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Directors Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2018, I welcome you to the 11th annual AUSMUN Conference as we celebrate the start of a new, successful decade in AUSMUN history.

As always, this year's background guide aims to equip delegates with a brief introduction to their committee topics and offer a foundation upon which they can build their research in preparation for the three-day conference. Each Committee's section begins with a brief history and structure of the Committee in the Secretariat's welcome. Following this, each topic is introduced with a contextual summary and history of the issue being discussed. The guide then discusses the role of the international system in resolving the issue, listing relevant UN resolutions and actions where applicable. Delegates are encouraged to use this section to read more about past discussions on their Committee's selected issue areas and brainstorm novel and unique solutions. The guide also discusses the implications of each issue area on the international community. Finally, each topic is concluded by a list of questions a resolution must answer. Delegates should use these questions as a guide for their research and policy recommendations.

Please note that this guide is in no way sufficient to prepare for the entire conference. Delegates are encouraged to build on the knowledge they gain from this guide by:

- Looking at the Delegate Preparation Guide on the AUSMUN website
- Visiting their Committee's websites and viewing any past resolutions passed on their topics
- Reviewing their Country's position on the issue in detail
- Looking into scholarly research on key issue areas and their impact on the international community

Remain updated on current events and current UN discussions through reliable news sources. Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the moderators, secretariats, the AUSMUN Media team, the Head of Media, and the Head of Secretariats, who have all collaborated and contributed countless hours in order to compile this Background Guide. On behalf of them all, I hope you find it useful, and wish you all the best for the Conference next month.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at information@ausmun.com.

Ayesha Burney
Director of Information
AUSMUN '18

First General Assembly (GA 1)

Secretariat's Welcome

Welcome to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations. We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, General Assembly First Committee.

The United Nations General Assembly has existed since the formation of the UN in 1945 and it is one of the six principal organs of the UN as established in the Charter. The First Committee discusses matters concerning disarmament and ensuring international security. The General Assembly aims to create peace by providing grounds for cooperation. The main task of this committee is to initiate studies and make recommendations on promoting political and international cooperation; encouraging the development of international law; promoting the implementation of cultural, social and human rights; and promoting the fundamental freedoms from discriminations.

We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth in order to understand the full situation. Furthermore, upon the selection of the topic, the committee must be able to draft a resolution which must attain a two-thirds majority in order to pass. We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

You can contact me via email (b00056650@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Sincerely,
Ahmed Ali Azari



Moderators



Rawya El Lakkis



Tasnim Elzini



Raj Metani

TOPIC 1

Establishing Security Strategies for Countering Cyber Warfare in Digital Age

Context and Summary

In our contemporary world, technology is evolving and developing day by day, enhancing the life of users and increasing the connectivity between remote regions, different cultures and governments (Tipton & Nozaki, 2010; Melzer, 2011). In the context of the advancement in communication, technology can be abused for different purposes and intentions, either supported by a nation-state or a group of individuals with experience in information technology. Furthermore, some tend to access personal information and manipulate confidential data of individuals or governments in cybercrimes and cyberattacks (Tipton & Nozaki, 2010; Geers, 2011; Theohary & Rollins, 2015). The United Nations must take actions against this by putting barriers to prevent such privacy violations and setting a strategy to benefit all internet users, in a way that preserves international peace and promotes safety and security for cyberspace users (Geers, 2011).

History

Cyber warfare emerged after the integration of computer technology into military weaponry. It began with the Soviet Military Technological Revolution in the late 1970's (Krepinevich, 2002), after which a series of significant cyberattacks have occurred: the first worm virus carrying malware was spread in 1989; there was a cyberattack on the Estonian government and its finances in 2007; and South Korean financial institutions became victim to cyberattacks in 2013. In response, NATO upgraded its cyber defenses at the end of 2013 (Nato.int, n.d.; NATO Review, n.d.; Krepinevich, 2002). Currently the negotiations to restrict cyberwarfare have been terminated due to a political dispute arising between Russia, China, Cuba and the West, which has resulted in returning to article 51, which permits self-defense against an armed attack (Bowcott, 2017). Furthermore, Cyber warfare is defined as a war led through the global network by utilizing internet methods and resources (Melzer, 2011). It is suggested to be one of the main weapons for poor countries to defend themselves from strong neighboring nations. These states invest in cyber warfare in order to oblige their enemies to establish cyber warfare defense systems to protect themselves against cyberattacks from rival governments (Geers, 2011; Nato.int, n.d.; Schmitt, 2013).

