MUN
GA1 BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Nariman Elewa

Hind Al Halyan

Aisha Almaazmi

Sakina Juzar

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2021!

It is our honour to welcome you to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (GA-1). This committee, also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), is the primary panel for the consideration of matters of global security within the United Nations. Formed in 1945, it also serves in an advisory capacity to the UN Security Council. GA-1 is also able to make recommendations for resolutions on matters of peace and security as well as budgets and their use.

The 193 member states meet every year in October to discuss matters of importance that generally fall into 2 categories. Firstly, matters pertaining to weapons, such as nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and other conventional weapons. And secondly, matters that fall under disarmament such as regional disarmament and security, disarmament machinery, space militarization, and other disarmament measures.

This background guide serves as the first step of your research before the conference. We are looking forward to meeting all of you in February. If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at GA1.AUSMUN2021@gmail.com. Please, also send your position papers to this email.

WARMEST REGARDS,
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
NARIMAN, HIND, HUZAIFA

Summary and History of issue

This topic brings forth the discussion on the treaties and policies related to nuclear weapons and how significant is the issue of stockpiling and testing of such weapons. A nuclear weapon is an explosive device that uses the energy released by the splitting of atoms to cause a powerful blast. The vehicle that is able to deliver a nuclear attack is also referred to as a nuclear weapon such as an aircraft or mobile ground launch vehicles. The explosive device becomes deadlier by the use of an Intercontinental-ballistic missile (ICBM), which is a rocket capable of carrying a warhead at least 5,500km with the longest ranging ICBM reaching 16,000km, capable of delivering the warhead almost anywhere in the world (Cheng & Mosher, 2020).

Apart from direct destruction to life and property, the radioactive fallout from testing and use of these weapons harms life and Earth's climate. Therefore, testing and stockpiling these weapons are a threat to virtually every country in the world. As a country develops this weapon, it conducts tests and later accumulates large quantities as the production continues, this is known as stockpiling. The possession of nuclear weapons, testing, and stockpiling has worried the international community and thus certain treaties have been enacted.

The following timeline highlights the major events regarding the issue.

Timeline

Year	Event
1945	First nuclear test by the USA on 16th July
	Nuclear bombs dropped on Japan
1949	First nuclear test by the USSR
1952	First nuclear test by the UK
1959	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to encourage nuclear power research and its safe use
1960	France tests first atomic bomb
1961	USA and USSR developed ICBMs and Nuclear submarines
	USSR test Tsar Bomba- most powerful nuclear test conducted so far
1964	China tests its first nuclear bomb
1968	Via the UN, the US and USSR propose the NPT- the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons
1969	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Latin American which is South American and countries until and including Mexico to become first populated region free of Nuclear Weapons
1972	US and USSR agree to limit the production of Nuclear weapons
1996	CTBT-Comprehensive Test ban treaty introduced
1998	India and Pakistan conduct series of nuclear tests
2006	NK after withdrawing from NPT conducts its first nuclear test
2017	9 countries with 16,000 nuclear bombs
	TPNW- Treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons voted by 122 countries

(Pfeiffer, 2020)

Discourse on the issue

There are multiple treaties that prohibit the testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) focuses on the disarmament of existing warheads and forbids the manufacture of more nuclear weapons. There are approximately 13,000 nuclear warheads stockpiled between several countries as of early 2020, with Russia in the lead with 4,000 warheads,

followed by the US which possesses 3,800 warheads. India and Pakistan, both being non-signatories of the NPT, have almost 300 combined (FAS, 2020). France and the United Kingdom have made efforts to reduce their stockpile, now standing at some 200 warheads (The French, 2008). China is the only nuclear-weapon state that seems to be increasing its stockpile, standing at 260 warheads as of 2015 (Kile & Kristensen, 2017). The global stockpile poses a threat to global security due to the threats of misuse or accidental detonation. There is also the threat of intentional detonation, which may provoke a global nuclear war.

Moreover, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which has been signed by 182 countries, forbids the testing of nuclear weapons. The last confirmed report of a weapons test was in 2017 when North Korea announced that it had successfully detonated a nuclear device underground (BBC, 2017). The testing of nuclear weapons has a long term effect on the environment and global security. The National Resources Defense Council estimates that the yield of atmospheric tests alone equals 428 Megatons, which is equivalent to over 29,000 Hiroshima-size bombs. The environmental effects are dependent upon the site of detonation, the type of weapon and its size. With the detonation of a nuclear warhead, radionuclides (atoms that emit radiation as they undergo radioactive decay) are dispersed into the atmosphere and the earth. As these are tested at designated sites, the threat to humans is usually due to the radiation (Report, n.d.). Nuclear testing is also detrimental to global peace and security as it may incite other nuclear states to step up their nuclear programs, further breaking treaties and increasing the threat to peace.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The United Nations has attempted to resolve the issue of stockpiling and testing of nuclear weapons. In 1968, a "Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty" (NPT) was signed, and so far it is the international security agreement that is most widely used (NTI, n.d.). This treaty forbids non-nuclear-weapon states from producing nuclear weapons. However, five countries were exempt from the NPT in exchange for the

five nuclear-weapon-states to fully and completely disarm- these countries are France, the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States (NTI, n.d.). India, Israel, and Pakistan still possess nuclear weapons, and never joined the NPT (NTI, n.d.). In 1995, the UN held a conference to review the NPT, where state parties agreed to extend the treaty, as well as include a "Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty" (CTBT) which prohibits the production of material that is fissile and for "progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally." It also included the Middle East resolution, which called for all Middle East states to adhere to the NPT, and for actions to be taken in order to achieve a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (Resolution, 1995).

On July 7, 2017, the UN held a conference where they adopted the "Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty" (United Nations, n.d.). Although none of the states that possessed nuclear weapons signed this treaty, it's passage is a step in the right direction. Non-Governmental Organizations also had an active role. Amnesty International has released statements opposing the stockpiling and testing of nuclear weapons and has been monitoring the implementation of the treaty (Amnesty, n.d.), while the Red Cross and the Human Rights Watch have also been advocating for the prohibition of nuclear weapons and raising awareness on the humanitarian consequences of them (Red Cross, n.d.).

Questions and suggestions for further research

- How to determine that treaty guidelines on the banning of testing are being followed?
- What can be done about the effects of past nuclear tests?
- Is there a way to involve all countries in the treaties?
- How can we move forward with the efforts to decrease global nuclear weapon stockpiles?
- Roles of NGOs.
- The Iranian nuclear deal and its effects.
- The role of China, Russia, Pakistan and India in the stockpiling efforts.
- The potential responses to nuclear tests and threats.
- The economic effect of stockpiling efforts.

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    prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.
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Summary and History of issue

In this digital era, most countries are almost completely reliant on connectivity and digital data transmission for its operations. Similarly, several military operations and defense systems are monitored by satellites. Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities as well as precision-guided munitions are dependent on the digital assets in space. Satellites and other space assets play a critical role in defence capabilities and monitoring war zones, thus it is crucial to protect these assets from foreign attacks. These assets are placed in the orbit of Earth, and those that are for surveillance and communications are specially placed in the geosynchronous orbit. Geosynchronous orbit is a high Earth orbit, 35,786km above the equator, and certain satellites are placed here to be able to match the Earth's rotation speed and better serve their purpose (Marino, 2020).

Russia and China are developing anti-satellite weapons and this challenges the safety of satellites that play a significant role in the defense system of a country, alarming the United States of America in particular due to its rivalry with the two aforementioned states. Governments of Britain, Japan and Australia have voiced their concerns over China shooting down an aging satellite in low Earth orbit using a medium-range ballistic missile (Kestenbaum, 2007). This demonstration was alarming as it showed the high precision of a missile in space and what it is capable of. Due to the ambiguity in the technology of its rivals, the US, Russia and China are developing themselves to fight off foreign aggression in space and are thus shifting towards a space arms race which could involve arming the space assets.

The following timeline explains how the Idea of space warfare dates back to the beginning of space age.

Timeline

Year	Event
1958	Launch of explorer 1 by the US
	American and Soviet engineers worked on weapons that could defeat satellites
1959	US-first anti-satellite test
	Launch a missile from a bomber aircraft onto a defunct satellite
2002	US Space command de-established
2006	President Bush authorized a new national space policy, superseding the National Space Policy of September 14, 1996
2007	China anti-satellite test, shoots down its aging satellite
	Other nations started developing and launching ASAT (anti-satellite) weapons
2008	Allar Commission delivered to the congress- mentioned the need for undersecretary of Defense for Space and to have someone responsible for training of space experts
2015	The Chinese and Russians develop a space service
	Chinese created the PLA Strategic Support Force
2019	Trump administration proposed the idea of Space Force as separate service under the department of Air Force
	20th December- US Space force founded

(Marino, 2020)

Discourse on the issue

After the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union, the space race, and underlying arms race, became of vital importance due to its implications on global security. The cooperation of various United Nations committees and its member states has produced resolutions and treaties on the issue, the most notable of which is the Outer Space Treaty. Among other things, the treaty prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in outer space but lists no prohibitions on other space weaponry.

The main obstacle to establishing a comprehensive treaty on space

militarisation and weaponization specifically is the difficulty in defining a space weapon. A space weapon can be considered to be any object that is able to inflict damage on celestial bodies, satellites, or missiles traveling through space. As of yet, there are no weapons currently in space that fit these parameters (UNOOSA, 2019).

The United States has been a staunch opposer of treaties on space militarisation and warfare and the proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) citing the fact that without a clear definition of a space weapon, no treaty can be proposed and ratified. The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have been actively involved in the space race discussion. Both countries have put forth several working drafts of PAROS to advance the debate. In 2008, China and Russia submitted a draft treaty entitled Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) which reinforces the idea of keeping outer space weapons-free (FAS, 2008). The US opposed this treaty due to the conference over its sovereignty and security, despite that the treaty reiterated a state's right of self-defense.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The United Nations has attempted to resolve the issue of militarization of outer space and the possibility of a space arms race. In 1959, the United Nations' General Assembly initiated the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), where they studied the legal problems linked with the exploration of celestial bodies, and encouraged research on the matter (Proposed Prevention, 2020). Almost a decade later, in 1967, the United Nations General Assembly signed an Outer Space Treaty which detailed the terms for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space which includes the moon and other celestial bodies (Treaty, n.d.). The treaty mentions that outer space is free to be explored by any state and that it is not subject to occupation or claim of sovereignty (Treaty, n.d.). It also mentions that "states shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner" (Treaty, n.d.);

however, the treaty did not signify that any and all weapons have to be absent from space, which in turn leaves a gap for non-nuclear weapons to orbit. Furthermore, the United Nations passed resolution 66/27 in 2011 on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) which reconfirmed the fundamental principles stated in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, and also advocated for the ban of weaponization in space (Proposed Prevention, 2020). The United States was the only country that voted against the resolution. Non-Governmental Organizations have not commented on this issue yet.

Questions and suggestions for further research

- What constitutes a space weapon?
- Should all countries be free to launch satellites for surveillance and military purposes without strict regulation?
- Is there a possibility that the US will sign the treaties it has previously opposed if its rivals successfully develop anti-satellite weapons before the US?
- How are other countries affected by the possibility of a space arms race between the US, China and Russia?
- Role of NGOs.
- Countries that have a space program and can possibly militarize their space assets.
- Effect on existing cooperation and ties between countries if space warfare takes place.
- Space debris, its effects and how space militarization could affect the general public.

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GA2 BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

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Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Pavithra Ramaprasad

Ibrahim Jamil

Dara Varam

Ali Soufi

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

It brings us immense joy to greet you all and welcome you (even if virtually) to The Economic and Financial Committee or GA-2. We are excited to see some fiery debates, fruitful discussions and strong resolutions!

We recommend that you start your research early. Use this background guide as a starting point, and then dive in deeper to solidify your points and discussions. We also recommend reading the Delegate Handbook thoroughly to get yourself familiar with the rules and regulations.

As chairs of this committee, we are here not only to ensure that committee sessions are conducted smoothly, but also to ensure that all of you take back key lessons, future skills, and fond memories. Feel free to reach out to us at g00074830@aus.edu for any questions or information. We wish you the best of luck for the conference and look forward to seeing you!

AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDES
PAVITHRA RAMAPRASAD, IBRAHIM JAMIL,
DARA VARAM, ALI SOUFI

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Financial Committee also known as GA-2 is one of the six Main Committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It deals with global finance and economic issues and is the principal committee for addressing development and economic policy, including international trade, sustainable development, globalization, and the eradication of poverty. The Committee comprises all 193 nations of the UN each having a single vote. It often seeks to highlight or harmonize the work of the UN with other international development bodies, including the World Trade Organization and international financial institutions.

At AUSMUN 2021, GA-2 would be discussing two topics

1. *Disproportionate Economic Impacts of Climate Change on the Developing States*
2. *Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 on Small-Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Businesses.*

GA-2 is working towards serving as a vital mechanism in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Additionally, in line with the adopted SDGs, the Committee has sought to foster innovative ideas by attempting to combine sustainable growth with meeting development targets.

Summary and History of issue

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed disproportionate impact. Climate change has left a bigger impact on many vulnerable developing countries due to the inability to cope with its adverse effects. As a result, it is one of the greatest threats facing humanity today. It affects every country and has a catastrophic effect on both communities and individuals.

Developing countries are the most at risk as they are least able to afford its consequences due to a lack of ability to respond to the impacts of climate change faster. Climate change has the potential to set-back all the development gains made by these developing countries. According to International.gc (2020), in March 2015, the UN member states agreed to implement the 2030 Agenda and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Climate Action SDG Goal 13 highlights on calling on the international community to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts shows how diverse the impacts of climate change has been. To achieve this SDG 13, all countries worldwide need to make an effort to increase their efforts and investments on climate change (para 6). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone. The direct damage costs to health is estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion per year by 2030" (para 2).

There are many human factors directly affecting climate change which includes "emissions of greenhouse gases". The Paris agreement on climate change is potentially an important agreement signed to help resolve the impact of climate change. The World Bank estimated that the effects of climate change could push an additional 100 million people below the poverty line by 2030. The extreme weather in the different countries has resulted in $520 million loss in the annual consumption loss and is pushing 26 million people to go below the poverty line each year. In addition, major commercial ports worldwide that include Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai are facing the threat of being submerged by the ever rising sea levels. By this year, at least 300 million people who are living closer to the coastal areas will be threatened by the dangerous flooding. According to USGLC (2020) "A study by Stanford University also proves that climate change has increased the inequality between developed and developing countries by 25% since 1960" (Para 7). The dependence on vulnerable economic sectors like agriculture plays an important role in why climate change will have a more significant impact on the developing countries.

Discourse on the issue

Although international collaborations on climate change mitigation will involve multilateral policy resolutions, the common ground resides that climate is undoubtedly an existential threat to the human race. The escalation in both natural and synthetic disasters, as well as the rise in disputes over natural resource ownership affects primarily the least developed countries, especially the vulnerable populations being the women and children.

With the continual rise in global emissions and temperatures, scientists predict the earth's temperature to increase by a global average between 2-4 degrees Celsius by 2050. This results in the segregation of land experiencing continual drought to increase from approximately 8% to an astonishing 10% ("Effects of Climate Change", 2019). The severity in the implications due to climate change has resulted in an inequitable

benefit in some regions, as the majority of developing countries are greatly impacted in contrast to others. For instance, regions in Africa often experience extreme drought conditions, in contrast to regions in the South East as they suffer from continuous hurricanes, typhoons, and flash floods.

Climate change has been recognized as one of key components in enforcing migration. The desertification in the Western-side of Africa has contributed towards the spread of influence and enlistment towards terrorist-based organizations, such as Al Qaeda and Boko Haram (climate change, Migration, and conflict in northwestern Africa). With the continual rise towards scarcity in natural resources and basic essentials such as food and water due to the climate change, approximately more than 140 million civilians will be forcefully displaced by 2050 according to the World Bank (Riguad et.al, 2018).

The availability and supply of fundamental sources such as water is an important driver towards food production. The implications of climate change will inhibit environments resided in arid, as well as semi-arid regions to experience precipitation levels, leading to desertification and continual land degradation. According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, it is predicted that around 250 million are impacted directly due to desertification and an estimated 1 billion individuals present in over 100 countries are currently at risk (Climate Change, 2020).

As the earth continues to experience global warming, the vulnerability towards the people at risk will be exposed to infectious diseases and will increase to as many as 1 billion. Between the years of 2030-2050, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated around 250,000 people will be exposed towards lethal diseases such as malaria, if the global temperatures continue to rise ("Climate Change and Health", 2018). Stakeholders consisting of private and multinational corporations, NGOs, as well as institutions such as the UN and World Bank are concentrated towards combating climate change being heavily impacted in developing nations.

Stakeholders and institutions such as The Green Climate Fund, CARE, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and many more are collaborating with national governments towards developing resilient and sustainable communities (Climate Change, 2020).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The Second committee (GA-2) has discussed and debated this issue previously. At the 2019 session, the representatives of Bangladesh, Liberia, Yemen, Guatemala, Maldives, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, Mexico, Ghana, Albania, Turkey, Bolivia, Georgia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Armenia, Egypt, Kuwait, Uruguay, Venezuela, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Libya, Iraq, Peru, Chile, Togo, Ecuador, Bahrain, Ireland, Nepal, Haiti, Myanmar, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Serbia, India, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Timor Leste, Cameroon and El Salvador spoke and all of them had a common stance that the pace of Agenda 2030 had to be accelerated. Most of these countries also aligned with "Group of 77" and stated that the underdeveloped and developing countries were facing the brunt of climate change and needed partnerships for financial, technological and other sources of assistance. Nations are taking steps but there is no big effect or change seen yet.

At this session, Botswana's delegate stated that their Government is developing a climate policy and strategy and reducing greenhouse emissions 15 per cent by 2030. Ethiopia's delegate said his Government has kickstarted a "40 Trees Per Head for New Ethiopia" project, which has resulted in 4 billion trees being planted within 18 months, including over 350 million in a single day ("Second Committee Concludes General Debate", 2020).

NGOs such as Oxfam and CARE international have also been actively involved with climate change. Oxfam has the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) as well as the Philippines resilience program that work towards disaster management, capacity development, and supporting research.

Care International works towards Adaptation, Advocacy, Gender, Ecosystems and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition and Resilience for climate change.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. Assessing the relevance of current climate change policies with respect to the current situation of developing nations
2. What are some sources of financial aid that could be efficiently given to developing nations
3. How do we ensure transparency of said financial aid in developing nations?
4. Resources/technology to kickstart the reversal of these impacts
5. Why is this discussion important for each and every country irrespective of the stage of development

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Summary and History of issue

According to OECD (2020),"The coronavirus pandemic is causing large-scale loss of life and severe human suffering globally. It is the largest public health crisis in living memory, which has also generated a major economic crisis, with a halt in production in affected countries, a collapse in consumption and confidence, and stock exchanges responding negatively to heightened uncertainties" (para 1). Forecasts worldwide show an increasingly negative impact of the pandemic on the global GDP growth rates due to the unpredictability of COVID-19 where Small-medium sized enterprises didn't have a contingency plan ahead which affected vital sectors such as the tourism sector immensely due to the travel bans and restrictions. Moreover. consumer spending worldwide on luxury goods and leisure related services like travel, restaurants, and entertainment was reduced which left millions of SMEs to go out of business due to the fall in demand and the ever-rising overhead costs present.

The COVID-19 has resulted in many countries going into recession. According to the Conference board (2020), "One of the categories that experiences the largest decline in a typical recession is consumer spending on goods. The US is now enduring the worst recession in 80 years: while GDP dropped by 11 percent in the first half of 2020." (para.1) The decline in consumption had a negative multiplier effect on all the economies as there was a drop in the aggregate demand impacting many SMEs and businesses as this situation has led to a fall in confidence levels of much large businesses as a result there was a significant fall in the investment which will reduce the circular flow of income in the economy.

SMEs and business have been impacted by both the supply and demand side. On the supply side, companies faced a fall in the supply of labor force as the movements were restricted and due to many vital employees being infected by Covid-19. The lockdowns and quarantines resulted in a severe fall in capacity utilization which resulted in impacting the supply chains leading to a shortage of important parts and intermediate goods.

On the demand side, since there was a sudden loss of demand which severely affected SMEs and other businesses ability to function and caused liquidity shortages. Due to the fall in consumer confidence, it affected many SMEs. This pandemic is affecting both larger and smaller firms. However, the consequence of SMEs is more severe, mainly because of higher levels of vulnerability and lower resilience levels related to their size. With the limited resources of SMEs, and the difficulty in obtaining loans and credit facilities, the period in which the SMEs can survive the shock is constrained compared to MNCs and larger firms.

Discourse on the issue

Small to medium enterprises (SME's) represent a massive majority of the total number of companies operating in today's world. Both in terms of workforce and contribution to GDP, SME's surpass their larger multinational counterparts. With the world currently in conflict with an invisible antagonist being the pandemic, the outbreak of COVID-19 has taken a major toll not only costing the loss of lives and living conditions, but affecting national, as well as global economies.

The pandemic has produced a global economic catastrophe with a negative stock exchange performance as nations are continually proceeding towards temporary lockdowns (OECD, n.d). According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an economic forecast projected between April to June 2020 on the global recession, 6% decrease with a 7.6% in the global average GDP by the

end of 2020 with the rise of the second wave of rising COVID-19 cases. The OECD has also projected the continual depreciation in the average GDP by countries who have been impacted by the pandemic with a potential recovery of 2.8% by 2021 (OECD, 2020). According to the June 2020 World Investment Report, a projection in the decline of investments on a global scale will decrease by 40% in 2020. The employment rates have taken a major blow due to COVID-19, as unemployment continues to escalate varying between 5.3 to 24.7 million people (ILO, 2020).

With the presence of the pandemic and the rise in the second wave among many nations, the pandemic has taken a great toll on the economy for the case of SMEs. The reduction in the supply of labor workers, as well as transportation hinders the overall supply chain of SMEs. Additionally, through the severity in liquidity shortages, as well as the decrease in consumer revenue, the demand for goods and services offered by SMEs will continue to undergo a dramatic fall on their financial status, and ultimately be forced to shut down. Developing countries that rely on the sheer number of SMEs as a financial provider towards the economy will be the most vulnerable towards the impact of the global pandemic ("SME policy responses", 2020).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

Governments and businesses around the world are taking many steps to curtail the negative impacts of the coronavirus on business daily operations and workers, but much more action is needed.According to the UN global compact (2020) In response to this, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has introduced a Call to Action to Save Our SMEs "SOS" campaign to:

1. Shine a spotlight on the devastating impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and their employees
2. Ensure effective policy and fiscal responses at both the international and national levels
3. Provide resources and tools to SMEs to help them navigate this economic shock

At the similar time period, the United Nations Global Compact has made a special appeal #UnitingBusiness which is a corporate response to the COVID-19 pandemic: for all corporates to take a unified action to mark the outbreak through implementing their Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. (para 2 & 3)

Since the issue is new, the UN along with many other international organizations have been working on a comprehensive solution and framework to solve this. Many countries worldwide who have been advised by OECD are taking action to support SMEs with initiative to sustain the short term liquidity. As a result, some countries have taken general policies to promote and support businesses. In many countries the central bank has stepped up to support lending by relaxing the monetary situation and enabling commercial banks to provide more funds to the SMEs. These types of measures are taken by the US Federal reserve and the European Central Bank.

The UN has collected $49 million which is 5% collection for the budget to help SMEs. At the country level the united nations are providing cash assistance. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has released emergency financing to developing countries to help communities, businesses and the economy.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. How can governments implement relief packages towards SMEs and more importantly what would be the sources of funding for these packages?
2. Ways in which NGOs can support governments in ensuring the relief packages reach each and every SME
3. Sources of encouragement for local citizens to invest in goods and services from SMEs of their nation

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MUN
GA3 BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

AbdelRahman

Yasser Gouthami

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Souha Dhaouadi

Lamees Al-Sayari

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Delegates,

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations 2021, and to the General Assembly 3 (GA3): Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. We look forward to meeting you all (virtually) and are thrilled to hear your discussion and ideas. We expect three days of intense debate and cooperating delegates to come together and solve the issues our world currently faces.

The third committee of The General Assembly, otherwise known as SOCHUM (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee), was founded in 1947 for addressing human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social issues. For instance, this may include issues such as the empowerment of women, the pushing of essential freedoms such as addressing the issue of the promotion of rights for people of different races, sexualities, political views, and religion. And as the committee will be discussing soon, combatting racism and discrimination towards refugees as well as the protection of indigenous people. Furthermore, the role of this committee is to provide humanitarian aid through the drafting of resolutions that encourage countries worldwide to protect citizens regardless of their backgrounds, ethnicities, or cultures. SOCHUM's power extends to enforcing laws across the world in an effort to improve the lives of oppressed minorities, by protecting and respecting their fundamental human rights. GA3 will have a major role in the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically reduced inequalities, no poverty and gender equality.

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

This year, our committee will tackle two agendas that have been plaguing the world for decades;

1. Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination against Refugees, Immigrants, and Indegenous Populations
2. The Question of Non-Refoulement of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Being one of the largest conferences in the region, AUSMUN calls for a lot of preparation before the conference with adequate research on the topics, well-detailed position papers and brush up on the committee terms. Do keep this in mind: whether it is your first conference, or your last, dedicate your energy to having productive committee sessions that not only focus on smart rebuttals during the debate but also forming resolutions that aim at minimizing the problems at hand. We have complete confidence that this conference will be an enjoyable and effective learning experience for all.

For any questions or queries, feel free to reach out to ga3ausmun21@gmail.com. We wish you the best of luck, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

ABDELRAHMAN YASSER, GOUTHAMI
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDES

Summary and History

Across all global regions, refugees, immigrants, and the indigenous population of the nation are victims of a high level of discrimination on various grounds, with racism and xenophobia being the most prominent. The United Nations first raised its concerns about the rights of migrant workers in 1972, with a report recommending an international convention aimed at elevating the struggles of migrant workers. Consequently, the United Nations General Assembly set up a working group open to all Member States to draw up an international convention. In 1990, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members (ICRMW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18th December 1990, which defines a migrant worker as 'a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national'. However, the effectiveness of the same is still unclear. In 2001, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) pointed out that xenophobia against non-nationals is presently one of the main sources of contemporary racism. As defined by the OHCHR, xenophobia is a broad term, defined as the 'intense dislike or hatred against people that are perceived as outsiders, strangers or foreigners to a group, community or nation, based on their presumed or real descent, national, ethnic or social origin, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or other grounds (UNOHCHR, 2013).

