As digital citizenship is a relatively new concept, substantive action and resolutions on the issue are lacking. Moreover, the topic is one more discussed within governments as it relates more to individual country legislation, more than it is an international issue (Council of Europe, 2016). Even so, collaboration on the part of governments may be vital in securing certain aspects of digital citizenship.

#### **4. *Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address***

- What are the ways in which the rights of a digital citizen could be violated?
- Who are most likely to be victims of inappropriate use of the internet and what are the consequences that could arise?
- How can digital citizenship progress?
- How does the legislation of individual countries affect the overall issue?

#### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- The digital rights of every individual.
- The stances of committee member states.
- Punishments handed out to violators.
- The impact of digital identity and digital footprint.
- The importance of data protection and encryption in digital citizenship.

# Topic II

## Securing Right for Illegal Immigrants

### 1. Summary & History

According to the United Nations, human rights are basic civil rights regardless of sex, race, religion, language. Human rights include having the right to life, liberty, freedom from being a slave, freedom of opinion as well as expression. It also includes the right to education, and work, these rights are entitled to every single human being, with no discriminations. There is also a law that addresses international human rights, which has laws that are laid down by international governments in order to help promote and secure the freedoms of individuals and groups ("Migration", 2019)

There are several international human rights that not a single human being can be called "illegal" or does not account under the protection of the laws and regulations. Even though there are established rules, discrimination does arise. The United States government policies still continue to sanction violations against migrants as well as immigrants. The federal immigration enforcement policies include enforcement measures through customs and border protection. This led to an increase in racial profiling, border killings, and denial of process rights. Immigrant workers are often abused, manipulated, and have become victims of racism and stereotyping. (American Civil Liberties Union, 2019)

In terms of the United States, even if a person is in the US without permission or (legally) without immigration papers the 14th amendment clearly states that "No state shall . . . deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." (Legal Rights of Undocumented Immigrants, 2019). The American Civil Liberties Union or (ACLU)'s immigrants' rights project is aimed to help expand the civil liberties as well as the civil rights of immigrants that have been taken away from them. The ACLU protects the right and liberty of the immigrants. There has been a struggle on behalf of the immigrants because there are challenges that deny access to courts. (American Civil Liberties Union, 2019)

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Immigration is prevalent, and wide-spread across the world. There are approximately 215 million immigrants globally, nearly half being women (World Bank, 2011). Irregular migration; however, is extremely difficult to quantify. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 10 - 15 % of the aforementioned number of immigrants in 2010 were undocumented (IOM, 2013). In addition, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approximates that one-third of all international immigration that flows in under-developed regions were undocumented (Bongaarts, 2010). Unfortunately, irregular migration is necessary for many escaping from dire living conditions in their countries. On an international basis, the most pressing incidences of irregular migration are on the US-Mexico border, and the across the European borders. Across the world, irregular migrants are subjected to great difficulties and dangers during their quest to safety. Indeed, irregular migrants face dangers such as: human trafficking, rape, and death. In Africa, it was recently reported by the IOM and the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime that irregular migrants to Europe escaping from war, prosecution, or economic dysfunction were



being trafficked and sold in an underground Libyan black market. The regional spokesperson for UNHCR, Carlotta Sami notes that migrants are “not only facing inhuman treatment. They are being sold from one trafficker to another” (Baker, 2019). Furthermore, The U.N.’s International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are three times more people falling victim to modern-day slavery today than during the 350-year duration of intercontinental Atlantic slave trade. “The new slavery” takes in 15 million in forced marriage, most of them being under-age (Baker, 2019).

In addition, many irregular migrants are subjected to sexual assault, harassment, and rape during their journey to safety. Abusers are often individuals in power, such as: smugglers, gang members, UN personnel, or government officials. Sexual assault is often perpetrated as a “price” for the smuggling of migrants. Irregular migrants often find difficulties reporting rape and assault incidences as their rights are not given by countries of asylum. Amnesty International reported in 2013 that 60% of Mexican migrants to the US are exposed to assault during their journeys (“Migrants in Mexico: Invisible journeys”, 2013). Similar trends in data can be seen in Europe, and the Middle East migrant crises.

Once irregular migrants arrive at their asylum countries, their human rights under the Geneva Convention are often denied or limited by asylum countries. According to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR, n.d.), migrants are denied basic healthcare, housing, and education.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

There is a global organization for migrants, known as the IOM (International Organization for Migration), established in 1951. IOM aims to help secure humane management to help promote international collaboration on the migration problem while also providing assistance to refugees in need, as well as displaced citizens. The United Nations and the IOM came to an agreement, with IOM becoming one of UN’s specialized agencies in order to help stimulate diversity as well as include the migrants. The IOM has created a program known as “I am a migrant”, where individuals speak about their journeys and experiences with migration from different backgrounds. There are many people that were raised in a country other than their own. It has reached a point where the UN members created the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”. The New York Declaration aims to provide sustainability, while also ensuring that the migrants receive the basic rights of every human irrelevant of their location or migration situation. According to the UN, the UN secretary-general selected the Louise Arbor of Canada as his representative for the IOM to help with all the migration related issues (“Migration” section, 2019).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- Should irregular migration be regulated, and how?
- Does rejection and deportation of irregular migrants violate their human rights?
- How can GA6 respond to the underground slave market in Libya?
- How can GA6 respond to allegations, and incidents of sexual assault reported by irregular migrants against smugglers, UN personnel, governments officials, and others?
- How can the UN take action against governments denying refugees basic human rights such as: education, housing, and healthcare?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- The stances and policies of member states on irregular migration
- Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OCHCR) on rights of migrants
- The International Organization of Migration (IOM)

- The African slave markets

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Mohrah Shamaa**

**Yara Jitan**

**Hanadi Janajrah**

Dear delegates!

To begin with, we would like to welcome all the delegates who will be joining us in the Fourth General Assembly (GA4) Committee of AUSMUN2020, the thirteenth edition.

GA4 was founded in 1990 and is also referred to as Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL and C4. It deals with a diverse set of political issues. These include issues such as decolonization, peaceful usage of the outer space, effects of atomic radiation and questions relating to information. However, majority of the committee's time is spent on decolonization and Middle East issues.

During this three-day conference we will be discussing the topics: 'The Issue of Space Debris: The Prevention and Minimization of Space Junk' and 'Criminal Accountability of UN Peacekeepers'. Both the issues are elaborated on as follows to streamline your process of research. However, we do advise you to conduct research of your own regarding the issue, your country's stance, and capabilities to generate fruitful debate across the weekend.

We are sure that we will witness astonishing debates and we hope that this will be a fun and enjoyable experience for all the delegates. In addition, we look forward to meeting all of you, and we hope that everyone can learn something from AUSMUN.

Please do not hesitate to contact us ([g00068608@aus.edu](mailto:g00068608@aus.edu)) if you have any queries.

Sincerely,  
GA4 Chairs





**GA4**

**Fourth General Assembly**

# Topic I

## The Issue of Space Debris: The Prevention and Minimization of Space Junk

### 1. Summary & History

For the past fifty-five years, the space around our planet has gone from a debris-free environment to a zone cluttered with human-made objects that threaten active satellites, launches, and the International Space Station (ISS).

More than 21,000 pieces at least the size of a softball was being tracked, and an estimated 500,000 pieces at least the size of a marble are thought to exist according to NASA as they reported in 2013 (Hobe, 2019). This is excluding the 100 million smaller objects, ranging down to the size of a tiny needle, are too small to be detected.

In the late 1970s, when research on space debris was simply starting, Kessler proposed a startling plausibility: that one day, there could be such a great amount of debris in our orbit that any contact with it would prevent us from launching any more satellites. We would basically become captives on Earth (Hall, 2014).

NASA's preferred terminology is "orbital debris," which it defines as "all man-made objects in orbit about the Earth which no longer serve a useful purpose." The debris may originate in one of three ways: mission-related operations, accidents, or intentional creation. So, it's important to tackle these parts of the problem to reach a solution that can actually make a difference.

Taking Mission-Related Debris Satellite activities as an example, alone it can produce numerous objects of different sizes, and they represent around 12 percent of today's evacuating orbital debris are being examined (UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, 2018). They incorporate catch components, laser shafts that would ease back their circles to advance rot, or procedures to help move them into a higher circle over the most valuable zones for satellites. A few conspires even call for repurposing useful pieces of old satellites. Taking care of the issue of space debris has been procrastinated on for quite a long time since it is troublesome and expensive. Finally, the space network and community is understanding that the inability to take care of the issue would be catastrophic.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The issue of space debris is extremely important as humans are already inflicting enough harm on earth, there should be a limit to our harm. Space debris is artificial material that is orbiting Earth but is no longer functional. With pollution and terrible environmental issues on earth, we are not aware of the effects of our space junk and we need to minimize it if not prevent it. The issue needs to be prevented and minimized before it escalates like our environmental issues on earth. Currently, we are now trying to reverse the damages that have been done to Earth. Will we wait until the damage in space escalates to the point where we will have to reverse it? The fourth committee on November 1st of 2019, approved a draft resolution on peaceful uses of outer space.

The Russian Federation's representative mentioned that they reject the effort in replacing the committee on the peaceful uses of outer space with informal platforms that lack an intergovernmental mandate. Other countries, in addition to Russia, that are trying to prevent issues are Egypt, China, United States, Cuba, Republic of Korea (UN, November 1st, 2019).

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

As can be seen, the issue of space debris is one that has picked up on significance and urgency over the past few years. A significant agreement that is helping in minimizing the issue is the 1968 Rescue agreement which requires states to return any forgiven space object in their territory to its owner. Alongside the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the International Space Station (ISS) have worked to scrutinize and reduce the threats of space Junk. A lot of progress has been made through the efforts of research as global scientific communities have joint their work to create the "Space Debris Mitigations Guidelines" which was endorsed by the General Assembly on 2007 (UNOOSA, 2019). The document mainly encourages actors partaking in space activities to be cautious and limit long term interference in the low-earth orbit (LEO) and the geosynchronous Earth orbit (GEO) (UNOOSA, 2010). Legal discussions are handled by a legal subcommittee and the discussions are aided by a the compendium of space debris mitigation standards which puts forth the different instruments and measures that states and international organizations have used (UNOOSA, 2019).

Unfortunately, the lack of global awareness and international cooperation on the matter has kept the situation from any significant progress. The fact that there is no central authority that deals with the matter, and no way to hold actors accountable, the issue keeps growing with time. Aside from the barriers and complications of legal and political interest, it is also challenging to find affordably technology that safely and practically removes space debris.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- Could a central authority be established to maintain space debris?
- Who should be responsible for the funding of such projects?
- Should international law make it an obligation to limit space debris?
- What affordable and practical solutions could arise to effectively lower the amount of space debris?
- Which countries and international organizations should be at the forefront of solving and investing in this crisis?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Identifying the obstacles that arise when reducing space debris.
- Identifying the actors and actions responsible for such damage.
- Locating possible solutions to the space debris crisis.
- Assessing the ways in which resources should be pooled.

# Topic II

## Criminal Accountability of UN Peacekeepers

### 1. Summary & History

Since it was founded in 1945, the 193 individuals of the United Nations General Assembly have persistently called for an increment in transparency and responsibility inside the administering body. Agreeing to the UN Transparency and Responsibility Activity, amid the 2005 World Summit at the 60th General Assembly, the issue of responsibility and transparency ruled the conference. This dominance caused a number of the targeted issues to be executed. In 2006, revelations have come to light with respect to authoritative offense within the United Nations which advance raised the issue and driven to the arrangement of an initiative called the United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI). It pointed to find solutions and usage to the ever-growing issue at hand (Paudel & Gupta, 2019).

Since its development 74 years ago, the members of the United Nations General Assembly have persistently required an expansion in transparency and responsibility inside the administering body. Transparency goes past making more data accessible, the requested data should be applicable, precise, convenient, and open, particularly to the individuals who need it and whenever they request it. Accountability requires at least essential qualities, for example, standard-setting, examination, answerability, and sanctions for non-execution. To survey how the UN framework is handing this, careful monitoring of the funding, accounting for dollars and results, oversight, and staff management have to be established and regularly monitored.

Whether driven by political, military or psychological purposes to control land, population or income, sexual violence is frequently used to target vulnerable populations, inflicting psychological trauma, humiliation and displacement. As said by António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General: "Sexual violence is a threat to every individual's right to a life of dignity, and to humanity's collective peace and security" ("UN Chief", 2017).

Over the years of law implementation, the UN peacekeeping missions have planned and established innovative protection tools and practices, including those that specifically enhance prevention and response to all kind of violence.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Any person should be held accountable for their actions, that includes UN peacekeepers. It is their job to keep peace and restore it in other situations. In the sixth committee meetings on 22 October and on 5 and 7 November 2014, the countries that spoke mentioned their appreciation for the experts and peacekeepers work. However, they also mentioned that some of the negative actions committed by the experts and peacekeepers inflicts a bad image and reputation of the organization. The UN has a zero-tolerance policy regarding crimes such as sexual abuse. It was stated that the responsibility falls on the member states and the UN to make sure the peacekeepers abide by the laws of the countries they're helping in. In addition to that, the committee wants to fix any jurisdictional gaps to make sure everyone is held accountable for their actions (UN, 2019).

In recent years, the condemnable actions of UN Peacekeepers have been the increased sexualized exploitation and abuse against the people they are expected to protect. Conflict-related sexual violence is no longer seen as an unavoidable by-product of war but institutes a crime that is preventable and punishable under International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law.

Discussions in typical media around the accountability of the United Nations has recently viewed sexual abuse cases in peacekeeping operations and calls for the organization to accept legal responsibility for these cases. The ongoing reaction to these and other challenges by the UN's leadership will be examined by people around the world and will affect small countries and islands such as the Pacific islands.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The issue of crime among peacekeepers erupted in the early 2000s as scandals gained global attention. In 2006 and 2007, the General Assembly released two significant resolutions addressing the crimes of UN peacekeepers, resolution 68/105 and A/C.6/69/L.11. These resolutions generally aim to eliminate jurisdictional gaps, enhance international cooperation, and ensure accountability (UN, 2019). Moreover, the UN has released the "Commanders' guide on measures to combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations military" and "The Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct" to outline appropriate behavior among peacekeepers. It also developed a three-point strategy to address misconduct that includes prevention, enforcement, and remediation (UN Peacekeeping, 2019). The stages are executed through actions such as training, awareness campaigns, assisting victims, investigations, and disciplinary measures. Furthermore, to ensure transparency, the contributing countries are asked to provide a legal framework alongside a factsheet for their respective officers. Lastly, despite many efforts by the UN to enforce their zero-tolerance policy against crimes by peacekeepers, mainly Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), the occurrences did not come to a stop (Jennings, 2015). The policy mainly prohibited buying sex, taking part in a sexual act with a child under the age of 18, and discouraged sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance. Conduct and discipline teams are sent to oversee this, alongside reporting guidelines for the locals and peacekeepers.