Role of the International System

With both implicit ramifications such as leaks of sensitive and classified data and other, more explicit, consequences such as providing a platform on which to plan a terrorist attack, cyber-terrorism terrorism is an issue that concerns the entire international community including state governments, multinational companies and international organizations. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have collaborated with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in order to counter these cyber attacks.

The United Nations Counter Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2006 by all member states to combat terrorism of different forms. However, a resolution that encompasses all aspects of terrorism has not yet been passed in the UN despite ongoing negotiations. According to the UNODC report, there have been various regional agreements such as the SAARC Convention on suppression of terrorism (1987), Arab Convention on Terrorism (1998), the European Union framework (2002) to combat terrorism, amongst various others. However, they have been largely unsuccessful in dealing with cyber-security issues.

Implications

With the advent of the Internet, connectivity and online networking have proliferated across the globe. However, with an increase in the user base of the internet, there have been various non-state actors (NSAs) that have negatively influenced the users to act against governments, multinational companies and international organizations. These attacks often take place under complete anonymity and tracing the offenders becomes tough. Cyber terrorism has various aspects such as recruitment, incitement, finance and execution of sinister plans. These attacks are not just limited to terrorism and violence but also fraud and leaks of private data. While most of these hackings are conducted by non-state organizations, some state governments have also been accused of carrying out spying and illegal intelligence accumulating attacks. As reported by Sanger (2015), in 2013, the United States and the People's Republic of China accused each other of carrying out digital attacks on the other. Unethical hacking and cyber-attacks have also been witnessed in many countries across the world for example, in 2010 a coded virus disordered the processing of Uranium in one of Iran's nuclear facilities. Owing to the wide accessibility of the internet, all countries and IOs are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, hacking and terrorism.

Questions a Resolution must answer:

What are the major issues regarding the previous resolutions and how can they be revised for a comprehensive solution to the problem?

What steps must a member nation take against its civilian cyber-crimes?

How can the international community oversee the illegal use of cyber-technology by member nations for espionage?

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TOPIC 2

Instituting Measures to Control and Monitor Illicit Flow of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Summary

The illicit and illegal flow of small arms and light weapons is a threat to the security of Member States and breaks the rule of law. Their illegal use has the potential to violate human rights in many aspects, often including the death and displacement of civilians. Strengthening the international efforts to eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has always been one of the biggest challenges and goals of the UN (United Nations, UNODA). In December 2005, the UN adopted the term and definition of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as follows and according to Resolution A/60/88: Small Arms are weapons for an individual's use, whereas light weapons are designed for multiple people use. In 2006, the UN estimated that there were more than 600 million SALW in circulation worldwide, of which less than 25% are in the possession of armies. The absence of a binding and global legal standard placed on SALW businesses and industries of each country acts as an obstacle to applying a responsible exporting system. This absence of control leads to SALW being easily diverted into the black market. The illegal movement of SALW happens in various ways where governments of war may transfer weapons to sympathetic non-state actors, which in many cases could lead to the birth of terrorist groups.

History

The ease of using SALW and their widespread availability is the key factor making all resolutions extremely difficult to execute. One major contribution of the current enormous stockpile of SALW goes back to the Cold War, which led to catastrophic results in Africa as instead of destroying the existing stock, exporting, selling and gaining profit was the preferred option. This malpractice led to over 850,000 small arms left in Bosnia after the Cold War. Adding to the misfortune, most of the weapons are held by civilians, who can both be the victims and executors of gun violence. In the Security Council's meeting on 13th May 2015, the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, estimated that over 250 conflicts on the past running decade as well as more than 50,000 deaths each year have been due to illegal access of SALW. Illegal trade of SALW always is a result of legally produced SALW being slipped into the chain of the black market. This is also a result of the illegal selling and acquirement of SALW on an individual level. Ex-soldiers are legally allowed to keep their weapons and could sell them illegally, feeding into the surplus chain of SALW.

Role of the International System

In 2001, the UN had its first conference to adopt a Program of Action (PoA) targeted towards preventing, combating, and eradicating illicit small arms and light weapons trade. The conference's PoA is a politically binding international instrument. Governments agreed to improve national small arms laws, import and export controls as well as stockpile management.