Immigrants are often discriminated against in the housing, education, work, and health sectors. The International Labor Organization (ILO) noted that the largest numbers of international migrants are located in Asia, followed by Europe and North America, and then by Africa, Latin America, and Oceania with progressively fewer numbers. About 80 millions of this population are migrant workers.

A study conducted in May 2006, 'Migrants' Experiences of Racism and Xenophobia in 12 EU Member States' concluded that although there was a great variation between different nations and their migrant populations, they all faced subjectively experienced the same levels of discrimination. Another factor to be noted is that the study pointed out that the overall rate of reporting discrimination to authorities was extremely low – about 86% of respondents did not report their experiences to government authorities.

One of the main obstacles hindering immigrants' equal access to human rights in host societies is the persistent anti-migrant discriminatory practices. Further aggravating the discrimination, the global economic crisis and rising unemployment increase the gap between nationals and immigrants. Addressing the negative actions and perceptions of immigrants and minorities within host countries is thus an essential element of development.

Discourse on the issue

There is no question as to whether or not racism against refugees, immigrants, and indigenous people exists in many countries around the world. Examples of such events are the recent violent attacks against refugees and humanitarian workers in Greece (UNHCR, 2020). And over 600 recorded attacks in Germany on asylum seekers in the first two quarters of 2019 (The African Courier, 2019). Right-wing populism and nationalism are on the rise in European countries as tensions climb with more race-related incidents. And as a result, it has become difficult for minorities to feel accepted in their communities, experiencing harsh discrimination and backlash for expressing their views and culture.

The scope of the conversation does not only focus on refugees but also on indigenous communities in different countries that are victimized. For example, the discrimination of Aboriginals in Canada that conjure up 19 percent of federal prisoners while they are only 3 percent of the general population. Observing a 22 percent increase in the rate of imprisonment of aboriginals while the general prison population decreased by 12 percent between 1996 and 2004 (UN, nd).

Eluding to the existence of systemic racism within the justice system in Canada.

This conundrum exists in other countries such as Australia and the United States of America. An interesting study conducted by Findling and Casey (2019) found that 38 percent of Native Americans reported that they or their family members have experienced violence or have been threatened, with 15 percent circumventing seeking healthcare due to 'anticipated discrimination'. These numbers are unacceptable and must immediately be circumvented as part of the United Nations' goal for reducing inequalities.

It is up to the United Nations to act on the issue alongside the Human Rights Watch and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to fight against inequality and moving one step closer to providing an equal opportunity for members of any ethnicity or background to have the freedom to live their lives in peace and prosperity. Delegates of the General Assembly 3 committee, it is now your job to form a resolution for the betterment of society.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

In July of 2018, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution labeled The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which had been agreed upon by all 193 member states, except the United States of America. The global compact is comprised of 23 objectives aimed at better managing migration on a global scale, some of which including:

- Aims to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of migrants by reducing the risks they may face at different stages of migration.
- Facilitate migrant's contributions to sustainable development on a global scale by creating conducive conditions that enable them to enrich the societies they live in, by way of their human, economic, and social capacities.
- Combat smuggling and people trafficking
- Improve data gathering on international migration

While this resolution was a big step towards respecting and protecting the rights of immigrants, in December 2018, only 164 countries formally adopted the GCM out of the 192 that had initially passed the resolution, which resulted in an incomplete implementation of the global compact. Despite the resolution being a significant milestone in protecting the rights of migrants, the NGO Human Rights Watch noted that several states, that had voted in favor of the adoption of the GCM, not only contravened the commitments made under the GCM but also violated international and regional human rights and refugee law (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

Another significant resolution passed by the General Assembly is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which until today serves as the most comprehensive international instrument for the rights of indigenous peoples. Although at the time of passing, 4 countries had voted against them, years later they reversed their stance and now support the declaration. "It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples." (UN, n.d.)

Questions to consider

1. What opportunities for reporting acts of discrimination can be identified?
2. Have authorities been taking accurate and effective measures to combat discrimination within nations if the reporting rate is extremely low?
3. What is required to prevent and address xenophobia?
4. Has the current pandemic situation contributed to xenophobia worldwide?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. What methods of preservation and protection of Indegenous populations and cultures is possible with the powers of this committee?
2. The specific definitions and criteria that apply the title of "Refugee" to an asylum seeker and "Indegenous person" to a member of a state.
3. Evidence of systemic racism in different countries and how it affects the livelihood of discriminated members of a state.
4. Emerging political parties that advocate for violence against immigrant residents and refugees.

Summary and History of issue

Non-refoulement is a principle of international law that provides refugees with the right to freedom from being expelled from their place of refuge or forced return to their country where they face threats to their life or freedom. In many parts of the world, people live with the constant fear of death or prosecution, due to their beliefs or circumstances of birth. Naturally, to avoid this fate, they migrate to a country or region where they are free of that fear, meaning a region or country that does not discriminate against those against certain beliefs or circumstances of birth. However, what were to happen if they were forcibly returned to their country of origin? This is a matter of great significance today, as the principle of non-refoulement can protect those fleeing areas rampant with armed conflict, areas where there are violations of their human rights, as well as areas where they would be persecuted for their race, political views or religion. As of the end of 2018, 70.8 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide because of conflict, violence, or human rights violations (UNHCR, 2019). Recent events regarding this issue:

- April 2020 – Malaysia, Bangladesh and Cyprus close their borders to the Rohingya people, citing COVID-19 as their reason (Natta, 2020).·
- November 2018 – 93 migrants fleeing Libya were forcefully returned to the war-torn country after they were "rescued" by a merchant ship flying the Panama flag heading towards Libya, the Nivin (Forensic Oceanography,2019).
- November 2019 - The South Korean government deported two North Korean fishermen to face murder charges in North Korea, where they face likely torture (Human Rights Watch, 2019).
- 1994 - Tanzanian government closed its borders to a group of more than 50,000 Rwandan refugees fleeing genocidal violence (Barber, 1997).

Discourse on the issue

An unwarranted denial of entry or deportation of persons holding the refugee status, as defined under the 1951 refugee convention, breaks the UNHCR Non-Refoulement Obligations Under International Law which specifies, "No Contracting State shall expel or return … a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontier of territories where his [or her] life or freedom would be threatened …" (UNHCR, 1951). The refugee crisis in Europe is an example of how these international laws provide support to refugees seeking asylum.

However, the question to be discussed is whether or not these laws must be obligations on countries or not. As the United Nations aims to reduce inequality, poverty, and hunger as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN, nd). The impact of a surge of refugees entering a region cannot be dismissed. As the number of refugees only increases every year from countless ongoing conflicts, it cannot be expected for countries to continuously accept asylum seekers. Due to the European refugee crisis, Turkey and Germany hold more than 4.7 million refugees (UNHCR, 2019). Any more may cause detrimental economic harm to labor markets, and other crucial factors of these countries.

Mishandling of refugees must also be considered, in the interest of providing sufficient care and resources to migrants, relocation of refugees can be a solution to prevent a chaotic outcome. The United Nations have begun an initiative to launch the relocation of asylum seekers to prevent overcrowding as detailed in an April press release where UN agencies welcome 12 asylum-seeking children from Greece to relocate to Luxembourg (UNHCR, 2020). However, the question of how relocation may be used is a valid point of concern. If a large-scale program ensues for the relocation of refugees, not all cases can be looked over by the United Nations which may invite countries to break the UNHCR Non-Refoulement Obligations without notice.

Violations of international law have occurred in the past, such as the mismanagement of refugees in Hungary with a case of at least 21 migrants awaiting deportation being deprived of food for up to five days (UN, 2019). And Thailand's expulsion of 45 thousand refugees in 1979 (Jefferson and McFarland, 2010). It is up to the delegates of the General Assembly 3 committee to discuss paths to take in the future to uphold the goals of the United Nations.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The United Nations has actively been attempting to combat the issues faced by the refugee population in member states. At the smallest level, in 2004, June 20th was named as World Refugee Day with 'A Place to Call Home as its theme (UNHCR, 2019). While citizens residing in war-free countries could commemorate this significant day in the security of their homes, the refugee and indigenous population around the world still yearn for a place to call home.

There are currently 20.4 million refugees under the UNHCR's mandate, along with 3.5 million asylum-seekers. The 1951 Refugee Convention, along with the 1967 Protocol under the UNHCR are the key documents that focus on the non-refoulement of refugees and indigenious populations. The documents assert that a refugee or asylum-seeker cannot be forced to return to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution. This is now international law. The 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol are also complemented by further regional instruments, such as the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The African Union thereby commemorated 2019 as the year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

In response to the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, harmonizing policies and practices were placed at the forefront across America in the 2018 Declaration of Quito on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region.

The UNHCR has also intervened in about 22 court cases in 12 different jurisdictions in 2018 alone to support the full and effective application of the 1951 Convention and other relevant instruments.

Questions to Consider

1. How is it ensured that the guidelines are being followed by all member states of the United Nations?
2. What are further interventions that can be established by the United Nations to ensure the non-refoulement of refugees?
3. Is the relocation of asylum seekers a realistic method of reducing overcrowding of asylum seekers, and refugees?
4. What are the impacts of COVID-19 on asylum seekers?

Suggestions for further research

1. Past UN resolutions aiming to support Refugees and Indegenous populations.
2. What cases fall under the definition of "Refoulement", and how does it affect UNHCR obligations?
3. Research countries that have possibly violated International Law in relation to the protection and management of Refugees and allocated resources
4. Economic impact of long term residence of Refugees in countries that suffered from the Refugee Crisis.

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AUSMUN 2021

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Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Fatima Mahroos

Rayyan Abbassi

Suha Hasan

Assem Ahmed

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We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

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 complacent balance between the finer points of a conference including the development of soft skills together with those of critical analysis, evaluation, and networking.

We highly recommend you get a head-start on your research. Our main advice to you is that you focus your energies on attaining a thorough rapport with the material and the ongoing debate. The delegations of each nation have the opportunity to construct a meaningful solution to the issues at hand through research, dialogue and self-actualisation. For any information or questions, feel free to contact us at *******@gmail.com. We wish you the best of luck with the conference and look forward to seeing you!

FATHIMA, RAYYAN
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established on October 24th, 1945. The council was founded shortly after the Second World War on September 2nd, 1945, in order to address the failures of the League of Nations.

The main role of the UNSC is to maintain international peace and security. Hence, common topics discussed in the Security Council include issues of armed conflict and terrorist organizations. Given the nature of the topics debated in the UNSC, it is the sole committee authorized to respond to threats to international peace with violence and may convene any time there is a threat to international peace. Under the UN Charter, member states are obliged to carry out the decisions made by the Security Council. The Security Council consists of 15 member states: P5 nations: These are the 5 permanent members of the UNSC, and they are; UK, USA, France, China, and Russia.

The P5 nations are the only member states given the right to veto a resolution; a veto from any one of the P5 nations against a resolution causes that resolution to fail. Note that a veto can only prevent a resolution from being passed; it cannot prevent a resolution from being debated on. E10 nations: These are 10 non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly to serve 2-year terms.

Summary and History of issue

For over a generation, tensions in the Korean peninsula have remained a characteristic of the region. The area was divided after the surrender of their colonists, Imperial Japan at the end of the second world war at the 38thparallel axis (Similar to the division of Nazi Germany into East and West). The USSR would administer the northern region, with the United States doing the same for the South. This is where the difference in ideologies of the two neighbors birthed whereby in 1948, the South administered its elections influenced into a capitalist government by the US resulting in the election of Syngman Rhee as President. Meanwhile, Kim Il Sung established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Communist ideals. Both leaders attempted to reunify the nation as one. These attempts were punctuated by conflicts based on fundamental differences in the system of government to be used that failed to mitigate. By 1950, they led to the beginning of the Korean war. Three years later, an armistice was signed.

Since then, the nations have witnessed highs such as the South Korean 'Sunshine policy' invigorating trade and relations between them and lows including the withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear proliferation treaty and subsequent development of nuclear warheads. Often tested and used as threats against the west and South Korea.

Over the decades, relations between the North and South have also directly been related to the respective countries' relationships with the United States. The US maintains a sizable number of its military in South Korea, offering protection and a base for its interests.

The North has always remained wary of this, and for most of its foreign policy, has demonized the US and its officials. Nevertheless, the DPRK led by Chairman Kim has attempted to shift perceptions and create economic opportunities while aiming for a removal of sanctions from the global community for its actions domestically and abroad. The product of this was three meetings between US President Trump and Chairman Kim with South Korean President Moon Jae In. Held from 2018 onwards, they have proved to be historical but of much less consequence than anticipated. Traditionally hostile, the countries attempted to work together with the Trump administration, but as of 2020 not much headway has been made (Disruptions by COVID-19 are a factor too) The stalemate stagnantly revolves around US intentions to see denuclearization by the North and the DPRK's view that sanctions should be uplifted before such actions are discussed.

The most recent development was the accusation by the North Korean foreign ministry that the summits held were for the self-interests of the United States and did not bring anything for the DPRK to the table. Following this, the North demolished a four-story joint liaison office they held with the South.

Discourse on the issue

It is imperative to study this chart and understand the economic implications of continued tensions in the Korean Peninsula. South Korea has emerged as one of the foremost economies, admittedly somewhat capitalistic, but with a high GDP and standard of living. The North meanwhile has remained what experts term 'the hermit kingdom' solely relying on the People's Republic of China as its primary trade partner along with assistance and aid from the Russian Federation and at multiple occasions in the past, from South Korea. In layman's terms, it does not possess strong trade relations with any nations except the ones mentioned above. They in turn maintain these in order to ensure their respective agendas are met. Therefore, the population of the DPRK suffers from afflictions factored by poverty.

Human Rights violations are often alleged by the worldwide community but refused by the North. Nevertheless, defectors have chronicled the abuses and given outsiders a look inside.

Additionally, the issues hamper the attainment of a majority of the UN Sustainable Development goals. North Koreans face famine and food shortages such as recently with the coronavirus pandemic. There is no equal opportunity and the fundamental concept of cooperation and partnerships are overlooked.

Some primary stakeholders to the issues in the Peninsula include of course both Koreas. The South aims to hold more cordial ties with its northern neighbor for peace and security while the North stands to benefit from the de-escalation of tensions in terms of economic relief and general floatation for the economy. China does not advocate strongly for either side's arguments but does hold a legally binding mutual benefits treaty with the DPRK, often assisting them. The Russian Federation is effectively neutral too, but is one of the rare nations with cordial relations with the South, holding meetings between their leaders. Meanwhile. Regionally Japan supports the presence of the US military in the South, predominantly because of its tensions with China.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The UNSC has passed multiple resolutions relative to the DPRK, holding them accountable behind the leadership of the US for tensions in the region. Some of them include:

Resolution 1695 (July 15, 2006)

In this resolution, the Security Council explicitly condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear weapons program. Such a resolution was the first to be passed by the security council then since 1993, a subtext underlining the gravity of the situation.

While calling for a diplomatic solution to the situation, the Council demands that the DPRK cuts back its missile launches, which jeopardize peace and security in the region. In addition, Resolution 1695 bans all member states from transactions with North Korea involving material, technology or financial resources transfer connected to DPRK's missiles or weapons of mass destruction programs.

Resolution 1685 (July 15, 2006)

The UNSC condemned the DPRK's nuclear weapons program. They called for a diplomatic solution and that all member states were disallowed from any transactions with the North involving material, technology, or financial resources associated with the DPRK weapons program.

Resolution 1874 (June 12, 2009)

This was passed under Chapter VII, Article 41 of the UN charter, imposing further sanctions on the DPRK. The resolution held harsher wording as well as more substantial actions, allowing member states to inspect and dispose of North Korean cargo suspected of being linked to their nuclear program. It disallowed financial assistance except for humanitarian purposes and only permitted the export and import of small arms with DPRK. Additionally, states had to notify the Security Council five days prior to any sales. Finally, it also required nations to notify the security council of the steps taken in following the resolution within 45 days of its passing.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. Can a new type of sunshine policy better relations between the north and south in the current climate?
2. Should the gradual removal of sanctions be considered?
3. Can the DPRK improve foreign relations with a combination of denuclearization and upliftment of sanctions?
4. Is it possible to consider the German model for reunification for the Korean Peninsula?
5. Can the Iran Nuclear Deal with the USA be used as a model for further deliberations with the DPRK?

Suggestions for further research

1. The demands of the DPRK and their view based on the UN charter
2. The reasons behind the North Koreans leaving the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty
3. Common instances between periods of relative peace between the North, South, and USA
4. Flexible notions of debate for both parties

Summary and History of issue

The political instability in Afghanistan is traced back to 1994. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the Taliban rose, calling for improved security and decreased corruption in the country. Initially, their presence was most prominent in religious schools, where they promoted their radical interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law). By 1996, the Taliban had seized control of Afghanistan. The Taliban implemented numerous austere laws and sheltered militants from al-Qaeda. This led to them becoming an immediate target for US, Afghan and international attacks after the events of 9/11.

The main reasons for the continuation of the political instability in Afghanistan include increased violence resulting from the presence of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and significant Taliban resistance. Furthermore, the issue remains unsolved due to the limitations of Afghan forces. US forces have previously managed to drive Taliban militants further South in Afghanistan. However, Taliban forces have since managed to regroup. Moreover, the Afghan government is unstable due to the tribal divisions, making it increasingly difficult to address the political crisis in the country.

In an attempt to end the 18-year conflict in Afghanistan, the US and the Taliban signed the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan on February 29, 2020. Under this agreement, the US and NATO allies will withdraw their forces from Afghanistan, provided the Taliban uphold their end of the agreement and end their ties with al-Qaeda. Taliban political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar states he "hope[s] that with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan the Afghan nation under an Islamic regime will take its relief and embark on a new prosperous life" (BBC News, 2020).

On the other hand, Activist Zahra Husseini voices her concern over this agreement, stating "as I was watching the deal being signed, I had this bad feeling that it would result in their return rather than in peace" (BBC News, 2020). Following this agreement, increased peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban are expected. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the Security Council, and NATO allies further advocate for intra-Afghan negotiations.

The significance of the conflict in Afghanistan lies within the threat it poses to international security; political instability in the country has resulted in increased threats of violence, particularly to neighboring countries. Additionally, the notable humanitarian issues arising from the conflict are not to be forgotten; car, truck, and suicide bombings traced back to rebel groups have seen an increase in Afghanistan since 2016, all of which resulted in mass casualties. Civilians in major cities have become somewhat accustomed to the daily sights of violence that interfere with their daily life, and are experiencing a dramatically decreased sense of security and access to services.

Discourse on the issue

The conflict in Afghanistan has become unpredictable, highlighting the threat of the situation to international security. Article 39 of the UN Charter states that:

"The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Article 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security" (United Nations, n.d.).

Given the increased threats to national and international peace caused by the political crisis in Afghanistan, the Security Council, under Article 39 of the UN Charter, gave the US authorization to overthrow the Taliban in late 2001. The Council further authorized the US and NATO to establish the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in order to provide additional military support for the mission.

Additionally, the UN set up UNAMA to provide humanitarian aid to Afghan civilians. While the situation in Afghanistan causes a great threat to international security, it further sets back the United Nation's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically goal 16, which calls for promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Being unable to achieve goal 16 further delays achieving the remaining SDGs in the country; politicians and country leaders are more concerned with achieving peace in the country. Before this is achieved, Afghanistan would remain incapable of achieving the remaining goals.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have suffered some consequences resulting from the political crisis in Afghanistan. The ineffective border control between Afghanistan and these neighboring countries has caused increased civilian concerns, especially in Pakistan. The main areas for concern in this regard are violence and armed conflict, drug activity, and economic impacts. Additionally, given their proximity, Pakistan has seen a great surge of Afghan refugees in the last two decades. Pakistan is currently home to over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, and around 1 million unregistered refugees (Amnesty International, 2019).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

After a request from the Afghan government, the UN Security Council launched the UNAMA political mission in March 2002, as was established through Security Council resolution 1401. The Mission calls for bringing peace to Afghanistan and its neighbors and ensuring the human rights of civilians in the country. In an effort to achieve this vision, the Mission has prepared and supported peace efforts between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Furthermore, in an effort to provide a framework for increased peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in January 2015 (NATO, 2020). The Mission's primary focus was on training and assisting Afghan security forces to ensure a more effective government response to acts of terrorism in the country.

Under this Mission, NATO Allies call upon the Afghan government and armed groups to work towards operative peace agreements and have arranged to adjust their troop presence in Afghanistan to support such peace talks.

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development (ACBAR) was assembled in August 1988. Initially, it began as an organization to address the needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The national NGO has since become a platform for national and international NGOs in Afghanistan. Today, ACBAR consists of 154 member NGOs, 72 of which are international NGOs.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What is the role of the mosque in helping relieve the political crisis in Afghanistan?
2. What are the implications of the Afghan situation on international security?
3. How effective have International Organizations been in Afghanistan
4. Within your state's scope, what peaceful measures can be enforced to help relieve the political crisis in Afghanistan?
5. How does the situation in Afghanistan impact neighboring countries and the international community?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Effects of COVID-19 on the political crisis in Afghanistan
2. Implications of the increased political uncertainty resulting from the recent elections in Afghanistan
3. Action was taken after the US-Taliban deal, known as the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan
4. Role of NATO allied forces in promoting peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban

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MUN
UNSC- UNI BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Aamir

Amaan Siddiqui

Manaaf Alsalehi

Malek Bashhir

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at AUSMUN. Delegates have no fear, as despite this being a competition, at the end of the day what matters most is the experience, knowledge, connections and friends that you make. Bear in mind, you will find yourself in heated debates, power-play, and direct opposition with nations and interests of other delegates but we highly recommend that you keep those grudges within the committee and only among your country policies and forget all of it outside the committee room.

In the course of these three days, we wish to see constructive, logical, and versatile influx of opinions and debates. We also wish to see how you delegates bring forth the interests of your nation and stand by it firmly. While all committees at AUSMUN prompt delegates to understand their country's policy, the UNSC adds another level of realism and challenge that requires delegates to further refine their negotiation skills.

The UNSC is tasked with promoting and protecting international peace and security. To ensure that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that each and every one of you will bring unparalleled knowledge of your country's position and parliamentary procedure, as well as an understanding of the functions of the UNSC.

We advise you delegates that this background guide only serves as a starter for information and provides a direction. Being delegates of the highest forum of the UN, you are expected to carry out thorough research and hold discussions at your highest potential. Apart from what you have learnt from research, your nation's interests and so on, we wish to see innovative and original ideas, opinions and arguments on how to achieve those interests. At the end, what matters most to us is your overall learning and what you take away from the conference.

We wish you the very best for the conference and your future endeavours. Looking forward to seeing you all!

AAMIR, AMAAN SIDDIQUI
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

Formed in 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It was formed to prevent international conflicts. In a nutshell, its primary responsibility is to ensure international peace and security.

The UNSC is composed of fifteen member states, five of which are permanent (United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France) and the remaining are elected by the General Assembly every two years. However, Any party not a member of the UNSC but that is involved in the dispute being discussed may be invited, without vote, to the meetings (U.N. Charter art. 31).

Among a few of its specific functions are the formulation of plans to regulate armaments, appointment of the Secretary General and election of judges of the International Court of Justice with the General Assembly. It is also the only U.N. organ whose resolutions are binding (U.N. Charter, art. 25).

The UNSC may first enforce its decisions in any ways that do not involve the use of force such as pacific settlement, or sanctions. However, if the dispute does not resolve even then, then "demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations" is permitted (U.N. Charter art. 33, 41, & 42).

Voting

Every member shall have one vote and resolutions will pass given the affirmative vote of at least 9 members. A negative vote by any P5 nations(s) counts as a veto (U.N. Charter art. 27, para. 1-2).

Nations which are directly involved in the conflict shall abstain from voting on resolutions if the powers exercised are limited to Chapter VI of the UN Charter (U.N. Charter art. 27, para. 3).

TOPIC 1   Suppressing the Migration of Foreign Fighters
and Tightening Financial Flows to Extremist
Organizations

Summary and History of issue

Foreign fighters have played an essential role in terrorist organizations, such as the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Shabaab. The percentage of foreign fighters in ISIS's ranks has been estimated to be as high as 80%, although the real figure is likely to be around 50% (Schmid, 2015). An estimated 40,000 radicalized nationals have gone to fight in conflicts in the Middle East—mostly in Iraq and Syria—one-quarter of whom are women and minors (Benton, & Banulescu-Bogdan, 2019). A majority have purportedly died in combat, but the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) estimated as of February 2019 that as many as 3,000 of these foreign fighters and their dependents remained in Iraq and Syria (Benton, & Banulescu-Bogdan, 2019). The potential threat from foreign so-called jihadist fighters has become one of increasing concern due to of recent military successes against ISIS, which have reduced the organization's territorial control.

Regarding funding, no authority can classify these terrorist activities as "cheap." Funding is the lifeblood of these destructive actors and is often the factor that gives these fighters the necessary tools to bring deadly harm. To nip this in the bud, the UNSC has attempted to confront and turn off these organizations monetary supply, primarily with the use of regulatory legislation and administrative action. At the forefront of this mission is the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), initially formed in 1989 to combat money laundering, becoming the primary group to counter-terrorist funding worldwide. However, most of these funds are obtained independently from oil smuggling, extortion, and other crimes in Iraq and Syria. As a result, the FATF has been fighting to curb this funding by significantly turning back their access to these local income sources.

Discourse on the issue

In areas where there is limited presence of armed forces and surveillance, there has been an elevated level of violence among these foreign fighters which needs to be controlled by UN intervention.