One can generally begin to comprehend the issues that arise with the UN's dealings of these crimes. To begin with, this issue requires the UN and contributing countries to report themselves, raising suspicion as they attempt to protect their reputation. With that being said, many instances may not be reported and factsheets may be inaccurate, especially since peacekeepers will avoid reporting other peacekeepers as they are not protected anonymously and locals gain monetarily from such actions and doubt it would make a difference – which is true more often than not. Moreover, the rights of the locals and peacekeepers clash. In addition to that, the UN's zero-tolerance policy is very broad and unproportioned which means that details such as consent are not addressed, allowing for rape, and crimes such as raping a minor and buying sex being treated equally. Lastly, issues such as instable and militarized environments, weak chains of command, impunity among peacekeepers, and race and gender stereotypes add to the complexity of the issue (Jennings, 2015).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can the Peacekeepers' actions be effectively monitored?
- Should there be a uniform legal standard for all peacekeeper regardless of their country of deployment?
- How should peacekeepers and locals be motivated to report inappropriate behavior?

- Is the peacekeeper's expected standard of behavior excessive, lax, or both? What should it be changed into, if at all?
- Are the rights of peacekeepers and locals clashing? If so, how should this be addressed?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Outlining the laws governing peacekeepers.
- Identifying the social and political barriers that impede criminal accountability, transparency, and reporting.
- Identifying peacekeeper's immunities.
- Locating weaknesses in the current chain of dealing with such instances.

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Mohammed Aamir**

**Sultan Bin Al Shaikh**

**Mohammad Al Zarooni**

**Nouf Ismail**

Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor that we welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN), and to the General Assembly 3 (GA3): Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee. As the chairs of GA3, we are delighted to meet all of you and expect nothing less than motivated delegates that will cooperate, hand in hand, to find solutions for the problems we are facing in our society.

The GA3 committee is of vital importance to the UN. The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee considers a variety of issues ranging from social and humanitarian affairs, to human rights issues for people around the world. Over the years, the GA3 Committee has discussed a host of topics including, the advancement of women, the protection of children, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms, the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the right to self-determination, and indigenous issues. The Committee also addresses important social development questions, such as issues related to youth, family, aging, disability, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control. This year, we will discuss two topics of increasing significance in our ever-developing world;

1. The question of the intentional destruction and misappropriation of cultural heritage
2. The impact of the UN peacekeeping missions on conflicted areas

This conference, as with any other model united nations conference, calls for a lot of pre-conference effort including research on the committee topics, construction of position papers, and active preparation for the first committee session. Therefore, it is with high confidence that we say, if the work is put in before the conference, it will be a delightful and productive time for everyone involved.

Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following email: [GA3.aus@gmail.com](mailto:GA3.aus@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
The GA3 Chairs



**GA3**

**General Assembly 3**

# Topic I

## The Question of the Intentional Destruction and Misappropriation of Cultural Heritage

### 1. Summary & History

The 'World Heritage Sites' as identified by UNESCO, are cultural or natural sites of extraordinary worth in terms of cultural significance, research value, biodiversity of structure, and beauty. Cultural heritage quite often is a fundamental part of non-secular, religious, and ethnic groups identities amidst a rapidly internationalizing environment. For several years, a variety of experts have been interested in the feasibility of the current law concerning the defense of cultural properties throughout the conflict. Over the last half of the century, there have been many losses in opulent and historic heritage sites, most particularly in the middle-eastern regions during war. For instance, these losses have been observed in Cyprus throughout the period of their invasion by Turkey, as well as throughout the Iraq-Iran war in the southern region (UNESCO WHC, 2019).

Historically speaking, the subject of care for cultural property has been a crucial issue in both external and internal conflicts. For example, many cultural symbols are lost in battle from the occupied and defeated states. In fact, the defacing of such monuments is commonplace to serve as a symbol of winning for the occupying power. Demolition of culturally significant monuments have long been employed as a strategy for subjugation by invaders to gain influence and control over the local people. This destruction has also been seen during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Central Europe, where housing structures and precious objects were devastated in several respects (Modi, 2015). Although, it is important to note that over the natural course of time, degradation and decay of heritage sites is inevitable. However, the sheer magnitude of destruction observed in recent years has only been due to human factors responsible for the killing and vandalizing of such sites. In our progressive world, urbanization has become the focus of many cities. This development brings forth many developers and businessmen who most often do not consider the protection of cultural and natural resources. Not to mention, despite the economic transition and progression of global cooperation, many minor conflicts take place frequently. In regions with instability, the damage inflicted to World Heritage sites is done with very little consideration. For example, in intrastate conflicts, completely different cultural groups often target each other's cultural sites to establish political dominance that contribute to the endless loop of retaliation and devastation.

Urgent action is needed to avoid putting the world's heritage sites at risk and to discourage disruption to the already protected areas. All World Heritage websites are officially identified by the international community for the standards they provide for quality restoration and security, and it is up to the member states to ensure that this is achieved.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The destruction of cultural heritage continues to attract international attention, especially with recent violent events in Iraq and Syria. Terrorist groups such as ISIS have continued to destroy cultural sites and artifacts with impunity. Their actions amount to erasing history on the face of the Earth. The destruction has exposed gaps in international law and international communities in de-

terrering such actions. The United Nations, UNESCO, and other non-governmental cultural organizations have condemned the destruction of heritage sites and called for stern action to address the issue.

Intentional destruction and misappropriation of cultural heritage violate the UN Charter. As articulated in Article 39 of the UN Charter, "unlawful destruction of cultural heritage and the looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflict" is prohibited (UNESCO, 2019). The destruction of cultural heritage also has a negative implication on world affairs. It raises concerns about the safety of cultural sites and property. In essence, cultural genocide risks alteration or elimination of historical evidence. Thus, the issue compels the international community to come up with more effective strategies of countering the actions of terrorist groups and prevent the destruction of cultural heritage. Several countries are most severely affected by the issue of cultural heritage destruction including, Syria, Iraq, and Mali. A major contributor to this devastation is the terrorist group ISIS that embarked on a cultural genocide by destroying holy temples, UNESCO cultural sites, other historic places, artifacts, and buildings (UNESCO WHC, 2019). The bombing of the Temple of Bel, an iconic monument in Syria reveals the extent of the problem.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

Several organizations such as UNESCO, Interpol, and the European Union have been working to protect and safeguard cultural heritage. The UN has previously addressed the issue by enacting several resolutions. As Jakubowski (2018) mentions, Resolution 1483 of 2003 confirmed the obligation of the international community to counter crimes against cultural sites in armed conflicts. It required member-states to take the right step to ensure a safe return of Iraqi cultural property to Iraqi institutions. The resolution ensured that cultural property that had been transferred by illicit means was returned. In addition, the UNSC Resolution 2199 of 2015 mandated all states to cooperate with UNESCO and Interpol to counter trade of unlawfully removed religious, scientific, and cultural objects from Syria and Iraq to cut terrorist financing. The limitation of these resolutions is that they lacked a coherent global approach to addressing the issue. The UN is currently taking stern action to protect cultural heritage. In addition, Resolution 2347 calls on the Member States to introduce inventories of cultural property that have been unlawfully removed from their original location. It also introduces an international fund to protect endangered cultural heritage sites. The UN continues to work with Interpol to intercept unlawfully removed cultural property being sold in the black market. It also works with other international organizations by mandating them to track and dismantle the networks being used by terrorist organizations to trade in cultural heritage.

The GA3 committee is permitted to report and identify unlawfully removed cultural artifacts to the relevant authorities. It works with intelligence agencies to identify the traffickers of cultural property and their networks. It follows the activities of terrorist organizations to identify their financiers and attempts to find ways of cutting those links and trade ties.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- Who are the key perpetrators of the destruction of cultural heritage?
- Should the strategy on countering the destruction of cultural heritage be changed?
- How can the international community cooperate to address the issue?
- Can public awareness about cultural heritage help?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Ways to protect world historical sites from vandalism and others destruction

- Ways that governments can work with GA3 and UNESCO to protect their historical sites
- Ways to prevent the misappropriation of cultural heritage sites



# Topic II

## The Impact of the UN Peacekeeping Missions on Conflicted Areas

### 1. Summary & History

UN peacekeeping missions assist conflict-torn countries in creating conditions of lasting peace. During the cold war, there were several missions involved in observing, monitoring, and maintaining ceasefires and providing support in peacemaking efforts. Current peacekeeping missions do not just maintain peace and security in conflict-torn countries but also protect civilians by disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating combatants and aiding the political process. Peacekeeping missions evolved from introduction of impartial non-violent military personnel in conflicted areas, to promotion of peace and encouragement of ceasefires, to then using military force in protecting civilians and stabilizing serious situations.

UN peacekeeping missions first originated in 1948 with deployments in the Middle East. Since then the UN has organized around 70 peacekeeping missions worldwide, 13 of which are still active. The first successful mission concluded in 1956 with the cessation of hostilities in the Suez Crisis. After the Cold War, there was a surge of new peacekeeping missions with 20 initiated between 1989 and 1994. Due to the success of earlier missions, expectations for the consecutive ones were unreasonably high. The Security Council failed to provide sufficient authorization and funds to make those new missions successful, and peacemakers failed to meet the established expectations. In 2000, the then Secretary-General commissioned a report on UN peacekeeping operations called "Brahimi report." Based on the report's findings, UN peacemakers implemented changes in their operations. Further, through the first decade of the 21st century, the need for peacekeeping grew and with it the need to implement more changes. By May of 2010, the situation stabilized as UN peacekeepers reduced and retrieved its troops from key locations. In 2018, the Trump administration cut its contribution to the UN peacemaking efforts by 3%, which left the organization financially strapped for its ongoing endeavors.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The issue pertaining to UN peacekeeping operations is whether or not they are impactful in crisis-affected areas. The new means of peacekeeping, aimed at protecting civilians, can also compromise the UN's impartial position and in turn endanger the UN peacemakers' personnel and the people its aiming to protect. The involvement of military force can also endanger the principles of peacemaking, which in turn can lead to the withdrawal of support (Hunt, 2016).

Researchers say that UN peacemaking efforts, though flawed, have an apparent conflict-reducing effect. Peacekeeping missions reduce violence, prevent major armed conflicts, reduce major conflicts, or ultimately end conflicts. According to research, conflicting parties are 20 percent more likely to realize the terms of a peace agreement and 50% less likely to restart the conflict with UN peacekeepers on site (Dayal, 2017). However, it is difficult to evaluate the qualitative impact peacekeeping efforts have around the world. Peacekeeping operations provide significant aid in sustaining peace in conflicted areas at a low cost. The measures taken by the UN help to resolve conflicts before they span across borders and minimize the warring parties'

violence towards civilians. However, newer peacekeeping missions involving active military involvement have proven to be less effective and rarely reach their mandated goals.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The UN's new peacebuilding agenda, spearheaded by the newly appointed Secretary General Antonio Guterres, has put its focus squarely on managing the outbreak, escalation, continuation, and recurrence of conflict. It is popular opinion that these Peace Keeping Operations (PKOs) are an efficient tool for managing pathways of conflict. Evidenced by the different types of missions and financial support, PKOs have a clear conflict-reducing effect as they impact future incidence of conflict. However, the effect of PKOs is heavily restricted to their sole purpose of prevention. Nonetheless, there is a discernible effect since the reduction of conflict intensity also tends to increase the chances of peace in following years. Upon analysis of UN statistics, it can be observed that there are some interesting regional differences in the effects of PKOs. PKOs have the strongest effect in three regions that have been particularly afflicted by conflict: West Asia and North Africa; East, Central, and Southern Africa; and South and Central Asia.

In current times, organized crime has become a central scourge, plaguing nations around the globe. This problem particularly affects fragile or unstable states that continue to propose a concentrated military response to the challenge. The response is also proposed alongside better strategies for combatting conflict and insecurity which include, building up police forces, strengthening the justice sector, and reforming the prison system.

Some representatives have hypothesized that the failures of some United Nations missions can be traced back to the fact that civilian populations had to remain under threat for months while the Secretary-General continued his relentless pursuit of contributors. The Organizations' current peacekeeping operations require reform. Peacekeeping requires adequate logistics, clear directives and skilled personnel. However, more importantly, peacekeeping also requires well-equipped troops with the skills to protect civilians and humanitarian personnel as well as themselves.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What is the scope for improvement of the UN Peace Keeping Operations?
- How can we, as a committee, ensure the success of these operations?
- Which member nations can provide the required troops?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- PKOs in your state – their limitations and strengths
- Human rights violations in peacekeeping mission regions

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Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Majed Wardeh**

**Abdulla Nidal**

**Ahmed Rayyan**

**Mariam Abdullah**

Welcome delegates!

It brings us immense joy to greet you all, and we truly are honored that you have decided to spend your time researching, debating and finding solutions to our world's pressing issues. We are excited for you to be a part of this life changing opportunity. AUSMUN provides a compliant balance between the finer points of a conference, including the development of soft skills, together with those of critical analysis, evaluation and networking.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), or GA1, was formed in 1945, after the Second World War. It meets in annual sessions at the UN headquarters in New York and can reconvene for emergency sessions any time during the year. The committee considers all issues of global security within the parameters of the UN charter and the function of any of its organs. It is also an advisory committee to the Security Council and can recommend resolutions on matters of budgets, peace and security. Additionally, the admission, expulsion, election and suspension of members is done by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting while simple questions are decided by a straightforward majority.

We highly recommend you get a head-start on your research! Our main advice to you is that you focus your energies towards the ongoing debate. Whether it is your first conference or hundredth: Socialize and make friends! Lastly, at AUSMUN, we need you to remember two points: Every country can make an enormous contribution to the committee, and second, we're all here to learn and grow as individuals. For any information or questions, feel free to contact us at [b00084640@aus.edu](mailto:b00084640@aus.edu). We wish you the best of luck for the conference and look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,  
DISEC Chairs.





**DISEC**

**Disarmament and International Security Committee**

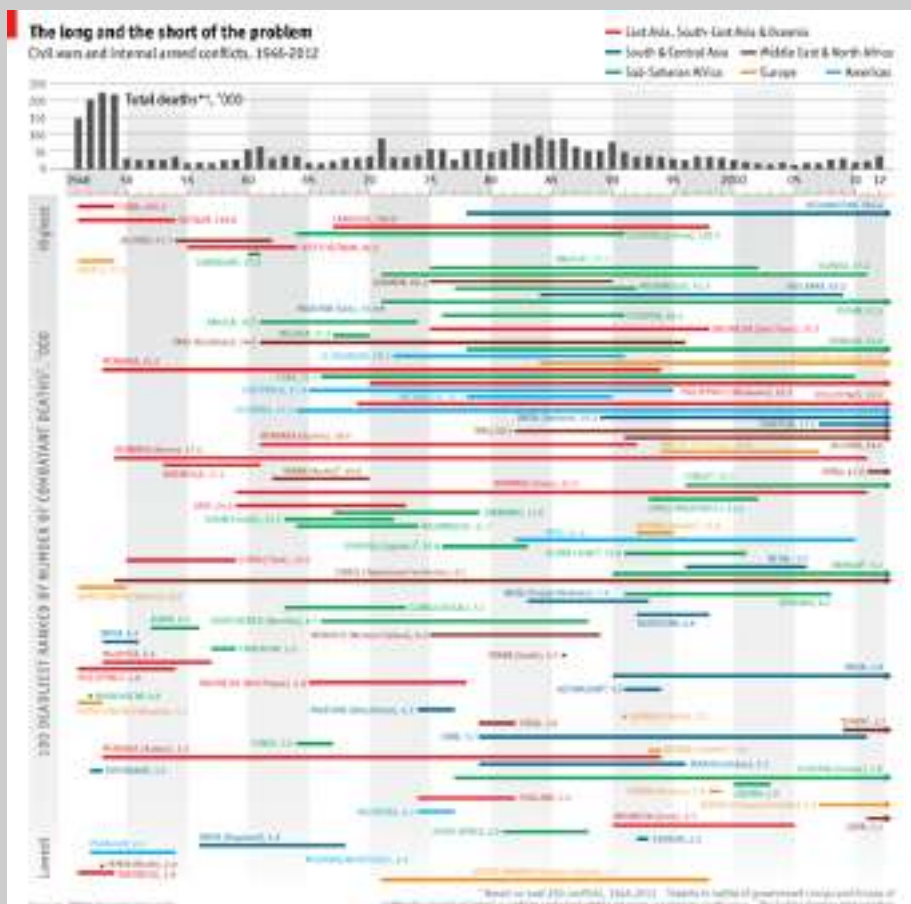
# Topic I

## Foreign intervention in Civil Wars

### 1. Summary & History

Civil wars have tragically become daily-routine, as opposed to extraordinary occasions over the most recent couple of decades. A civil war is a war between various systematized groups within the same state or, less commonly, between two countries created from a formerly single state. It is a high-intensity conflict, typically involving regular military forces, which causes it to be organized and large-scale.