In addition, there has also been an additional treaty named the Arms Trade Treaty entered into force on the 24th of December 2014 which aims to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms. This treaty is binding and prohibits the export of conventional arms if the potential assessed in the transfer could possibly contribute to undermining peace and security through its use to facilitate violations to the international humanitarian law. The availability of small arms is the single common factor between all terrorist groups, regardless of the ideology claimed by the criminals. Practical and multifaceted steps must be taken to reduce the existing stockpile, reduce the supply of new weapons, close the gap between legal and illegal markets and reduce the demand of acquiring SALW in the first place. Moreover, in 2005 there was a significant practical step towards disarmament with the creation of International Tracing Instrument for small arms. This allows governments to trace their labelled guns. However, it is a voluntary and not a legally binding agreement.

Implications

Uncontrollable and unmonitored proliferation and exploitation of any tool of war, risks the lives and safety of citizens in numerous member states. On an international level, SALW were responsible for the direct deaths in conflicts of 80,000 to 108,000 casualties worldwide in 2003. Not forgetting the non-conflict SALW related deaths of which the UN estimates it to be at least 200,000 casualties on a yearly basis globally. Moreover, improving weapons tracing is a part of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 16 aims to promote peaceful societies, providing access to justice and building effective institutions. This goal is extremely crucial as the full implication of this leads to the achievement of the other SDGs as it is a direct effector of many. Such examples include poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality and safe cities and communities

Delegates must consider the absence of an international agenda controlling the exporting system of SALW and the complications that follow a terrorist act facilitating SALW such as civilian displacement. Moreover, the flourishing supply of SALW in the black market in African countries should be explored in addition to the post-Cold War consequences on the illicit of SALW internationally.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What are the setbacks of the treaties and resolutions mentioned and how could they be improved to eradicate illicit flow of small arms and light weapons?

What international guidelines must be included and implemented in the International Law in order to control the exports and imports quantities of SALW?

How should the Member States disarm their civilians with illegal possession of SALW?

How is it possible to reduce the globalization of the SALW market?

What can be changed in the current gun ownership rules of the delegate's respected state in order to further improve and promote global safety?

Keeping in mind that most of the SALW have been produced and manufactured legally, how is it possible to cut their supply chain into illegal markets?

Should ITI become a legally binding agreement instead of voluntary?

How can the countries of major SALW production implement national laws upon their businesses to control the production and prevent exploitation of SALW into the black market?

What actions must be taken by the UN and fellow Member States to address the position of SALW in the hands of terrorist groups?

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Fourth General Assembly (GA 4)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

A very warm welcome to AUSMUN 2018. The conference aims to bring together passionate minds committed to ensuring a better future for the world. General Assembly 4, also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, is one of the core six committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Until 1993 the committee focused on decolonization, however, after its 48th meeting it was merged with the Special Political Committee. The committee focuses on resolving global problems surrounding five main issues related to decolonization. According to the United Nations, these agendas relate to peacekeeping efforts and special political missions.

The committee allows all member states of the UN to participate. All countries carry one vote. All important questions, such as but not limited to: monetary concerns, introduction and suspension of new member states, global peace and security matters are passed with a two-third majority vote. Simpler questions are decided by a simple majority vote where just over half of the members have to be in favor of a question. Resolutions passed in GA4 are recommended to the SC in order to be put into action. As the conference approaches, I would like to congratulate all delegates, novice or accomplished, for choosing to be here. You chose to make a difference within the world, but more importantly you chose to enlighten yourself and fuel the fire of compassion for humanity within yourselves. You can contact me via email (g00070166@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best Regards,
Tehreem Raza



Moderators



Ayesha Ashir Siddiqi



Zainab Haideri



Ruaya Zeitoun

TOPIC 1

Regulating Non-State Sanctioned Digital Currencies

Context and Summary

Virtual currency consists of online transactions of certified currencies that provide their own unit of account and payment systems (Lagarde, 2017). Virtual currency is a type of unregulated digital money and it is controlled and issued by its developers, it can only be used by members of a specific virtual community (Rotman, 2014). Digital currency can be transferred from person to person or business to business by installing a certain software. It is a unique method of payment that is done by using block chains and mathematical means to keep track of transactions and does not require central banks in transactions (Lagarde, 2017).

Some member states for this reason may not want to legalize digital currencies, such as widely-known Bitcoin (Kirby, 2014), as it would render exchange rates irrelevant. Banks would no longer be dealing with physical money and concepts such as loans would be different in terms of procedure. One of the most important concerns of virtual currencies is how to regulate their widespread use, since these financial systems are negatively impacting the banking sector. If this currency is sanctioned then it may become easier for illegal activities such as fraud and money laundering to occur, since it is untraceable.