Migration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and Link to Funding and Network

According to Europol's report (2018) on terrorist threats in the EU, one of the main threats to South-Eastern Europe (mostly Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and North Macedonia) is FTFs returning to their country of origin. Around 1000 people traveled to Iraq and Syria between late 2012 and 2017 (women and children constituted almost 35% of this group). About 300 have already returned. It is feared that terrorist organizations plan attacks in the respective countries of origin where FTFs return. This is a problem not just because of the immediate threat posed but also because it aids in the financing and networking of terrorist organizations. Returnees that remain connected to the group help expand the network allowing access to more resources and funding. However, a study undertaken by the European Parliamentary Research Service states that "very few concrete cases of 'foreign fighters' returning to conduct attacks in Europe have been observed" ("Foreign Terrorist Fighters," 2019).

Terrorist Financing

During the cold war, government-funded organizations were standard. However, now, the situation is different. Criminal activities and terrorist financing go hand in hand. Thony (n.d.) believes that distinctions between the two are "useless." The primary funding modes are drug trafficking, "revolutionary taxes," ransoms and abductions, trafficking of precious stones and humans. Covert charitable organizations are also seen to play an important role.

Thony states that the international community has a threefold objective in this regard:

"It involves simultaneously protecting the international financial system, preventing criminals from enjoying the proceeds of their crimes, and preventing them from utilizing the formidable economic power they have amassed to challenge the stability of governments."

He concludes that the international community needs to continually review systems that seek to prevent the financing of terrorist activities as the stages of counter financing policies are still in their early stages, but the threat is continually evolving.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

The UNOCT has implemented projects to increase States' ability to identify, track, and disrupt the mobility of foreign fighters through enhanced information sharing; and strengthen their internet capacities for investigations related to these actors. The office has also provided support to the member states in adopting human rights-based treatment of children associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Additionally, programs/projects on border security and management, countering terrorist financing, and cybersecurity all address the evolving and growing foreign fighters all around the world ("Foreign terrorist fighters," n.d.).

International Instruments to Prevent Terrorist Acts

Since 1963, the international community has elaborated 19 international legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts.

1. Instruments Regarding Civil Aviation (7 Instruments)
2. Instruments Regarding the Protection of International Staff (2 Instruments)

3. Instruments Regarding Nuclear Material (2 Instruments)

4. Instruments Regarding Maritime Navigation (4 Instruments)

5. Instruments Regarding Explosive Materials (3 Instruments),

6.Instruments Regarding Nuclear Terrorism (1 Instrument) ("Foreign Terrorist Fighters", 2019).

The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon (2014) and its Addendum (2015)

Launched within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), this initiative aims to bring together policymakers and practitioners from diverse environments to share learnings, practices, and challenges to be able to combat the FTF threat together. The recommendations in the 2015 addendum focus mostly on returning FTFs while the former focuses on FTFs in general ("Foreign Terrorist Fighters", 2019).

Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017)

Formally defined the term "foreign terrorist fighters" as *"Individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation, or participating in terrorist acts, or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict."* The resolution also called upon nations to enhance criminal justice by better detecting, preventing, and criminalizing anything that aids FTFs. Additionally, mentions of possible sanctioning is also a measure of blocking funding. UNSC Resolution 2396 primarily focused on returning FTFs ("Foreign Terrorist Fighters", 2019).

Care International works towards Adaptation, Advocacy, Gender, Ecosystems and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition and Resilience for climate change.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What are the different sources terrorist and extremist organizations acquire funds from?
2. What role do nation-states play in funding or aiding terrorist organizations and how do we prove and tackle such cases?
3. How can it be effectively discerned that certain travel or financial transactions are for aiding FTFs and terrorist organizations?
4. To what extent do proxy wars play a role in aggravating the situation, if they do?
5. Should terrorist organizations be outright fought and crushed or should the world take note of their demands and negotiate?
6. Based on your research, if not, then are there any exceptional cases where your answer would be different?

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4. https://www.fatfgafi.org/publications/fatfgeneral/documents/terroristfinancing.html
5. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)

Summary and History of issue

From former United States President Woodrow Wilson, the first use of the concept 'self-determination' stemmed from 1918. The fundamental idea behind self-determination was that people are sovereign, not subjects of the state. In the modern era, the right to self-determination is one of the core principles of international law. Every state's responsibility is to respect and protect this right. Its violation constitutes transnational criminal offense. However, the method of exercising self-determination differs. It is a concept different from secession and independence. Some communities' only possible outcome is full independence. While some only aspire for a degree of political, cultural, and economic autonomy and for others, it may just mean to live and manage their communities without external interference ("Self-determination," 2017).

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has many internal political conflicts. Along with those systematic conflicts, the country also allegedly entails various human rights violations. Despite this, most nations explicitly agree with China's claim over those territories- including even the most autonomous, Taiwan. It is difficult to ascertain whether the PRC holds rights over those territories. Beyond reason and logic, the Westphalian principles of a nation-state and existing international relations concepts play a bigger role in determining whether or not Chinese territories longing for independence will receive international recognition for the same (Mund, 2013).

Timeline of Key Events

Year	Event
1951	The 14th Dalai Lama (a teenager) was forcibly made to sign accession of Tibet into the People's Republic of China
1955	Bandung (Indonesia) conference of third world countries--enforced the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs to inhibit separatist movements calling upon external assistance. It is assumed that due to this Indian stand on Tibetans changed to anti-independence post 1950s.
1987	Multiple pro-independence protests in Tibet which led to the declaration of martial law in 1989. Economic and political policies that were seen to suppress non-Han cultures increased thereof.
1997	Hong Kong was given back to China by the British under the "one country, two systems" policy until 2047.
2019	A bill was proposed which allows extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China. People believe that the bill "gives more power to China over Hong Kong". This extradition would subject Hong Kong citizens to mainland authoritarianism.

To achieve realistic solutions, it is important to assess how China views secession movements abroad, how foreign nations view secession movements within China, and the impact this will have on international and regional stability before developing an opinion solely by looking at internal affairs.

Discourse on the Issue

Implications on International Relations

The Human Rights Council has a bloc which always opposes 'anti Chinese' resolutions. These nations have deals with China over the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). EU BRI recipients follow suit. Greece is one of the countries that receive large Chinese investments at large. In 2017 it blocked the signing of an EU joint statement in the UNHRC on Human Rights abuses in China. Hungary followed suit on a similar matter (Marques, 2019).

Westphalian principles, diplomatic ties, economic pressure, and global non-conformity towards Chinese secession movements render this issue an international security concern.

Artificial Demographic Shifts and Human Rights Concerns in Tibet and Xinjiang

Beijing claims its right to sovereignty over Tibet stating that it has done so for seven centuries, contrary to popular belief. In the second Human Rights Review on October 22 2013, Chinese human rights violations against Tibetans and Uyghurs were highlighted. Cultural communities and their heritage face constant suppression by the government especially in Tibet and Xinjiang (Cooper, 2014; Dreyer, 2019).

The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is a western Chinese territory accounting for 1/6th of China's land home to the Uyghurs, and are allegedly victims of concentration camps (Dreyer, 2019). The region has seen independence movements in large numbers since the 1990s and even declared independence in 1933 but were reabsorbed soon after (Bhattacharji, 2012).

According to Goldstein (1998), a program of rapid economic development was adopted in Tibet which included incentives

encouraging an influx of non-Tibetans, mostly Han Chinese, into Tibet to shift its demographic composition. The same system was applied in Xinjiang by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) due to which the Han Population rose from 6.7% in 1949 to 40% in 2008 in XUAR (as cited in Bajoria, 2008).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

Post 1995 EU-China Human Rights Dialogues

The EU-China Human Rights Dialogue has been in place since the 1990s and is a confidential meeting held between the EU, China and often NGOs. This has largely been a replacement of proposing China-Specific HRC Resolutions. However, keeping meetings behind closed doors and letting China deny statements and refusing participation of critical NGOs in this dialogue in the name of 'mutually beneficial cooperation' shows weak accountability and no progress (Marques, 2019).

One Country, Two Systems

The 'one country, two systems' is a Chinese national unification policy. Itaimed at reintegrating Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan with mainland China while preserving their unique political and economic systems but having sovereignty over them. The system is active for Hong Kong. Taiwan on the other hand denied this system and still strives for full independence. Under the law of this policy. Beijing only maintains control over Hong Kong's diplomacy and defense (Albert, E. & Maizland, L, 2020).

United Nations Experts, News, and Statements

The United Nations has not been able to take significant measures against China. However, experts at the UN and human rights offices of the UN have often expressed their disappointment with many actions of China pursuant to the agenda. Additionally, individual nation states have

often used the UN platforms to express their concerns about the human rights, political, and secessional issues of China often individually or via joint statements such as:

- October 6, 2020: Joint Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Xinjiang and the Recent Developments in Hong Kong, Delivered by Germany on Behalf of 39 Countries.
- October 29, 2019: Joint statement on human rights violations and abuses in Xinjiang, Delivered by the United Kingdom on Behalf of 23 Countries.

iscussion of China's New Hong Kong Security Measures at the Security Council

In an informal UNSC meeting earlier this year, U.S. ambassador expressed his belief that Chinese actions towards Hong Kong violate local rights and international law. The latter is explicitly contested by China, which is why the UNSC could not formally convene over the agenda (Nichols, 2020).

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What are the common public's political demands in Guangxi, Tibet, Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Inner Mongolia?
2. What solutions can be implemented by the UNSC which will not impede on national sovereignty and account for regional and/or international security?
3. What can the UNSC and independent nations do to prevent nations being economically and diplomatically pressured to support alleged wrongdoings at the hands of China?
4. How do these issues of secession influence international security and international relations?

5. Where do we draw the lines between the concepts of terrorism, radicalism, democratic rights, secession, separatism, and state sovereignty? How will China be made to accept these distinctions?

- https://news.un.org/en/tags/china
- Relation of China with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Inner Mongolia, Guangxi and Macau as a Chinese Autonomous Regions.
- The implications, success, failures, and politics behind the Belt and Road Initiative.
- New security legislations in Hong Kong by Beijing.

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MUN
ICJ BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

Neimat ElKarib

Faisal AlAli

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear ICJ Advocates and Judges,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2021! It is our honor to welcome you to The International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ works to settle disputes between member states in accordance with international law. The two main topics selected for this committee are "the Interpretation of the Genocide Convention and Rohingya Genocide", and "the Iranian Assets and Disputes based on the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights."

We are well aware of those extremely unprecedented times that we are living through and we are proud of your commitment to participate in this conference. Please remember that your participation and hard work during this conference will most definitely contribute to the quality of your experience.

This background guide should be your first step to prepare for the conference. You are highly encouraged to base your research around this guide, in the context of your delegation. Should you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at g00084436@aus.edu and b00084443@aus.edu.

As your chairs, we promise to try and make this conference as lively, informative and exciting as possible. We are looking forward to 'meeting' you all. We wish you all the best and look forward to a very successful conference!

SINCERELY,
NEIMAT & FAISAL
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the United Nations, it was established in 1945 and began operating in 1946. The first case ever presented was by the United Kingdom against Albania in 1947.

The court can entertain two types of cases, the first being disputes between states and the second being advisory opinions requested by other UN organs. Only states who are members of the UN can file cases and the ICJ will only consider disputes between states who have accepted the court's jurisdiction. Although the court does not punish leaders, it can involve other UN bodies such as the security council as well as impose UN sanctions. The court consists of 15 judges who must come from different countries, each elected by the UN and serving a 9-year term.

In AUSMUN2021 we will have 2 presidents, 4 counsels (advocates) - 2 of which are applicants and 2 are respondents, and a number of judges.

The procedure of the ICJ is as follows:
1. The motion to set the agenda followed by voting procedures, in other words, which topic to begin discussing.
2. After the agenda is set, each judge must take an oath.
3. The applicants, which have presented the case to the ICJ, must then make their opening statement.
    - *Opening statements should include why they have brought this case to the ICJ as well as facts and evidence they are planning on presenting.*
4. The respondent will then give their opening statement.
    - *The opening statements must not provide detailed arguments as those will be addressed in the court session.*

5. The judges may then question the advocates opening speeches.

6. The advocates should then present their evidence with the applicants going first and the respondents following them.

   - *Evidence may be witness testimonies, newspaper articles, multilateral or bilateral treaties, reports, resolutions, or anything that can help the counsels prove their arguments during trial.*

7. The applicants and the respondents may yield their time to questions from judges or the opposing counsels.

8. Finally, the judges will have an unmoderated caucus in which they can discuss the evidence and draft a verdict. They will then present this verdict to the counsels.

Summary and History of issue

The Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights was signed in 1955, two years after the 1953 coup in Iran was carried out by the British government and America's Central Intelligence Agency. The coup was carried out to overthrow the nationalist government of Iran and replace Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh who had nationalized the Iranian oil industry by restoring power to Mohammad Reza Shah, the last Shah of Iran (Mohammed, 2020). The Treaty of Amity, which happened during a time when Iran wanted to attract foreign investors, is still valid under international law. The Treaty is made up of an introduction and twenty-three articles which address investments, mutual trade, and regulating consular relations. In June of 1957, the treaty came into force and has served as the legal framework for bilateral relations between Iran and the U.S (Kashani, 2018). By 1968, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed by Iran, permitting it to have a civil nuclear program in return for a commitment not to obtain weapons (Mohammed, 2020). One year later, the revolution in Iran forced the U.S-backed Shah to flee and by April of 1980, the U.S cut diplomatic ties with Iran due to the hostage crisis that took place at the American Embassy in Tehran when students held the staff hostage. A few days after Washington cut ties with Iran, the U.S conducted a military operation ordered by President Jimmy Carter to rescue the hostages and the mission failed. By 1984, the U.S listed Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism. This is when U.S sanctions against Iran were first put into place and all Iranian assets in the U.S were frozen. The US-Iran relationship deteriorated further when in 1988 the US mistakenly shot down an Iranian passenger plane. Under George Bush's administration, Iran was accused of developing an extensive nuclear program and is described to be part of an "axis of evil". As a result, intensified sanctions were imposed on Iran, by both the US, and the UN.

After the first round of sanctions against Iran began, it ignited an era of hostility between the two countries and the actions carried out by both countries were always counted as violations of the Treaty. The Treaty of Amity continued to exist despite these tensions and conflicts of interest over the last four decades. The U.S was the first to go to the International Court of Justice while Iran was hesitant to do so after the 1979 revolution in order to avoid indications of their wanting to renew relations with the U.S. After the hostage situation at the US embassy, the U.S went to the ICJ and accused Iran of going against Article II, Clause 4 of the treaty, which states that "Nationals of either High Contracting Party shall receive the most constant protection and security within the territories of the other High Contracting Party." Since then, there have been many hostile actions by both countries which violate the Treaty.

The Treaty allows both countries to legally challenge one another based on the Treaty's foundation of "friendly relations". It is an unusual situation in the history of international law because two countries that have cut political ties and taken action against each other for over four decades still have a living Treaty of Amity in place. Under the Trump administration, the US unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, and reimposed nuclear sanctions on Iran. The basis of Iran's current case is that the reimposition of nuclear sanctions are in violation of the treaty; hence, justifying any potential aggression from their side. The US claims that the re-imposition of nuclear sanctions is outside the jurisdiction of the ICJ, and is valid due to "Iran's failure to adhere to its nuclear non-proliferation obligations", which is also a violation of the treaty's the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreement (the "NPT Safeguards Agreement") (US, 2019). In 2018, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that the U.S plans to terminate the Treaty and called it an "absolute absurdity" and said it should have been terminated 39 years ago considering the constant aggression and tension between Iran and the U.S that has existed since the treaty's origin (Morello, 2018). This article by Washington Post reporter Carol Morello reads "The impetus for the United States tearing up the treaty was a decision earlier Wednesday in the International Court of Justice, which ordered the Trump administration to lift some sanctions on Iran" (Morello, 2018).

After the treaty's termination, and despite the ICJ ruling, the US elevated its hostility towards Iran. The most notable example of that is the assistantion of Qasem Soleimani assassination, and the missile attacks against the US embassy in Iraq by Iran-backed militias. These recent developments have further exacerbated tensions between both countries.

Questions and suggestions for further research

- Sanctions due to the Iranian Nuclear Deal.
- 1953 US-sponsored coup in Iran.
- Default Judgements made against Iran in US courts.
- The 2019 Luxembourg ruling in regard to frozen Iranian Assets.

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Summary and History of issue

The case that The Gambia has put forward to the International Court of Justice is a very crucial issue that has put the Rohingya people in Myanmar under great threat.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was first approved by the Assembly of the United Nations on the 9th of December 1948. It was later put into force in 1951. This convention was established post-world war II as an attempt to condemn the atrocities committed. Currently signed by 152 states, including both Myanmar and The Gambia, Article I of the convention vows to prevent and punish acts of genocide. Article II of the convention states that genocide refers to " any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." (n/a, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948).

Myanmar itself is a Budddhist country and the Rohingya are one of Myanmar's ethnic groups. The Rohingya represent the majority of Myanmar's muslim population. However, the Myanmar government refuses to acknowledge them as citizens of the country. Instead, it views them as refugees from Bangladesh. The torment of the Rohingya people dates back to the 1990's when they would attempt to flee the violations done by the then Burnamese forces (Burma is former Myanmar). In 1996, 15 women and childern out of a group of 150 Muslim Burmese refugees,

drowned as they were being forced to return back to Myanmar from Bangladesh. This shed light on the issue and resulted in 10,000 new asylum seekers in Bangladesh (Human Rights Watch, 1996). Furthermore, displaced refugees did not only come from Rohingya but also from other areas in Myanmar. For example, in 1996, 95,000 Burmese refugees in Thailand were joined by 2,300 from Karenni State and 8,000 more from Shan State. This is due to the fact that the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) were forcing people that came from those different villages to relocate in order for the government to gain better control of them (Human Rights Watch, 1996). Again in 2017, the Rohingya people fled their homes as a response to the violence committed on them by troops accompanied by the Buddhist people. They raped, attacked, burned homes, and killed Rohingya civilians. In about a month since the violence has started, 6,700 Rohingya were killed. In response, the army claims it has been fighting Rohingya militants and not just normal civilians, as well as repeated denials by the country's leader Aung San Suu. (n/a, Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis, 2020).

    The response of the Myanmar government has been that of strong defense against accusations of genocide. The government claims that the 'operations' ended on September 5th, however, violence against the Rohingya people has been observed on multiple occasions after the alleged date. In 2018, UN investigators accused Myanmar's military of genocide intent against the Rohingya people. Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar, appeared in court on December 2019, where she denied accusations of genocide: "The country's Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) admitted that members of the security forces may have carried out "war crimes, serious human rights violations, and violations of domestic law", but claimed there was no evidence of genocide." (n/a, Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis, 2020). More recently, a fact finding mission by the UN urged the security council to impose sanctions on companies that are controlled by the military of Myanmar known as Tatmadow. Furthermore, it also demanded restrictions on 14 foregin firms that supplied the military with weapons such as "fighter jets, armored combat vehicles, warships, missiles and missile launchers to Myanmar since 2016." (United Nations OHCHR, 2017).

It is important to also consider that those weapons were used to facilitate the violence imposed by the military on minorities including "the forced deportation of more than 700,000 ethnic Rohingya to Bangladesh." (United Nations OHCHR, 2017).

Gambia, a majority-muslim nation in Africa, on behalf of 57 members of the OIC (organization of Islamic Cooperation), has brought this case to the ICJ on the 11th of November 2019. Gambia claims that Myanmar has violated the genocide convention through its approach and treatment towards the Rohingya people. Gambia is requesting the ICJ to determine the following: "Myanmar has violated the provisions of the Genocide Convention; Myanmar must cease any acts that violate the Convention (in effect, stop committing genocide), but also to implement its obligation to prevent genocide; Myanmar must hold individuals who committed acts in violation of the Genocide Convention criminally accountable within its domestic legal system; Myanmar must pay reparations to the victims of the Rohingya, including allowing them to return to Myanmar, reinstating their citizenship, and undertaking protection of the group's human rights; and Myanmar must demonstrate its intent to not commit further violations of the Genocide Convention." (Rist, 2020).

On January 23rd 2020, the ICJ issued a decision regarding the provisional measures requested by The Gambia in the case. The court expressed that Myanmar "must take steps to prevent further genocidal acts by its own forces or by groups or forces acting within its territory". (Rist, 2020) The court also required Myanmar to "take steps to preserve any evidence of wrongdoing under the genocide convention." (Rist, 2020) Accordingly, the court also required Myanmar to submit a report within 4 months of the decision regarding the steps it is taking to comply with the ICJ's decision (Rist, 2020). In addition, the court also presented a schedule in which the Gambia could submit a written memorial and Myanmar should respond on January 23rd 2021 (Rist, 2020). As of May 2020, Myanmar has confirmed the submission of its second report to the ICJ regarding the case. (Lynn, 2020). Should Myanmar fail to oblige to the courts orders, "other UN bodies could take steps to increase the power of the ICJ's order and, by extension, increase the political cost should Myanmar fail to comply." (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Questions and suggestions for further research

- Why is The Gambia (specifically) filing this case against Myanmar?
- What effect will a verdict by the ICJ have on this case?
- How can the court ensure that the decisions are put into place?
- Effect of this dispute on neighbouring countries.
- Should the wants of the rest of the population in Myanmar be considered in this dispute?

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MUN

UNODC BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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AUS

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I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Tala Al Kadri

Ajay Sunil

Fareha Khan

Zainab Jamil

DEAR DELEGATES,

The chairs of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations 2021 (AUSMUN21) are delighted and honored to welcome you to the committee that is going to be overflowed with knowledge, debates, and productivity. This conference is all about letting students grow and providing them the opportunity of making friends and relations with people that share common interests.

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes discusses issues about the drug market, terrorism, corruption among other major global affairs. It was founded in 1997 by merging two sectors of the United Nations, for more efficiency and capability to examine international scale situations. The goal and purpose of this committee is to eliminate drug and crime-related dangers and crises among nations to achieve better and safer living standards worldwide.

As the chairs of this committee, we are looking forward to seeing each one of you, whether virtually or in real life. We expect each one of the delegates to put in their maximum effort to achieve beneficial, entertaining, and memorable experiences as a team.

For any inquiries or concerns about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us through the following email: UNODC.AUSMUN2021@gmail.com

AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDES
SHAMMA, TALA, AND AJAY

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was formed in 1997 under the United Nations Secretariat, which is one of the six UN organs. UNODC's purpose is to address global issues that involve drugs, corruption, terrorism, and organized crime. It strives to bring world peace, security, and justice. Besides that, the office is committed to accommodating people with proper health and sustainable well-being necessities. They manage to do all that by offering practical assistance, and they try to take action by encouraging transnational approaches. To elaborate on the issues, UNODC is responsible for the prevention and justice of crime, whether it is physical or cyber, and terrorism. It also handles trafficking issues like human and drug trafficking, smuggling, prevention, and treatment. Moreover, firearms, falsified medical products, money laundering, naval crime and piracy, and wildlife crime are also some of the major issues they tackle. UNODC operates in over 80 countries with 115 field offices and more than 2000 people working with them worldwide. It also works with many governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Furthermore, 40 member states have been elected by the Economic and Social Council which include 12 African states, 9 Asian states, 8 Latin American and Caribbean states, 4 Eastern European states, 7 Western European and other states (UNODC.org, n.d.).

Summary and History of issue

According to the UNODC, the act of drug trafficking is defined as "a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws" (para.1). Based on Booklet 2 of the World Drug Report (WDR) (2020), extensive research done by the UNODC, drug trafficking is an important issue to address as it is the reason for drugs being widely spread, consumed by a quarter of a billion people of the world's population, and making over 35 million people suffer from drug use disorders (p.10). It also causes numerous health and security concerns. Starting with health, drugs can have a negative impact on an individual's social development, mental health disorders, hepatitis-related liver cancer, overdose, and premature death (p.35). As for security concerns, the UNODC confirmed that drug trafficking poses a major international security and peace threat, such as political and social instability, to the point where the security council had to intervene.

Focusing on Latin or South America, drug trafficking is one of the largest and one of the most concerning organized crimes there. In addition, since drugs are mostly trafficked by international criminal organizations (ICOs), it is normally associated with violent crimes and other illegal activities. One of the most famous ICOs in Latin America is Medellin Cartel, a criminal organization that was founded by the infamous drug lord, Pablo Escobar. Statistics by the WDR prove that annual consumption of drugs in Latin America is extremely high, mostly amongst young adults. It is reported that cannabis, amphetamine and opium, ecstasy, cocaine, and mostly heroin are most common in Latin America. (p.11). Moreover, Booklet 3 of the WDR (2020) shows that 55% of the world count for cocaine was seized mid-trafficking in Latin American countries to be

supplied to consumers across the world (p.26). Moreover, the United States has been the largest consumer market and has the highest demand for illicit drugs. Bagley (2013) says this demand is the reason why drug ICOs in Latin America are able to provide such a large supply of drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Bagley states an estimate by the UNODC reports almost $150 billion is spent on drugs and $37 billion is spent on cocaine in the United States alone (para.2).

Recent and past developments by the UNODC have taken place regarding the issue of drug trafficking. In the past, three major international drug control treaties have been created to provide a legal framework for drug trafficking. Those of which are the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961/ amended 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). The office has formed many partnerships with organizations and other UN councils. For example, partnering with the UN Security council, Interpol, and Transparency International. They have also started initiatives, like the Youth Initiative and Crimjust.

Discourse on the issue

The drug trafficking network set up in South America has a devastating impact on several communities, economies, and governments' political structures. The skyrocketing murders and crimes in Latin America, corruption among government officials – based upon drug-trafficking and smuggling charges, the power struggles between the various drug cartels in the regions, the blooming drug market in the US, the vast amounts of immigrants flooding from South America to the US and so much more are just some of the various ways this network has affected our society. All this shows that the problems run deeper than we thought, and merely trying to eliminate the cartels and banning drug consumption will not lead to a solution.