Civil wars are recognized from civil conflicts on different grounds. Above all, the fundamentally bigger death toll is described by equipped battle between members, one of whom must be a known organization. The instigators, as a general rule, are outfitted gatherings with broad hierarchical structures and loathe against the state on grounds relating to ethnicity, religion, imbalance of standards, demeaning of voice and portrayal, widespread unemployment and so forth. Foreign inclusion in a Civil War alludes to political, military, strategic and operational help to parties associated with the war from remote nations. There is a division between foreign interventions mediations, which alludes to explicit nation's activities and international interventions refers to global governing bodies, similar to the UN, to participate in existing clashes.



## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The issue of foreign intervention in civil war sparks major legal questions. As mentioned in article 2(4) of the UN charter, "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." This was recently violated by Turkey in its military invasion of northern Syria, with the reasoning of creating a "Security Belt" in northern Syria on the Turkish border. Foreign nations can only intervene in civil war either at the permission of the United Nations or at the permission of the local government hosting the war. The Russian intervention in the Syrian civil war was deemed legal, on the basis that the Syrian government invited Russia and its military. Foreign nations could not intervene to support the rebels, because the UN had not called for war on Syria, which would make any intervention supporting the rebels illegal. This leaves the First General Assembly responsible to draft resolutions concerning foreign intervention; the issue usually impacts civilians of a nation the most. According to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights, the U.S. led coalition airstrikes in Syria have killed 4,036 civilians in the period between 22 September 2014 and 23 August 2019 (SOHR, 2019).

Furthermore, Somalia is a nation that has seen a lot of civil war, which boosted the need for foreign assistance to maintain security. Recently, UN security council resolution 2124 (2013) extended the stay of foreign forces in Somalia, most notably the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). The resolution also noted the critical role of AMISOM in improving security in Somalia through its military, which shows a good side to foreign intervention in civil wars.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The west has been at the front line of military strategy. They have been pro-intervention inside the UN previously, in the General Assembly and the Security Council. The US is considered as the most significant country in these issues, since it has exhibited very interventionist inclinations, with Afghanistan and Iraq among its latest activities. It is one of only a handful barely any countries with the military to mediate viably on a worldwide scale, and the nation has the political eagerness to do as such.

The Arab Spring ed. that the contentions in the Middle East ought to be illuminated without outside powers intervening. Nevertheless, they have been an assortment of remote and military mediation. The United Nations has various peacekeeping missions in the Middle East. The aid they get from the United Nations is an essential aspect to those deprived in these nations. Bloc positions can be isolated among North-South lines. Individuals from NATO, just as Major non-NATO partners of the US bolster the mediation. In general peacekeeping activities, it is these countries that supply the greater part of the funds for the operation. Russia has always expressed suspicion towards UN mediations. Lastly, Middle Eastern Nations and China are incredibly against of UN intercessions. The African Union, however, can be found to surely have a significant job in clashes within Africa.

## **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- In what capacity can the UN best serve countries that need assistance during an internal conflict?
- When is the UN allowed to mediate in a conflict, and when is it an obligation?
- What are the limitations to UN intervention of a contention?
- Do single countries reserve the privilege to intercede in another sovereign country's contentions? Why or why not?

- What should be the maximum threshold that allows foreign nations to intervene in other nations' civil wars?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- UN intervention in civil wars.
- UN peacekeeping missions in civil wars.
- American interventions in foreign civil wars.
- Possible solutions to prevent future civil wars.
- Impacts of civil war aftermath on civilians.

# Topic II

## Preventing the usage of children in armed conflict

### 1. Summary & History

In the 21st century, armed conflicts around the world grow increasingly common as different ideologies, goals and motives vie for superiority. In many cases, due to a shortage of manpower or in an effort to submerge opposition with the same, children take direct part in armed conflict. The means for children to be associated with armed groups and other forces is variant. At times, children are abducted and abused into submission, and they are taught to fear consequences in case of not following orders. In other cases, children join to defend their communities or escape low economic lifestyles out of revenge or other similar reasons. But in no matter can they be blamed for the submission of their will due to their physical and emotional immaturity.

However, their use in armed groups is not limited to fighting. Countless young boys and girls are utilized as supporting functions where the risk is no less. These roles are variant from cooks, messengers, spies and even more disturbingly, sex slaves. Per annum, the UN has and continues to receive information about children as young as 8-9 years old being used by armed groups. Nevertheless, disregarding their age or role, children in these areas and associations witness acute levels of extreme situations not limited to violence which leads to their injury leaving lasting mental horrors and disabilities. In other cases, primarily for girls, it results in sexual violence, pregnancy related complications leaving upon them a stigma and rejection by families and communities.

The emergence of children as instruments in conflicts comes from antiquity. In olden times, they were used as aides and arm bearers to adult warriors and servants. Since then, their roles have had little evolution and center around the same ideology, making this an imperative issue, ongoing for centuries and in dire need of attention. The exploitation of children in previous armed conflicts (WW1 and WW2) could have been attributed to a lack of definition of a child.

However, the United Nations then introduced the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child in 1989, and the age limit of children being set as anyone below the age of 18 since 2002 under the 'Optional Protocol to the convention on the rights of the child'. Yet, in 2017, the UN published a report and a list of 14 nations (UN 'list of shame'), where armed paramilitary groups which included Yemen, Syria, Sudan and Afghanistan. In other cases, powerful nations refuse to include names of countries that do use child soldiers due to alliances. Terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Boko Haram and the Taliban recruit children, sending them to camps for training and using them on the front lines as human shields. Many children have lost their lives on the frontline, while others are captured but dealt with, with suspicion and mistrust or are too distraught and affected by experiences they have encountered.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

There are thousands of children around the world who fall asleep every night with a gun clutched in their hands, fighting to forget the horrors they witnessed that day.

Children are forced to fight in the frontlines, participate in suicide missions and act as spies, messengers, or lookouts. Girls may be forced into sexual slavery. Often, these recruitments leave severe physical and psychological scars in these children that usually last even after the conflict has ended ("Ending the Use of," 2017). In addition to the psychological issues, children forced

into warfare almost exclusively have no access to any form of formal education, and tend to earn one third less than their non-forced peers according to the Survey of War Affected Youth (Blattman, 2007).

Moreover, endangering and scarring the lives of children in such an immediate and prolonged manner violates several of the UN's human rights acts, including principals laid out in the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols (1977), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000), and the Rome Statute (1998) of the International Criminal Court ("Child Protection Information Sheet," 2006). According to the Human Rights Watch ("Child Soldiers Worldwide," 2015), children are recruited by rebel and terrorist groups like Taliban in Afghanistan, Maoist "Naxalite" rebels in Chhattisgarh, India, and Al-Qaeda in Iraq. In other cases, however, children are actively recruited by the government to join the official country's armed forces despite the UN's best efforts to prevent them. This can be seen in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Yemen, and Sudan, who are just a few of the major offenders. It is clear the UN needs to be more aggressive in its efforts to address the matter in order to look out for the wellbeing of children around the world.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has played a major role in aiding the release and rehabilitation of child soldiers around the world. The organization supports a variety of recovery services such as physical and mental health, education and skills training (Project, 2018). It is estimated that since 1998, the organization has helped more than 100,000 children that were associated with armed groups. There are some educational facilities that provides support of a similar nature such as War Child, a Canadian-based organization, and Child Soldiers International, a London-based organization, both of which support children of warfare by providing access to education, opportunity and justice. In addition to these IO's efforts to support children of war, the UN Security Council has mandated several Action Plans aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

These action plans are "a written, signed commitment between the United Nations and those parties who are listed as having committed grave violations against children in the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict" (United Nations, 2019). There are currently 16 action plans under implementation with several countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and Yemen. Furthermore, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF recently launched a campaign in 2014 titled 'Children, Not Soldiers'. It aimed to bring about global consensus that children should not be used as soldiers; the campaign received immediate support from member states, as well as the UN and NGO partners (United Nations, 2017). The campaign ran until 2016 and focus on Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. The campaign resulted in the release of thousands of child soldiers, as well as their reintegration into society with the assistance of UNICEF.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What measures can your country implement to stop child soldier recruitments?
- How effective were previous resolutions regarding this issue and if ineffective, how can they be made more effective?
- Should children be tried and convicted for war crimes?
- Can economic development be a factor to combat the issue?
- Is the use of children inevitable without resolutions to conflicts?

## **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- NGO reports about the use of children in conflicts
- Economic forecasts for nations and areas where children are utilized in armed conflicts.
- Previous case studies and court cases on the said topic
- Where did past action fail and what new measures should or can be implemented?

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Manaf Al Salehi**

**Rizana Mariyam**



**Fathima Moyikkal**

**Hadi Atteli**

Dear Delegates,

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you all to the 13th American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) conference. We hope to deliver an educational and challenging platform for you all.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), initiated in 1945 under the Bretton Woods system, was established to restore the world economy after the second world war. With 189 countries in the IMF, it gives it semi-global participation by the countries of the world. It accomplishes its objectives by three strategies in which they provide loans for member nations and balance of payment difficulties, monitor and advise nations on financial and economic policy changes, as well as work with governments in to further improve their own economic states and global economy. The IMF has many objectives of which many of them are related to the topics at hand and should be met while drafting the resolutions, both for 'Regulating the Shadow Banking System' and 'Imposing regulations on Crypto-currency to limit crime financing'. The voting procedure for the IMF will be one vote per delegate and with regards to the resolutions, the vote will need to be a simple majority in order to pass them.

The IMF chairs encourage you to enjoy the committee sessions and derive the most beneficial experience, while adhering to the committee rules of conduct. We hope that you are as excited as we are to make this one of the best conferences.

Feel free to contact us at any time for any inquiries on [g00071722@aus.edu](mailto:g00071722@aus.edu)

Sincerely,  
IMF Chairs.



**IMF**

**The International Monetary Fund**

# Topic I

## Regulating the Shadow Banking Systems

### 1. Summary & History

Shadow Banking is a phrase that can be used to describe a number of things. In this case, shadow banking, a term coined by McCulley, is a form of financial intermediation which is provided as a response to the demands and urgency of the willing borrowers and lenders that have not been met (IMF, 2019). Shadow Banking, therefore, assists in providing finances to any vacuum in the market by increasing efficiency. This includes providing new outlets to issuers in order to obtain capital when the bank refuses to lend or is not capable of lending and also includes providing channels in hopes of portfolio diversification for lenders (IMF, 2019). However, shadow banking is highly risky. Primarily, shadow banking has a complex structure and therefore, lacks transparency and predominantly uses deposits like short-term debts to provide capital to long-term investments. Nonetheless, shadow banking occurs through mediators who are specialized and thereby accepts balance-sheets of multiple firms (IMF, 2019). Compared to a traditional bank that accepts deposits, shadow banking systems do not have access to official sector backstops. This is because shadow banking makes profit from the assumption that the fear of exposing the sponsor will lead to high reputational damage and therefore, the sponsors will never cease to return the investment (IMF, 2019). The liabilities of shadow banking project deliverables are primarily debt-financed in the wholesale market.

Although shadow banking is risky, it serves as a useful tool in the economy. The use of shadow banking that positively impacts the economy is the fact that it provides funding to traditional banks and without this funding, traditional banks would not lend money, which would then slow growth in the wider economy. However, regulations must be enforced in order to maintain financial stability. The need for resilience is important in order to maintain modes of capital to maintain market stability (IMF, 2019). An efficient resilient funding base can be reflected in more longer-term, diverse, and non-runnable forms of debt and equity, rather than primary reliance on short-term wholesale financing. A major risk of shadow banking is Agency Frictions and Informational Asymmetries which creates a platform for the exploitation of informational asymmetries such that it shows negative externalities. Secondly, Sponsor Backstops and Contingent Liabilities are used to describe the subsidizing of external risk absorption capacity. A common example of this can be the tail risk insurance provided in the form of guarantees by insurance companies (IMF, 2019). Lastly, Regulatory Arbitrage refers to the taxation and other activities that come about as a result of making the process profitable even when it is not. The associated vulnerabilities can be magnified when agents are incentivized to exploit regulatory loopholes and asymmetric information, possibly requiring the ultimate backstop to be deployed to put out the ensuing blaze (IMF, 2019). Nonetheless, it is important that IMF initiates essential reformations for the betterment of the shadow banking system.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) has estimated that globally the shadow banking system represents 25% of financial system assets ("Global Shadow Banking Monitoring Report", 2012). Since the financial crisis of 2007-09, which was triggered in August 2007 by a wholesale banking panic in the shadow banking system, international organizations are constantly trying to regulate and mon-

itor the shadow banking system. The crisis exposed fundamental flaws in the design of the shadow banking system (Adrian & Ashcraft, 2012). Unfortunately, the operations of many shadow banking are mutually connected with traditional banking and insurance institutions. In other terms, this means that financial crises can destroy the global economy. Therefore, regulation and constant monitoring of shadow banks are mandatory specially to avoid any systematic risks.

The largest shadow banking systems are found in advanced economies. According to the 2014 and 2015 Global Financial Stability Report by the IMF, the United States, the People's Republic of China, and the European Union appear to have the largest shadow banking systems. However, the United States shadow banking system decreased from 33% of the total to 28% in 2015. Additionally, in emerging market economies, the development of shadow banking has been strong.