Digital currencies include but are not limited to, virtual currencies. Virtual currencies are controlled mostly by the developers. They are not regulated by banks or authorities. Another sub-category under digital currencies is cryptocurrency such as the popular Bitcoin (Buttonwood, 2017), sometimes known as the anonymous currencies.

They have their own unit of worth and are transferred without any paper trail. Although technological uses of banking systems and financial transactions have been around for a while, the first major player of digital currencies, Bitcoin was launched in 2009 as an alternative to fiat currencies (Digital finance, 2016). There are many reasons for some digital currencies not to be state sanctioned, therefore making it easier for illegal activities such as fraud to occur. Since digital currencies such as Bitcoin are decentralized and not a commodity currency, it is easier for the transaction to be more transparent. The fact that there is no single institute controls the network also makes it easier for anyone to be responsible. Lastly, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin are irrevocable, meaning there is no way to chargeback the transaction, and this is main reason that fraud may occur.

Role of International System

Since virtual currencies are a relatively new phenomenon, the issue has not been largely tackled by international organizations such as IMF and World Bank, organizations whose role is to decide how to deal with such a volatile source of wealth. While some economists believe that Bitcoin and other virtual currencies are the next big thing, there are others that believe that it is just a fraud and that it will eventually explode (Browne, 2017). However, with the technology of Blockchain, it can be seen that UN and other organizations can potentially use such a technology to aid in the prevention of child trafficking, identity theft, distributing aid, climate change and tackling many more uses (Simonsen, 2017). Also, organizations such as UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are launching awareness campaigns to address the use of virtual currencies and their potential. Yet they are conscious that there are risks and would like others to be aware of them as well.

Implications

Many European and Asian countries have not legalized these virtual currencies as of yet (Hansen, 2017), and the few countries that have do not necessarily encourage their usage. This can facilitate terrorist organizations (Goldman, Maryuma, Rosenberg, Saravalle and Solomon-Strauss, 2017) in carrying out their transactions that cannot be traced back to them; alongside this, cryptocurrencies also make money laundering exceedingly easy to conduct (Ryan Browne, 2017). The reason that international organizations are skeptical of these currencies is because economists believe that they do not have space in the economy and banking sector. The fact that virtual currencies do not have any commodity value strengthens the argument.

Using digital currencies could become a global phenomenon, resulting in a universal form of payment all around the world, diminishing exchange rates. Some countries for this reason may not want to legalize digital currencies, such as widely-known Bitcoin, as no country would be able to have a higher valued currency and all would be uniform in strength. Banks would no longer be dealing with physical money and concepts such as loans and interest would be different procedurally.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How could nation states sanction virtual currencies?

What is the future of virtual currencies?

How can the illegal use of virtual currencies be prevented?

Suggestions for Further Research

Terrorist Use of Virtual Currency

Digital Currencies: International Actions and Regulation

Use of Virtual Currency for Developing Nations

Adding Commodity Value to Virtual Currencies

Blockchains and Their Use

Virtual Currencies: The New Banking System

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TOPIC 2

A Reconsideration of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

Context and Summary

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are based on a country's macroeconomic, social and structural policies with the aim of supporting economic growth and keeping poverty levels at a minimum. They are prepared by the governments of lesser economically developed countries (LEDC's) and are important documents which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank require before the country can be considered for a debt relief within the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. The papers are prepared in consultation with several stakeholders and development partners (including staffs of the World Bank and the IMF). Even though the sole purpose of PRSPs is to eradicate the impositions of policy conditions, they have led to increasing aid conditionality. This means donors are only examining if a country has managed to make a PRSP and if it was made in a participatory manner. It appears to be unlikely that donors would be able to put process standards in formulating a PRSP because they failed to impose content in the client country's policies in the past. It has been proven that donors have not been successful in attempts to influence domestic politics.

The issue with this is that, currently, the wealth of the minority continues to increase whilst over 1.3 billion people live in conditions with of extreme hunger and poverty. A report produced by the IMF and World Bank stated that due to the frequently changing donor requirements and procedures, low income countries blame them while donors blame the national systems of procurement and financial management which do not meet their international good practice standards and thus creates an issue between the donor and the countries in need of aid.