The 1980 US-led "War on Drugs" was a pivotal moment for drug trafficking, where the US pushed for restrictive international drug treaties and eradicated the production of coca plants and the sale of cocaine abroad. The US provided military, financial, and political support to the Latin American governments to aid them in the eradication of coca and to crack down on urban drug businesses. However, these policies had an adverse effect on the marginalized members of society, leading to increased violence within these communities, and the formation of youth gangs, made up of youth influenced by the high levels of social, political, economic, and personal violence. The cartels are able to move operations between countries effortlessly, as seen in the mid 1990s when coca production shifted to Colombia as Peru's security situation improved, and then again back to Peru upon the success of Plan Colombia (a US drug-combating initiative) in the 2000s.

Until now, the global drug policy was primarily based upon strict prohibition and the criminalization of drug production, cultivation, possession, use, and trade – to create a drug-free world. However, these efforts have failed and have also undermined the measures taken in order to tackle poverty, improve access to health, protect the environment, reduce violence, and defend the human rights of the marginalized communities worldwide. Policies need to be made and reformed in order to achieve sustainable development and fully achieve the SDGs.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

Latin America is known to be overpowered by illegal drug organizations that are the main supply to the United States which consumes drugs in billions of USD per year. Although this issue is still ongoing, the matter was tackled in different ways to resolve or at least keep it as limited as possible. (SMART) a "Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends" global program launched in 2008 to support the fight against illegal drug usage was and still is one of

the strategies used to monitor the spread of illicit drugs. In 2011, SMART was implemented in Latin America alongside the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). The benefits of this embedment are first, it provides a more authentic and detailed generation and analysis of data about drug amount consumption and spending. It also uses those data analytics to perform workshops that give more details and specifications on how to deal and handle the different types of drugs (The Global Smart Programme, 2018). Another tactic was by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Health Organization (WHO), they joined forces to discuss global illegal usage of drugs to mention those specific countries in Latin America came up with Early Warning Systems (EWSs) and infused new strategies to handle NPS (World Health Organization, 2018). NPS stands for New psychoactive substances which simulates the same feelings a person gets while consuming drugs such as cocaine and heroin. To perform and tackle tasks more efficiently Vienna and New York's NGOs committee on drugs VNGOC and NYNGOC have combined forces to work hand in hand with the UNODC civil team for a while now in different regions including Latin America. It has been a great help in eliminating drug organization and maintaining damage control (Civil Society Task Force, 2016).

Despite all the great efforts coming from huge organizations that obtain other issues with equal importance, it is crucial that the GOs in Latin America provide emphasized attention and concern on such a circulated, obvious, and dangerous problem.

Questions The Discussion and The Resolution Should Address

1. Should there be a strict ban on the production and consumption of drugs, or should there be reforms for the legalization of particular drugs – with the ultimate aim to create a legal market for said drug?
2. How far-reaching are the effects of drug trafficking and how best do we tackle said issues?
3. Would reforms to immigration and providing well-run temporary work programs for marginalized civilians and migrants assist in the elimination of drug trafficking?

Suggestions for further research

- Balloon effect – drug cartels
- US "War on Drugs" and the aftermath
- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961/ amended 1972)
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)
- UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)
- Expansion of Latin American cartels into other regions
- Countries that legalize certain recreational drugs

Summary and History of issue

The issue of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and organ cartels pose a serious threat to society's future sustainable development and will result in many consequences. According to the UNODC, human trafficking is the illegal act of exploiting people through improper means such as using deception, fraud, force, or a combination of these (para.1). Human trafficking is done with the goal of sexual exploitation, forced labor purposes, kidnapping children for the sake of selling them to infertile couples, and more. Ironically, many are not aware of the fact that human trafficking has been around for centuries, but it had a different reference, which is slavery. Next, migrant smuggling as described by the UNODC, 'involves the procurement for financial or other material benefits of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national or resident" (para.2). Migrants that are smuggled into a state or country are undocumented people who seek refuge and are searching for better opportunities, however, the consequence here is that they are illegally entering into another country's borders. If caught, they would either end up in prison and most likely be deported out of the country. The smuggler will also be facing legal charges if caught. As for organ cartels, they are groups of criminals or even ICOs that work in the business of trafficking organs and selling them on the black market.

All these three issues mentioned above are similar to one another in terms of the targeted victims. These traffickers, smugglers, and cartels all prey on people who are facing desperate situations, financially unstable, and minorities; they also specifically target children, young males, and women. They are able to deceive these people by promising them a better life and opportunities. However, according to the UNODC, there are differences between trafficking and smuggling. Smuggling requires consent, does not involve physical exploitation, it is always transnational,

and profits are made through payments from the migrant to the smuggler. As for Human trafficking, consent is not taken and it is often done through deception and abuse, ongoing exploitation in every sort of way could be done in the same country or transnational, profits are earned when the trafficker delivers to the requesting party (humanrightsfirst.org, 2014).

The UNODC has been coming up with many preventions, protection, and healing campaigns to help address the issue of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and organ cartels. They have partnered with NGOs on projects and initiatives such as community-led activities and community vigilance projects. They have also established the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2003), the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air (2004), and the Convention and Trafficking in Persons Protocol in combating trafficking in persons for organ removal (2011).

Discourse on the Issue

Human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and organ cartels have several implications for the SDGs, specifically SDG 5, 8, 16. The most direct goal focusing on the issue of human trafficking is target 8.7, which calls for nations to "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms." (UNICEF USA, 2016).

When discussing the issue of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, we must understand the difference between the two, as mentioned in the prior section. What often occurs is that trafficking victims may not receive the services, legal redress, or protection they are entitled to and may be vulnerable to being re-exploited. It is vital that current policies and laws show this difference and provide for the individual in either case. Under normal circumstances, human trafficking and migrant smuggling are complex activities difficult to detect; however, the effect of COVID-19 has pushed these operations even further into the dark and its victims away from any detection and assistance.

These operations are active worldwide, from Central America to North America, the Horn of Africa to South Africa, and Europe. In the US alone, there are approx. 22,000 trafficking victims and survivors, 11,000 situations of human trafficking, 4,000 traffickers, and 2,000 suspicious businesses (POLARIS, 2019). Despite the border closures and lockdowns placed by the countries, migrants have still not been discouraged from reaching or attempting to reach these destinations.

On the other hand, the illegal organ trade is a relatively smaller operation; yet it has been slowly expanding over the past decade. In 2017, Global Financial Integrity reported that the estimated annual worth of organ trafficking is 840 million - 1.7 billion dollars. The international community has set up several declarations and policies condemning organ trade, including the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (1997), the Optional Protocol Concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin (2002), and the Declaration of Istanbul (2008).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

One of the most recent acts done against human trafficking and migrant smuggling by UNODC hand in hand with Europen Union (EU) and International Organization of Migration (IOM) is the (GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East) which is a four-year plan starting in 2018 and intended to end in 2022. It has a capital of 12 million euros fully funded by the EU to be implemented in the"Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq and Islamic Republic of Pakistan'. This project was influenced by the effectiveness of (GLO.ACT) throughout 2015 to 2019 and its purpose is to aid law forces in the specified countries through strategy and policy development, harmonization, and corporation, as well as supported direct sufferers of human trafficking and defenseless migrants through emphasizing the documentation of identification, and providing protection (UNODC on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, 2018).

As the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Transplantation Society (TTS) involved themselves in the issue of organ trafficking with the help of Commercial Living Donors (CLD) of the Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions (COFS) for field research, they have come up with conferences to raise awareness on the issue in regions that have increased and concentrated organ cartelizing, for example in February 2007 one of the Philippines newspapers announced over 3000 kidney sales have been issued which cause the WHO to hold a discussion in Manilla (Budiani-Saberi, D. A., & Delmonico, F.L).

A major role comes from the health sector where the professional members work in honesty and ensure patients do not resort to the path of organ trafficking. Those primary factors resulted in the Resolution "WHA57/18 adopted by the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly" occurred on May the 22nd, 2004, WHO encouraged the members present in the discussion to protect and assist the most vulnerable in the state since they are the most exposed to the issue (Trafficking in persons for organ removal, 2008).

Questions The Discussion and The Resolution Should Address

1. What new reforms or policies should be introduced to tackle human trafficking and migrant smuggling during the COVID pandemic?
2. How do we recognize the difference between human trafficking and migrant smuggling in laws and policies, and how do we provide protection for victims of each?
3. What focuses, other than sustainable development, should be integrated in educational systems?Should organ sales be legalized? And if so, what regulations must be kept in place? Is there any country where sales are legalized, and if so, what lessons can be learned from them?

Suggestions for further research

- Legalizing organ trade
- Effect of COVID 19 on human trafficking and migrant smuggling
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto
- Declaration of Istanbul (2008)
- GLO.ACT

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MUN
UNDP BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Hariharan Ramesh

Abdul Rehman Syed

Angela Zacharias

Reza Davoodi

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure for us to welcome you to the 14th annual AUSMUN, and our prestigious committee to the United Nations Development Program. It is with a lot of excitement that we are looking forward to fulfilling our duties as chairs for you.The background guide is a key for delegates that opens the door towards research. It is through the background guide that delegates grasp the essence of the issues which are to be deliberated. Although a rudimentary amount of information lies in this guide, it is important for delegates to venture out into the sea of information on the internet and research appropriately the policies of the country they are representing. This background guide will discuss the general perspective of every issue and present delegates with a strong outline. After that, delegates can use the questions at the end to walk on the right direction towards solving the issue and eventually drafting resolutions. Moreover, there are also suggestions which can pave the way for further research.

The UNDP operates globally in almost 170 countries and territories for the purpose of eliminating poverty, and converging inequalities. We provide assistance in the form of economic and social policy consultation, institutional aid, and leadership abilities. As we all know, COVID-19 has changed the course of life for everyone on the planet, affected businesses, governments and every institution. The first topic will focus on COVID-19 and its exacerbating global inequalities in human development.

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

The second topic will look at a social issue that is disrupting the balance of peace in society and preventing violent extremism through inclusive development, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

With the current pandemic, we can understand that there may be many inconveniences associated with the preparation of this conference. However, the team responsible for organizing the conference has put in everything to ensure that delegates can have a worthwhile experience. If, however, you have any inquiries, please feel free to email us on abdullrehmansyed@gmail.com.

HARIHARAN, SYED
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

The United Nations Development Program, UNDP, operates in 170 countries and aims to reduce inequalities. It also aims to eradicate poverty. It was formed in 1965 with those aims and rigorously works to this day to achieve them. It is also the largest UN development assistance program.

The UNDP administers aid through five-year country programmes. It helps companies attract investment, develop labor skills and implement technology. Moreover, the committee is also concerned with other issues such as the spread of HIV/AIDs, environmental conservatism and climate change, technology infrastructure, and socioeconomic issues.

The Sustainable Development Goals, the UN SDGs, are an important feature of this committee. These integrated goals are milestones which help nations achieve eradication of poverty, ensure action to protect the climate and environment, and sustain peace and prosperity by 2030. The UNDP's role here is to review these goals for the member states and support nations toward achieving them. It does this by putting its primary focus on systems, may it be political, economic or social, to tackle problems.

Introduction

The world has had a united front in many parameters, scientific development has been a critical area of interest for many nations. This has ignited diplomacy in scientific expertise. In recent years countries have spent on R&D to enhance their knowledge about different fields under medicine. The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged to become a fire that has been ignited to incinerate the very scaffolding of humanity. Global inequality of opportunity and outcome have rapidly risen over the years. A few aspects of differentials are access to produce, income levels, availability of healthcare and sanitation, access to technology. This issue pertains to households and the economy as a whole. This global crisis started in 2019, but the biological warfare has spread far across nations. The emergency of this issue began with the travel concerns, as a result of migration. The virus spread and grew, covering superpowers, developing and underdeveloped nations. This affected the social structure, causing humanity to dilapidate itself in various fields. With increasing concerns regarding healthcare and the containment of the virus, nations have been worried of finding plausible solutions to tackle issues such as supply chain management, availability of resources, resource efficiency, social and geopolitical harmony. (Nations, 2019)

The pandemic is unleashing a human development crisis. However, the crisis is hitting hard on all of the human development's constitutive elements: income (with the most massive contraction in economic activity since the Great Depression), health (with an increasing death toll of over 300,000 and indirectly leading potentially to additional uncertainties such as 6,000 child deaths every day from preventable causes and the education sector (with effective out-of-school rates – this accounts for the inability to access the internet.

This excludes the potential of other social evils that includes increased domestic violence, yet to be fully documented. The pandemic has imposed unresolved tensions between people, technology and the planet, the haves and have-nots of many nations as a whole. These international tensions were already shaping a new generation of inequalities and creating an abnormal norm — this is pertaining to enhanced capabilities, the 2019 Human Development Report which helped draft out many key evaluative points.

Nevertheless, the response to the crisis can shape how those tensions are addressed. This could show whether inequalities in human development are reduced or otherwise. To assess this crisis, the data from original simulations that are based on an adjusted Human Development Index—with the educational aspect to reflect the effects of school closures, income levels, Gross National Income provide valuable insight. The simulations suggest that the pandemic would lead to unprecedented decline in human development; however, this isn't entirely proven .

Discourse on the issue

   The policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic has to balance public health priorities with economic and social activities and cultural interests, this includes accommodating short-term measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and their long-term effects. The human development approach places protection and enhancement of human capabilities as the central anchor to guide the analysis and policy, with a systemic and a long-term approach. The health and economic response systems are to be moulded in a way to protect and expand capabilities during and post-crisis. (Nations, 2019)

   The unequal access to technologies and the void of tech-literacy is having a sizable effect on communities' ability to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. Inequality in household activities leads to unequal experience with online learning. This inevitable disruption in education due to COVID-19 has been unprecedented. Schools have closed nationwide, this has resulted in mass protests instigated by local student bodies.

Many have even petitioned for structural changes to facilitate more susceptible changes to accommodate students in educational institutions.

This is a staggering development for school-going children, this could possibly have long-term consequences for their potential in their educational pursuit. The extent to which formal schooling has been substituted with remote learning at the capacity of our home—through parent involvement, own initiative and internet availability—is a function of household means and support. This could help create a culture of fostering acceptable parenting practices and better inter-family skills.

Public education is meant in part to be a vital equalizer in the society to foster a culture that's against discrimination. Quality education, regardless of parent education background or personal status in the society, is meant to provide equal opportunity to everyone, this ensure equality of opportunity and outcome. In many countries, school systems and universities have moved their courses and have transitioned into learning online. As observed in the 2019 Human Development Report, access to technology is unequal across countries. While there is a convergence in essential technologies such as mobile phone subscriptions, technological gaps between countries and within them, the issues are widening in other technologies such as increasing access to computers, internet and broadband.

The COVID-19 pandemic is compounding and analyzing risks to further progress towards a norm of gender equality and social acceptance. The crisis is deepening pre existing inequalities and exposing vulnerabilities which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic. The impact on women and girls span economic concerns(lesser income and purchasing power and job insecurity), unpaid care work, worker exploitation, bargaining power and gender-based violence like work place harassment.

At the household level, gender inequalities within the women circle are perpetuated through a vicious cycle of powerlessness and silence, often rooted in gender social norms.

Due to non pharmaceutical or governmental interventions, many women are being asked to remain at the behest of their homes and isolate in a space that is supposed to be safe. Women are forced to face the harsh reality of being in a loop of an inevitable unpaid service with unasked obligations. (UNHDR,2020)

Inequality in human development affects countries capacity to respond to COVID-19 in general. Countries with a lower human development have a small percentage of the resources of developed economies to finance and operate their health systems. The availability of resources is often misinterpreted with the ability to react to a crisis at multiple levels:
1. The ability to monitor the crisis for decision making.
2. The ability to treat those are in dire need for medical attention.
3. It is the ability to develop new products and services to adapt to the changing circumstances in the health system and beyond.

Past Actions by NGOs and IOs

The economic shock is already hitting countries across the globe, communities and families. The cost of health-related measures and the constant propagation of "false news" through channels will affect the level of consumption, investment and production decisions. These evaluative points were used intensively during the 2008 global financial crisis that spurred a major Recession. However, the COVID-19 crisis poses several unique challenges to policymakers in the sense of creating economic balance and reducing the risk of being in a credit crunch. This is because of the preexisting weaknesses of the global economy and the unique characteristics of this crisis. Throwing resources in the economy might not be sufficient. The key objective is to create policies that deal with the current crises and promote inclusive and holistic human development in the coming years and for future generations to come. (UNHDR,2020)

Every individual is coming together now to find the right resources and the creativity to enact policies and to achieve resource efficiency for the unfolding economic crisis—policies that reflect each society's values and embodies the spirit of their union.

People will find space to expand their economies by expanding the horizons of technological capabilities through R&D, health capacity and knowledge to respond to the current crisis. A wave of innovation is already being scaled up to support the response on multiple fronts. (John Scott,2020)

As history teaches, the impact and response of the citizens to pandemics have the potential to reshape the world for generations to come, this is an opportunity for the world to come together and ignite a path of creative thinking and innovative ideation processing. As the consequences of the crisis unfold —including the effects of responses amid great uncertainty — articulating a vision can contribute to frame policies for outcomes aligned with the aspirations of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. (Brake, 2020)

The concern is scurrying towards economic dimension; given the depth of the decline in the overall output and its social impact. This pattern will strengthen as countries and communities go through the COVID19 pandemic wave (or waves) to find themselves under severe financial stress and overcome the obstacles.

In this context, it is essential to preserve the human development lens, to focus on people and the trend followed by them to ascertain the level of response displayed by them.This note highlights three elements for a vision for the policy response:

- Look at the response through an equity lens. Countries, communities and groups already lagging in enhanced capabilities will be significantly affected and leaving them further behind will have long-term impacts in advancing human development.
- Focus on people's long-term capabilities. This could reconcile apparent tradeoffs between public health and economic activity (a means to the end of expanding capabilities) but would also help build resilience for future shocks.

- Follow a coherent multidimensional approach. Since the crisis has multiple interconnected dimensions (health, economic and several social aspects), a systemic approach—rather than a sector-by-sector sequential approach—is essential. The United Nations has already presented a roadmap along these lines in its initial framework for immediate socio-economic responses. (Keogh-Brown, Jensen, Edmunds, & Smith, 2020)

However, there is something in depth within this crisis. It overlaps and intertwines with other ongoing international tensions between people and technology, between people and nature, and between the haves and the have-nots of the world—which were already shaping a new generation of inequalities. Even at a peak in its economic geopolitical development, humanity was already under heavy stress. This was shown by a greater sense of economic insecurity, scientific warnings about the risks of catastrophic disaster coming sooner and more vital than expected as a result of drastic climate change, and waves of protest and civil unrest erupting since 2019. (Brake, 2020) .

The concern is scurrying towards economic dimension; given the depth of the decline in the overall output and its social impact. This pattern will strengthen as countries and communities go through the COVID19 pandemic wave (or waves) to find themselves under severe financial stress and overcome the obstacles.

UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, today launched the Shadow Pandemic public awareness campaign, focusing on the global increase in domestic violence amid the COVID-19 health crisis. Women are at the heart of care and response efforts underway. As front-line responders, health professionals, community volunteers, transport and logistics managers, scientists and more, women are making critical contributions to address the outbreak every day. Call to Action on Human Rights. (UNW,2020)

At country-level, the United Nations, led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is working to embed human rights at the heart of the response of states, UN partners, civil society and the private sector, and to ensure that the human rights impacts of COVID-19 are effectively addressed during the recovery phase, with targeted action to support the marginalized and most vulnerable. United Nations along with local corporations and employment agencies are trying to reduce the level of unemployment, they are also making a significant effort in increasing the overall standard of living of both men and women. (United Nations, 2020)

With increasing pressure due to the riots caused as a result of the BLM movement and Elections in US, International tensions between countries and the Economic Stress; United Nations is still trying to come up with solutions to combat this global issue. Local NGOs have been helping in maintaining the basic standard of living of the locals, this involves food, shelter, clothing and basic essentials. However, this isn't necessarily sustainable in the long-run. Governments are trying to come up with a plausible solution to gather up relief funds for those suffering and are also trying to boost up the economy and reverse the situation back to normal.

Resolutions or Important UN Documents

1. UN Charter may be referred to identify key points regarding Intergovernmental Relations
2. Resolution A/74/L.92
3. Resolution A/74/L.74
4. Resolution A/74/L.76
5. Resolution A/74/411/Add.1

Questions to consider

1. Covid 19 has become a part of our lives, how would life differ from now post Covid?
2. What are the possible measures governments could take to foster a spirit of happiness and morale during stressful times such as the Pandemic?
3. Has Covid 19 been helpful in re-structuring the economic models and geographic situation of certain parts of the globe?
4. Measures to tackle the issue of Human Development can be very expensive, what are certain innovative inexpensive strategies that could be implemented by developing countries to help uplift the position held by humans.
5. Inequality of Opportunity and Outcome has evolved to become an existential crisis, what are certain measures that could be taken at macrocosmic level to solve the problem of inequality?
6. How can people adapt to change in a positive way?

Suggestions for further research

1. Impact of gun laws and riots on human sustenance (ref. to BLM Movement)
2. Credit Crunch and the economic impact of pandemic
3. Life after pandemic
4. Possible policies that could be imposed to maintain or increase standard of living
5. Possible ways to increase Gross National Happiness quotient

Introduction

The meaning of extremism, in the context of our agenda, is the advocacy of extreme religious and political beliefs. This term is used to describe a political and religious belief held by individuals that is far different from the conventional beliefs of society. Although extremist political ideologies are a very complex phenomena worth exploring since they hold a vast portion of political philosophy (such as Fascism, Anarchism, Communism, etc.), the aforementioned definition is sufficient as of now. It is also important to establish that we will not be rigorously critiquing whether an extreme political or religious philosophy and movement is correct or incorrect. Rather, we will primarily be focused on the behavior of violent political and religious extremists, how their influence/actions affect society, and what the members of the UN can propose to counter this problem. It is also important to understand that a person who is an extremist is not necessarily a violent threat to society. However, there are those that turn to violence and terror in order to express their ideologies and beliefs and this is the main issue which will be under discourse.

Violent extremism is a social issue which occurs when those who believe in extremist political and religious ideologies project those beliefs (or at least attempt to project those beliefs) on society through violent measures. Acts of violent extremism have great costs which innocent people have paid with their lives, families, and property. The most common occurrence of such violence is through hate crimes. Hate crimes are violence against and ethnic/racial/religious/sexual group based on prejudice. While many have suffered the violence of hate crimes there are also those that have been victims of terrorism. Terrorism is an act of violence against society which is motivated by extreme political or religious ideology.

Moreover, social media websites make it very easy for extremists to incite violence as their online expression can be seen as an inspiration for those inclined towards violence.

A Brief History of Political Extremis

Extreme political paradigms have always been a part of society and many have gone as far as revolutionizing entire nations. The French Revolution of 1789 is one famous historical movement of how the political system of monarchy, which was the conventional governing system of the time in Western Europe, was overthrown by extreme political ideologists that belonged to the 'left-wing' and advocated for a Republic. The system which was the bread and butter of politics in Western Europe for centuries was overthrown by an emerging and 'relatively' extreme political movement. The old system of monarchy which concentrated the power of decision-making to a royal family or a monarch would seem like an extreme political philosophy in today's time when most of the world has adapted to systems of democracy and capitalism. This is the relativity of political ideologies. One type of political philosophy may be seen as extreme during a particular period, but that same movement may be viewed as the norm during another time.

Another example of such relativism lies in the history of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the USSR. Before the formation of the Soviet Union, led by the Bolsheviks and their revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin, the Russian Empire was governed by the Tsarist autocracy which was a monarchy. During the violent Russian Revolution, the norm of government was also monarchy in that nation and the extreme political movement was the 'leftist' political beliefs of communism held by the Bolsheviks. Although Communism was never instituted, the final system of government for the USSR would be Socialism.

History has taught us one very important thing: political extremism is subject to change and the extremist ideology of one generation can be the norm of another. If this is the case, then why should the United Nations pursue extremists? In fact, if extremism and revolutions have helped the global society and the masses towards liberation then is it even a problem?

The problem is where the violation of liberty and freedom starts. The United Nations believes in the right to life and liberty as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The problem that exists today, which is that of terrorism and hate crimes threatens the integrity of liberty. The revolutions back in autocratic Russia and France were striving for the liberation of the masses from the clutches of tyrannical monarchy. The belief that all human beings have the right to their own property, belief systems, opinions and all other entitlements of freedom is what the United Nations stands for and will always stand for. Therefore, when those extremist ideologies such as ultranationalism in today's day and age seem to threaten the virtues of human rights, it becomes the responsibility of the United Nations to protect liberty.

When we talk of modern-day politics, it is impossible to miss out on what is happening in the melting pot of immigrants: The United States of America. A nation that proudly wears its Declaration of Independence and the rights of man in its constitution has been a victim to hate crimes which have been orchestrated by violent extremism. In the recent years, there has been an emergence of nationalism in the USA, after the Barack Obama administration. Nationalism is a political movement which promotes the interests of one group of people (Nation Formation: Towards a Theory of Abstract Community, Vol. I, 1996). Although nationalism has some contrast to a democracy, it is not entirely considered to be an extreme political system. However, in a large group of believers, there are always those that are inclined towards extremist beliefs. In the mass of those that stand with nationalism, there are those that are inclined towards ultranationalism. Ultranationalism is a very extreme movement. Some ultranationalist organizations have even been classified as terrorist movements by some nations (Humeyra Pamuk, 2020). Ultranationalism is a movement that resembles fascism, has elements of xenophobia, and puts focus on the unity between the nation and a single party (Jonathan P. Stein, 2000).

The New York Times reported that hate crimes hit a 16-year high in 2018 according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Hassan, A., 2020). This number can be higher as daily incidents of discrimination and bullying in schools, workplaces and the public are generally not reported to the FBI since the FBI mainly focuses on major and violent crimes. Therefore, it is difficult to construct a range where the real number of hate crime offenses, major and minor both, may lie. The other side of the coin is also important to consider. Some political pundits and commentators argue that the increase in the number of hate crimes is due to the fact that law enforcement agencies have adapted better systems of reporting gradually throughout the years and that is the real reason hate crime statistics have shown those numbers increase. Regardless of both arguments, the case stands that hate crimes do exist in a very major democracy of the world and that should be enough of a trigger to start asking to right questions and start making corrections.