Furthermore, shadow banking can be useful. It broadens access to credit where traditional banking networks need to handle capacity or regulatory constraints, such as restrictions on lending ("IMF Survey: Shadow Banking Is Boon, Bane for Financial System", 2014). It often, however, comes with systemic risks, as seen during the 2007–09 global financial crisis. Hence, the challenge for policymakers is to maximize the benefits of shadow banking while minimizing systemic risks.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The IMF and FSB have worked alongside one another to find effective regulators and monitors for shadow banking systems. The FSB, in response to the request from the G20 leaders at the 2010 Seoul Summit, has played a major role in the international effort to make non-bank credit intermediation more resilient (Adrian, 2017). The IMF has been equally engaged, by strengthening its supervision under the Financial Sector Assessment Programs and Article IV Consultations, and its multilateral surveillance work featured in the Global Financial Stability Report. In Europe, the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) is involved with recording the European Union's shadow banking system.

The FSB has created a system-wide monitoring framework to trace any emerging changes in the global shadow banking system, with a view to detecting the buildup of systemic risks and starting counteractive actions where needed. The annual Global Shadow Banking Monitoring Report is a highlight of this work. One of the main actions taken by international organizations is Basel III reforms (Adrian & Jones, 2018). Basel III is a global, controlled regulatory framework that introduced a set of reforms designed to improve the regulation, administration and risk management within the banking sector ("Basel III: international regulatory framework for banks", 2017).

The IMF encourages countries to find different regulation methods for the shadow banking system due to the fact that a one-size-fits-all policy would not work for the vast diverse economies of the world. IMF has the power to change the fate of a dying economy. However, it largely relies on the contributors and its biggest contributor is the United States. The United States, as mentioned before, has one of the largest shadow banking systems, therefore, a future financial crisis in the United States can shatter the global economy, bringing down the dependent countries and international organizations such as the IMF.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- What are some successful regulations previously used by nations?
- What are the main forms of liabilities or risks that occur as a consequence of Shadow Banking?
- How can rating agency practices be reformed as a result of reforming Shadow Banking?
- How can securitization practices be strengthened in developed, developing and under-developed countries?



## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Previous Reforms That were Passed
- Credit Intermediation in Different Countries
- Steps Taken by Nations with Decreasing Shadow Banking
- Hidden Risks with Shadow Banking

# Topic II

## Imposing Regulations on Crypto-currency to Limit Crime Financing

### 1. Summary & History

Digital currencies are currencies with no physical form that can be used to buy a variety of things including physical goods and services. They are similar to conventional money; however, they differ in their borderless transfer of ownership as well as instantaneous transactions. Banks do not accept or offer services for cryptocurrencies. Their extremely high rate of variation in its trading value can be very risky and provides cryptocurrencies with the potential for illegal schemes. Many countries have warned their citizens about such risks associated with cryptocurrencies, henceforth discourage users from using them. Furthermore, a problem with cryptocurrencies is their anonymous trait which attracts more criminal attitudes, regardless of the purpose of use. The fact that it cannot be traced makes it a perfect use for criminal acts such as fraud and various schemes. Therefore, cryptocurrencies may put citizens at risk of not knowing who they may be dealing with and whether it would turn out to be a fraud or not.

The first-ever released decentralized cryptocurrency known as "Bitcoin" was created back in 2009. Since its release, more than 6,000 alternate cryptocurrencies have been created. The first-ever recorded transaction using cryptocurrency was a man purchasing a pizza for an amount of 10,000 bitcoins. Ever since then, individuals have slowly started to use cryptocurrencies for various needs, such as purchase of goods and services. As cryptocurrencies started to become more common, its anonymity to some individuals became clear to be a perfect tool to be used in crimes, as the transactions cannot be tracked. Crimes that are executed within cryptocurrencies and any related spheres are usually defined as cryptocurrency crimes. The most frequent cryptocurrency crime since its release is stealing money from electronic wallets and storages through hacking or by obtaining information by fraud. Other forms of crime were stealing money from individuals by unverified exchanges, selling and purchasing of illegal substances and materials, and making transactions through suspicious services.

Cryptocurrencies are not a formally accepted mean of transaction, yet they are still used all around the world. Since it lacks a physical form, the best way to complete transactions is by utilizing blockchains. Blockchain is a type of database that records and encrypts every transaction executed, it is safe, secure, and easily accessible. Blockchains are different than the usual databases, they are not only accessible by one primary administrator, rather the entire database is transparent and viewable by the general public. Although it is a transparent platform, it is still secure, as there is no specific point that hackers might target and all data is encrypted. It is important to understand that blockchain and cryptocurrencies are not synonyms, rather blockchain is the technology behind the workings of cryptocurrencies.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

With the great recession of 2008 still fresh in memory, state regulators and central banks are increasingly distrustful of the blockchain bonanza. They dread that the digital-only currency could turn out to be an overblown bubble, ready to erupt and send shockwaves through the "real" economy. Cryptocurrencies have no tangible grounding and their worth is determined greatly by demand. This means they are worth only as much as customers are willing to pay for them at any

given moment, making them highly susceptible to instability and abrupt value fluctuations. The pundits of cryptographic forms of money incorporate some conspicuous worldwide lenders, for example, the JPMorgan Chase Chief Executive Jamie Dimon, who as of late proposed that bitcoin was for the most part valuable for “drug dealers and murderers.” (“Regulating The No Man’s Coin Article”, 2017). While this is an outrageous view, the facts demonstrate that digital currencies have been utilized for money laundering, tax evasion and dodging international sanctions. The transfer of prohibited or controlled goods is made possible by the anonymous web browsing site. Cryptocurrencies do not rely on the use of financial institutions to make transactions and thus are very attractive to criminals to fund illegal activities. The use of cryptocurrencies is extremely attractive because it poses significantly less risk of capture since criminals do not need to meet in person to exchange illicit goods. The use of the dark web diminishes the stabilizing effect law enforcement operations have on unlawful market distribution. The rapid use of technology has made solving crime significantly more complex than finding a license plate or social security number. Cryptocurrencies do not leave a paper trail, face, eyewitnesses, or a video surveillance tape. Cryptocurrencies make it harder for law enforcement officials to apprehend criminals who participate in criminal activity due to the lack of physical evidence they are accustomed to seeing.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

Several years ago, the Fed and the European Union Central Bank started accommodating cryptocurrencies as virtual currencies. More recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran began organizing the use of cryptocurrencies as one of its authorized payment procedures. Ukraine presented legislation that plans to tax the gains from “mining” and trading of cryptocurrencies. The Russian Federation is expected to regulate its market next year. Most countries do not go as far as China, where cryptocurrencies have been banned as of September 2017, and instead try to restrict in the largely unfettered cryptocurrency market by integrating it in their financial and banking systems and applying the correlated rules and laws (“Regulating The No Man’s Coin Article”, 2017). Decentralized and self-ruling, cryptographic forms of money are represented by the clients’ accord over a lot of rules. They are autonomous from political impact and activities of fiscal specialists. This likewise implies, if there should arise an occurrence of cryptographic forms of money’s rebelliousness with a nation’s laws or guidelines, there will be no foundation to consider responsible. Nations have genuine reasons behind attempting to control the digital currency showcase: protecting the economy from another burst bubble, shielding their residents from clueless choices that could cost them their reserve funds and profiting launderers to move money crosswise over outskirts. Though the value of these assets is irregularly inflated, the risk of becoming a financial bubble increases greatly without anchors in reality. Governments wishing to fix their banking and assessment frameworks to avert these practices should cautiously screen the new market of computerized coins.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- Within the jurisdiction of the IMF, how can we regulate said cryptocurrencies?
- How would said regulations be implemented?
- How would the regulations of cryptocurrencies affect the virtual market?
- What other solutions are viable in order to crack down on crime financing in the virtual market?
- How can governmental institutions and financial bodies assist in regulating these currencies?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- Main Forms of Crime Financing in the Virtual Market
- Previous Regulations Passed by the IMF

- Bitcoin and the Future of the Global Economy
- Quasi-Cryptocurrency: Advantages and Disadvantages

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020



# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Ghidaa Maswadah**

**Julia Jose**



**Rana Younis**

**Youssef Ahmed**



Dear delegates!

Welcome to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations. We are very pleased to introduce you to our committee and also to provide the most beneficial session with the help of all your great ideas working together.

UNIDO is a specialized agency tasked with promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial development, providing an avenue through which the United Nations (UN), Member States, and other stakeholders can develop partnerships and address challenges to industrial development, particularly in developing regions. The committee consists of 168 member states and has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNIDO in line with the overall function of the organization

Upon the selection of the topic, the committee must be able to draft a resolution which must attain a two-thirds majority in order to pass. Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the following email: [b00078780@aus.edu](mailto:b00078780@aus.edu). Looking forward to meeting you at the conference and good luck preparing. In case of any doubts or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on the mentioned email.

Sincerely,  
The UNIDO chairs.



**UNIDO**

**The United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization**

# Topic I

## The Role of Information and Communications Technology in Industrial Development

### 1. Summary & History

In this vastly evolving digital world, information and communication technology (ICT), has been proven to be a potent catalyst for the drastic industrial development. This digitalization has altered our economic concept to one that is boundlessly impacting every single aspect of our lives. ICT consists of "hardware, software, networks, media compilation, storage, processing, transmission, and demonstration of data via voices, texts, and images" ( Pradhan et al). ICT acts as a conduit in influencing industrial development through prolific crucial channels, including, the digitalization of the production of goods and services which directly lead to the manufacture of value-added goods and services to the economy. Also, the digitalization of input services in the manufacture of other goods and services owed to the increase in productivity on a micro firm-level eventually led to a macro effect on the growth of the economy.

Moreover, ICT permits access to different markets, decreases the capital costs as a result of increasing the efficiency of the functioning of financial markets, it decreases transaction expenses thus improve production. It offers instantaneous connectivity: voices, data, and visual photos/ videos hence improving competence, transparency, and accurateness. "ICT eliminated the need for more burdening means of communicating and transacting by physical travel" (Information technology in the service society: a twenty-first century lever, 1994). It amplified the options provided in the marketplace and grants access to otherwise unavailable goods and services. It expanded the geographic capacity of potential markets and networked knowledge and information of all kinds.

Viewing ICT'S effect from a firm level, the World Bank's surveys of approximately 50 developing countries imply that "firms using ICT see faster sales growth, higher productivity and faster employment growth in comparison to Firms that do not" (UNIDO, 2019). The use of ICT, specifically the Internet access, has promoted the sustainable development of entrepreneurship and early rising industries as it reduced the barriers of financing them by mitigating informational asymmetry and cutting agency expenses.

The history of the computerization of United Nations statistics began back in 1965 when the UN received its first mainframe processor. "Then, In the 1980' s, "universal access" became one of the UN's bigges goals" (Bühler, Schlaich, & Sinner, 2018). Later on with the introduction of International Business Machines (IBM) PCs in 1984, the UNSD bought their first personalized computers for processing arithmetical data and reproducing statistical publications which led to a drastic shift in the mainframe to a novel paradigm of computing. Further in the 1990s, the UNSD established its links with the UNHQ computer network which allowed all consumers easy access to the mainframe from their own PCs. In that same era, emails were introduced creating prolific opportunities for communicating and data collecting.

Lastly, the quantum leap of productivity took place in 2006 were all the major statistical fabricating systems were internet-based offering superior capabilities for data collection, processing and dis-

semination. “The computing infrastructure at that time embraced 10 servers for development and production with a storage capacity of Five Terabytes” (Bühler, Schlaich, & Sinner, 2018).

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

Firstly, the application of ICT to manufacturing techniques increases productivity tremendously. The introduction of robots and computerized manufacturing has triggered an unprecedented era of automation. However, poorer nations possess significantly lower amounts of ICT capital as many of them are still largely agrarian economies. ICT also enables individuals to access financial services and increases financial inclusion especially for rural populations (World Bank, 2019). While integrating ICT has benefits, concerns on automation and job loss must also be duly noted.

Secondly, the problem of ICT accessibility has indirect but significant impacts on human wellbeing. For instance, the World Bank provides examples of how ICT enables the digitization of health-care services, which make them more efficient (World Bank, 2014). All of this correlate with Article 55 of the UN Charter which asserts that the UN aims to promote “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development” (UN, 1945). ICT also helps in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 9: “Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” (UN, n.d.). Finally, one must note the wide disparities. Less than 50% of Sub-Saharan Africa have access to electricity (World Bank, 2017), which in turn affects access to ICT services. Moreover, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a specialized branch of the UN, publishes a Global ICT Development Index. The ranks show that Africa, Central Asia, and certain Asian countries require more action for progress (ITU, 2017). Meanwhile, India and China are two countries that have made remarkable strides: India’s ICT market is valued at \$180 billion and is the fastest-growing telecom market in the world (International Trade Administration, 2019). While by 2021, the ICT market will represent more than 55% of China’s GDP (ITA, 2019).

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

In 2008, UNIDO released a document called “Effective Policies for Small businesses” that highlighted the significance of using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in SMEs for economic growth and national development (UNIDO, 2009). In addition, in 2001, UNIDO presented the Africa Investment Promotion Agency Network (AfrIPANet) to interface African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) where partners can take part in discourses. The initiative suggested implementing UNIDO’s Mobile Phone solution for SMEs. It stressed that mobile phones have the power of initiating trade connections abroad and can aid in searching for employees. Recently, UNIDO set out a strategic plan for nations in order to obtain ICT, especially in transition countries seeking to further develop their market economies. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasized on the importance of ICT in achieving the Agenda’s goals. The 2030 Agenda has put the enhancement of ICT 4 resources as a top priority because of its ability to: improve humans’ innovation skills, aid in scientific discoveries, and develop knowledge societies (UNIDO, n.d.). Also, the agenda targeted ICTs to be used to achieve some of their goals such as sustainable development in education, gender equality, universal and affordable access to the internet, and partnerships and means of implementation (UNIDO, n.d.)

## **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How can developing countries improve the implementation of ICTs within industrial fields?
- How can UNIDO increase their efforts on integrating ICTs in poor countries?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Examples showing the positive and negative impacts of using ICT in industrial role?
- The role of your country in using ICT for their industry: whether they were successful or not.
- Reasons behind the success or failure of your country for using ICT

# Topic II

## Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption

### 1. Summary & History

With the increased dependency on technology in our daily life, unsustainable solutions have become a quick and easy reference for many. This calls for an immediate call for sustainable production and consumption. The United Nations' (UN) 12th goal ensures sustainable consumption and production patterns. According to the UN (2019): "Sustainable consumption and production are about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all". Currently, the material consumption of natural resources is increasing, particularly within Eastern Asia. Countries are also continuing to address challenges regarding air, water and soil pollution.

Since sustainable consumption and production aims at "doing more and better with less," net welfare gains from economic activities can increase by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole life cycle, while increasing quality of life. There also needs to be a significant focus on operating on the supply chain, involving everyone from the producer to the final consumer. This includes educating consumers on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing them with adequate information through standards and labels and engaging in sustainable public procurement, among others. The UN states that more than 1 billion people still do not have access to freshwater. The UN is putting effort into making countries shift to use natural resources efficiently and promote sustainable consumption. This will provide a healthier environment for the future. Such actions will also help end poverty as more natural resources will be preserved for future generations. It is very important to take such actions immediately to avoid them. The lack of proper leadership and guidance has put many countries back. Currently, the financial, political and technological are within reach. With 10 years left to achieve the sustainable development goals: global, local and people action should be taken. On the global level, proper leadership is required to meet the set goals. Locally, the changes required are in order to properly plan "policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities" as suggested by the UN. People are guided to achieve sustainable goals by targeting the "youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia, and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations". By aiding people in their society to achieve sustainable goals, global goals can be met. This will also help stakeholders connect with one another and achieve the set goals.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Firstly, the private sector is an important player in climate change. In fact, 100 companies are the source of over 70% of greenhouse gas emissions (Carbon Disclosure Project, 2017). On the other hand, the demand for various goods and services will only grow with the global middle class expected to triple by the year 2030. Moreover, businesses are inefficient and overestimate consumer demand, which results in a 30% waste of all manufactured goods (Nayyar, 2016). An example is the fast fashion industry, which is the second most polluting industry after oil. Over 11.1 million tons of worth clothes are dumped in US landfills annually (Nayyar, 2016). These figures suggest that we must take immediate corrective action.