History

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In addition to domestic policies and programs for poverty alleviation, in 1999 the IMF and World Bank devised strategies for reducing the debts of heavily indebted countries preparing PRSPs. There were serious coordination problems between the donors. The recipient country was not fully aligned with externally financed programs and the country's government-sponsored programs were not effective due to inconsistent policies and procedures and presence of multiple institutions. Solutions were developed to address these major issues. "Published during 2000–2008, employing 81 PRSPs for 58 countries, this paper develops a unique scorecard to evaluate the alignment of policies in PRSPs with three dominant development paradigms. It shows that the New York Consensus, which was forged around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is driving the content of PRSPs." (Feeny, 2014)

Role of International System

PRSPs are documents that the IMF and World Bank require from a state for the consideration of debt relief for the HIPC initiative aid low-income states where financial support is offered from key donors and lenders. The Poverty Reduction Strategy process urges states to advance and cultivate a more poverty-concentrated government with their own tactics and approaches in order to develop the plan closely with population. The HIPC Initiative's purpose is that no poor country is put in a situation where it is in debt carrying a debt burden that it cannot survive.

After the launch, the multifaceted parties and governments have worked together to cut to sustainable levels the external debt weights of the most severely indebted poor countries. To this day, three states have been considered eligible for HIPC Initiative assistance, whereas 36 are receiving full debt relief from the IMF.

Implications

The debt relief came with pros that are inclusive of boosting social spending where states have drastically amplified their expenditures on health, education and other communal services, reducing debt service, and refining public debt management by minimizing the debt of post-completion countries below those of HICPs or non-HICPs. The PRSP had a great impact over Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Tanzania where a wide range of reforms regarding decentralization of planning, monitoring and execution systems were successful. In the case of Mozambique, the overall production in 2007 increased by 7.8% relative to the levels recorded in 2006, exceeding the target of 7.2% leaving a positive effect on the economy of the state. Moreover, Ethiopia in five years managed to raise their GDP at an average of 11% per annum and their agriculture, industry and services have witnessed a major increase of 33%. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers are of extreme significance in our current time where states can sometimes fail to fulfill their job towards their community due to the lack of economic resources, affecting the infrastructure of the country and its citizens significantly.

Additional Information

PRSPs need to be prepared as a formality in order to seek program support from the World Bank or IMF. Countries such as Pakistan, Albania and Indonesia prepare these in order to achieve concessional and non-concessional lending. In general, it is the NGOs who provide support to lesser economically developed countries with funds and resources in order to help with health and poverty issues. Countries are supposed to organize for donors and not the other way round, which is one of the main aims of PRSPs. However, a study concluded that in only 3 out of 48 countries did the government take a material lead in donor coordination. The report notes that “some recent PRSPs have continued to simply attach [already costed donor programs and projects] to policy matrices”, for example in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Senegal and Sri Lanka. “The report notes that financing using the new World Bank lending instrument introduced to match the PRSP objectives amounts to just nine per cent of total lending from the Bank’s IDA low-income country window.” (2003)

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can countries be prevented from misusing PRSPs in order to receive aid?

Should the process of handling PRSPs be reconsidered or amended in order to maintain stability within countries?

How should the issue between donors and the countries be solved in order to ease the process of transferring aids and funds?

Which countries should be helped the most to help in prevention of extreme poverty and worsening health care?

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Sixth
General
Assembly
(GA 6)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear delegates,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I welcome you to the General Assembly Sixth Committee in the 11th American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUS-MUN). This year, the General Assembly Sixth Committee has two questions on the agenda: "Establishing a Legal Framework for the Regulation of Military Drones" and "The Question of Criminal Accountability of UN Officials and Experts on Missions." The UN's General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations formed in 1945, the only one in which all Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. The UNGA annually elects a president to serve for the duration of one year. The UNGA itself has six committees, each of which address a certain issue. The sixth committee of the UNGA (GA6) is the main forum on legal issues faced by the UN. The UNGA has the power to make recommendations to states regarding international issues. However, unlike the other five GA committees, the sixth general assembly committee is an ad-hoc due to the nature of its topics. Hence, most resolutions are adopted by acclamation or consensus. The role of the committee is to promote international cooperation in the political field and to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification. In the General Assembly Sixth Committee, like other GA bodies, all UN member states are entitled to representation in the sixth committee. Thus, GA6 has 193-member states.

I look forward to a fruitful debate and discussion which aims to reach consensus throughout the conference. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email (b00070449@aus.edu) regarding any inquiries you may have or clarifications you may need.