Violent extremism is also perpetuated through terrorist organizations, the most infamous being the ISIS in the middle east. ISIS, along with other radical Islamic terrorist organizations, have been involved in terror attacks throughout the world such as the 9/11 attacks, the Madrid train bombings, and the Grand Mosque seizure in Mecca, 1979. Islamic scholars and politicians argue that these terrorist organizations should not be branded as Islamic in a strict sense because they fear increase in Islamophobia momentum. Be that as it may, these organizations and groups do exist and continue to carry out terrorist attacks which deteriorate global peace and security.

Discourse on the issue

In 2015 all member states agreed to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to eradicate poverty, establish peace, conserve the safety of the planet, and promote prosperity by 2030. If the issue of violent extremism remains unsolved it potentially threatens the accomplishment of the following SDGs:·
- Good Health and Well-being
- Gender Equality

- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The SDGs are integrated, i.e., one goal's outcome will affect the outcome of other goals. This means that if such violence hinders the accomplishment of previously mentioned SDGs, then other SDGs may become relatively more difficult to accomplish if not impossible. The UNDP, being responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, must therefore take the appropriate steps towards correcting this issue.

Although it is evident that a solution will only arise from the collective efforts of member states, it is still worthwhile to explore the concept of inclusive development since the UNDP sees that as a promising driver of human development. The debate on what was the best indicator for evaluating socio-economic growth and human development was mostly dominated by economic growth in the past. Although indicators of economic growth are meritorious in their own right, the paradigms only account for industrialization, productivity, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The implication has been that most governments around the world, especially capitalist leaning ones, have prioritized working to enhance such factors. The problem here is not in economic growth, which still stands to be an important objective, but the neglect that other areas face such as the Human Development Index. Lack of efforts to involve inclusivity and improve education by governments are reflected in their HDI, which generally stand on lower performance parameters than economic growth parameters.

When we talk about a problem that is violent extremism, education and inclusive development become very important in solving it. Inclusive development is a relatively new concept worth exploring. It evaluates if the progress achieved through economic growth is adequately spread for the benefit of the entire population. This covers marginalized groups in nations which generally have it relatively more difficult to advance their standards of living as compared to the majority.

Indicators of inclusive development give a good picture on the standard of living sometimes as compared to traditional economic growth indicators. For example, an economy's per capita income will be increasing but at the same time the divergence of poverty could be increasing (increase in relative poverty).

The question now stands: how is inclusive development relevant to the eradication of violent extremism? When the marginalization of people (based on their ethnicity, race, gender, and social class) in a nation state increases, they often turn to extremist political ideologies to change the system. As a consequence, the majority group that exists in the nation will further marginalize and diverge from the minorities due to increasing differences in political beliefs. This is a very dangerous situation as different groups now want to institute different systems in the government, which can lead to a lot of social unrest and violence. In the past, we have even seen civil wars as a terrible consequence. Inclusive development attempts to solve this problem by reducing the divergence by mixing together minorities and majorities so that the playing field is almost level for everyone. The aim is to reduce the possibility of extremist insurgence. Still, the effectiveness of such a strategy is important to evaluate.

Past Actions by IOs & NGOs

The UN resolution document A/70/674 is a very elaborate approach for combating this approach and is strongly recommended for delegates to read. It has more than 70 recommendations to UN member states and the system of the organisation to prevent the spread of such violence any further. Moreover, the Government of Switzerland and the UN also hosted the 'Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism - The Way Forward'. This conference was a platform for nations to collectively discourse and work to erase this issue by sharing their own problems regarding it. The conference was also attended by senior experts which helped in shaping possible policy frameworks.

Finally it is also important to pay attention to a very important international organization, Amnesty International. This organization operates on a global scale and works on documenting and whistleblowing hate crimes and other forms of violence. They have very frequently worked alongside the United Nations and produced detailed reports and documents regarding crime, human rights oppression, oppression of freedom and hate crimes.

Questions to Consider

- Does the improvement of Inclusive Development indicators ensure the eradication of violent extremism or prevent insurgence, at the very least?
- Does freedom of speech incite more hate and violence?
- Is social media a good influence for combating hate crimes or a bad influence that has only catalyzed violence?
- Are all types of extremist political ideology and philosophy harmful to society?
- How can people learn to respect diversity?

Suggestions for further research

Research material derived from official United Nations websites, databases and publications are deemed worthy and strong in terms of verifiability. Delegates' research can focus on the following:

- Explore the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and study their feasibility with respect to the problem of violent extremism.
- Historical movements and revolutions inspired by extreme political ideology and their lasting effects on modern society.
- Using the education system to eradicate extremist violence and promote a respect for diversity.
- Reliable indicators of inclusive development.

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MUN

UNHCR - BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Noorzada Darwish

Rama Hamarsheh

Samarth Rai

Sameera

Mohammed

DEAR DELEGATES,

It is our honor and greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the fourteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and specifically our committee, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We, as your chairs, are looking forward to virtually meeting you all and hopefully, making the most out of this experience by interacting, communicating and cooperating efficiently. We understand that with this pandemic we are unable to physically attend the conference but we hope that nonetheless, this experience allows you to strengthen your skills in public speaking and debating in addition to enhancing your teamwork and leadership abilities!

During the aftermath of World War 2, in 1950, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established to support millions of Europeans who had escaped or were misplaced. It is an organization founded with the aim to save lives, protect rights and build a better future for refugees, displaced groups, and asylum-seeking individuals. Key issues that the UNHCR faces that hinders their response to refugee crises are the rising numbers and complexity of irregular and mixed migration movements, as well as the urgent need for change in the structure of humanitarian response. International action to protect refugees and to address refugee issues worldwide is led and organized by the Committee. Furthermore, the UNHCR acknowledges the need for international collaboration to resolve refugee conflicts and seeks to bring nations together to establish better conditions for refugees across the globe. Its primary aim is to protect the rights and health of refugees.

The UNHCR has one of the most vital messages at the AUSMUN conference and we are honored to be representing this committee. As your chairs, we are thrilled to be part of your AUSMUN experience and are looking forward to moderating this committee discussion ensuring that this experience is as pleasant as possible for both of us! Finally, the best advice we can give you is to start your research as soon as possible and draft your position papers referring to the background guide. Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following email: unhcr2021@gmail.com. We believe in you and we wish you a fruitful and lively debate!

AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDES
NOORZADA, MOUJ, AND RAMA

Summary & History

In simple terms, displaced people are individuals who due to natural, technological or intentional incidents have had to leave their homes, which also includes internally displaced people (people who stay within their own nation) and refugees (people who cross international borders) (WHO, n.d.). Currently, as per the latest estimates, there are 79.5 million people forcibly displaced by conflict in the world, including 45.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 26 million refugees and 4.2 million asylum seekers (SSHAP, 2020). Despite international requests for a temporary truce in ongoing disputes to permit COVID-19 disease management, most wars in the Middle East have not ceased. Even though the introduction of travel bans and border restrictions to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 has significantly delayed migration internationally, within conflict-affected states and across borders, forced displacement continues. Furthermore, the need to provide humanitarian protection and support to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and stateless persons still persists.

When considering the Middle East region, displaced populations and individuals in Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon are especially vulnerable. Approximately 9 million people have taken shelter from wars and disputes between Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon. Refugee movements have also contributed to displaced people overflowing into neighboring countries, across common borders and along unstable migration routes. It is crucial to acknowledge that international institutions, public bodies and local entities often exempt refugees, internally displaced people and other groups of significance from crisis and outbreak prevention preparations (Osmandzikovic, 2020). It can be very difficult for the defenseless and hard-to-reach communities to access interventions as basic as knowledge sharing, public awareness

on potential epidemic preparedness, and precautionary response, particularly in cases of prolonged conflict. In addition, the media has instigated propaganda in refugee-hosting nations in the more industrialized parts of the world that depicts asylum-seekers and displaced people as possible carriers of the virus and a health hazard to the respective countries, causing prejudice (Osmandzikovic, 2020). The Middle East region continues to be poorly prepared for COVID-19 despite having significant expertise with health crises, mainly in places that host displaced persons and populations of risk who are at a higher average health threat (Osmandzikovic, 2020). The transmission of COVID-19 is a first security threat that can weaken war zones further and contributes to a growing number of displaced persons who at border crossing points and in states receiving refugees could bring additional strains on neighboring nations' health systems.

The UN has already appealed for a $33 million fund at the beginning of 2020 to protect refugees, asylum seekers and other concerned communities in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. The funds are intended to improve preparedness, mitigation and proactive programs to meet the urgent public health needs of COVID-19-induced populations of concern (U.N., 2020).

Discourse on the issue

With continuous rising conflicts in the Arab region, the area is now home to 55.7 million people who need humanitarian assistance, including 26 million forcibly displaced people (refugees, asylum-seekers, internally-displaced and stateless persons). Conflicts that have been inflicted due to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly revolved around the loss of income that struck the region. The Middle East region is home to the largest number of displaced populations globally (UNHCR, 2020). Healthcare systems in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, countries with more than 13 million IDPs, have been decimated by war and were barely able to

respond to pre-pandemic health demands. The healthcare systems in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, hosting more than 7 million Syrian and other refugees, are already overstretched. The spread of the pandemic is expected to be devastating, especially to conflict-affected populations, given that many of them live in inadequate and overcrowded shelters or camps, with insufficient access to clean water (Danish Refugee Council, 2020, p.16). Poverty and inequality in Arab countries were already on the rise prior to the pandemic. Inequality and discrimination have undermined the region's progress in all the SDGs, while impinging on human rights and threatening peace and social cohesion (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2020, p.14). Other such armed conflicts led to massive economic losses in the region over the past decade, and such responses during the COVID-19 pandemic has placed individuals in far more troubling situations from the health, humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic perspectives. Prolonged confinement and stretching economic stress has provoked gender based violence with women and children sitting at the receiving end.

The Arab region, prior to the pandemic, had not been on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and currently with the ongoing situation, SDGs such as Gender Equality is likely to be violated in terms of domestic violence, and the already high rates will be exacerbated. Recovery will require a new approach to development and a whole-of-society strategy guided by a collective commitment to peace and stability and by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework (UNHCR, 2020, p.4).

Past Actions by International Organizations

The Arab region can seize the opportunities of COVID response and recovery to make progress on human rights, reconciliation, displacement, humanitarian challenges, the root causes of conflict, and sustainable peace and, in so doing, make tangible progress towards growth, prosperity, equity and social justice for all (UNHCR, 2020, p.21). The United Nations secretary General has addressed the matter and places a vague outline to tackle the issue: slow the spread of the disease, build back better by strengthening vulnerable groups, boosting economic recovery, prioritize human rights (Guterres, 2020).

As a result, governments in the MENA region were quick to respond and take appropriate actions.Public health preparedness activities across humanitarian settings in the Middle East and East Africa have consisted of COVID-19 education,training of staff and equipping health facilities to improve infection control and COVID-19 case management capabilities, and construction, renovation or conversion of existing structures into COVID-19 quarantine or isolation units (SSHAP, 2020).

NGOs have also taken charge to address the matter. The spread of COVID-19 has put migrant workers at even greater risk. Along with other organisations, Amnesty International has already raised its concerns about the impact of the pandemic on protection of migrant workers in the Gulf, where common issues like overcrowded accommodation now present a public health risk. (Amnesty International, 2020). With approximately 2000 staff, the DRC has operational presence in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Yemen and Iraq, providing: protection, basic need assistance, economic recovery, and WASH. (DRC, 2020). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also took response by community outreach, cash assistance, health support, mental health and psychological support, and employment support.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. How can nations make the refugee camps more hygienic?
2. How can nations ensure that the displaced populations receive proper healthcare? Who would fund such expenses?
3. How can the UNHCR ensure that the nations are indeed following proper precautions and protecting the displaced communities?
4. How to limit the disease impacts on refugees, especially in camps with large refugee populations?

Suggestions for further research

- How the representatives' nations are reacting to COVID-19 and their own displaced populations.
- The steps needed to ensure the safety of the displaced communities against COVID-19.
- The effectiveness of healthcare facilities in the representatives' nations while combating COVID-19.
- The measures taken (if any) during the pandemic to ensure the safety of the refugees.
- Solutions to protect the rights of the refugees and displaced persons.
- External sources that are needed for aid when providing shelter, nutrition and basic necessities for the refugees and displaced communities.

Summary and History

"The family is universally recognized as the fundamental group unit of society and as entitled to protection and assistance from society" (Jastram & Newland, n.d.); it is a right to all individuals regardless of their status as a citizen. When people escape oppression and war, the separation of families can have disastrous effects for the well-being of relatives and their ability to recover their lives. They could be pressured to evacuate at the time of the departure without being able to guarantee or know whether their families are secure. In order to find protection in another nation, others have to make tough choices about abandoning their family to find proper shelter. When finally safe, refugees and other international protection recipients are frequently unaware of their family's locations. As stated in global and domestic law, the right to family life and family unity extends to everyone including refugees (Nicholson, 2018). It should apply through the various stages of displacement: the stage of admission, in reception, in detention and during the refugee status determination process (Nicholson, 2018). Among the most important issues of asylum seekers, refugees, and recipients of complementary forms of foreign security may be locating and reconnecting with family members. The only way to maintain the protection of their rights to family life and family unity is family reunification in the country of migration. It has become much harder for them to exercise this basic and necessary right in an exceedingly repressive atmosphere in many countries.

At least 300,000 unaccompanied and divided children traveling across borders were reported in 80 countries in 2015-2016, a rise of almost fivefold from 66,000 in 2010-2011. Globally, it is likely that the overall number of unaccompanied and separated children on the move is far greater (UNICEF, n.d.). Although there are no global statistics on family reunification, in countries where data exists, it is one of the most

important immigration networks. On average family migration accounts for 40 percent of the overall immigration flow in the countries within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development alone (UNICEF, n.d.). A recent framework that addressed this issue is the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), from 2018, which is a structure for a more stable and fair sharing of responsibility recognizing that a permanent solution to refugee crises cannot be accomplished without global collaboration. The GCM presents an opportunity to overcome and eradicate current legal and practical obstacles to maintaining and achieving family unity. The pledges agreed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) provide a remarkable possibility for children, parents, society and states to overcome these obstacles and enjoy the privileges that family unity entails, which need to be applied to achieve their purpose.

Discourse on the issue

When fleeing persecution, war and conflict, the separation of families can have a permanent influence on children's mental health which disrupts their ability to restore and rebuild their lives. It is therefore important to establish that for refugees who are no longer under the protection of their own countries, family separation can result in major distress and dysfunction. Specifically to the most vulnerable of individuals (children and elderly) family protection is crucial as they require a certain standard of physical and more importantly - emotional support. The executive committee of the UNHCR has consistently highlighted the importance of family unity and support particularly for refugees as they are forced to endure extreme psychological distress and trauma.

According to the legal framework set by the international human rights law, everyone, including refugees, asylum-seekers and anyone in need of international protection has a right to family unity and the right to be protected and respected as a "group" while maintaining a family life together. In addition, refugees are to be protected from "unlawful interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence" as per the Article 17(1) of the ICCPR (UNHCR, 2018, p.3). After the war in Syria, as

many as "2.2 million people were forced to seek refuge" elsewhere leaving many children separated from one or both of their parents (UNHCR, 2011) The UNHCR has registered at least 3760 children separated from their parents due to the war in Syria and were forced to relocate unaccompanied in countries like Lebanon and Jordan (UNHCR, 2011). The UNHCR argues that this is an unrepresentative number and therefore, thousands of separated children refugees are at risk of violence and neglect due to mass displacement. The CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child, highlights that children have the right to remain with their families without unlawful interference and requires, as per Article 10, "inter alia" which emphasizes the importance of dealing with family reunification applications in a "positive and humane manner" (UNHCR, 2018, p.5). In addition, the CRC also requires States Parties to provide the appropriate assistance to unaccompanied children while attempting to trace members of their families in order to eventually reunite them (UNHCR, 2018, p.6).

Past Actions by International Organizations

 A family's right to unity is protected by the international human rights and humanitarian law which requires respect, support and assistance to refugee families specifically. According to the international humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions of 1949, these include "people related by blood or have been living together in the same household" (UNHCR, 2018, p.18). Furthermore, under the 1951 Status of Refugees Convention, the country sheltering the refugee is responsible for protecting the individual while providing support for family reunification, considering the refugee is no longer under the protection of their own country (UNHCR, 2018). The Member states of the UNHCR's Executive Committee highlights that all unaccompanied refugee children are to be guided by the principle of "the best interests of the child as well as the principle of family unity" (UNHCR, 2018). The UNHCR further calls on all states to diminish the practice of detaining refugee children but rather focus on providing the needed support for family reunification. The EU family Reunification Directive states that EU Member States 1) are required to authorize the residence of separated family members for family reunification which include: the sponsor's spouse (where polygamy and early marriage are

not recognized by the EctHR), and minor children (including adopted children) 2) "may authorize the entry and residence of first degree ascendants in the direct line" (UNHCR, 2018). Specifically in regards to Syrian unaccompanied child refugees, The UNHCR and UNICEF are currently working with the Jordanian Government in order to provide for these children seeking asylum in Jordan (UNHCR, 2011). This involves providing the required assistance needed to reunite and trace family members in Jordan or abroad all while ensuring the children are safe and provided with their basic human rights.

Questions the discussion and resolution must address

1. What procedures can the UNHCR implement in order to trace family members of refugees seeking asylum, specifically in cases of unaccompanied refugee children?
2. What solutions can the UNHCR take towards ensuring families are not separated after fleeing persecution, war and conflict?
3. How can the UNHCR ensure that the solutions placed are followed through by every nation?
4. What are some measures and ways to ensure the people currently displaced are properly sheltered and receive all their rights?

Suggestions for further research

- Countries' policies and efforts in easing the immigration process for separated family members and their reunification.
- The psychological and mental effects of family separation and reunification especially on unaccompanied children.
- Benefits of facilitating therapy for children with conditions such as PTSD.
- Importance of family unity, especially for refugees.
- Methods to ensure the success of solutions in the long term.
- Effectiveness of the resolutions in combating this issue.

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MUN

CSW BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Zahraa Jaber

Ghofrane Lahib

Irene Franco

Fathima Farhana
Moyikkal

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure and honor that we, the moderators of the CSW committee, welcome you all to AUSMUN 2021. We are enthusiastically waiting to see you all during the committee sessions, and to hear your heated discussions and debates in regards to the issues we will be tackling during this year's conference. We understand the challenges that come with being a delegate, but we assure you that we will be working alongside you every step of the way. While we will do our best to ensure that the committee is diplomatic and functioning efficiently, we also expect each delegate to come in with a complete understanding of his/her country's foreign policy and positions in order to maximize the efficiency of the debates that will take place.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the primary intergovernmental body that has been exclusively devoted and committed to the improvement and advocacy of gender equality and the empowerment of women around the globe. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946 and has been addressing all types of matters related to the conditions in which women live throughout the world while promoting their rights and shaping worldwide values on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It holds authority to "prepare recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields" and to suggest proposals "on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights." Hence, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the correlations to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

the CSW committee takes into consideration one main theme to be prioritized at their yearly held session.

With all of that being said, we would like to reiterate how thrilled we are as we count down the days for AUSMUN'21. We absolutely cannot wait to meet you all and we look forward to convening in the committee with all of you.

Should you have any concerns or inquiries regarding the topics, committee or the conference in general, please do not hesitate to contact us at zajaberr@gmail.com. Best of luck!

SINCERELY,
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
ZAHRAA AND ANGELA

Summary and History of issue

Historically, there have been various traditional and customary practices that infringe upon the health and safety of women and girls. Traditions and customary practices are quite commonly enforced on members of a community by institutions around the world. Most of these traditional practices are associated with strong values and beliefs held by the members. While some traditional practices promote a communal sentiment, others may cause serious and harmful impacts on women and girls. The United Nations Human Rights Council has identified certain traditional practices that cause serious health implications for girls. "Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a process whereby there is a partial or complete removal of external female genitalia or causing injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons" (Cottingham & Kismodi, 2009, p. 1). FGM was one of the most common traditional and customary practices that infringed upon the health and safety of women and girls. However, the traditional practices that threatened the health of women and girls were not limited to FGM. Other traditional practices were forced feeding of women, early marriage, practices that prevent women from controlling their own fertility, traditional birth practices female infanticide, early pregnancy, and dowry practices (OHCHR, n. d.). These inhumane practices violated basic human rights of women belonging to various societies around the world.

The significance of these issues was questioned by the United Nations agencies starting early on in the 1950s. However, due to a lack of formal research and awareness these traditional practices continued among various communities. Fortunately, recent times have resulted in sufficient research to declare that traditional practices cause serious health implications. Female genital mutilation and other identified traditional practices are known to cause physical and emotional harm to women and girls.

These practices are a clear violation of their basic human rights. FGM practices can lead to hemorrhage, pain, and infection as short-term issues. The long-term issues are accidental cuts to organs, keloid formation, infertility, and obstructed labour. In certain rural areas, FGM is often performed by untrained elderly females who may use unsterilized instruments for the procedure. In many cases, this has led to the death of a child. Apart from the physical harm, it has also been proven that these practices can cause psychological harm such as nightmares (OHCHR, n. d.). Other customary and traditional practices can have similar and additional health implications in comparison to the FGM.

There are various factors that led to the emergence of traditional and customary practices and most of these factors are attributed to sociocultural factors among communities. FGM is often considered as a way to prepare a young girl for marriage and adulthood. It is considered acceptable because it is restricting females from extramarital sexual acts; to ensure the virginity and chastity of females. Additionally, FGM is associated with cultural ideals of femineity and modesty. Certain countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Central African Republic consider FGM to be a social norm and there is pressure to conform to these acceptable norms ("Female Genital Mutilation Key Facts", 2020). Most traditional and customary practices are thought of as sensitive family matters that should not be publicized. Thereby, allowing the practices to freely happen within various communities.

Discourse on the issue

Traditional and customary practice forced upon young girls and women such as FGM, early marriage, forced feeding, nutritional taboos, female infanticide, controlling fertility and more are a violation of human rights laws. These practices represent deep-rooted issues with inequality between men and women. On a global level, the continuation of extreme practices such as FGM promotes gender equality. FGM is also an issue that impacts sectors such as health, education, finance, justice, and women's affairs ("Female Genital Mutilation Key Facts", 2020).

On an individual level, women and young girls have their lives put at risk due to traditional and customary practices. The General Assembly in 1979 the convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which explicitly states a national agenda against that discrimination of women through shaping gender roles and family-related based on traditions. It is also the first human rights treaty to affirm the reproductive rights of women ("United Nations Gender Equality", 2020). The traditional practices forced on women and girls especially the prevention of female genital mutilation are one of the major targets of focus under Goal 5: Gender Equality for the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Gender equality and women's empowerment," n.d.).

International response in the form of awareness, education and changes in public policy is one of the ways FGM and other harmful practices can be eliminated. Some of the progress at the international, national, and sub-national levels are revised legal framework which includes a law against FGM in 26 countries in Africa and the Middle East, as well as 33 other countries with migrant population are seen to practice FGM ("Female Genital Mutilation Key Facts", 2020). On February 6th, 2012, the UN General Assembly declared the day to be "International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation" This was done to create awareness and gather the support youth from all around the world under the theme: "Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation." The United Nations strives for the eradication of FGM by 2030 in line with Sustainable Development Goal Number 5. The youth have become an incremental part of creating change around the world. Therefore, they have been actively integrated into the fight against FGM (United Nations, n.d.).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

Due to better recognition of traditional and customary practices as harmful, there have been improved responses to these issues in recent years. In 1993 at the world conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993 the slogan "Women's rights are Human Rights", was adopted. The General Assembly in 1993 made a declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Moreover, international communities have started becoming aware that these practices violate causes extreme forms of inequality and violate the fundamental human rights of women and girls (OHCHR, n. d.)

Although it is a long to the complete eradication of FGM, many notable improvements on the issue have resulted through the efforts of the UN, IO, and NGOs. In 2007, UNFPA and UNICEF initiated a programme on Female Genital Mutilation or cutting to abandon the practice. This program focuses on seventeen countries in the African and Middle East region while supporting major global initiatives. Over the years more than 3.3 million girls and women are supported and have received proper care through this program ("United Nations", n.d.). In 2008, WHO with nine United Nations partners issued a statement for the elimination of FGM. In December 2012, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on eliminating FGM ("Female genital mutilation key facts", 2020). The Spotlight Initiative by The European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN) is focusing on eliminating all forms of violation against women and girls around the world, including traditional and customary practices (The Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls, 2020). According to reports published by the UN in 2017, the rates of girls between 15 – 19 years of age who are subjected to FGM have dropped from 1 in 2 in 2000 to 1 in 3 ("United Nations Gender Equality", 2020). There are national and international NGOs and IO that work towards protecting girls and women around the world from the practice of FGM. Daughters of Eve, End FGM European campaign, FGM National Clinical Group, and Global Alliance against FGM are few examples of NGOs and IOs working for the fight against FGM ("12 NGOs fighting against female genital mutilation," 2018).

Questions and suggestions for further research

- What are some measures to achieve complete eradication of FGM by the year 2030?
- What are some of the reasons why FGM prevails despite improving legal frame works that bans the practice?
- What are the roles men play in the eradication of FGM? How can they help in the process?
- What are the psychological impacts women and girls face with traditional and customary practices?
- How has better education led to the realization that FGM violates human rights and promotes gender inequality?
- Traditional and customary practices that infringe the health of girls and women beyond FGM.
- Very recent programmes and initiatives that are fighting the practice of FGM.
- Social media campaigns run by UN and NGOs to create awareness for FGM.
- Physical health impacts of FMG and other traditional practices.
- FGM practices among immigrant population in western and eastern countries

Summary and History of issue

As the world has constantly seen by past crises, its impacts are – unfortunately, never gender-neutral. With that being said, COVID-19 is no exception to this. Based on what we know from previous crises, the consequences of this pandemic will outlast the pandemic itself. In general, an increase in unemployment results in people going back to outdated and stereotypical gender roles. While unemployed women generally are favored to take care of the household and the children, unemployed men are instead favored more heavily in the hiring process, even though jobs are scarce. It has been seen during the American 2008 Economic Crisis, in which government funds toward relief efforts were taken from vast cuts to social services and benefits, with substantial impacts especially on women (UN Women, 2020).