Apart from the sustainable development goals, sustainable production and consumption will

also effectively aid in achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims “to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius” (UNFCCC, n.d.)

An important target under SDG 12 is to “rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies”, in other words, introduce regulations that incentivize businesses to use polluting fuels (UN, n.d.). However, figures from the International Energy Agency are rather alarming: China, Russia, Iran, and several other governments give off subsidies to the amount of tens of billions of dollars (IEA, n.d.). Instead of subsidizing fossil fuels, a policy that is increasingly in the talks is to make them more expensive for businesses through carbon taxes (Carbon Tax Center, n.d.).

For businesses, the key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is to use sustainable sources of energy. Governments should play an active role in introducing regulation and infrastructure to promote the same. A closer examination of trends reveals some surprising results. In the UK and US, two highly economically robust countries, less than 10% of total energy consumption comes from renewable energy. Nations like India, Canada, and Switzerland do comparatively better. In stark contrast, Sub-Saharan African economies have an average of 70% of their energy derived from renewable sources (World Bank, n.d.).

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

In 1972, The UN Conference on Environment and Development adopted the 1972 Stockholm Declaration (UNIDO). The declaration stressed upon the governments to exert more effort in protecting and improving the environment. In addition, it introduced 26 principles in the efforts of maintaining a sustainable environment. The principles highlight the responsibility of the citizens to maintain a healthy environment to gain maximum environmental and economic benefits. Furthermore, it urges countries to start using renewable sources in order to conserve our natural resources. Fast forward to 2012, the UN conference of sustainable developments adopted A 10-year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, Supporting the implementation of sustainable consumption and production programmes and initiatives in developing countries through adequate financial resources from multiple sources, including donor countries, the international financial institutions, the private sector and other voluntary contributions (“United Nations Official Document”, 2019). It also supports developing countries to conduct more scientific researches and technological discoveries to achieve sustainable methods of production and consumption (“United Nations Official Document”, 2019). Moreover, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was issued in 2015 by the UN had set “ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns” as one of its 17 goals (“Sustainable consumption and production”, 2019). It aims to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses” (“Sustainable consumption and production”, 2019). Most importantly, it focuses on reducing waste production through recycling, reduction, and prevention.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What is the best approach to enhance sustainability in the environment?
- How can UNIDO further strengthen its relations with governments and international organizations in order to tackle waste management issues?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- Countries which they had successful sustainable production or consumption



- Examples of UNIDO improving sustainable production in different countries

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Vadim Rikunov**

**Lynn Basel**



**Irene Franco**

**Anushna Bagchi**



Dear delegates!

It is our utmost pleasure to welcome you to the 13th annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations 2020 (AUSMUN) Conference. This year, the United Nations Human Rights Council committee's agenda is aiming to tackle and resolve critical issues through your interaction, cooperation, and communication, during our committee's debate.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) - was established by the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006 replacing the UN Commission on Human Rights. Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The members of the General Assembly elect the members who occupy the UNHRC's 47 seats. The term of each seat is three years, and no member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms. The seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, 6 for Eastern Europe, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and 7 for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG).

The UNHRC can decide at any time to hold a special session to address human rights violations and emergencies, at the request of one-third of the member states. To date there have been 28 special sessions. Some key areas of consideration with regards to researching the topics should include your country's national capabilities and limitations, discourse, the mitigation of conflict, and human rights violations, as well as the oversight and monitoring mechanisms of the situation. Moreover, due to the nature of these topics, the delegates' research and resolutions must be very detailed in nature and focus on the operationalization of concepts. Finally, due to the divisive nature of the majority of the topics discussed in the committee, the most effective ideas should focus on international cooperation.

However, we primarily believe that the target of the conference is to ascertain that all delegates learn new information, improve their skills, and enjoy their time. We urge all delegates to contribute to the debate and engage in productive conversation with other delegates. Most importantly, enjoy!

Regards,  
The UNHRC Chairs.





**UNHRC**

**The United Nations Human Rights Council**

# Topic I

## Countering Toxic Narratives About Refugees And Migrants: Promoting Tolerance And Eradicating Xenophobia

### 1. Summary & History

Recent years have seen a significant rise in the number of refugees and migrants across the globe. According to research by the United Nations University, there are 68.5 million displaced people worldwide, out of which 25.4 million are refugees forced to leave their countries of residence. The pressing issue of refugee movement from nation to nation has caused a severe human rights crisis where migrants are not treated in a similar manner to ordinary citizens. On frequent occasion refugees face discrimination by the host country's citizens and are not provided with the same working and living opportunity as citizens or normal expats. This inappropriate treatment is generally termed as xenophobia, or "dislike or prejudice against people from other nations". Recent research in Europe shows that its citizens openly blame refugees for instabilities in their countries, higher rates of unemployment and even terroristic threats (Bailliet, n.d). The United Nations Human Rights Council sees this discrimination against forcibly displaced peoples as a direct infringement upon the fundamental human rights of equality and evokes a need for appropriate solutions.

Since the very beginning of the modern concept of "refugees", which primarily began with immigration from conflict zones of the Middle East, prejudice against immigrants has been a prominent issue in host countries. Nations like Turkey and Germany, which were the first to open their borders to migrants, have quickly seen a rise in social deterrence towards refugees immediately after the immigration program has been established. There have been a large number of cases when refugees were refused the right to freedom, work, education, healthcare and other fundamental human rights because of their ethnicity. The issue of xenophobia has escalated over the years, with South Africa currently undergoing an investigation about recent reports of violence against foreign owners of businesses in the region.

The UN Protection of Refugees Paper summarizes the various causes of xenophobia by surveying the citizens of the host countries. In most cases, reasons for disrespect and discrimination against migrants has been their "hostile takeover of employment opportunities", "social crimes" committed by certain refugee groups, as well as external burden unwillingly borne by host country governments. The problem has escalated to the point when international action must be taken to prevent serious consequences. Today, a staff of 9,700 people working in the UNHRC has aided over 59 million refugees across 126 countries, but significant action can only take place with international support by governments. With over 33,000 people fleeing their country daily because of national instability and persecution, the world requires a long-lasting solution to the crisis to ensure that every person has access to equal rights in our society ((Bailliet, n.d).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Many states tend to ignore their duty of providing asylum, which leads to outbursts of racism and discrimination against the refugees. According to Volker Turk, the director of UNHCR's interna-

tional protection, “xenophobia and racism are often at the root of discrimination against asylum seekers” (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, n.d.). This negative attitude of society and the state towards refugees is unacceptable and must find a resolution in the near future. After 145 Member States ratified and signed the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, it is the duty of all nations to promote and protect the rights of refugees, rather than infringe upon them. Furthermore, the 1967 Protocol also declares similar rights of asylum seekers that are prohibited to be infringed upon, which was ratified by 146 Member States. In addition, refugees are people similar in nature to ordinary citizens and hence they possess equal rights as declared by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Rising xenophobia does not just violate these rights, but also causes international deterrence and social instability that results in lower levels of cooperation. Recent cases of xenophobia in the African region have caused outrage in parts of South Africa, which have found it inappropriate for both the citizens and the refugees to display such violence against one another. Despite the negative impacts of such discrimination, there has been little significant international action taken to prevent xenophobia. With over 6.7 million Syrian refugees across Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and parts of Europe, minorities are discriminated against and denied jobs, education and health-care. The issue becomes only worse as more countries face crisis that results in emigration.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The widespread issue of migration and refugee crisis has been tackled by several international organizations over the past years. This includes the UN Refugee Agency, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Organization for Migration. These organizations tackle the problem on the humanitarian, social and moral level, with over 16,000 personnel employed by the UN to assimilate refugees into their new places of residence (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, n.d.). On the economic and governmental level, the issue of migration and associated discrimination is being addressed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as several EU State Agencies like FRONTEX.

The United Nations itself has addressed the issue of xenophobia in certain ways, each method different in effectiveness. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the following Protocol of 1967 have both outlined the rights possessed by asylum seekers but have done little to enforce subordination. After the establishment of the UN Refugee Agency, the issue of discrimination has declined as UN inspection teams actively protested for governments to raise barriers to education and employment for refugees, which was seen as a positive outcome.

Currently, it seems action is stirring within the UNHRC to raise sanctions against xenophobic states and to condemn all measures of such discrimination. A UN Special Rapporteur on freedom has recently evoked the need to eradicate xenophobia that is “toxic to democracy”, and that countries must invest more into education for immigrants (“Xenophobia, 2019). After several actions by International Organizations such as UNHCR, International Organization for Migration, and Amnesty International, to prevent the prejudicial treatment of asylum seekers, it has now become the mission of the United Nations Human Rights Council to resolve the problem. The Council is responsible for not only declaring the rights provided to refugees, but must now announce the consequences of not following the Convention and the methods of enforcing the resolution.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- Could the activity of the refugees themselves be the primary cause of xenophobia towards them?
- What might be the impact of policies that are enforced on governments to provide services to

asylum seekers or refugees?

- What does your country recommend must be done by other Member States to improve treatment and living conditions of refugees in host countries?
- Can the UN Human Rights Council become a policy enforcing body? Will the transition have negative or positive impacts on promotion of international human equality?

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Difficulties associated with overcoming long-term prejudice
- Impacts of xenophobia on international peace and stability
- Xenophobia in Western and Eastern Europe foreseeing the Syrian Refugee Crisis
- The War on Terror, refugee outflows and xenophobia

# Topic II

## Protecting the Rights Of Political Prisoners And Preventing Torture In Times Of Conflict

### 1. Summary & History

The torturing of political prisoners is one of the cruelest acts that go against human rights that are defined in today's world. The Oxford dictionary defines torture as: "the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something". Ill-treatment during detention, closure of avenues for legal redress, sexual abuse by detention officers, are only a few forms of torture faced by political prisoners. These prisoners have been imprisoned because they were found opposing some or many of their respective government's actions or beliefs. Today, many governments and its leaders do not consider these prisoners as their fellow human beings and have deprived them from their basic human rights. Countries such as Venezuela, Tibet and Saudi Arabia continue to torture their political prisoners. Even though we are in the year 2019, torture of political prisoners still cease to exist.

Recently, in Iran thousands of citizens have been arrested during a mass political protest against the government. The torture or these prisoners do not end in their areas of detention. According to The Human Rights Watch in the World Report of 2019, "Iranian courts, and particularly the revolutionary courts, regularly fell short of providing fair trials and used confessions likely obtained under torture as evidence in court" (2019). This is only one example of a country where this issue prevails. Even though, nearly the entire globe has ratified the UN Convention against Torture, the use of torture is still widely spread in these countries. Article 4 of this Convention, which was adopted in the General Assembly on 10 December 1984, states that "Each State Party shall ensure that all acts of torture are offences under its criminal law" (UNHRC).

The history of political prisoners' dates back to the 1700s and maybe even before. Most countries are only known to be torturing their political prisoners when someone well-known in a country gets imprisoned for opposing government views or when a country decides to grant an amnesty to political prisoners.

The laws exist, however, serious action from governments are lacking. The people of any country facing this issue can only raise their voice in order to alarm the leaders of the cruelty taking place, the rest is left to the world leaders to end this persecution. Political prisoners are also known as 'prisoners of conscience', to indicate that these people have a conscience like every other human but are imprisoned for their opinions against their government. Every action taken in a country has an effect internationally, directly or indirectly. The implications of torture faced by political prisoners worldwide is simple: the people outside the prison walls are afraid but more importantly, they are angry. If this torture does not end, the retaliation that will take place globally will become a very serious concern for the present and future generations of leaders.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Like any other prisoners, political prisoners also retain other key human rights that protect us all, such as the right to life, the right to be free of inhuman and degrading treatment, and the right to a fair trial. So, protecting the rights of such prisoners is a significant issue more so in today's

fractured world, where numerous ideologies fail to thrive in a peaceful coexistence, thereby resulting in conflicts, intolerance and creating power hungry groups bulldozing each other to win. The groups on the losing side face the wrath and end up being political prisoners in some cases.

Article 2 of the preamble of the UN Charter clearly states the following "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty." The above makes the issue of political prisoners itself an absolute violation of the UN Charter.

Polarisation of power centers is one of the worst implications in the current world scenario as the same promotes hostility, animosity amongst various groups, regions, countries, which unfortunately more often than not puts humanity behind bars. Mental reform of the prisoner aided through various reform programs can be having some positive impact as the mental health conditions of the prisoners improve to liberate into a better person. It is high time to heal the world for the survival of the human race and not indulge in spiraling conflicts that will allow to reach the escape velocity where nothing can be reversed any more.

Countries like Switzerland, Japan, UAE are the least affected as they possess a high happiness index, which signifies that people are happy with their governance. The US, Russia, China, Mexico and Brazil have some of the highest political prisoners in the world.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International (HURIDOCS), Children's Rights Information Network (CRIN), World Organisation Against Torture (Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture; OMCT), Amnesty International are the international organizations that have been working on this issue.

There was an United Nations international meeting on the question of Palestine "the urgency of addressing the plight of palestinian political prisoners in israeli prisons and detention facilities" at United Nations office at Vienna, 7 – 8 March 2011. The meeting, among other things, looked into the conditions of imprisonment of Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, including the situation of women and minors. The Meeting also considered the issue of Palestinian political prisoners in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian political process and discussed ways of strengthening the role of the wider international community, including non-governmental actors, in promoting a solution.

The United Nations role is to prevent human rights violations and secure respect for human rights by promoting international cooperation and coordinating the United Nations' human rights activities. In fostering human rights and freedom, the United Nations has defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights like economic, civil, cultural, economic, social and cultural rights which seeks to promote and protect, and civil and political rights which deals with freedom of movement, expression and thoughts.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can countries that have ratified the UN Convention against Torture be penalized for allowing torture against political prisoners to continue?

- What policies can the member states of the UNHRC implement to end torture against political prisoners?
- Rather than torturing political prisoners of a country, what measures can be taken to deal with these prisoners without violating human rights?
- Explore alternative punishment strategies in place of capital punishment.

## **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- Focus on a country that has a high number of political prisoners to date. E.g. Iran.
- Consequences from torturing political prisoners.
- The effects and ethics of death penalty for different countries.
- Effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide.

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



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This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

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Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



**Naser Taifour**

**Esraa Alaraby**



**Assem Ahmed**

**Yasmine Naccache**

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is our esteemed honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the thirteenth annual installment of AUSMUN. We would like to express how enthusiastic and thrilled we are to be your chairs. We are hoping to create a very productive conference filled with exciting debates and constructive resolutions.