Best regards,
Muaaz Adra.



Moderators



Kateryna Kadabashy



Hawa Bandey



Zahra Fahad



Vishnu Narayanan

TOPIC 1

Establishing a Legal Framework for the Regulation of Military Drones

Context and Summary

Drones, also known in the military as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) are aircrafts without a human pilot onboard, typically used when manned flights pose an obvious threat. Their growing use has presented many countries with numerous regulatory challenges including the guarantee of operating UAVs safely without causing any harm to public or national security. The issue in employing drones is the possibility that decisions regarding life or death will someday be taken by machines not under the direct control of humans, birthing a concern regarding the violation of the right to life. Special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson stresses on the difficulty of defining “civilian casualties” when drones are used. While drone technology is seen by some to improve civilian security, numerous UN human rights experts continue to speak out against the lethal nature of drones. In fact, efforts to harmonize the rules of drone operation have already been undertaken in 2015 by the European Commission, who proposes to integrate all drones in the EU aviation safety framework regardless of their size.

Afghanistan has been carrying CIA operated drones for over a decade now, after the attacks of September 9th, 2000. In addition to the US operated drones, Afghanistan is also carrying out airstrikes in the country. Although the exact number of strikes is not known to the public, the UN has counted 126 civilian casualties in 2015, 46 of whom have died and 80 injured. In the UN's six-month report of 2016, the number of civilian casualties were twice in number as compared to the same period in 2015 with 57 dead and 104 injured. Numerous cases have been documented over the years which involve casualties through RPAS and most of these cases demonstrate the lack of accountability and transparency in the reporting of drone based activities. Such instances further go on to prove that the regulation of drones in the past has been inadequate and this inadequacy has resulted in numerous deaths and casualties globally.

Role of International System

The Sixth General Assembly will be running as an ad-hoc committee and will discuss the establishment of a legal framework for the regulation of military drones. This topic has been discussed and debated over by NATO, UNODA, The General Assembly, Security Council, and United Nations Human Rights Council. There have been numerous meetings and conferences to review the regulatory framework of UAVs. In fact, the lethal use of these military drones was scrutinized in 2013 by the General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural) when an expert on the UN Human Rights asserted that internationally recognized regulations against arbitrary killing must also be applied to extraterritorial attacks by weapon systems such as UAVs. Following a presentation by the Special Rapporteur's interim report, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/178) through a consensus for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Paragraph 6(s) of this resolution urges states to see to it that any anti-terrorism measures taken or means employed (including the operation of RPAS) are in compliance with their obligations under international law, inclusive of the Charter of the United Nations,

human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality. Further, a resolution passed in 2014 by the European Parliament called upon the EU to encourage higher levels of accountability and transparency regarding the use of armed drones in accordance with the legal basis of their use on the part of third countries. In addition to this, it proposes the authorization of judicial reviews of drone strikes, and to ensure the effective access of remedies to victims of unlawful strikes. The difficulty in assessing the exact number of victims is a primary limitation to these clauses, which makes it challenging to judge the degree of risk posed by these drones.

Implications

The use of UAVs does offer many advantages which include the enhancement of potential to comply with international law. However, it has also prompted unease about a possible weakening of the standards for deploying force and have raised challenges regarding the interpretation and application of international law[xi]. According to Christopher Fabian, principal advisor on innovations at the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF claims that the "promise of drones is really tremendous". Organizations like UNICEF and other humanitarian development agencies can benefit from UAVs as they can operate over damaged and fragmented infrastructure, in those areas where there are no developed transportation networks or roads. Further, they can provide extensive assistance in the wake of natural disasters and extend WiFi connectivity in refugee camp areas and schools as well. This can primarily benefit third world countries and states which are more prone to natural calamities. Regardless, this does not change the fact that their use in the military can be lethal to civilians as well as those operating them unless well-regulated and monitored. The urgency of this issue must be noted however, and it is essential the situation be addressed before it becomes uncontrollable because the use of these drones continues to take place and will continue to be lethal unless regulated.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can the usage of military drones be made more transparent?

What are the challenges of the current use of UAVs?

What will be the consequences if a legal framework to regulate these drones is not developed?

What constituents of the legal framework will allow it to effectively control the operation of UAVs?