According to the international World Values Survey, more than half the respondents that reside in countries in South Asia and the MENA region agreed that men are the ones with a greater right and priority to have a job than women when jobs are limited. When asked the same question, one in six respondents residing in developed countries - such as switzerland and germany - gave the same answer. These attitudes shape how negatively women are impacted economically due to crises. A UN policy brief published in April 2020 stated that the pandemic is "deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic", emphasizing how "across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs, are more likely to be employed in the informal sector. They have less access to social protection and are the majority of single-parent households. Their capacity to absorb economic shocks is therefore less than that of men." The reason women are mostly affected by economic crises – that follow health crises, is because they tend to earn less.

The gender wage gap is a term that refers to the variance and difference in earnings between men and women (Bleiweis, 2020). While there is an average wage gap of 18 cents between women and men of all races, there are also significant differences such as race and ethnicity that increase it as well.

In Europe and Central Asia, 25 percent of self-employed women have lost their jobs, compared to 21 percent of men since the start of this pandemic. Projections from the International Labour Organization suggest that almost 140 million full-time jobs are at great risk of being lost due to the pandemic, with women's employment being 19 percent more at risk than men. Antra Bhatt, a Statistics Specialist has said: "The resurgence of extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic has revealed women's precarious economic security." The COVID-19 pandemic has induced a surge in poverty which consequently widened the gender poverty gap. This means that now, even more women will be pushed into poverty instead of men.

Even though every single person is facing unparalleled challenges during this time, women are bearing the burden and impact of the economic and social fallout that COVID-19 has caused.

Discourse on the issue

Senior Research and Data Specialists have stated that "For the last 22 years, extreme poverty globally has been declining. Then came COVID-19, and with it, massive job losses, shrinking of economies and loss of livelihoods, particularly for women. Weakened social protection systems have left many of the poorest in society unprotected, with no safeguards to weather the storm," so, alongside the issues this pandemic has caused, come to the issues linked with how countries and governments are responding to the pandemic. It is estimated that around 243 million women have experienced sexual or physical abuse at the hands of an intimate partner at some point over the past months following the beginning of the pandemic (UN Women, 2020). Within 1 week of France implementing its lockdown, reports of domestic violence had surged by 30%. It was a similar story in dozens of other countries.

These women have been trapped with their abuser for months in the end with no shelter from the cruelty and abuse inflicted upon them. Before the coronavirus pandemic, millions of women were already struggling to support themselves and their families on inadequate and insufficient wages. After the coronavirus pandemic, the lockdown has triggered unemployment rates to increase, thus leading to millions of jobs disappearing. Working mothers were already dealing with the majority of the weight a family holds. Their expected responsibilities include taking care of their children, keeping their house clean and tidy, cooking food, and pleasing their husband all while working a job. COVID-19 has caused various disruptions to daycare centers that mothers depend on, schools, and after-school extracurricular activities that keep their children busy as they're working, or at their jobs. These interferences have resulted in mothers taking on more childcare responsibilities, thus causing them to reduce their working or having to leave their jobs entirely. These women who are marginalized and underprivileged face an even greater risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19, and even though "70 percent of health workers and first responders are women, and yet, they are not at par with their male counterparts. At 28 percent, the gender pay gap in the health sector is higher than the overall gender pay gap." (UN Women, 2020).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The UN Women committee has rapidly generated a well thought out targeted response in order to alleviate the vast ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis on women and girls, hoping that they are eventually able to ensure that this recovery and help will also benefit them in the long-term. The response to COVID-19 carried out by the UN Women also includes "policy advice and programmatic interventions and is part of the broader UN-wide response." (UN Women, 2020). According to the UN Women, their response is focused on five primary goals that include, "gender-based violence, including domestic violence, social protection and economic stimulus packages that serve women and girls, people's support and practicing equal sharing of care work, women and girls leading and participating in COVID-19 response planning and

decision-making, and data and coordination mechanisms to include gender perspectives." In many countries, including ones such ad Lebanon, Bosnia, Palestine, Fiji and Egypt, UN Women is undertaking a various swift assessment of violence against women since the Safe and Fair programme in the Asia Pacific reported a great increase in the risk of sexual exploitation and violence ever since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Women is also working alongside many countries such as South Africa, Georgia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Arab States in order to focus on the economic sectors that employ women who have been affected by the pandemic. They are also offering virtual learning courses in order to support women-owned independent businesses that have been severely affected by the coronavirus. The UN Women is also working on the social stereotypes that hold women back and instead started a #HeForSheAtHome campaign in order to encourage men to step up to their duties and responsibilities in the house as well. All in all, the UN Women committee has been working hand in hand with various sources of help, such as other UN entities and many countries' governments in order to ensure that women and girls are receiving the assistance that they need.

Questions and suggestions for further research

- How can governments and businesses mitigate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on women?
- What are the effects of women's unpaid work on the economy?
- How have countries supported gender equality?
- What realistic laws can we implement to better support gender equality?
- Equal pay between men and women in all job sectors.
- Child infrastructure and women's unpaid work.
- Correlation between women's rights and the economy.
- The already existing stereotypes of a woman's role in a society (family, work, etc.)
- Mental health of women affected by the pandemic.

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UNHRC BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

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DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Samrin Saleem

Leen Belal Othman

Mueez Khan

Junaid

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Greetings delegates of the Human Rights Council,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 14th annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations 2021 (AUSMUN) conference. Just as we have always aimed at doing, this year, the AUSMUN United Nations Human Rights Council committee works on tackling and resolving critical issues through your interaction, cooperation, and communication during the online debate.

The UNHRC has always been a unique committee, especially in terms of the topics discussed by delegates participating in it. They are topics that relate to everyone, which is why we expect all delegates to come prepared to the conference, in order to live the interactive experience of a competitive discussion, while enjoying the conference at the same time.

Carrying from there, we are looking forward to meeting all of you but, even more eager to chair the heated debates that you, the delegates, will be forming throughout the duration of the conference. Thus, make sure you attend the conference in a competitive and positive spirit!

Also, feel free to contact the chairing committee for any inquiries by email.

Email: unhrc.ausmun@gmail.com

AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDES
SAMRIN SALEEM, LEEN BELAL OTHMAN,
HADI KESROUAN

The United Nations Human Rights Council was formed by the United Nations General Assembly on March 15, 2006. Its first session was held from 19th of June till 30th of June 2016. The council was formed to replace the Commission on Human Rights as the primary intergovernmental body in the UN that addresses human rights worldwide. Also, the Commission on Human Rights was criticized for its inability and ineffectiveness in addressing human rights abuses and abusers that served as its members. The UNHRC is liable to promote protection and respect of human rights and freedom for all. Its major aims are to prevent any kind of human rights violations, and to integrate and promote the mainstreaming of human rights within the UN. Being a branch taken off the General Assembly, it is responsible to report directly to the Assembly's 193 members. The councils' resolutions, and decisions are not legally binding. However, their actions affirm political weight and represent the councils' perspectives and priorities.

Summary and History of issue

For years now, there has been accumulated evidence over the mistreatment of the Chinese government towards ethnic minorities living in its western region, Xinjiang, especially including Uighur Muslims, who are Turkic ethnic groups that follow the Islamic faith predominantly. (Shiel, 2019) Journalists, researchers, and refugees described the mass surveillance, arbitrary arrest, forced labor, sprawling detention camps, torture and murder that Muslims of Xinjiang have to live through. In addition to that, the government has taken specific aim being responsible for destroying numerous mosques, confiscating Qurans, forbidding Halal food, and banning fasting during the month of Ramadan; the 9th month of the Islamic calendar in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset (History.com, 2010). Presently, it is estimated that around 2 million Uighurs have been held captive in detention centers in Xinjiang, where they have been subject to political indoctrination and abuse (Dewan, 2020). This has raised global discussions, specifically in regards to the human rights violations that are believed to be conducted against this minority of citizens.

The problem traces back to the early stages of the 20th century, when Uighurs declared independence, only for Xinjiang to fall under the complete control of communist China in 1949. It is believed that ever since then, Uighurs faced a gradual erosion of their rights as the government progressively curtailed their religious, commercial, and cultural activities. Beijing has been accused of intensifying its crackdown since the 1990s protests, as well as those of the runner up to the Beijing Olympics in 2008 (Griffiths, 2020; Maizland, n.d.). After the 9/11 attacks, it is also believed that the Chinese government has increasingly tried portraying its Uighur separatists as auxiliaries of al-Qaeda. In 2017,

however, Chinese president, Xi Jinping, issued a directive clearly stating that "religions in China must be Chinese in orientation" and "adapt themselves to socialist society", only to lead to a renewed crackdown on religious practices that particularly affected the Uighurs. The Chinese government says that the measures are crucial to preventing terrorism and rooting out Islamic extremism. Nonetheless, opponents of this decision have accused the government of exaggerating the described threat imposed on them by Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, in order to justify the repression of these groups, particularly the Uighurs (BBC News, 2020.).

In July 2020, the UK warned that it would sanction China for their abuse of human rights in Xinjiang. Moreover, in 2018, the UN Human Rights committee found credible reports that proved China's detaining of a million Uighurs in "counter extremism" camps. (BBC News, 2020)

Discourse on the issue

China stopped all trails of drafting a resolution on Uighur Muslims by saying that it is an internal affair. Although some resolutions were drafted, China vetoed all of them, which poses an international injustice towards Uighur Muslims. China is a state party to the 1984 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide which condemns genocide under international law. Also, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). All of which provide safeguard against religious discrimination and provides rights to parents to educate their children in accordance with their religious beliefs (Rizvi, 2020).

China is not only violating international treaties, but its own constitution too with the extensive policies they follow to dehumanize the Uighur Muslims population in Xinjiang through the suppression of religious freedom and forced assimilation (O'Connell, 2020). Alongside the previously mentioned documents and conventions, China has violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (Chaudhry, 2020).

Globally, as a way of condemning the Chinese government acts, the US has imposed visa restriction on certain Chinese officials who are complicit in the detention of Muslims. Also, the US has blacklisted numerous Chinese companies associated to the genocide in the region. The law ensured that US businesses or individuals operating in Xinjiang are not violating human rights and the use of forced labor of Uighur Muslims.

According to (Maizland, 2020): "Much of the world has condemned China's detention of Uighurs in Xinjiang. The UN human rights chief and other UN officials have demanded access to the camps." Also, attempts by the European Union and human rights organizations are ongoing to induce China to respect religious freedom and shutdown the camps.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a body that tries and charges individuals, institutions, countries and other entities with four major crimes that affect the international community: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. Under international law, the decisions of the ICC, as well as resolutions passed in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are legally binding, provided that the charged State recognises the jurisdiction of the ICC. The only special case under which the ICC can exercise its jurisdiction even without the State recognising it is if the case was referred to the ICC by the UNSC in accordance with any resolution that was passed under the UN Charter's Chapter VII (Rizvi, 2020).

China does not recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC. Moreover, as China is a permanent member of the UNSC, no resolution can be

passed in the UNSC if even one of the five permanent members (P5) veto it. Exploiting this power, China continually puts an end to all talks of a resolution on the matter of the Uighurs, claiming it is an "internal matter." Furthermore, the UNSC is the only body of the UN that passes resolutions that are legally binding under international law (Rizvi, 2020).

Therefore, the very structure of the UN has prevented action against China on the matter of the Uighurs, beyond verbal condemnations. This does not, however, stop individual member states from making statements condemning China's actions. Notably, in October 2019, 24 countries - Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States - called on China to comply with international and national laws on human rights. This was countered by more than 50 countries who were allied with China who "commend China's remarkable achievements in the field of human rights." The foremost of these allies were Belarus, Russia, and Egypt (Charbonneau, 2020).

In June of this year, the United States enacted the first ever law that ensures the rights of Uighurs and other Muslims in China - the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020. The bill seeks to impose sanctions on a constantly reviewed list of individuals and entities responsible for the violation of human rights in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region. The effectiveness of the bill is yet to be evaluated (Rubio, 2020).

Continuing their efforts to put an end to the situation, in September 2019, several NGOs asked Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to publicly condemn China for its actions. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), International Commission of Jurists, and the World Uyghur Congress called on the Secretary General to urge China to allow the UN high commissioner for human rights access to the camps (Human Rights Watch, 2020). However, these and other requests from both NGOs and States have led to no change, because, as detailed previously, the UNSC cannot take any real action against a permanent member.

Care International works towards Adaptation, Advocacy, Gender, Ecosystems and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition and Resilience for climate change.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What psychological impact do detention camps have on Uighur Muslims?
2. Which international brands have been accused of sourcing their labour from unpaid Uighur detainees?
3. Why or why not are petitions effective in contributing to an end to the problem?
4. What is the likelihood that China's claims refuting these allegations are true?
5. Statements made at the UN or elsewhere by survivors and refugees.
6. The national and international laws that China is breaking in its treatment of the Uighurs.
7. Deportation of Uighur refugees.
8. Possible ways the UN can, within its powers, put an end to the mistreatment of the Uighurs.

Summary and History of issue

Democracy was never granted for all. Over the course of history, ethnic and racial minorities, in particular, have faced denial by what could be referred to as the "white supremacy", which has provided a climate in which the different types of violence ranging from genocide to racial attacks were brought into light and in which concepts like racial prejudice; which is defined as discrimination and antagonism that is directed towards people of different color, as well as racial discrimination have been encountered by racial minorities, a term that refers to a group of people with a race that is lesser in number than the dominating group of people living in the same community.

Historically, the victims of racial violence were Jewish people; whereby, the identification of Jewish people with the devil or witchcraft in the popular mind of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries first came, to create the early traces of racism back then. Following that, during the Renaissance and Reformation period, Europeans came into increasing contact with people from Africa, Asia, and the Americas, only for a culture of African slave ownership to develop based on a variety of obsolete rationales. In the seventeenth century, laws in English north America were passed to forbid marriage between partners of different races. Implicitly, these laws aimed at portraying African Americans as "alien" or "inferior" in comparison to the "white supremacy". In the 19th century, emancipation, nationalism, and imperialism all contributed to the increase of ideological racism. The climax, however, of racism in history came in the twentieth century, a period where racist regimes were continuously passed to encourage racial segregation, and a period when racist ideologies were brought to an extreme in Nazi Germany.

Currently, the world continues to see the violent results of racial discrimination as crime rates against people of color continue to be on the rise. Recently, in the United States, the murder of George Floyd, suffocated by a police officer, sparked awareness in regards to the longstanding history of racial terror. Thus, in the US alone, from April to November, some 30 riots broke out to fight against racial injustice after a series of high profile incidents of African Americans being killed at the hand of police officers, and former law enforcement.

Discourse on the issue

Systemic racism is the institutional bias that puts people of color at a disadvantage against White people. The root cause of racism longs back to slavery and the faulty belief of the superiority of white people on black people. For example, this segregation between races gave birth to hatred and violence towards African Americans. It commenced a global racial violence, not only to African Americans, but to all people of color. The UNHRC is moving toward terminating systemic racism and racial violence in the US. Given the recent incident of George Floyd, a resolution by 47 members council members was passed mandating a global report on excessive use of force against POC by law enforcement. The resolution aimed to establish accountability and compensation for the victims or just repudiate the structural racism in the US only, but globally as well (Marina Reira, 2020). Furthermore, the resolution asked for the high commissioner to assess the government acts' against anti-racism peaceful protests against protestors, spectators, and journalists. At the United Nations Office in Geneva, it has been addressed that racism is a "flagrant contradiction" to the UN Charter that aims to ensure basic human rights and value to humans (UN News, 2020).

The effect of racial violence and segregation clearly benefits a party and hurts the other. The issue does not hold any logical explanation for victimizing young black people and placing them at a disadvantage their entire lives, which further affects their future opportunities. Not only that,

but statistics show that police violence towards Black Americans is more prominent and intended in comparison to White Americans across police arrests and unnecessary violence. This has caused numerous attempts to alter government programs and educate people in regard to this matter. According to (Marina Reira, 2020): "Together with partner groups, we have also worked to change government programs, from education to health care, that deepen rather than remedy racial and ethnic inequality and leave far too many people mired in destitution and despair."

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

On 21st December, 1965, the General Assembly passed resolution 2106 (XX), which adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and opened it for signature and ratification. The Convention entered into force on 4th January, 1969, under Article 19 ("International Convention," n.d.). As of November 2020, the Convention has 88 signatories and 182 parties (Secretariat of the United Nations, 1969). It binds signatories and parties to eliminate racial discrimination and promote racial harmony, as well as to make hate speech illegal and criminalize membership in racist organizations. The individual complaint mechanism makes the Convention enforceable against its parties ("International Convention," n.d.).

The Convention defined racial discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life." Articles 4 and 5 respectively call for the punishment of racial violence, and State protection from violence, even if inflicted by the government itself ("International Convention," n.d.).

The impact of any resolution or treaty can be assessed by examining its acceptance and implementation. As stated previously, the Convention is nearly universally accepted, including its individual complaints mechanism. However, there have been problems with parties submitting incomplete reports, or none at all (CERD, 1973, 1982).

Under Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was established in 1970, which monitors the implementation of the Convention by State parties. States must submit regular reports to CERD, first one year after agreeing to the Convention, then every two years. CERD reviews the reports and provides recommendations to the party. They also monitor via the early-warning procedure, inter-state complaints, and individual complaints ("Committee on the Elimination," n.d.).

Several NGOs have also dealt with the issue of racial violence. Amnesty International has published detailed guidelines on police brutality ("What is police brutality?", n.d.), and a handbook on using international human rights systems (other than CERD) to combat racial discrimination (Amnesty International, 2001). They also review and provide recommendations on the CERD's General Recommendations. In 2010, Amnesty attended a CERD session on strengthening the interaction between the Committee and NGOs ("Strengthening the interaction," 2010).

The Human Rights Watch frequently submits recommendations to CERD on the periodic reports of State parties of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and also to conferences like the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In addition, they issue reports on racial violence in different countries worldwide, like police brutality, racial profiling, and larger issues that are aggravated by racist motives. In these cases, HRW also issues a recommendation to the States on what legislation must be passed, or how existing laws must be modified.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. Which countries have the highest and lowest rates of racial violence, and why?
2. What are some racial biases localized to certain countries or regions?
3. How often are perpetrators of racial violence sentenced appropriately, and why?
4. How can existing laws and treaties be modified to bring actual change?
5. Historical cases of racial violence.
6. Psychological impact on victims and witnesses.
7. Recent surges in cases around the world.
8. Overall trend of number of cases over the years globally.

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MUN
UNEP BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Mohamed Yousuf

Omar Khamkhoyev

Huzaifa Masood

Maryam Deeb

HONOURABLE DELEGATES,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the UNEP.

We are thrilled to have you join our committee and look forward to having some interesting and insightful debates this year. Our committee is focused around issues of environmental protection and sustainability, topics that are increasingly relevant today. We encourage you to venture out of the background guide, go out and explore what these topics have to offer, that will ensure you are best prepared for the discussions we will be having very soon. We look forward to meeting each and every single one of you. In the meantime, get working! And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. Good luck!

AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
MARYAM, OMAR

Summary and History

The exploitation of nature by humans is no new phenomenon, over the years it has led to devastating consequences. Unfortunately, humans have been exploiting flora and fauna at alarming rates resulting to the point where scientists are calling today's age 'the 6th mass extinction'. Almost 6,000 different species of wildlife, both flora and fauna, have been confiscated between 1999 and 2018 (UNEP, 2020). Nearly every country is playing a role in the illicit wildlife trade, rendering it an international concern. The aforementioned comes to show the alarming nature of the current situation, to which the UNEP is working to alleviate. If anything, illicit trade of wild fauna and flora has grown in importance in the public consciousness and has been rising on the political agenda, both internationally and domestically; as it becomes clear that wildlife crime without a doubt has negative implications for the preservation of biodiversity, climate change and public health. Despite the efforts of the UNEP along with other organizations, the international community still remains far from victorious when it comes to eliminating illegal wildlife trade. For example, In September 2020, federal authorities in the United States uncovered a wildlife trafficking ring that had smuggled more than 10,000 pounds (4535.924 Kg) of shark fins into the US from Hong Kong. According to the WWF, in 2019, an estimated 195,000 pangolins were trafficked for their scales alone (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2020) and the number of elephants killed in Africa annually is about 20,000 per year (WWF, n.d.). Interestingly enough, the Pangolin is said to be the source of the COVID-19 virus, demonstrating that Illicit trade is not just an issue of biodiversity, but also one of health concerns. This claim is supported by the UNEP as it states; Three-quarters of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic. Today, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is said to be the most influential international agreement for

tackling the issue of illicit flora and fauna trade, however, despite its benefits, it has not successfully eliminated its core issues; weak domestic regulation, non-comprehensive legislation and lack of cooperation.

Discourse on the issue

Sustainable Development Goal 14 highlights this issue as it targets international preservation of life below water and life on land with a relevant target being "urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species by 2020" (UNEP, 2020). Which makes the prohibition of wildlife trade an important goal in order to accomplish the SDGs set by the UN. The CITES agreement is by far the most influential agreement of its kind, as it lists endangered species and sets the standard for wildlife trade. Today, the agreement is considered to be the primary legal framework for regulating international trade in species of wild animals and plants as well as combating illicit trafficking in wildlife. CITES is a convention, where member states have agreed to contribute to the cause, however the first resolution targeting this illicit trafficking was passed on the 31st of July; fairly recently. This resolution calls for wildlife crime to be treated as a serious crime, both nationally and across borders, and has been passed by the UN General Assembly with much assistance coming from the UNEP. Other resolutions have been drafted as well such as one in 2017 titled "tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife" (Document A/71.L.88) where the Assembly urged its member states to amend national legislation so that crimes connected to the illegal wildlife trade were treated as predicate offences to allow related assets to be seized, confiscated and disposed. Another resolution under the same name in 2019 (Document A/73/L.120) also called upon member states to take steps nationally to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife. Though there may be small scale successes, we are yet to see an end to this issue as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services stresses the urgent need to address the unprecedented global decline in biodiversity.

The CITES itself has many shortcomings; there are millions of species that are not listed by CITES that may be illegally harvested and traded. Second, it is limited to regulating international trade so it has no influence over domestic markets. Though there is increased awareness on the matter, there is still plenty that the international community is in desperate need of alleviating; words are void if not practiced. Upon debating this topic, we hope to address the shortcoming of current agreements and suggest potential solutions to such inadequacies.

Past actions by the UN

Today, The UNEP works with many organizations; both UN and non-UN entities; such as the UNDP, UNODC, ICCWC, Greenpeace and WWF in order to establish international and multilateral agreements to safeguard nature from further deterioration. In fact, the UNEP has partnered with 23 organizations working towards a common goal. The UNEP currently works with the UNODC, reporting instances of illicit trade in wildlife, and compiling development in a yearly report called the World Wildlife Crime Report. This database has grown, currently containing just under 180,000 seizures from 149 countries and territories. The UNEP has also partnered with WWF with the aim to spread awareness and assist communities to protect their natural resources.

A major development occurred 1975, when CITES came into effect after being ratified by 80 states (178 states today). CITES, which is administered by the UNEP, is considered to be one of the world's most powerful tools for biodiversity conservation through the regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora. Articles XIII and XIV of the Convention highlight international and domestic measures that members of the convention must take in order to contribute to the cause.

UNEP has also leveraged online platforms to raise awareness about wildlife conservation, which would aid in reducing demand for illegal wildlife products. An example of this is the UNEP's 'Wild for Life' campaign which partnered with social media influencers and reached out to almost 1 billion people across the world via a multitude of social media

channels (UNEP, 2020). Despite these efforts, recent news have shown that illicit wildlife trade is a problem far from solved, and overcoming it requires the concerted and coordinated efforts of all member nations.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. Look into governmental policy of different countries to answer the following; do their laws and regulations promote or inhibit wildlife trafficking? And in what ways?
2. How can countries better cooperate in order to put an end to such practices?
3. What does the world wildlife report say about developments in wildlife trafficking for 2020?
4. Should all states contribute equally to the cause? Why or why not?
5. What is meant by the terms legally binding and self-executing in relevance to CITES?
6. Where are the Wildlife trade 'hotspots' and why are they so? Hint: explore the reasons why they are so; economic importance, weak domestic policy, lack of awareness etc.

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Summary and History

As many may know, global warming currently is, and has been for several decades, one of, if not the most taxing and imminent dangers to planet Earth. Mostly in place due to the greenhouse effect, global warming is hugely affected by the emissions and production of greenhouse gases, which theoretically 'speed up' the process of depleting the ozone layer. Notwithstanding many nations' great efforts, the catastrophe of higher temperatures and increased chances of natural disasters is getting worse by the second. Despite the magnitude of its threat, many companies and industries have found an economic quarry within the caves of greenhouse gas emission, the most potent of which being carbon dioxide, or CO_2 in chemical terms.

Originally, the idea of the 'Carbon Market' originated as a way to encourage companies to emit as little CO_2 as possible, and allow the government to monetize any other emission. When developing strategies for carbon pricing, policy makers have three options. The first is to set a certain limit that companies can't exceed, which is not as effective due to the different types of companies within national business, as large-scale companies that mass-produce would not be able to supply demand. The second option is to introduce a carbon tax where the company pays for the amount of CO_2 they produce, and the third option, the basis of the 'Carbon Market', is to implement an emission trading scheme. In this scenario, companies buy and sell the 'right to pollute' from each other.

The EU's emissions trading systems (ETS) is the world's first and largest international carbon market, functioning in all EU countries and covering over 40% of greenhouse gas (GHG) production in Europe. The ETS adopts a policy named the 'cap and trade system', where

companies can buy and sell allowances which allow them to emit CO2. One allowance is the right to produce 1 tonne of CO2. According to reports, the ETS has been effective in reducing emissions, the emissions covered from power and heat generation have declined by 4.1% between 2017 and 2018, and total emissions since 2005 have decreased by 29% (Lohmann, 2006).