The UNICEF committee has been instrumental in helping restore a spark of hope for those who have been tragically affected by the on-going refugee migrant crisis. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations agency operating in more than 190 countries and territories. UNICEF was established in 1946 as a specialized agency caring for children that provided them with food and shelter following the second World War (UNICEF, 2014). The United Nations Agency is governed by an Executive Board consisting of 36 members that establish policies, approve programs, and oversee administrative and financial plans. The board is made up of government representatives elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, usually for three-year terms. Each region that UNICEF serves is allocated a number of seats on the Executive Board, so all regions are represented (UNICEF, 2017). Currently, the agency aims to provide humanitarian as well as developmental aid to children in need all over the world by ensuring their vaccination, education and security.

UNICEF has taken part in Model United Nations for as long as there was MUN as it is one of the most essential committees of the United Nations. We believe that UNICEF is a vital part of the AUSMUN committees due to its association with the current child migration crisis world over. It is a great honor for both us and you to be a part of this committee and place children's lives under our scope. We are thrilled to be moderating the discussion revolving around the displacement of young refugees and the reunification with their families. We believe in your research and debate capabilities and wish you a fruitful and lively debate.

Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following email: [unicef.ausmun@gmail.com](mailto:unicef.ausmun@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
UNICEF Chairs



**UNICEF**

**United Nations Children's Fund**

# Topic I

## Improving the educational opportunities for displaced minors.

### 1. Summary & History

As of 2018, there were about thirty million children around the world forcibly displaced by political conflict (UNICEF, 2018). This number of displaced minors is the highest it's been since World War II. However, despite the global nature of the young refugee crisis, children are overlooked and focus is directed towards political conflict. Displaced children are in fact at an increased risk of trafficking, exploitation, violence, and abuse. In order to minimize this risk, UNICEF has been working with all its partners to provide these children with basic rights to safe and consistent access of financial support, healthcare and education. However, this task has proven to be difficult since "a lack of capacity, resources and persistent insecurity, social tensions and discrimination are all significant barriers to education in many displacement situations" (UNICEF & IDMC, 2019, p. 2). In addition, there is no valid national data that accurately tracks the number of displaced children, which makes it difficult to understand the problem as a whole and find a targeted solution. Moreover, there may be other factors deterring UNICEF from providing for displaced children. These factors must be identified and dealt with promptly to make it easier for UNICEF to provide displaced children with financial support, healthcare and education. This assistance will help refugee children become a functional part of the society. Not only will this aid ensure that children do not miss out on important opportunities due to their circumstances, the host countries will benefit as well. For instance, studies show that each extra year of education for a migrant child is linked to a surge in national GDP per capita between 13 and 35 per cent.

Currently, UNICEF is putting in all efforts to secure the right for proper access to education for all children. In fact, the international community has been working on this for years. Since the agreement of the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1924, the world has put special attention on the protection of children's rights (League of Nations, 1924). Since then, the international community has met once again at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 where they agreed upon and stated in the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that, children's basic rights include access to quality education (UNICEF, 2006). Then in 2005, UNICEF set a target to achieve gender equality by providing equal access to primary education for both boys and girls (UNICEF, n.d.). The implementation of this target involved allocation of 233 million dollars to launch global campaigns that aimed to raise awareness about the importance of primary education, especially for girls.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Education is a basic right for all children according to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) that was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in December 1948 (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). For children, education is considered the key to a life with less obstacles and decreased threat of poverty, and it's a way to widen their horizons and build a better future. During times of crises, education for displaced children becomes even more crucial. This need is especially critical since education can offer the child protection and stability and schools can become a place for destressing and deviating away from catastrophes (UNICEF, 2017). Additionally, there are multiple barriers that can hinder the children in war zones from receiving their education. For instance, in countries like Iraq, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, infra-



structures were destroyed during times of conflict. The destruction extended to school buildings, electric systems, and water systems that eventually lead to the shutdown of many institutional facilities. Therefore, the closure of lack of available infrastructure lead to scarcity of seats available for children to receive their education. In May 2017, an assessment was performed in Syrian governates that revealed the lack of competent teaching staff and supplies in school. Additionally, the report revealed that destroyed facilities were the main reason that prevented children from attending schools (Relief Web, 2017).

It is estimated that around 66% of refugees live in places where none of their native languages have representation in the receiving countries. This underrepresentation makes basic school education even more complicated for displaced children (UNHCR, 2018). For the international community to be able to provide quality education for the displaced children it should be understood that this effort requires substantial financial support, political determination and commitment to children and their futures (UNICEF, 2017, p.13). UNICEF has called on partners to integrate all displaced children, invest in quality education, strengthen education systems, engage with other partners, co-create solutions, and seek innovative ways to design internationally accepted portable systems that protect children' identities and allow them to pursue their education and find work in the future (UNICEF, 2017).

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

As an agency providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world, UNICEF has already declared an "Education Strategy" report to cover 2019 until 2030. The vision of UNICEF's Education Strategy is "every child learns" (UNICEF, 2019). As quoted in their report, "the Strategy adopts the following three goals: (1) equitable access to learning opportunities; (2) improved learning and skills for all; (3) improved leaning in emergencies and fragile contexts." (UNICEF, 2019). The Education Strategy focuses on six main approaches to solve the issue of education and learning by 2030. Some of these approaches are: collection of data and evidence that pertain to the numbers of displaced minors in and out of education, communication and advocacy, and service delivery. Through this action towards equitable education, UNICEF believes that by 2030, the numbers of displaced minors out of schools will decrease drastically. For example, the Malala Fund was established as an international organization aimed specifically for providing of educational communities for girls all around the world. With a focus on Pakistan, where in fact there any many internally displaced families due to conflict, the Malala Fund was able to fund the building of several schools in Pakistan through donations that were able to provide education to over 1000 girls (Malala Fund, n.d.). Another example is the Dubai Cares Foundation that has involved itself in many initiatives that follow its larger goal of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 4 of "quality education" (United Nations, n.d.). In September of 2015, Dubai Cares announced that it would be "championing Education in Emergencies in order to address the critical need to provide quality education to children affected by crisis" (Dubai Cares, n.d.). Later in May of 2016, Dubai Cares pledged to increase the share of its financial portfolio for the 'Education in Emergencies' program to 33% (Dubai Cares, n.d.).

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How does providing educational opportunities to internally displaced minors differ, in principle, from providing educational opportunities to externally displaced minors?
- Could an improvement be achieved regardless of financial aid?
- According to current trends in the education sector around the world, will UNICEF be able to reach the goals it has set for itself within the "Education Strategy"?

- What are the more specific obstacles that undocumented displaced minors might face in the pursuit of education?
- Should education for displaced minors be obligatory? If so, how would the international community make sure of their adherence to the obligation?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Internally Displaced Minors vs Externally Displaced Minors (the question of language and how that filters into the obstacles)
- Undocumented Displaced Minors in the Pursuit of Education
- The Question of Obligatory Education

# Topic II

## Relocating unaccompanied minor refugees and fast-tracking family reunification.

### 1. Summary & History

In 2017, around 20,000 (UNHCR, UNICEF, & IOM, 2017) children arrived in Europe without an adult. The circumstances that led to this substantial number of minors to end up unaccompanied in a different continent vary according to multiple sources, but they all stem from unrest back home. When such instability occurs, either the children are orphaned and left to seek asylum on their own, or their parents send them along with other groups of migrants to safer and more developed countries in search of better opportunities. The most notable example of this type of family separation was when some Syrian civil war refugee parents separated themselves from their children in Jordan and Lebanon and sent them off to Europe (Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, 2017). However, this issue of displacement is not limited to Europe, the same effects have been observed in many places around the world. For instances, Rohingya refugees have escaped Myanmar to go to Bangladesh and African refugees have entered South Africa in the same manner.

The issue of unaccompanied child migration seems to be getting increasingly severe as the number of refugees around the world rises year by year. In fact, the total number of refugees, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) included, has increased in Asia from 803,500 in 2008 (UNHCR, 2010) to over 31,000,000 in 2016 (UNHCR, 2016). Similar increases were observed across other continents as well. Although it would be more efficient to tackle the root of the refugee problem, UNICEF does not take this approach as solving civil unrest in different countries is not within the committee's mandate. Instead, the committee focuses on relocating UASCs and reunifying them with their families if possible. It is important to realize that reunification is not always in the child's best interest as the child might have been abused by the parents or the parents might not be in a safe situation to be capable of caring for the child properly (Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, 2017).

In addition to affecting the minors involved, it is also important to consider the impacts UASCs have on their host countries. Some host countries are already overcrowded, and as a result, do not have the capacity to take in more refugees. These host nations then choose to only take in individuals who could potentially benefit the workforce and many unaccompanied minors are left in camps with their lives on hold for long periods.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

As previously mentioned, the increasing number of asylum seekers worldwide is increasing at an immense rate. The refugee crisis has resulted in a significant number of children unaccompanied and abandoned. Since these children usually have no concept of human rights and have no guardians to protect them, they are often subject to human rights abuses. Additionally, they are forced to work in inhumane conditions with low pay. This potential abuse and labor is a serious violation of the UN charter which states that the UN shall "reaffirm faith in fundamental

human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person" (United Nations, 1945). In addition to affecting the minors involved, "the exodus of migrants in 2015 caught Europe unprepared, sowing bitter divisions among EU states, straining social and security services and fueling support for populist, anti-immigration, Eurosceptic and far-right parties" (Aslan, 2019). Although said issues were caused by refugees as a whole, the UASCs are at the forefront as they require the most care from the receiving countries.

In recent times, there have been many cases of civil wars causing large regions of some countries to remain outside the jurisdiction of their government. In such cases, UNICEF and other organizations must "negotiate with armed non-state actors to gain access to populations, including UASC, or indeed to negotiate for the release of children recruited by armed forces or armed groups" (Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, 2017).

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

Ever since its establishment, UNICEF has played a big role in troubled countries by ensuring the safe relocation of unaccompanied minor refugees. The agency's humanitarian response has tried to ensure that "all migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children have access to adequate and safe accommodation, child protection support, education and health" (UNICEF, 2019). UNICEF does not only try to care for children's well-being whilst on the move, but it also has taken necessary action to ensure the fast-tracking of family reunifications. This rapid reunification is accomplished by either returning displaced children to their parents, or by offering a safe relocation for the entire family in order to remain with their children.

Following the recent instability in the Middle East, and the increasing dangers of living in troubled countries due to civil wars, the European Union has seen a flood of unaccompanied children immigrants flowing into its member states. According to UNICEF (2018), "Some 30,000 children arrived in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Spain between January and December of 2018, 42% of which are unaccompanied and separated." This refugee influx has led the UNICEF, in cooperation with the European Commission, to introduce rules and regulations in order to ensure the safety of both the child migrants and the receiving countries. Drawing on expertise from all relevant policy areas, the European Commission along with UNICEF proposed a number of priorities for Member States to focus on. Such areas included: swift identification and protection upon arrival, adequate reception conditions for children, and durable solutions and early integration measures (European Commission, 2017). In Jordan and Lebanon, UNICEF helped over 10,000 children reunite with their parents after living years not knowing anything about them. In fact, in 2013, it is reported that 41,000 Syrian refugee children in Jordan were reunited with their families within a few years of their separation. UNICEF has been working on fast-tracking family reunification for years as it believes that this step is of primary importance for young migrants.

The UNICEF's 'Agenda for Action' is one of the most crucial policies the agency has undertaken to resolve the refugee issue at its roots and ensure smooth operation of the process. The agenda calls for six actions to protect all refugee and migrant children including, the accessibility to education and healthcare, providing legal status to children, and combating xenophobia and discrimination among others (UNICEF, 2017). The actions stated in the agenda would radically improve the basis on which countries prioritize the crisis at hand presented by refugee children, and also ease the stress and void caused by relocation on children.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What policies can help fast-track family reunification for more minors?

- What can be done to ensure the emotional and physical well-being of orphans or children whose families could not be traced back?
- What measures may be taken in the future to prevent families from being separated in the first place?
- How can UNICEF evacuate unsafe children from conflicted areas?

### **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- UN procedures in dealing with UASCs
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Countries' policies and efforts in easing the immigration process for unaccompanied minors.
- The effects of family reunification on children's mental and psychological health.

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All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Ahmad Mhanna**

**Zain Hussein**



**Souha Dhaouadi**

**Zainah Omar Almuhairi**

Dear delegates!

It is our honor to welcome you to the thirteenth annual AUSMUN, and our committee the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). And It is our utmost pleasure to serve as your chairs. We are eagerly awaiting our interaction, cooperation, and communication during and before our committee's debate.

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance, it will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics. After this short letter that gives us a chance to Welcome the delegates a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue will be presented, and at the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research and references they can use for further relevant information. However, it's not sufficient to cover the required amount of information for the conference.

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. We help countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships, and institutions so they can sustain their progress. We will be tackling two extremely important issues which are: Using technology to predict and prevent crisis and Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding in Developing Countries. These issues should be comprehensively and properly addressed.

We are all aware of the frustration that comes with being a delegate. Debating can be nerve-wracking and researching will seem like it never ends. However, everyone involved in the organization of AUSMUN2020 has worked extremely hard to ensure that this experience is as fruitful as possible. Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the following email: [undpausmun2020@gmail.com](mailto:undpausmun2020@gmail.com). Moreover, if there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact us through the given email.

Sincerely,  
The UNDP chairs.



**UNDP**

**The United Nations Development Programme**

# Topic I

## Using Technology to Predict and Prevent Crisis

### 1. Summary & History

Using technology to predict and prevent a crisis should be the first logical step to a suitable and timely multi-step response. This is starting to be placed into action, however, what usually occurs is a response to relieve the disaster that just occurred. A crisis is a time of great difficulty or danger where important decisions need to be made to take preventative measures, or for recovery and damage control. Crises vary depending on the country and its situation as the crisis could be anywhere from famine, to a financial crash as well as natural disasters.

The technology entailed for prediction and prevention such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), better known as drones, are being made in fields like information communication technology (ICTs), artificial intelligence (AI) and other robotics fields. This is because these fields center around the formation of robotics that can gather masses of data, process and analyze it to give useful information that can benefit us socially and economically. (Camino Kavanagh, 2019) This is necessary as crises affect populations of people, not just small groups.

People, however, don't completely abide by this use of technology as it requires heavy surveillance. The ease of access to some equipment and algorithms is discussed as being 'vulnerable to exploitation and disruption' (Camino Kavanagh, 2019, para.3). Thus, it has become a controversial issue where public safety and national security are concerned.

This type of vulnerability isn't localized and would affect other countries and industries worldwide. Some measures have been posed but prove to be challenging and are under debate. These include classifying values such as equity, transparency, accountability, whether the information gathered, and how much of it, should be public, restricting certain forms of research, creating suitable regulations and ensuring they're fit for purpose and finally whether they should be coordinated nationally or internationally.