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TOPIC 2

The Question of Criminal Accountability of UN Officials and Experts on Missions

Context and Summary

Since its creation, the UN has been involved in peacekeeping missions. The organization usually deploys these missions through the Security Council based on Chapters VI and VII in the UN Charter. The Chapter on the Pacific Settlement of Disputes (Chapter VI), states that such missions must observe and regulate conflicts without any intervention or bias. In contrast, Chapter VII is the Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression, which calls for intervention and forceful action of UN peacekeepers in order to control the aggressions of one side or more. However, the changes in the nature of conflicts in the 1990s have affected the peacekeeping missions in the UN, which became increasingly more reliant on Chapter VII rather than VI.

In accordance with the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on its 2005 resumed session, it was found that some UN personnel committed sexual violations and other abuses against victims during their deployment. This legal ad hoc committee, Sixth General Assembly, was formed in order to discuss these issues and find solutions so that perpetrators are justly prosecuted. Since the issue was raised, states have routinely met to discuss reasons, suggest solutions, and sign resolutions on the matter. So far, the committee has convened 5 times, from 2007 till 2015, with an additional ad hoc committee meeting in 2007 and 2008. These meetings produced reports and resolutions, in which states highlight the size of the violations and stress the importance of applying fitting measures to stop these crimes.

Role of International System

There is an agreement that crimes by UN officials should be prosecuted according to the national law of the host country. Also, member states agreed that in case a host state is unable to prosecute violators, the organization and other states may help that member prosecute perpetrators. Another problem with regards to crimes and violations committed by UN officials in peacekeeping missions is the existence of jurisdictional gaps between states. For example, different states have different legal procedures on how to prosecute certain crimes, and what is the definition of crime in general. The lack of legal unison lead states to prosecute similar acts in different ways. Nonetheless, states have adopted numerous resolutions on the issue, such as 59/300, 61/29, 62/63 and 64/110. The latest resolution on the issue of criminal accountability of UN staff, 71/134, adopted on 13 December 2016, stressed the importance of preliminary training of UN troops and respect to local laws of host states regarding the violations by UN staff. It also leads to the creation of the post of Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Another challenge that states face regarding the issue is that often host states do not report back to the UN with the decisions and procedures, if any, that they have implemented against the perpetrators. Additionally, not all states believe that jurisdictional gaps exist between members of the UN, or that it is a hurdle for just prosecution. With regards to the suggestion of training UN troops before deployment, it is problematic in two ways. First, deployment is usually during emergency cases, which means that it must happen immediately. Taking into consideration criticisms of the UN system, the organization should aim to deploy personnel even faster than before. Hence, training troops before deployment will delay the process even further, as the troops are not formed until there is a need for them. Another problem is financial support, as training will require space, time and expertise, none of which are free.

Implications

Several reasons make this issue important to resolve as soon as possible. First of all, sexual abuse is a gross violation of Article 3 in UN's Declaration of Human Rights and Article 5 of UNDHR. Another reason which member states have previously mentioned during their meetings, is maintaining the integrity, credibility and image of the organization itself. If the organization lets such acts, which are clearly breaches of its own mandate, go unpunished, member states and populations will lose faith in the UN. The UN is currently involved in 15 peacekeeping operations worldwide, which requires the deployment of 107,690 personnel. The organization risks serious violations of human rights on an international scale if such persecutions are not executed correctly, as it would mean that UN officials have impunity against such crimes.

Questions a Resolution must answer

How can states ensure troops behave according to the law?

Is the issue of jurisdictional gap real, and if yes, how can it be resolved?

What practices can the UN employ in order to guarantee that perpetrators are justly prosecuted?

What can the UN system incorporate to its deployment ensure that troops behave accordingly, without slowing down the process?

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Security Council I (SC 1)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear delegates,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the eleventh American University of Sharjah Model United Nations. I am Nikita Kasianov, Secretariat of the Security Council committee. The committee will address two crucial issues:

- 1- Formation of a Transnational Coalition to Resolve the Ongoing Crisis in Syria, and
- 2- Development of Effective Global Information System to Aid in the War Against Terrorism.