Despite its apparent efficacy, the carbon trading system has its \downsides. An effect called 'carbon leakage' is initiated as companies at risk of relocating business outside of the EU are given free allowances in order to cover their financial emission costs, and some companies have taken advantage of this, formulating fake financial reports and engaging in fraud and embezzlement in order to receive the 'right to pollute'. There have been no documented cases that specifically mention fraud in the CDM, yet a survey conducted in March 2010 by 'Point Carbon', a data provider for the carbon market, shows that over 15% out of the 890 respondents involved with the CDM report that they have seen fraud, embezzlement and corruption within CDM or JI projects, with China being the country mentioned most frequently (PWC, 2011). In addition, companies that no longer require their carbon emission allowances are entitled to sell them, and though it is a monetary gain, this concept reduces the incentive of going green, as financially stable companies could easily purchase pollution rights.

Discourse on Issue

The Kyoto Protocol has been the main area of focus when it comes to UN involvement with carbon trading. Though it is an official protocol launched by the UN, it has several shortcomings and includes loopholes that companies could easily exploit. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), is the focal point of the Kyoto Protocol, and it has caused a lot of controversy as it has not been as effective as planned, in other words, it has been a failed scheme.

The CDM takes the form of carbon "offsetting," which allows companies, international financial institutions and Governments to finance "emissions-saving projects". Despite carbon offsets being presented as emissions

reductions, they are usually ineffective at doing so. At best, they move reductions to where it is cheapest to make them, which usually indicates a shift from Northern to Southern countries. Greenhouse gases continue to be produced at one location on the assumption that equivalent savings will happen elsewhere. The projects that are defined as "emissions saving" range from building hydro-electric dams to capturing methane from industrial livestock facilities.

As Michael Wara (2009) of Stanford University puts it, "The CDM market is not a subsidy implemented by means of a market mechanism by which CO2 reductions that would have taken place in the developed world take place in the developing world. Rather, most CDM funds are paying for the substitution of CO2 reductions in the developed world for emissions reductions in the developing world of industrial gases and methane.". In fact, most of these 'savings' don't happen in the developed world, where manufacturers have been forced to reduce hydrofluorocarbon emissions.

The 'key players' of the discussion include most nations with an industrially dense sector, as the companies that are situated there will actively partake in the CDM market, and actively exploit it, completely disavowing the sole purpose of the mechanism being implemented; the reduction of GHGs.

Past actions by international organizations

The UN, after the failed mechanisms and schemes of the Kyoto Protocol, have attempted to locate a 'fix' in the Paris Agreement. Article 6 of the Paris agreement states that it "aims at promoting integrated, holistic and balanced approaches that will assist governments in implementing their NDCs through voluntary international cooperation." (United Nations, 2015, p. 8). Under this mechanism, countries with low GHG emissions would be permitted to sell them to other countries, with a net limit of emissions being set, to reduce any issues such as carbon leakages.

NGOs have also contributed to the matter. Greenpeace has issued a statement suggesting that a carbon tax is not enough to resolve the ongoing crisis of global warming, in addition to regularly speaking out against the current system in regards to carbon pricing. The WWF, on the other hand, has praised the concept of carbon pricing, but not without acknowledging its downfalls and the issue of 'shadow carbon pricing'.

Though the UN has tried to fix the issues of carbon tax and the carbon market in itself, it has not been successful so far. The Paris Agreement had only been adopted in 2016, and it will take time to successfully enforce and implement its rules and mechanisms. It is also apparent that despite any changes and subversions, the carbon market is an incredibly volatile business that is easy to exploit and will always have loopholes that companies around the world can indulge in to raise their profits and lower their spending, all at the cost of the wellbeing of the planet. It is the responsibility of the UNEP to solve and manage this crisis, to come up with major changes or overall alternative solutions in order to satisfy all parties and make the looming threat of global warming a little easier to manage for the rest of the world.

Tips for research

- Evaluate whether the CDM is an effective mechanism that needs to be reworked, or completely replaced.
- Does your nation/NGO have any previous involvement with the CDM?
- Is the CDM within your nation's interests?
- Is the CDM a right step towards improved sustainability across the world, or just a mechanism developed for monetary gain of certain parties?
-

Important areas of research

- History of fraud regarding CDM and JI projects within your nation.
- Your nation's carbon emissions; the magnitude of the carbon market within your nation.
- Previous UN and NGO solutions towards the setbacks of the CDM.
- Is carbon offsetting viable towards the general goal of 'going green'?

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MUN
WHO BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Kumail Ali

Anushna Bagchi

Shamma Abdalla

Omar Reyad

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Delegates!

It is with great pleasure we welcome you to the 14th annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations 2020 (AUSMUN) Conference. The first-ever AUSMUN virtual conference! This year, our World Health Organization (WHO) committee aims to tackle and solve essential issues through productive interactions, strong cooperation, and communications during our debates.

WHO was established on April 7th, 1947. The organization's mission statement is "to publish and disseminate scientifically rigorous public health information of international significance that enables policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners to be more effective; it aims to improve health, particularly among disadvantaged populations." As of 2020, WHO has 194 member states. The WHO appoints the Director-General every five years, WHO also votes on policy and finance matters, including the proposed budget. The assembly elects 34 members, technically qualified in the field of health, to the Executive Board for three-year terms.

On an annual basis, these 34 members meet during May. However, it can decide to hold a special session to address global health emergencies at any time, at the request of one-third of the member states. To date, there have been five special sessions called, with the most recent one being held on October 5-6, 2020. Some key areas of consideration of research should include your country's national capabilities and limitations, discourse, the mitigation of conflict, foreign relations as well as the oversight and monitoring mechanisms of the

different health situations with a particular focus on the ongoing pandemic. Moreover, due to the nature of these topics, the delegates' research and resolutions must be detailed and focus on the concepts' operationalization. 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.

Lastly, this conference aims to ensure that delegates learn new information, hone their skills, and come up with innovative ideas all while enjoying their time. For any information, contact us through whoun2021@gmail.com

REGARDS,
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
KUMAIL AND ANUSHNA

The WHO is a self-sufficient association that coordinates and organizes global medical services and issues with the point of accomplishing the most elevated degree of wellbeing worldwide. The WHO's constitution is based on Article 57 of the UN Charter (United Nations, 1946). The WHO works inside the extent of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In WHO, we consider wellbeing as a common right for all under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Representatives ought to work together to advance multilateral dealings and concoct viable arrangements. Cognizant examination, re-enactment, and coordinated effort are keys in WHO to effectively finish the plan and make goals that are succinct and powerful. This Background Guide fills in as a prologue to the themes for this advisory group.

Summary and History of issue

A pandemic occurs when a virus spreads past a nation's fringes. What started as a cluster of pneumonia cases with unknown etiology in China in late December, soon turned into a pandemic causing millions to die world wide. Upon further inspection and detailed research into the cause of these cases, it was identified as a new type of coronavirus isolated on January 7th in Wuhan, China. Novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, comes from a family of viruses ranging from something as mild as a common flu to something as deadly as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

WHO is also responsible for the prevention of diseases as well as mitigating the ones present. For example, when informed about the outbreak in China, WHO began taking serious measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by hosting multiple tests to determine the cause of the disease. On March 11th 2020, upon assessing the alarming spread of the virus and levels of inaction, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus characterized it as a pandemic.

Despite all the previous speeches where the WHO urged countries all around the world to prepare for an epidemic and inspite of immediate activation of the emergency management team, the world still faced millions of deaths and innumerable losses, both in terms of economy and welfare. Moreover, on February 12th 2020, the WHO activated its crisis management team and sent it across the world to help countries fight COVID-19. It also provided countries with the necessary framework to help prevent the disease from spreading, and campaigning for stay at home measures and various e-learning initiatives.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, WHO had seen and combatted

similar respiratory viruses such as Influenza A and SARS. Regardless of these being dealt with previously, the coronavirus had a different and more powerful impact on the world.

Discourse on the issue

54.2 million cases and 1.31 million deaths across the globe was what it took for the world to recognize, understand, and stabilize itself against COVID-19. Even though an alarming number of extraordinary medical cases of pneumonia were being reported, countries failed to take the necessary precautions. Long before being characterized as a pandemic, the WHO recognized its potential and provided countries with comprehensive guidance to combat it. Furthermore, by January 20th, the situation became more adverse when the WHO officially deemed the virus contagious.

Lives were being lost and this meant a stricter approach was required towards the situation. While some people accepted the situation positively, others did not, their negligence had devastating consequences. Some people did not take the virus seriously since they believed their fundamental human rights were being violated. To them it was in their best interest to fight back. Rights are subject to 'reasonable limits' as mentioned in Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but the question being who places limits. Mobile phone tracking, self-quarantine, and losing the freedom of assembly are questions that people need answers for.

Nobody – or nothing is immune to this pandemic. The economy was no exception, with stocks having their most significant quarterly drops since 1987. It was critical and required immediate attention. With thousands of people facing unemployment, every country's economy was greatly impacted. Although a more optimistic approach is being taken to stabilize and resolve the situation, people believe that things will get worse. With a 3% shrink in the global economy, the IMF is hinting at more dire conditions than that of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Despite not knowing the cause behind the outbreak of the virus, the WHO has tried its best to mitigate the problem. Issuing a strategic preparedness and response plan right after the joint mission between WHO and China in order to help assist countries combat the virus. They created a document containing an epidemiological overview of the virus. The strategic objectives of the document contained: minimizing human to human transmission and identifying and isolating the patients.

Upon declaring a pandemic, WHO urged all the countries to fight the problem together. It suggested that nations increase the manufacturing of personal protective equipment for frontline workers and provide guidance and support throughout the pandemic.

On March 9th the Global Preparedness monitoring board also called in for an immediate infusion of $8 billion to allow for more production of equipment and assembling the resources to further assist defy the pandemic. Alongside all these, serious lockdown measures were taken by countries with high numbers of cases to restrict further spread of the virus which resulted in great progress and containment of the virus.

A weekly report published on November 13th, 2020, there have been 124 GOARN deployments across countries and over 234 million PPE have been shipped globally. The number of confirmed cases has reached 53 million with the number of deaths tolling at 1.3 million worldwide. However, the number of recoveries has come to 35 million.

Throughout the pandemic, non-governmental organizations such as Red Cross and Care International have helped and have always provided aid to people who are in need and are most vulnerable. By providing health and mental services, food, shelter and more to people most in need, they have allowed the mitigation of the pandemic and have assisted countries and the WHO in combating the deadly virus.

Questions and suggestions for further research

- What improvements can be made by WHO and nations to mitigate the coronavirus pandemic?
- What are the changes that have occurred in people's lifestyles due to pandemic?
- Evaluation of how we as a committee can be more prepared to restrict and combat future pandemics?
- Could we revert back to how life was before the pandemic?
- How can we as a committee help prepare the world against such pandemics?
- Impact of Covid-19 on the world economy.
- List of Human rights violation due to coronavirus and its effects.
- Progress made in the scientific and medical aspect of Covid-19.
- Ways to prevent future pandemics.

Summary and History of issue

Trafficking is defined as trading something illegally or being engaged in illegal commerce. Trafficking is a serious crime, especially when falsified medical products are being trafficked. Although it happens almost every day, health crises can boost the number of counterfeit products in the markets. Medical products range from medical gloves to prescription drugs and everything in between.

Use of substandard and falsified medical products is a significant threat to health care systems. If the drugs or medicines do not work the way they should, (as in most substandard and falsified cases of medical products) it in turn can prolong the disease and its drawbacks. More so, physicians and other healthcare professionals often try alternative therapies and waste valuable time, when all that is really needed is a high-quality version of the same product. In the worst case scenario, some of the people die, either due to untreated illness or because the substance itself killed them (WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System for substandard and falsified medical products, 2017). Unregistered/ unlicensed medical products as well as products that have not undergone evaluation or mass testing all fall under falsified medical products. An important term to note is, substandard/spurious/ /falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit (SSFFC).

Use of counterfeit medical products increases the cases of drug-resistant infections. This is problematic because certain countries may become impossible to treat. The promotion of drug resistant infections is a huge setback for the medical community. Aside from the hazardous health consequences, it also has several economic complications, such as waste of money, waste of resources and complex supply chains act as gateways for falsified products. This is a global issue.

The factors that lead to the emergence of such products, especially during health crises are most likely to be found at the intersection where access to affordable, quality, safe and effective medical products is limited, standards of governance are low, from poor ethical practices in health care facilities, quality control and distribution are limited as well. These reasons along with the combination of rise in demand and supply of these products create a perfect atmosphere for such trafficking. The major recent development includes increased trafficking of falsified medical products due to COVID-19, it is currently the biggest priority. In the annual report for 2019, dosage units of fake (falsified) and other illegal medicines detained were 1,018,678. (Health Products Regulatory Authority, 2019)

Discourse on the issue

Global governance includes hard law, such as treaties, and soft law, such as resolutions, declarations, memorandums of understanding, and codes of practice. A treaty process already under way relates to the problem of substandard and falsified medicines. The Council of Europe's Medicrime Convention is a multilateral treaty intended to prevent the public health threats of illegitimate medicines, therefore the issue of trafficking becomes a huge violation of this treaty amongst the european nations. The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) is the other treaty relevant to falsified medicines that is violated. ACTA sets international standards for intellectual property protection and creates a regime outside of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (National Center for Biotechnology Information, 2013).

Protecting public health is the goal of the proposed code of practice on falsified and substandard drugs. Therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) is the natural home for the negotiation, development, and adoption of the code. Article 2 of the WHO Constitution authorizes the organization, "to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work." Therefore trafficking of medical products is a direct infringement of this Article 2. The WHO Essential Medicines division is a major stakeholder globally in determining

protocols, their actions align with the WHO articles. The World Customs Organization (WCO), the only international organization dedicated to policing flows of goods into and out of countries, is the other stakeholder organization.

The UN's sustainable development goals include 17 objectives, and the markets of trafficked medical goods is heavily countering the UN SDG 3 which targets Good Health and Well-being (National Center for Biotechnology Information, 2013).

The trafficking of falsified medical goods is an attack on our right to access healthcare. It goes against the International Code of Practice for Falsified and Substandard Medicines, no country acting alone can protect its citizens from falsified and substandard medicines, it is international, fueled by international trade and telecommunications.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

This issue can still use further innovative ideas to deal with this problem globally, it can still continue to be minimized. However there are certain past actions taken by the UN and other international bodies that have significantly reduced the amount of trafficking of counterfeit medical products.

The 20th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) adopted resolution 20/6 on falsified medical products due to concern about the involvement of organized crime in trafficking. At the same time, resolution 20/6 highlights the potential utility of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), in re-enforcing international cooperation in the fight against trafficking, through, its provisions, inter alia, on mutual legal assistance, extradition and the seizing, freezing and forfeiture of the instrumentalities and proceeds of crime.

Key achievements of WHO as of 2017 in regards to this issue, are as follows, 17 WHO training workshops were conducted, 126 Member

States and more than 400 regulatory personnel trained, 18 of the largest international procurement agencies sensitized to the issue and more than 1500 product reports, 20 medical product alerts and numerous warnings, WHO portal accessible in multiple languages to nominated focal points from regulatory agencies, WHO provides reports and a database containing search tools along with a mobile phone application designed to improve information flow when detecting and reporting substandard and falsified medical products. As of 2019, UNODC launched a Guide to Combat Crime related to Falsified Medical Products.

The Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Care International released a publication in relation to the recent COVID-19 developments, and stated that the spread of misinformation, and use of traditional healers and falsified medicines in West Africa have increased. Red Cross is another NGO, whose credibility and name has been used in COVID-19 scams like, free masks from the 'Red Cross' or fake test kits in the form of messages or emails.

Questions and suggestions for further research

- How can different countries inform the public about how and what fake medical products look like? Or maybe the different ingredients certain fake products can contain?
- How to ensure successful trades take place without the interference of trafficked medical goods specifically?
- How to tackle the spread of flasfied COVID-19 related medical products?
- Protocols that different governments can undertake to increase the reporting culture of such fake products?
- Innovative ways to involve the major stakeholders that can help combat this issue.
- How to limit production of counterfeit medical products at the source?
- Substandard and falsified medicine and its relation to promotion of drug resistant infections, and its possible solutions.

- Constrained access to affordable, safe and quality medical products due to several reasons.
- Software that can allow extensive and accurate databasing of fake medical products, their advantages and disadvantages.
- Effective criminal laws for individuals who commit trafficking of SSFFC goods.

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MUN
ARAB LEAGUE BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021

MMXXI

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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. 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 actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns.Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS

Muhammad Habib

Layth Al-Khairulla

Mouj Al Sheikh

Hadi Kesrouan

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the 2021 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN2021). As chairs of the Arab League, we look forward to hearing the new ideas you would bring to the table on solutions for solving regional issues regarding our committee, as well as hearing your intense debates and realistic resolutions. We believe that you will bring a new perspective on how to solve these issues. We are looking forward to seeing you on the days of the conference.

In its 14 year history, AUSMUN, has been inspiring the youth into solving international issues and is always looking for improvement in its conferences. This year, due to COVID-19, the conference is going to be held virtually for the first time in AUSMUN history. However, we will continue to ensure that you gain the same experience and memories as any other in-person conference . We hope you will all have a memorable and fruitful experience with AUSMUN 2021. Looking forward to a great conference with you all!

For any inquiries or concerns about the conference, please feel free to contact us through the following email: ausmun.arableague@gmail.com

BEST REGARDS,
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
MUHAMMAD AND LAYTH

The Arab League, or the League of Arab States, is a regional organization in the Arab world. It was formed in Cairo, Egypt on the 2nd of March, 1945 with just six member states. Today, the league has 22 members. The league's main goal is to improve relations between member states and promote collaboration between them. In addition to that, it serves to protect member states' independence and sovereignty. The league targets regional issues that directly affect its member states. It provides member states a platform that allows them to discuss and resolve these issues peacefully and within the Arab domain. Each member has one vote towards resolutions and decisions are only applicable on states that voted for them. In its core, the league aims to strengthen and coordinate the political, cultural, economic, and social programs of Arab nations. The Arab League is the ideal platform for anything and everything related to the Arab world.

Summary and History

Ever since 2015, Turkey's foreign policy has seen drastic changes. Previously, Turkey had been emphasizing diplomatic, cultural, and trade growth with foreign nations. However, this has changed and Turkey has increased its military presence in its neighboring countries, mainly in the Middle Eastern region. Since Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan formed his coalition a year after he assumed the presidency, he has engaged in military intervention against the Kurdish population that spreads across its borders, engulfing southern Turkey, northern Syria, and northern Iraq. There has been massive outcry from several Arab League nations, many of which have condemned Turkey's actions in entering the Middle East. Moreover, Turkey's close ties with neighboring Iran is viewed by numerous GCC countries as a threat to their sovereignty and national interests. According to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit, he calls it an "invasion of an Arab state's land and an aggression on its sovereignty" (as cited in Saba, 2019, para. 1). Thus, it is evident that this issue is of significant status within the Arab League.

Turkey's operations in Syria have been numerous around the Middle East, thereby establishing an assertive presence in the region. On April 24, 2016, Turkey launched "Operation Euphrates Shield" aimed at combating ISIS fighters and the Syrian Democratic Force (SDF) in northeastern Syria. This operation lasted around 7 months and resulted in substantial recovery of many lands to Turkish-backed forces from previous control of ISIS and the SDF. These territories include key locations along the Syria-Turkey border such as Afrin and Manbij.

Moreover, they were able to secure areas around the Euphrates river, Jarablus, and Al-Bab. This operation yielded support from various members of the international community. Then Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon in a readout issued from his office, expressed his emphasis "on the key role of Turkey in the fight against Da'esh" (In meeting with Turkey's President, UN chief stresses country's key role in fighting ISIL, 2016, para. 1). Then, on March 18, 2018, Turkish forces entered the city of Afrin in what has been called "Operation Olive Branch." This intervention was condemned by some members of the Arab League and the Arab League Secretary-General as an intervention in the affairs of Turkey's southern Arab neighbor, Syria.

Furthermore, Turkey has launched airstrikes in 2017 targeting parts of Syria and Iraq against Kurdish groups in the aforementioned states. This was a predecessor to Operation Claw, which saw Turkish forces enter the Kurdistan region of Iraq. It started in May 2019, and took form in many sub operations, the most recent of which, Operation Claw Tiger, launched in June 2020 (Reuters Staff, 2020).

Discourse on the Issue

Arab League members argue that these operations are an attack on the sovereignty of Arab nations. The right of a nation to its sovereignty is an inherent claim that was given since before the establishment of the United Nations. Moreover, they cite that Turkish operations are in violation of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) which states that "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". However, Turkey claims to be acting in self defense as stated in Article 51 of the UN Charter which states that "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security."

These operations provide instability in the Middle East as members of the Arab League have been witnessing increased intervention on their land. These operations may serve as a further destabilizer to an already unstable region. The Arab League administration has been vocal about its opposition to Turkey's meddling in its member states' affairs. In addition, key members of the Arab League have continued in their condemnation of Turkish operations. Member states such as the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have publicly stated their dissatisfaction over the events that have unfolded. However, other members have active Turkish military bases on their lands. These countries include Qatar, Somalia, Syria, and Iraq. In fact, Qatar continues to have strong ties with Turkey on various political and economical issues. Therefore, it is evident that there is some division within the Arab League on how to address this issue.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The Arab League has drafted resolutions condemning Turkish military operations. Recently, they adopted a resolution that takes "a unified Arab approach towards Turkey and condemn Ankara's continuing intervention in Iraq" (Aldroubi, 2020). However, even though this resolution received support from members of the Arab League, it failed to deliver any major reform to Turkey's actions. In addition, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has warned of grave violations of human rights with victims that "include those perceived to be allied with opposing parties, or critical of Turkish-affiliated armed groups" among others (UN rights chief calls for Turkey to probe violations in northern Syria, 2020). There was a statement issued by the five European members of the Security Council, in 2019, condemning Turkey and their actions. However, this was vetoed by Russia and the United States. The European Union has condemned Ankara's actions in Syria. Furthermore, they "threatened sanctions against Turkey" over its offensive in Syria (Emmott & Irish, 2019, para. 1). These actions, while powerful, have not deterred Turkey's activity. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

provided a more mediated approach as NATO Secretary General claimed that "NATO has been informed by Turkish authorities about the ongoing operations in Northern Syria" and that it counts on Turkey "to act with restraint" (NATO, 2019, para. 8). These calls have been met with virtually no change by Turkish forces. The Arab League and the United Nations have failed to pass a resolution that would deter Turkey from intervening in the Middle East. This has kept the door open for them to exert their military force in what they believe is a right to protect themselves.

Questions to Consider
- Is Turkey justified in its approach?
- What are ways in which Turkey's intervention may be reduced, if not stopped completely?
- Is combatting terrorism a justifiable reason for entering into Syria and Iraq?
- Should the international community enforce sanctions on Turkey?

Suggestions for further research
- Ways to safeguard Arab nations' sovereignty.
- Possible action to be taken against Turkey (if any).
- Possible means of collaborating with other non-Arab League countries/ UN on tackling Turkey.
- Violations that Turkey has committed in the Middle East.

Summary and History of issue

Historically, the Middle East used to be a significant political centre owing to its strategic location between Asia, Europe and Africa. The region's prominence rose after the discovery of oil. The Middle East is now the biggest supplier of oil in the world. In addition to that, oil plays a major role in shaping political relations in the MENA region. Because of competition and other factors, many countries such as Iraq and Iran have had tumultuous political relations with MENA. Furthermore, countries like the United States and Turkey have attempted to gain control of the oil market- the Red Line agreement is one among many historical attempts to establish partnerships with the Middle East for this purpose (Demirmen, 2003) . With external interventions increasing, the MENA region needs to solve its current issues so they can protect themselves against such interventions. Examples of such interventions include the United States in Iraq and the United Kingdom in Libya. (Liu, 2013)

Issues such as the one between Qatar and multiple other GCC nations is a key source of conflict in the region. The state owned Qatargas enterprise is the world's largest supplier of liquified natural gas, a fact which could contribute to the existing competition for energy dominance (Qatargas, n.d.).

Oil rich nations have more backing from international states while oil poor nations don't. The treatment of the oil rich and oil poor nations is one of the causes of political issues within Arab nations. Many oil-poor nations claimed to share oil rent, while oil-rich states never fully agreed to it. (Oil rents are the difference between the value of crude oil production at world prices and total costs of production). This caused more and more tension between nations in the MENA region. In the 70s, the oil rent was so high that many rich nations decided to create institutions that would help nations in need to pay off their rent (Luciani, 2017).

This, however, did not last long because countries decided to attack certain nations. For example, Iraq invading Kuwait. In recent history, the addition of The Greater Arab Free Trade (GAFTA) has increased the inter-Arab trade.With the US turning away from oil and relying on Shale Gas, Chinese demand would become ever more crucial for the region. This highlights a larger recent trend, in which Western nations are becoming less oil dependent on Middle East, while Asian countries which are rapidly industrializing seek to establish stronger relations to rely on MENA oil supply (Kaspersen, 2015)

Discourse on the issue

The issues regarding oil and politics in the MENA region are capable of violating the UN Charter. In situations such as Iraq invading Kuwait, it is a direct violation of Article 2. Article 2 states "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." In addition to that, political issues regarding oil go against the UNSDGs. It directly violates the 16th goal which states 'Peace, Justice and strong institutions'. Furthermore, the general use of oil hinders the UNSDGs. It slows down the process of achieving affordable and clean energy.

Letting oil shape up the socio-political relations of the region is a step backwards. In the long run it will have a catastrophic effect on the countries involved. Saudi Arabia is one of the main countries involved in this issue. With them being the biggest exporter of oil in the world, their political relations within the region are also affected by it (Twin, 2019). Furthermore, Qatar plays a big part in this issue. It is the largest natural gas supplier in the world and currently has an ongoing problem with multiple countries in the region. The saying "Oil is power" is evident in the MENA. With Saudi Arabia in an ongoing conflict with Iran, limiting their oil exports creates an advantage for Saudi Arabia. Qatar being on good terms with Iran has also affected their relationship with Saudi Arabia (Dept, 2009).