New technology and innovation progress as the need for its rise. For example, the Second World War and the financial crash of 2007-2008 are two of history's biggest financial crises (Nageswar Cherukupalli, 2018, para.1). Advances are made to prevent crises like those from reoccurring. As of July 8, 2015, "The importance of quality data and cutting-edge information communication technologies (ICTs) is increasingly critical to the shaping of the future sustainable development agenda, the head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) confirmed today." (UN officials spotlight data and technology as key to sustainability, 2015). In addition, the UN GGEs have restated the applicability of international law, including the UN Charter, to cyberspace as well as recommending "nonbinding political norms aimed at encouraging states to use ICT responsibly...to promote restraint and best practices" (Camino Kavanagh, 2019). Other measures taken by the UN were in Kenya: UNDP helped establish a toll-free SMS-based service that allowed citizens to report perceived threats to security. At a central level, SMS messages were analyzed and verified and responses initiated through partnerships between civil society groups and police. This gave police and other responders a level of localized information that was previously inaccessible. (New technologies can help tackle violence, study says, April 2013)

These are only a few of the many practices put into place to utilize the advanced technology we have.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The United Nations Development Program aims to incorporate technology into the fight against crisis and disaster, by using technology to predict upcoming disasters and hence widening the time period in which preparations can be made for a crisis. This will result in a lesser loss of life, as well as a decrease in damages and will ease the recovery process in turn. UNDP helps governments prevent conflicts and disasters enabling them to achieve their own national development priorities. Disasters put hard-won development achievements at risk, reversing economic growth and progress towards the elimination of poverty; cause environmental damage; and result in human suffering.

Many countries worldwide, such as the United States, India, and China suffer from natural disasters, statistically speaking, hundreds of millions of people globally are in one way or another affected by natural disasters, with a lesser amount ending up as fatality to such disasters. Hence it is a goal within the UNDP to lesser the amount of people affected by disasters by using technology to foresee and prevent a crisis. More than 700,000 people died as a result of disasters between the years 2005 and 2014. Technological innovation is bringing digital solutions to sectors that have previously lacked access to technology, including the non-profit community. The rapid pace of this change suggests that one of technology's most meaningful benefits for society may lie in the humanitarian sector, which must reach large numbers of people, in remote and dangerous locations, to provide critical resources fast and efficiently. Today, through the proliferation of mobile and social media solutions, relief communications have evolved to the benefit of all. This includes the development of a feedback loop through which information collected is applied to develop a deeper and more real-time understanding of both sector and service user needs, leading to faster, more efficient responses which ultimately supports beneficiaries.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

In order to combat famine, the UN, World Bank, International Committee of the Red Cross, Microsoft, Google and Amazon partnered together to release the Famine Action Mechanism (FAM). It is the first worldwide technology combating famine. The main issue with famine is that response to it is typically too late and arrive after the loss of life, however, the FAM aims to eliminate a high percentage of death as well as cost by predicting and preventing as early as possible. Millions of people, especially ranging from Africa to the Middle East are affected by famine. The FAM will build on existing famine early warning systems to enhance the capacity to forecast areas most at risk of famine. The FAM will seek to make financing more predictable and strategic by linking, for the first time, famine early warnings with pre-arranged financing to ensure that funds are released before a crisis emerges. It also will seek to tackle the root causes of famine and help build livelihoods, safety nets and stronger coping skills of local communities. Additionally, the FAM will seek to ensure that resources are channeled to the most effective and well-coordinated interventions and will work with existing systems to build upon the good and ongoing efforts taking place at the country- and global-levels. The FAM will be rolled out initially in five countries that exhibit some of the most critical and ongoing food security needs and ultimately will be expanded to provide global coverage.

## **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- Is technology so necessary for the prevention of crisis?
- What are the implications (positive and/or negative) caused by using technology for prevention of crisis?
- Where should crisis preventing technology be field-tested and later deployed?
- How will the funding for such technology be carried

## **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

Anything from the United Nations or trusted sources is deemed worthy and good research, focus on both aspects of the topic, which include

- a) Technology and
- b) Crisis



# Topic II

## Democratic Governance and Peace-building in Developing Countries

### 1. Summary & History

Strengthening good governance and promoting democracy are important constituents of the initiatives the UN as presented to build peace after conflict. Democratic governance refers to a variety of activities such as ensuring the rule of law, separation of powers, and allowance of a very active media without undue interference from any governmental institution. This certifies that individuals get the opportunity to live as freely as concerned in the constitution of their country. This system aims to allow for several political parties and accepts the opinions and views of its citizens while still upholding the rule of law. Peace-building, however, refers to placing preventive measures that can help check the initialization of any conflicts in a society. It also refers to all measures that are used to bring any conflict between parties to a peaceful resolution and therefore making sure that the conflict is discontinued permanently. Many countries, more than ever before, are working to build democratic governance. The UNDP ensures comprehensive and effective democratic governance. The UNDP advocates, advises, and fosters unbiased spaces for discourse, to achieve consensus and build foundations.

UNDP seeks to aid the growth and development of civil societies. On UNDP's home page, the Organization states, "UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results" (UNDP, 2019). UNDP helps governance organisations in countries to bring legitimate reforms, organize elections, reinforce parliaments, and address policy and official selections for peace, risk-reduction and development through reconciliation, empowerment and inclusion (UNDP, 2019).

UNDP aids governments in strengthening their public organizations, to help countries fight corruption and advocate wide-ranging participation to ensure that no one is left behind. Some of its key engagements include "civic engagement and electoral cycle support in close cooperation with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; parliamentary development and supporting the advancement of women's equal participation and decision-making in political processes and institutions" (UNDP, 2019).

The UNDP has played a major role at the critical juncture relating peacekeeping to sustainable development. In the UNDP's efforts to ensure that societies experience democratic governance and peace-building, it has also united with various institutions to provide positive influences on the development of societies through measures that are planned and programmed in a way that makes it possible for them to advance positively. Throughout the past three years, UNDP has focused its efforts in accordance with the 2014-2017 Strategic Action Plan. However, a year later, the 2030 Agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals were introduced, with marginal different objectives than the previous document.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

As ongoing efforts to the development of human rights are incremented, the United Nations Development Programme, through the efforts of article 16 of the Agenda of 2030 hopes to encourage countries to undertake democratic values and forego differences in the aim of demonstrating a clear front to the development of humanity. Loss of peace-building also entails the creation of poverty, political differences and societal insecurity which decrees the topic's importance to the UNDP.

Presently, clear violations of article 16 exist in countries that are promoting violence by causing political, social and economic differences and enforcing strictly autocratic values ergo ditching efforts of building peace. A paradigm of the aforementioned is the rise of militant Islamist agendas in Syria and Iraq specifically occurring by the Islamic State terrorist group which is currently rebuilding networks in both countries. Another example is the Iranian backed Hezbollah forces terrorizing middle eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, this group has been utilising extremist attitudes to enforce a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran hence creating a rift between both countries. Furthermore, are the Chinese debt-trap loans which causing poverty in developing South Asian countries by using interest backed loans that are creating a Chinese creditor agenda. More notably, the United States' international political sanction war specifically lead against Turkey and the European Union hence utilising scare tactics for political gain and finally are the international militant displacements in Ukraine caused by Russia for the gain of resources.

## **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

### **European Union**

An ongoing Partnership by the United Nations Development Program and the European Union involves the advancement of fair administration by the recovery of credit commendable and straightforward elections in an offer to avert debasement caused by Brexit. Furthermore encouraging developing nations to grasp democratic qualities and maintain human rights as a vital necessity, partly enforced because of the Agenda of 2030. It likewise incorporates the advancement of fringe control to guarantee security on all finishes, as a method for harmony working between nations. Additionally, helping said nations confront decentralization and nearby administration to guarantee that people can have an impact in their societies and that they have a say in their development

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

N-Peace is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance the WPS movement; women, peace, and security. It supports women's leadership for conflict interference, resolution and peacebuilding, and promotes the implementation of UN Council Resolution (UN-SCR) 13251, and therefore the broader WPS agenda.

N-Peace rests on the belief that if a targeted population amplify measures supported with hyperbolic investments in capability and skills, then they'll be ready to produce institutional and social shifts to prioritize the inclusion and authorization of women and alter the discourse on the role of women in peacebuilding. Rolled out in 2010, N-Peace is highly-active in Asian countries but specifically: Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Afghanistan. Its members represent civil society, government, non-government organizations, academia, UN agencies, and therefore the media. N-Peace is managed by UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub through UNDP Offices within the higher than countries, in partnership with the Institute for comprehensive Security.

## **African Union**

Africa has demonstrated the organization is progressing and ensuring community benefits such as individual stipends all thorough as maintained inside the continent's Union Agenda 2063, Africa's short-and day's end improvement destinations. This censures the customary impression of Social Security subsidizing. In fact, another report on "The State of supplementary benefit in Africa", discharged recently by the global organization Development Program (UNDP) and African Union (AU), as a team with the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The report shows that family financing for social confirmation, by and colossal, outperforms that of headway associates. For instance, between 2013-2015, family responsibilities to exchange move programs impressively misrepresented out Zambia and expanded in Rwanda, Kenya, and the Republic of Ghana. According to the report, high spenders among African countries, everything thought of, submit concerning US\$16,000 yearly per person and yet, despite the fact that residential finance is developing, this must altogether increment. For instance, low spenders submit close to US\$4 yearly per indigent individual and this incorporates the authoritative expenses of running the social assurance programs. The report on these lines concerns development, extension of assessment base through dynamic aggregation, and controlling of unlawful financial stream, as bound methodologies for raising state limit with relation to finance social facilitate with Africa. Which indicates a need for an increase of government spending towards social welfare to ensure optimal conditions for peace-building.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can unions tackle their individual conundrums by the efforts of unionizing their efforts?
- Why is peace-building integral to the global economy?
- Should Developed Nations encourage countries following an autocratic organizational model to consider more democratic efforts such as elections in favour of the right to rule? Why or why not?
- Is Agenda number 16 in the United Nations Development Program's Agenda of 2030 ineffective in encouraging peace-building?
- Is the encouraging of women's rights (a common theme in peace building) provocative to the Middle East? How can you encourage the Arab league to be more inclusive?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

Anything from the United Nations or trusted sources is deemed worthy and good research, focus on these aspects

- a) integrating piece-building with world counties and
- b) encouraging countries into these

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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020



# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**

**Abdullah Malek**

**Noon Khair**

**Fareha Khan**

**Tala Otaibi**

Dear delegates!

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you all to the 2020 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN). As chairs for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), we look forward to meeting you all and hearing your ideas and resolutions for solving international conflicts and promoting what this committee stands for: protecting refugees, displaced communities and stateless people, along with assisting in their local integration and resettlement. The United Nations (UN) was founded upon the cooperation of its 193-member states, despite differing interests and personal concerns.

The UNHCR was established in 1950, during the aftermath of World War II. The committee collaborates with several programs and agencies to ensure resettlement of refugees and increase public awareness of the issues faced by refugees across the globe. Several challenges hinder its work such as the recent sharp rise in the numbers of refugees and increased inter-state tensions. The UNHCR recognizes the necessity of global cooperation to solve refugee crises and aims to bring countries to ensure better conditions for refugees around the world.

We hope to further continue the vision of AUSMUN to inspire the youth and ensure that each delegate has an equal chance to express themselves within and out of the committee rooms. Whether you are an MUN veteran or simply a newcomer, we hope you have a great and memorable experience with AUSMUN 2020. Should you have any concerns or enquiries, please do not hesitate to reach us on the contact email below.

Sincerely,  
UNHCR Chairs (UNHCRAUSMUN2020@gmail.com)



**UNHCR**

**The United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees**

# Topic I

## Addressing Issues at Detention Facilities and Improving the Conditions

### 1. Summary & History

Simply put, a detention facility is a facility where people are detained and kept in custody. Immigrant detention centers are, as the name implies, facilities that detain non-citizens for a time period that lasts until they can be deported or until their case is assessed (Flynn, 2011). The scale under which immigrants are detained, a pattern we find mostly in developed nations, has grown enormously in the last few decades (Wilsher, 2011). In history, a foreigner was free to move across borders as he/she pleased, except in the cases of war. However, since new forms of economic independence began to rise in the end of the nineteenth century, freedom of movement began to become more restricted (Wilsher, 2011). Since then, the freedom of movement of foreigners began to be seen as a threat.

The detention of immigrants is assessed using varying levels of analysis. It is assessed on an international level in order to outline state obligations. Secondly, it is assessed on a state level in order to study state policies and law. Lastly, it is assessed on an individual level in order to study individual detainee cases (Flynn, 2011). Detention centers serve as a means to carry out and implement state detention policies. Therefore, the assessment of detention centers is a crucial way to evaluate state policies set for immigrants. Unfortunately, many cases of abuse and mistreatment are reported inside these facilities by human rights agencies. The agencies have to focus on assessing the conditions at the detention facilities and assessing whether they are appropriate enough to live in (Flynn, 2011). Considering there are many types of facilities, we are able to tell a lot about how states perceive immigrants depending on what type of facility they detain and place them in. The three main categories of facilities include: criminal, administrative, and ad hoc (Flynn, 2011). Unfortunately, many countries like the United States and Canada hold immigrants in prison-like criminal facilities alongside convicted criminals. Suspicious immigrants are meant to be held in administrative facilities that are used specifically to detain people charged on non-criminal grounds (Flynn, 2011). In the United States, hundreds of people have died in the immigration detention under ICE (Wong, 2015).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

According to UNHCR, cooperation among Member States, and between states and other actors, is a core principle for capacity building, under which improving employment opportunities exists, and a principle on which UNHCR relies upon in order to fulfill its mandate ("Capacity Building - UNHCR Rwanda", 2015). Collaboration between international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Member States, the private sector, and regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) is a key pillar in improving employment opportunities for refugees and IDPs (United Nations).

Access to employment opportunities may be prohibited or limited by existing legal frameworks, and refugees who manage to attain work do so, in many instances, through the informal economy – the main unregulated labor-sector in many refugee-impacted countries (UNHCR). According to the ILO's 2016 report titled *The Access of Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labour Market*, a minority of the 17.4 million registered asylum seekers and recognized

refugees manage to attain employment in the formal economy (UNHCR).

According to UNHCR's Education Field Guidelines, completion of the full cycle of education increases the likelihood of sustainable livelihoods for refugees and IDPs, while promoting safer refugee communities and self-reliance (United Nations, "Education Field Guidelines"). However, refugees still face limited access to schooling, as many are unable to complete the full cycle of education (Dryden-Peterson). Furthermore, the enrollment rates for refugee children, globally, remain low, at an estimated 63%, with the global enrollment rate for children at 91% (United Nations, "Stepping up: Refugee education in crisis - 2019 Report").