If Iran manages to rebuild it's diplomatic relations with the US, it has the potential to dominate the regional energy sector, thereby adding another regional competitor (Kaspersen, 2015). Meanwhile, Iraq's history with Kuwait and their current political situation has affected their relationship with the rest of the region. Notably, Iraq's main reason to invade Kuwait was to gain more oil control (Abdulrazaq, 2019).

Finally, an additional layer of complexity is added to existing geo-political relations by extremists' control of regional oil fields. Large portions of oil fields in Syria are controlled by the Islamic State, thereby rendering it a key source of financing for their activities. Recently, ISIS has sought to further expand its illegal oil trade by venturing into North African nations. Key victims of these are Egypt, Libya and Algeria, many of whom rely on oil/mineral trade to fund their economies (Tichy, 2019).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

Introduction of Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) in 1997 was one of the actions taken to increase trade between the Arab nations and improve economic relations by reducing customs on regional goods. While it looked successful, it has not solved the full problem. Other than the Oil for food programme, the UN has not done much about this issue (UN). Neither has there been active efforts from the Arab League to address it. This issue directly pertains to how governments act and create relationships with other nations without letting oil create a bias in their decisions. Key areas of economic focus in the upcoming decades amongst others, could include:

Diversification: With more and more countries shifting to renewable energies, the MENA oil politics may change in the near future. The UAE and Saudi Arabia form excellent examples of this shift. This may end up improving the relationship between many MENA countries because the demand for oil will decrease.

Reducing the role of states in oil based economies: Arab governments in the past have implemented reforms aimed to promote liberalization, investment and growth of the private sector. These reforms seem to have taken a sluggish pace in recent years. Openness to trade and integration with the global economy would form another key goal for MENA nations in the years to come (Al-Moneef, 2006).

Questions to Consider

- How might the regional geo-politics have evolved without the influence of oil?
- How has oil contributed to political relationships between countries?
- What would Middle East foreign policy look like in the absence of Western independence from/ Asian dependence on oil?
- What steps can be taken to curb control of oil fields by extremist organizations?
- What roles do countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Qatar play in this issue?
- How does renewable energy affect oil production?

Suggestions for Further Research

- The role of oil in the MENA region.
- Oil's role in extremist organizations' funding.
- Relationships between countries (Saudi Arabia- Qatar, Iran-GCC and so on).
- Top oil distributors in the MENA region, regional competition and how that affects diplomatic ties.

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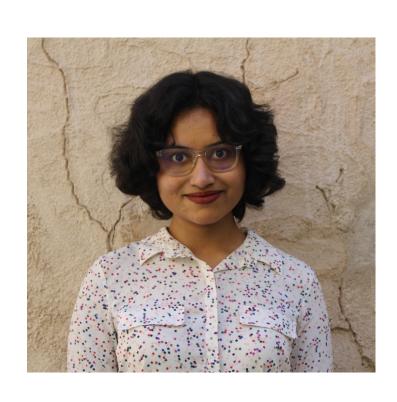
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كلمة مديرة البحوث الترحيبية

المفوضون والسادة المرشدون الأعزاء،

إإنه لمن دواعي سروري أن أرحب بكم في مؤتمر نموذج الأمم المتحدة في الجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة (2021) AUSMUN). بصفته منظمة تدار عن طريق طلاب الجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة، حظي نموذجنا بفرصة إقامة بعضًا من أكبر وأكثر مؤتمرات نماذج الأمم المتحدة تنوعًا في المنطقة. استقبل مؤتمرنا عام 2020 ما يزيد على 1000 مفوض مسجل من أكثر من 45 مؤسسة محلية وعالمية!

التكيف مع الوضع الطبيعي الجديد وتعزيز المرونة: بالنظر إلى عام 2020 المضطرب، لم نجد شعارًا رئيسيًا يتماشى بشكل أعمق مع وضعنا الراهن أكثر من هذا الشعار. منذ سنة بالضبط، بدأ طارئ بسيط في ووهان في التفشي حتى أصبح كارثة عالمية أصابت مليوني إنسان، مخلفًا حيواتٍ متدهورة وقلوبًا مقهورة. وننظر اليوم إلى الواقع المشوه الذي أصبح يعتبر وضعنا الطبيعي الجديد، والبعض منا يسأل: هل كان يمكن تجنب كل هذه الأمور من البداية؟ هل كان بوسعنا أن نكون أكثر حيطة وتدبيرًا؟ لذا، فإن هدف مؤتمرنا البعيد هو أن نقوم بذلك بالفعل: أن نحث الأجيال القادمة على السؤال والشك في السياسات الحالية على أمل الوقاية من كارثة عالمية شبيهة أخرى.

لقد تمت كتابة دليل اللجنة هذا بتعاون بين رؤساء اللجان وفريق البحوث لإعطاء فكرة مختصرة عن المواضيع التي تم اختيارها. يقسم الدليل إلى قسمين أساسيين يضمان موضوعي اللجنة وهناك تقسيمات فرعية أخرى تندرج أسفل هذين العنوانين. أولًا، يعطي قسم "الملخص والنبذة التاريخية" مقدمة عن القضايا المختارة

ثانيًا، يبني قسم "خطاب حول القضية" جسرًا بين القضية وتبعاتها وأهميتها وميثاق الأمم المتحدة. أخيرًا، يذكر قسم "الإجراءات السابقة للأمم المتحدة والمنظمات الدولية والمنظمات غير الحكومية" التحركات المتخذة سابقًا بشأن القضية، ويمكن للمفوض هنا أن يستخدم هذا القسم كنقطة انطلاق لإيجاد الحلول الممكنة لقضيته. وفي نهاية كل قضية، سيجد المفوض عددًا من الأسئلة والمقترحات للبحث الموسع.

نحث المفوضين بشدة على توسيع نطاق بحوثهم واطلاعهم ليتجاوز هذا الدليل، وذلك ليتمكنوا من الإتيان بحجج دامغة وقوية خلال المناظرات. كما يضم دليل المفوض (Delegate Handbook) عددًا من التوجيهات حول كيفية القيام بالبحث ويذكر الدليل المصادر المتاحة للاستخدام.

نفي الختام، دعوني انتهز هذه الفرصة لتجديد امتناني لجميع المساهمين في كتابة المستند الذي تقرؤون: رؤساء لجانكم الرائعون، فريق البحوث في AUSMUN، ولا ننسى الفريق الإعلامي الذي أدى عمل بتفانٍ على تصميم وبناء دليل اللجنة.

تمنى لكم أفضل استعداد للمؤتمر.

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

اهلا بالمفوضين

في ظل هذه الاوقات غير المسبوقة التي نعيشها، يعيد الينا نموذج الامم المتحدة في الجامعة الامريكية في الشارقة شيئا من الحياة الاعتيادية.

المفوضون الأعزاء...

إنه لمن دواعي سـرورنا أن نرحب بكم في نموذج الأمم المتحدة في الجامعة الميركية في الشارقة لعام 2021. كرؤساء لجامعة الدول العربية، نتطلع قدما لسماع أفكاركم وحلولكم للقضايا الإقليمية التي سيتم مناقشتها على طاولة النقاش كما نتطلع لحضور حوارتكم وعرضكم لمشروع القرار. نحن نؤمن بإنكم ستقوموا بعرض وجهات نظر جديدة وفعالة لحل هذه القضايا. مرة أخرى، نتطلع قدما لملاقتكم.

خلال ال 14 عاما التي مضت، حرص نموذج الأمم المتحدة على تشجيع الشباب على البحث عن حلول لقضايا دولية ونحن نعمل دوما على التحسين من مستوى المؤتمر. في هذا العام، ولأول مرة في تاريخ المؤتمر، سيقام المؤتمر بشكل إفتراضي بسبب جائحة كورونا العالمية. ولكن مع ذلك، سنحاول جهدنا على إقامة المؤتمر بشكل يمكنكم من تحصيل نفس الخبرة وعيش نفس التجربة كما لو كان المؤتمر قائم بشكل تقليدي. نتمنى أن تعيشوا تجربة فعالة لا تنسى مع مؤتمر نموذج الأمم المتحدة في الجامعة الأميركية في الشارقة لعام 2021. نتطلع قدما لمؤتمر مثمر معكم!

إذا كان يوجد لديكـم أية استفسـارات أو مقترحـات نرجو عدم التردد في التواصل معنـا عبر البريد اللكتروني التالي: ausmununeparabic@gmail.com

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الجامعة العربية، أو جامعة الدول العربية، هي منظمة إقليمية في العالم العربي. تم تأسيسها في القاهرة في الثاني من آذار/مارس عام 1945 وكانت حينئذ مكونة من ست دول أعضاء فقط. أما الآن، فتتكون الجامعة العربية من 22 عضو. الهدف الرئيسي للجامعة هو تحسين العلاقات بين الدول الأعضاء و الحث على زيادة التعاون. بالإضافة الى ذلك، تعمل الجامعة على حماية إستقلالية و سيادة الدول الأعضاء. الجامعة عادة تعمل على القضايا الإقليمية التي تؤثر بشكل مباشر على الدول الأعضاء. تقوم الجامعة بتوفير منصة وطاولة للحوار وفض النزاعات سلميًا بين الدول الأعضاء. كل دولة عضو لها صوت واحد على القرارات والقرارات تنطبق فقط على الأعضاء الذين صوتوا لهذه القرارات. في الجوهر، الجامعة تهدف الى تقوية العلاقات وإلى التنسيق السياسي الاقتصادي الثقافي، والاجتماعي بين الدول الأعضاء. الجامعة العربية هي المنصة المثالية لكل شيء يتعلق بالعالم العربي.

ملخّص ونبذة تاريخيّة

منذ عام 2015، شهدت السياسة الخارجية لتركيا تغيرات جذرية. في السابق، كانت تركيا تركز على تقوية العلاقات الدبلوماسية والثقافية والتجارية مع جميع الدول. أما الآن، فتركيا تعمل على تعزيز وجودها العسكري في المنطقة لا سيما منطقة الشرق الأوسط. بعد عام واحد من تسلمه للرئاسة، انخرط رجب طيب أردوغان بعمليات عسكرية ضد الأكراد الموزعين في جنوب تركيا وشمال سوريا والعراق. منذ ذلك الحين و الدول العربية تقوم بالتنديد بشكل علني و مستمر تدخلات تركيا في الشرق الأوسط. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، قرب العلاقة بين تركيا وإيران يشكل تهديدًا لمصالح و سيادة بعض الدول الخليجية. في تصريح سابق، قال أحمد أبو الغيط أمين عام جامعة الدول العربية "إن التدخلات التركية بالمنطقة هي إعتداء على سيادة الدول العربية" (as cited in Saba, 2019, para. 1). وهذا التصريح يدل على أهمية هذه القضية بالنسبة للجامعة العربية.

تعددت عمليات تركيا العسكرية في سوريا مما عزز وجودها في المنطقة. في الرابع والعشرين من نيسان/أبريل من العام 2016، أعلنت تركيا بدء عملية درع الفرات التي كانت تهدف الى مواجهة قوات داعش وقوات سوريا الديمقراطية في الشمال الشرقي من سوريا. هذه العملية استمرت نحو سبعة أشهر وكانت حصيلتها سيطرة القوات المدعومة من تركيا على مناطق واسعة انتزعتها من داعش وقوات سوريا الديمقراطية. هذه المناطق تضم مواقع مهمة جدا على الحدود السورية التركية مثل عفرين ومنبج. بالإضافة الى ذلك، تمكنت القوات المدعومة من تركيا من السيطرة على مناطق حول الفرات وجرابلس والباب. هذه العملية تلقت دعم كبير من المجتمع الدولي. كما أن الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة في ذلك الحين، بان كي مون، أصدر تصريحا عبر فيه عن دور تركيا الهام في مواجهة داعش (In meeting with Turkey's President, UN chief stresses country's key role in fighting ISIL, 2016, para. 1). ثم في الثامن عشر من آذار/مارس من العام 2018، إجتاحت القوات المدعومة من تركيا مدينة عفرين تحت مسمى عملية غصن الزيتون. هذه العملية تم استنكارها من عدة دول في الجامعة ومن الأمين العام للجامعة العربية بحيث اعتبروها تدخلًا واضحًا في شؤون سوريا الداخلية.

أيضا، وجهت تركيا عام 2017 عدة ضربات جوية في سوريا والعراق استهدفت فيها بعض المجموعات الكردية. حيث كانت هذه الضربات عبارة عن مقدمة لعملية المخلب في كوردستان العراق. بدأت عملية المخلب في أيار/مايو 2019 وتكونت من عدة عملية فرعية كان أحدثها عملية مخلب النمر التي بدأت في حزيران/يونيو 2020 (Reuters Staff, 2020).

خطاب حول القضيّة

يعتبر أعضاء جامعة الدول العربية أن هذه العمليات هي اعتداء على سيادة الدول العربية. حيث إنّ حق الدول في سيادتها هو حق تاريخي موجود حتى قبل إنشاء الأمم المتحدة. ايضاً، أشاروا إلى أن العمليات التركية تنتهك المادة 2 من ميثاق الأمم المتحدة (1945) التي تنص على أنه "يجب على جميع الأعضاء الامتناع في علاقاتهم الدولية عن التهديد باستخدام القوة أو استخدامها ضد السلامة الإقليمية أو الاستقلال السياسي للدولة. أي دولة، أو بأي طريقة أخرى لا تتفق مع أغراض الأمم المتحدة". ومع ذلك، تدعي تركيا أنها تتصرف دفاعًا عن النفس على النحو المنصوص عليه في المادة 51 من ميثاق الأمم المتحدة التي تنص على أنه "لا يوجد في هذا الميثاق ما يمس بالحق الطبيعي للدفاع عن النفس الفردي أو الجماعي في حالة وقوع هجوم مسلح ضد أحد أعضاء الأمم المتحدة، إلى أن يتخذ مجلس الأمن التدابير اللازمة للحفاظ على السلم والأمن الدوليين." وتؤدي هذه العمليات إلى زعزعة الاستقرار في الشرق الأوسط حيث يشهد أعضاء جامعة الدول العربية تدخلاً متزايدًا في أراضيهم. قد تكون هذه العمليات بمثابة عامل إضافي لزعزعة الاستقرار في منطقة غير مستقرة فعليًا. كانت إدارة جامعة الدول العربية صريحة بشأن معارضتها لتدخل تركيا في شؤون الدول الأعضاء. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، واصل الأعضاء الرئيسيون في جامعة الدول العربية إدانتهم للعمليات التركية. أعربت دول أعضاء مثل الإمارات العربية المتحدة والمملكة العربية السعودية ومصر علانية عن استيائها من الأحداث التي تكشفت. ومع ذلك، فإن أعضاء آخرين لديهم قواعد عسكرية تركية نشطة على أراضيهم، وتشمل هذه الدول قطر والصومال وسوريا والعراق. في الواقع، لا تزال قطر تتمتع بعلاقات قوية مع تركيا في مختلف القضايا السياسية والاقتصادية. لذلك، من الواضح أن هناك بعض الانقسام داخل الجامعة العربية حول كيفية معالجة هذه القضية.

إجراءات تمّ اتّخاذها في السّابق من قبل منظّمات دوليّة

أعدت جامعة الدول العربية مسودات قرارات تدين العمليات العسكرية التركية. ومؤخرا اتخذت قرارًا ذو "نهجٍ عربيّ موحدٍ تجاه تركيا ويدين استمرار تدخل أنقرة في العراق" (Aldroubi, 2020).

أومع ذلك، على الرغم من أن هذا القرار تلقى دعمًا من الدول الأعضاء في جامعة الدول العربية، إلا أنه فشل في تقديم أي إصلاح كبير لتحركات تركيا. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، حذرت المفوضة السامية للأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان ميشيل باشليت من الانتهاكات التركية لحقوق الإنسان، "بما في ذلك أولئك الذين يُعتقد أنهم متحالفون مع أطراف معارضة للنظام التركي، أو ينتقدون الجماعات المسلحة التابعة لتركيا," وآخرين (UN rights chief calls for Turkey to probe violations in northern Syria, 2020).

وصدر بيان عن الدول الأوروبية الخمس الأعضاء في مجلس الأمن عام 2019 يدين تركيا وأفعالها. إلا أنه تم رفض هذا البيان من قبل روسيا والولايات المتحدة. كما أدان الاتحاد الأوروبي تصرفات أنقرة في سوريا، و"هدد بفرض عقوبات على تركيا" بسبب هجماتها في الشمال السوري. هذه الإجراءات، على الرغم من قوتها، لم تثبط من نشاط تركيا. علاوة على ذلك، قدمت منظمة حلف شمال الأطلسي (الناتو) نهجًا أكثر توسطًا حيث ادعى الأمين العام لحلف الناتو أن "الناتو كان قد أبلغته السلطات التركية بالعمليات الجارية في شمال سوريا" وأنه يعتمد على تركيا "في ضبط النفس" (Emmot & Irish 2019).

لم تُقابل هذه الدعوات فعليًا بأي تغيير من قبل القوات التركية، فقد فشلت جامعة الدول العربية والأمم المتحدة في تمرير قرار من شأنه أن يردع تركيا عن التدخل في الشرق الأوسط. وقد أبقى هذا الباب مفتوحًا أمامهم لممارسة قوتهم العسكرية فيما يعتقدون أنه حق لحماية أنفسهم.

أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودّة القرار ومقترحات للبحث الموسّع

- هل يمكن تبرير نهج تركيا وتدخلاتها في العالم العربي؟
- ما هي الطرق التي يمكن من خلالها الحد من التدخل التركي إذا لم يتم إيقافه بالكامل؟
- هل مكافحة الإرهاب سبب مبرر لدخول تركيا إلى سوريا والعراق؟
- هل يجب على المجتمع الدولي فرض عقوبات على تركيا؟

- طرق حماية سيادة الدول العربية.
- الإجراءات التي يمكن اتخاذها ضد تركيا (إن وجدت).
- الوسائل الممكنة للتعاون مع دول أخرى غير جامعة الدول العربية/الأمم المتحدة في التعامل مع تركيا.
- الانتهاكات التي ارتكبتها تركيا في الشرق الأوسط.

ملخّص ونبذة تاريخيّة

تاريخياً، كان الشرق الأوسط مركزًا سياسيًا مهمًا نظرًا لموقعه الاستراتيجي بين آسيا وأوروبا وأفريقيا. وقد برزت شهرة المنطقة بعد اكتشاف النفط في أواسط القرن الماضي. يعد الشرق الأوسط الآن أكبر مصدّر للنفط في العالم. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يلعب النفط دورًا كبيرًا في تشكيل العلاقات السياسية في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا. بسبب المنافسة وعوامل أخرى، كان للعديد من البلدان مثل العراق وإيران علاقات سياسية مضطربة. أيضًا، حاولت دول مثل الولايات المتحدة وتركيا السيطرة على سوق النفط، على سبيل المثال اتفاقية الخط الأحمر هي إحدى المحاولات التاريخية العديدة لإقامة شراكات مع الشرق الأوسط لهذا الغرض (Demirmen, 2003).

مع تزايد التدخلات الخارجية، تحتاج منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا إلى حل مشكلاتها الحالية حتى تتمكن من حماية نفسها من هذه التدخلات. ومن الأمثلة عليها اجتياح الولايات المتحدة للعراق وتدخلات المملكة المتحدة في ليبيا (Liu, 2013).

تعتبر الأمور التي تواجهها قطر ودول خليجية متعددة أسباب جوهريه للصراع في المنطقة. فشركة قطر للغاز هي أكبر شركة في مجال الغاز الطبيعي المسال، الشيء الذي يسهم في تعزيز التنافس في مجال الطاقة والهيمنة عليه. كذلك تلقى الدول الغنية بالنفط مسانده دولية أكبر من تلك التي تتلقاها الدول الفقيرة به في العالم العربي، مما يخلق جو من التوتر السياسي بين الدول العربية. أيضًا، دائمًا ما تكون الدول الفقيرة بالنفط على استعداد لدفع تكلفة تكرير النفط بينما ترفض الدول الغنية به هذا الأمر مما يسبب المزيد من التوتر بين الدول في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. وفي السبعينات كانت تكلفه تكرير النفط باهظة مما دفع الدول الغنية لإنشاء المؤسسات التي تساعد الدول المحتاجة لدفع هذه التكلفة، ولكن لم يستمر هذا الامر طويلًا، وذلك لأن بعض الدول قد قررت مهاجمة البعض الآخر، مثل غزو العراق للكويت.

في الوقت الذي تحولت فيه الولايات المتحدة من الاعتماد على النفط إلى الغاز الطبيعي، فإن احتياج الصين للمنطقة قد ازداد، وقد امتد هذا الامر إلى باقي الدول الغربية التي قل اعتمادها على نفط منطقة الشرق الأوسط، بينما ازداد طلب الدول الأسيوية التي تنهض صناعيا عليه.

خطاب حول القضيّة

إن الصراعات الخاصة بالنفط والسياسة في المنطقة لهي كفيلة بالعصف بمعاهدات الأمم المتحدة. فيعتبر غزو العراق للكويت خرق صريح للبند الثاني لميثاق الأمم المتحدة الذي ينص على امتناع الدول عن استخدام التهديد والقوة ضد الحرية والاستقلال السياسي لأي دولة أخرى. هذا بالإضافة إلى أن الصراعات السياسية التي يسببها النفط تتعارض مع مبادئ ومعاهدات الأمم المتحدة وهذا خرق صريح للبند السادس عشر الذي ينص على " السلام والعدل والاستقلال". كما أن استخدام النفط يتعارض مع مبادئ الأمم المتحدة ولا يساعد في تحقيق الطاقة النظيفة التي يجب ان تكون في متناول جميع الدول. إن افساح المجال للنفط لكي يشكل العلاقات الاجتماعية والسياسية بالمنطقة يعتبر خطوه للوراء. كما يعتبر هذا الامر كارثي بالنسبة للدول المعنية على المدى الطويل. فالسعودية واحدة من أهم الدول المعنية بهذا الامر وقد تأثرت علاقتها السياسية مع دول المنطقة كونها أكبر مصدر للنفط في العالم. وتلعب قطر دورًا هامًا في هذا الأمر. فهي أكبر مصدر للغاز ولها مشاكل مستمرة مع دول متعددة في المنطقة. فالقول الشائع "البترول قوة" يمكنك أن نستشعره بوضوح في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. وفي صراعها مع إيران يعتبر التحكم في صادرات النفط قوة تتمتع بها السعودية بينما أثرت العلاقات الطيبة لقطر مع إيران على علاقاتها مع السعودية على الجانب الاخر.

ستتمكن إيران من السيطرة على قطاع الطاقة لو استطاعت تحسين علاقتها الدبلوماسية مع الولايات المتحدة مما يضيف منافس آخر في المنطقة. ولا شك أن تاريخ العراق مع الكويت ووضعهم السياسي الحالي قد أثر على علاقاتهما بباقي دول المنطقة. فمن الواضح أن السبب الرئيسي لغزو العراق للكويت هو السيطرة على النفط في منطقه الشرق الاوسط. ومما يزيد الأمر تعقيدًا هو سيطرة المتطرفين على حقول النفط. فهناك حقول ضخمة في سوريا تسيطر عليها الدولة الإسلامية مما يسهم في تمويل أنشطتهم. ولقد عززت داعش أنشطتها التجارية غير الشرعية مع دول شمال افريقيا وكانت مصر وليبيا والجزائر من أهم الدول المتأثرة بهذا الامر لاعتمادهم على النفط لتعزيز الاقتصاد.

إجراءات تمّ اتّخاذها في السّابق من قبل منظّمات دوليّة

كان انشاء منطقه للتجارة العربية الحرة في عام ١٩٩٧ أحد الإجراءات التي أسهمت في زيادة التجارة بين الدول العربية كما أنها أسهمت في تحسين العلاقات الاقتصادية عن طريق تخفيض الضرائب المفروضة على البضائع الإقليمية إلا أنها لم تتمكن من حل المشكلة بالكامل. وبصرف النظر عن برامج النفط والغذاء لم تتمكن الأمم المتحدة أو الجامعة العربية من إحداث فارق. فالمشكلة تكمن في كيفية تعامل الحكومات لخلق علاقات مع الدول الأخرى في ظل سطوة النفط.

هناك بعض النقاط الهامة التي يجب أن تؤخذ في الاعتبار في العقود القادمة:

١. التنوع: مع زيادة عدد الدول المتحولة إلى الطاقة المتجددة فإن سياسات منطقة الشرق الأوسط قد تتغير بخصوص البترول. تمثل كلًا من السعودية والامارات مثالين جيدين لهذا التغير، فقد تلجأ هتان الدولتان إلى تحسين علاقاتهما مع دول المنطقة بسبب النقص المتوقع في الطلب على البترول.
نقاط وأسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودّة القرار.

٢. تقليل دور البترول في الدول العربية المعتمدة عليه: قامت حكومات الدول العربية في الماضي ببعض التعديلات التي تهدف إلى تعزيز التحرر والاستثمار والنمو في القطاع الخاص وسيشكل الانفتاح في التجارة والاندماج في الاقتصاد العالمي هدف هام آخر لدول المنطقة في السنوات القادمة.

أسئلة يمكن طرحها ومناقشتها في مسودّة القرار و مقترحات للبحث الموسع

- كيف تطورت العلاقات الدولية دون سيطرة النفط؟
- كيف ساهم النفط في تشكيل العلاقات السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية بين الدول العربية؟
- كيف ستكون السياسة الخارجية لدول المنطقة في ضوء الاستغناء الغربي عن البترول والإقبال الآسيوي؟
- ما هي الخطوات التي من شأنها التقليل من سيطرة المتطرفين على حقول البترول؟
- ما هو الدور الذي تلعبه السعودية وإيران وقطر في هذا الامر؟
- كيف تؤثر الطاقة المتجددة على انتاج النفط؟

مقترحات للبحث الموسّع

- دور النفط في منطقة الشرق الأوسط.
- دور النفط في تمويل المنظمات المتطرفة.
- العلاقات بين الدول (السعودية وإيران وقطر ودول مجلس التعاون).
- أهم موزعي النفط في الشرق الأوسط / المنافسة الإقليمية ومدى تأثيرها على الروابط الدبلوماسية.

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