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The detention of refugees, also known as asylum-seekers, has occurred in a set number of countries, which affects the lives of many individuals drastically (United Nations, 2014). The UNHCR is concerned about the growing number of the detention of immigrants, specially of children. In June 2014, the UNHCR issued the "Global Strategy — Beyond Detention 2014-2019", a set of policies designed to assist the governments in decreasing the act of detaining refugees by supporting them in implementing alternatives and protecting children. The Global Strategy revolves around working with 12 countries alongside their governments, as mentioned, in addition to national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other countries. These countries are: Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia. In December 2016, the UNHCR announced the addition of eight more countries: Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Japan, Macedonia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This brings the total count of the countries to 20 indicating the success of the 5-year plan. Each focus country is involved in developing a national action plan, researching and reporting on detention, strengthening partnerships in addition to endorsing and raising awareness through the implementation of programs and activities (United Nations, 2018). Two progress reports were published throughout the duration of the strategy. Despite the strategy including 20 focus countries, only 12 countries provided detailed updates about the changes occurred due to their implementations. In January 2017, the position of the UNHCR was published. It discussed the 2012 Detention Guidelines which states that refugee children should be detained despite their migratory statues or that of their guardians.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How can the prevention of detaining refugee, especially children, be implemented?
- How is it insured that the guidelines are being followed by all countries working alongside the UNHCR?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Developments or degradation of the detention camp situation
- Detention based on religion
- Impact on children, families, and global development

# Topic II

## Lack and Importance of Economic Inclusion of Refugees

### 1. Summary & History

As the Cold War continued to intensify, refugee influxes moved from the east to the west. Due to this sudden influx, the UNHCR developed with the purpose of accommodating these refugees and helping them resettle in the host countries (Loescher, 2017). When refugees began to expand beyond Europe and into Africa and Asia, it became very clear that large attention must be devoted to the resettlement of refugees (Loescher, 2017). Those who seek refuge in other countries do so with the sole purpose of improving their living conditions. Normally, refugees vary in their ethnic backgrounds and nationalities. Despite the variance, they all share a common desire to rebuild the parts of their lives that they lost back home (Smith, 1966). Refugees always face an issue with being integrated in their host countries, especially when there seems to be tension building up between them and the locals. In the example of the Syrian refugee crisis, host countries in the Levant made accusations against the refugees saying that they had taken their jobs away from them (Ferris & Kirişci, 2016). Moreover, local citizens were quite furious at the fact that the refugees were not obliged to pay taxes and still had access to public services like health care and schooling (Ferris & Kirişci, 2016). Definitely, this type of problem causes an additional burden to a host government's economy and there must be a solution found. Governments may sometimes prioritize helping refugees make their own money and self-fund in order to avoid the dependency of the refugees on funds from the governments and international assistance. Labor market integration is a strong indicator to the success of refugee integration overall (UNHCR).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

It is recorded that the United States has the largest detention regime in the world with 40,000 people detained per day ("Detention Timeline"). As per recent reports, conditions in which migrants and refugees are being held in the United States are appalling and violate the laws of UNHCR such as the international law against detaining migrant children. (Johnson, 2019). High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet stated in her interview that, "children are forced to sleep on the floor in overcrowded facilities, without access to adequate healthcare or food, and with poor sanitation conditions." (Johnson, 2019).

According to UNHCR, immigration detention is never in the best interests of a child, even for a short period of time. Putting children in detention centers can have lasting effects on their mental health and growth. It is suggested from a study conducted by psychologist Charles Nelson that children who stay in detention centers suffer from learning disorders and often have limited memory storing capacity (Santhanam, 2019). Their cognitive functions such as interaction and dealing with emotions may not work as well as children who are raised in a caring home (Santhanam, 2019).

The United States has the world's highest rate of children in detention followed by countries such as Bolivia, Botswana and Sri Lanka (Reuters, 2019). Expert Manfred Nowak stated that worldwide more than 7 million people under age 18 are held in jails and police custody, including 330,000 in immigration detention centers (Reuters, 2019).

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

After being forced fleeing their country due to several conditions, refugees seek to rebuild their lives from the start. The UNHCR promotes improving the livelihoods (securing the basic needs for life such as food, water, shelter, etc.) through economic inclusions. Economic inclusion is the equal ability of all the members of the society to take part in the economy of the country and retaining the benefits of their participation. In 2014, The UNHCR published "Global Strategy for Livelihoods (2014-2018)". The objectives of this strategy include "promoting the right to work and the right to development, enabling people to preserve and protect their productive assets as well as meet their immediate consumption needs, developing and expand proven and innovative ways of supporting people's economic self-reliance and Improve planning, learning and practice on successful approaches to livelihoods development and their impact on self-reliance." (United Nations, 2014). The interventions done by the UNHCR include entrepreneurial and vocational training, providing access to financial services in addition to agricultural interventions. In 2019, The UNHCR worked alongside WFP to develop a five-year strategy under the name of "Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Strategy 2019 – 2024)". This strategy concept note discusses the importance of economic inclusion for refugees, possible solutions that could be implemented such as the livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees' programs in addition to the various sectors, agencies and institutions partnering with the UNHCR for the economic inclusion of refugees (United Nations, 2019).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What is the correlation between livelihood, economic inclusion, and self-reliance?
- What are further interventions that can be made by the UNHCR in order to insure the livelihoods of refugees?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- Money lost in maintaining detention centers
- Alternative investments for refugees that can streamline economic growth



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# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Shamma Abdalla**

**Shohrat Sailab**

**Muhammad Habib**

**Fatima Almheiri**

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the 2020 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN2020). As chairs of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), we look forward to hearing the new ideas you would bring to the table on solutions for solving international issues regarding our committee, as well as hearing your intense debates and resolutions.

The UN charter states four main objectives for the existence, which are to maintain international peace and security, develop relations among nations, foster cooperation between nations in order to solve international problems, and to provide a forum for bringing countries together to meet UN's purposes and goals. Therefore, proper communication and acting in a diplomatic manner is important to maintain the flow of the committee.

UNPFII consists of sixteen members; eight of the sixteen members are to be nominated by the government and elected by the council, whereas the other eight are to be appointed by the president of the council after formal consultation with the Bureau, who is someone that proposes the agenda and organizes the session. The goal of this committee is to solve worldwide issues regarding indigenous issues, mostly in third world countries.

Throughout the course of 13 years, AUSMUN has been inspiring the youth into solving international conflicts and strives to improve the experience for new coming or previous delegates that are looking forward to joining us. We hope you all have a memorable and fruitful experience with AUSMUN 2020.

For any inquiries or concerns about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us through the following email: [UNPFII2020@gmail.com](mailto:UNPFII2020@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
The UNPFII Chairs



**UNFPII**

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**



# Topic I

## Protection of Indigenous Reserves/Homes

### 1. Summary & History

One of the most necessary components for human dignity is having a secure place to reside in. This enables the preservation and enhancement of physical and mental health thus assisting in development. Indigenous people oversee immensely biologically diverse territories in the world. Indigenous people protect eighty percent of the world's remaining biodiversity while they only inhabit 1/4 of the world's surface. Further, housing insecurity has been recognized as one of the most tenacious issues impacting Indigenous women. The right to adequate housing has been recognized in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and more. Indigenous peoples are losing their land to reasons such as conflict, natural disasters, infrastructure plans, and private investment projects. This loss carries grave consequences, such as the loss of livelihood and culture. These lands are not only crucial for indigenous people, but are also protected under international human rights law ("United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues", n.d.). The United Nations during the course of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People facilitated important steps towards tackling the disadvantages of indigenous peoples, including their living conditions. The collaboration between UNHABITAT and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is a part of the effort of collaborations that incorporate indigenous welfares and rights into United Nations programs. United Nations Housing Rights Programme Report No. 7 outlines indigenous peoples' right to adequate housing. This report is aimed at identifying indigenous peoples right to adequate housing and to distinguish possible strategies that could aid in the realization of this right ("Right to Adequate Housing," 2005).

Following these efforts by the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, in the year of 2007, Resolution 61/295 or the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, passed in the General Assembly. This resolution aims to secure Indigenous Peoples' rights. Especially relevant to the topic of protecting indigenous lands is Article 10 in the declaration. The article reads: "Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return." Further, the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples was published by the United Nations in 2009 has been a collaborative effort in which a number of experts and organizations have participated in highlighting some major issues indigenous peoples face and act as a tool for the solidification of states cooperation and partnerships with indigenous peoples ("United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues", n.d.).

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

All around the world, there are conflicts between governments and indigenous people regarding land. The conflict is between the fact that most indigenous people live on traditional terrain, and the state tends to use the land for other purposes. Ingenious people are often looked like a block in the way of a better use for the land. The government wants to use the land for many reasons,

such as natural reserves, commercial use and more. Governments may portray indigenous people as “backwards” and “uncultured” and “uneducated”. In addition to that, many states and governments look at indigenous people as an embarrassment to the current lifestyle because of their way of living. This results in a bias against indigenous people. Which results in, the people siding with the government when it comes to using the land that ingenious people live in. Even though indigenous people are looked upon as a block to modern development, their traditional knowledge and culture should also be seen as an asset. It is widely believed that humans should preserve a wide range of cultural diversity and protection of indigenous people’s houses and land promotes that. Recently, there has been a rise in the rights of indigenous people and their ancestral lands. According to the state, it is the governments land because no one owns it but according to the natives, it’s their land because they occupied it generations ago.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The first time the issue of states versus indigenous people was introduced was back in 1925. In a League of Nations meeting, a leader from a New Zealand tribe travelled to Geneva to speak about his rights and his people’s rights to live under their own law and land. He did arrive in Geneva, but he was not allowed to speak. Later in 1982, the UN introduced the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP). This UN sub-body allowed the indigenous to speak about their problems to the UN. After that, in 1993, through resolution A/RES/47/75 the UN claimed 1993 as “The International Year of the World’s Indigenous People”. This served as an opportunity for the UN to raise awareness about the indigenous and promote a better relationship between states and natives. A few years later, in 1994, the UN adopted resolution A/RES/48/163 which allowed the UN to further promote the protection of the rights of indigenous people. In 2000, the UN introduced the “Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue” (UNPFII) to solve and discuss all problems related to Indigenous people. Since then, the committee has met on eighteen different occasions with the latest meeting being in 2019. On September 13, 2007, the General Assembly adopted the “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People”. This declaration is the most detailed statement of the rights of the indigenous people ever developed. Finally, the UNPFII discussed the theme “Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources” in April 2018. The meeting lasted a week but no resolution was adopted, because they occupied it generations ago. However, the land they use is not “legally” theirs, but on the other hand, their families have been living there for generations.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How can international governments secure funds to help preserve indigenous colonies and communities?
- Will there be a rise in taxes? If so, how will this impact tax-paying citizens?
- What security measures and special rights could be implemented to ensure the protection of indigenous communities?
- To what extent should the government have access to indigenous communities’ lands? When should a line be drawn?
- How can you advance legal, administrative and programmatic reforms at the domestic level, and in the area of international cooperation, to implement the standards of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Inclusion of indigenous people in natural resource extraction projects
- International organizations and indigenous people
- Land rights and claims for indigenous people.

# Topic II

## Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Indigenous Children in Global Society

### 1. Summary & History

Indigenous children are children who are native to an area, and are most likely considered a minority. These indigenous children and youth do not have access to the same privileges and opportunities that other, non-indigenous children, do around the world. In fact, they face many hardships and unfortunate situations. Overall, indigenous people make up 15% of the world's poor; this accounts to 370 million people of the world's population. They are scattered across 90 countries and divided into 5000 different groups (Pais, 2003). Indigenous people and children are mostly inhabitants in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The issues they face as indigenous people include injustice in economic and social development and having absolutely no human rights, which leads to the increase in violence, discrimination, suicide, and incarnation. This also leads to a loss of culture due to having no lands and territory rights, along with displacing indigenous people because of dam and mining activities. Also, having no access to education due to extreme poverty and a lack of resources results in living in extremely poor conditions caused poor levels of health such as high rates of HIV, diabetes, and mental health ("UNPFII", n.d). In addition, indigenous children face high mortality rates, low birth-weight, behavioral and emotional disorders (Wise, 2013). In addition to sexual harassment, assault, exploitation, and trafficking of indigenous young girls (Pais, 2003). The indigenous people or communities are those that have a chronicled coherence with pre-colonial social orders which developed on their lands with total disregard to the indigenous community. Around 70 % reside in Asia; several Asian governments argue that the term "indigenous" does not apply to their respective nation, due to the majority of the population living on their land unlike the people in western countries. The second largest population of indigenous groups are located in Latin America with an estimate of 40 to 50 million people. With a plethora of autochthonous nation, the crimes against them have been insufferable and inhumane. With cultures threatened with extinction, languages disappearing and physical violence against the specified group, the UN has established various articles such as article 14 that states " Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures". Even though there are laws created to serve the indigenous people, the youth has been vastly affected and targeted of discrimination in various countries.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

On a global standard, systematic discrimination and injustice towards the indigenous children has been distinguished as a massive issue that must be tackled as soon as possible. Some of these injustices include the continuation of historic injustice and illiteracy due to the high rate of poverty, lack of medical treatment and lack of culturally appropriate education in their native tongue. In order to eradicate such nugatory predicaments, the UN Declaration of the indigenous People (UNDRIP) preserves the rights of the indigenous children and youth by forming article 21 and 22, which stress on the importance of particular attention to indigenous children and improving the economic and social conditions of their living. Furthermore, The declaration urges the governments to provide the right to live in freedom and peace, right to education without discrimination ( Article 14.2) and the right to be protected from violence and any or all

sort of discrimination (Article 22.2). Article 15 plights about the equality of the indigenous children and protecting their right to control or establish their own way of living and communicating with different communities outside their own. With such profound understanding of diversity and acceptance, the indigenous youth has so much to contribute to the world and must be preserved at all costs.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (IO) ACTIONS AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

As of 1946, when UNICEF was formed, the United Nations has recognized alerting issues that children face around the world. Countless of international organizations have been working on providing indigenous children with better opportunities. UNICEF, along with UNFPA, WHO, and PAHO, are trying to improve health conditions for women during childbirth, along with improving the quality of maternal and child care and assistance in implementing the “National Strategy to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy”. This helped develop a protocol with local forces to stop violence against indigenous children. Moreover, when more indigenous representatives started to participate in WGPI’s movements, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was created. However, despite all the efforts done by the UN into improving living conditions and providing better opportunities for indigenous children, the issue is very much still existent and growing larger (UNICEF, 2017).

In July 2000, when the UN created the UNPFII as an advisory subsidiary of ECOSOC, indigenous children were a massive issue that needed to be focused on and resolved. Since its first session in 2002, UNPFII held 18 sessions, the latest one being held in 2019. UNPFII is responsible to integrate indigenous issues across the UN system with the mandate that deals with issues related to indigenous people such as economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. Under the mandates, UNPFII must align their policies and implement them UNDRIP, provide expert advice, and raise awareness throughout the UN system. In addition to the mandates, indigenous children are a cross cutting issue. It is currently tackling issues like the lack of culturally appropriate education, Illiteracy and drop-out rates, discrimination, forced relocation and loss of land, environmental pollution, unemployment, incarceration and lack of legal protection, armed conflict, massive migration towards the cities, traffic and sexual exploitation, lack of healthcare services, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, suicide and self-harm (UNPFII, n.d).

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can the UNPFII provide indigenous children with equal opportunities and better living conditions like non-indigenous children?
- How should economically stable countries aid with issues related to indigenous children?
- What new mission should the UNPFII create to improve the lives of indigenous children on a global scale?
- How can nations preserve the indigenous youth’s rights?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

- GESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH
- United Nations recent actions towards helping indigenous children.
- The situation of the world’s indigenous children and youth
- Countries aiding indigenous people
- Recommendations on indigenous youth contribution to society

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