The United Nations gives the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which meets whenever peace is under threat. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and implement the decisions of the Security Council. The Security Council responds to conflict in the following ways: it dispatches a mission, appoints special envoys or sets principles for an agreement. When the conflict develops into hostilities, the Council aims to end the armed conflict promptly by dispatching military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm environment in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The committee may also choose to opt for enforcement measures, such as: arms embargoes, economic sanctions, travel bans, or collective military action. The Council is composed of 15 Members, of which China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States are permanent members. Looking forward to meeting you at the conference and good luck preparing! You can contact me via email (b00062665@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best regards,
Nikita Kasianov



Moderators



Aayushi Mithani



Zahra Jawaad Khan

TOPIC 1

Formation of a Transnational Coalition to Resolve the Ongoing Crisis in Syria

Context and Summary

Syria is facing what could be labeled the “worst humanitarian crisis” of our time. Since it began in 2011, the country has been host to about 220,000 deaths, countless injuries, and millions of displaced individuals who have been forced to flee Syria and relocate (Syed, 2016). Cynicism against the Syrian government unfolded due to deprived freedom and various economic sufferings, leading to the inception of a brutal civil war that persists today.

Bloodshed and combat have become a matter of everyday activity in Syria and tensions have catapulted. This is creating substantial pressures on the neighboring countries who are host to these refugees. This conflict has spurred the greatest refugee crisis since World War 2 (Sharwood, 2016).

The formation of an international confederation needs to arise and bring about a peaceful end to this crippling war which is not only debilitating Syria, but also causing international mayhem and dispute. A non-violent resolution with a peace treaty, aided by numerous countries and supported by both the regime and its opponents, is most favorable in such times of distress, conflict, and struggle.

History

Syria faces high levels of unemployment, oppressed freedom, a lack of political independence and is controlled and ruled by a brutal president. Public anger was bound to be prevalent in such times of anguish. One of the focal catalysts of the civil war was the detention, jailing and bloodshed, on March 6th 2011, of a few high school children who unceremoniously painted anti-government graffiti on walls of Syria (Erich, 2016). This led to massive outbreaks of public protests and dissent, and these protesters were inhumanely dealt with.

Syrians were exasperated by the lasting rule of the brutal al-Assad family (Syria 2006). As Syria is greatly torn in its religious and ethnic diversity, this created an almost insular conflict with the ruling party, ever since the commencement of their leadership in the 1970's (Erich, 2016). International involvement increased as countries chose sides according to their alliances and beliefs, and intensified the war. The regime has acquired countries such as Russia, Iran, and Iraq on its side, whilst those against the regime have drawn in USA, Turkey and Jordan.

Role of the International System

Several international organizations came together in support of Syria and its suffering people, namely UNICEF, UNHCR, and World Food Programme. These international organizations are constantly trying to improve the disastrous conditions prevalent in the country (Broomfield, 2016). However, the regime and its opposition has made matters challenging as both parties remain rigid on their stances, and unwilling to engage in peace talks.

Peace treaties have been initiated in hopes of ending the suffering internally in Syria and externally to all those countries affected, but they have miserably failed. In November 2011 and January 2012, the Arab League proposed two peace treaties whereby the opposing parties were urged to solve matters amicably. Furthermore, an action group process (more commonly known as Geneva 1) held in June 2012 was evoked by Kofi Annan, the UN peace envoy. However this plan was heavily looked down upon by the anti-regime party (Syed, Z. R., 2016). In January 2014 another Geneva peace treaty was organized (Geneva 2) in hopes of bringing together the Syrian government and the oppositions to consider a transitional government, nevertheless no accord was reached by the two parties. Additionally, foreign ministers of Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and USA, met in Vienna (The Vienna Process) to discuss a way to end the lasting Syrian strife, but these talks and treaties again reached no conclusions (Ians, 2014).

Resolutions that have been undertaken to tackle this conflict include: Resolution 2139: "Syrian civil war access for humanitarian aid" (Security Council, 2014), 2254: "Syrian civil war ceasefire" (Security Council 2015) and 2268: (Security Council, 2016), which called for "a cessation of hostilities and granted for access to humanitarian workers in Syria", all of which have been unanimously agreed upon.

Implications

The Syrian civil war has unequivocally created vast negative impacts on not only Syria and its inhabitants, but also on countries worldwide. A major refugee crisis, the unforeseen rise of the Islamic state, a chemical weapons ingress and a debilitating Syria have all been implications of such a brutal civil war, and therefore a formation of an international coalition is urgently needed as it could help resolve this major strife.

The refugee crisis has been perhaps the largest issue and matter of concern in the Syrian civil war. Syria's neighboring countries have faced an influx of refugees from Syria and this has made internal social and economic matters for these countries immensely challenging. The UN Refugee Agency estimates about 4 million refugees have crossed Syria's border since 2011, an estimate which seems to be amplifying by 5,000 people every day. The most affected countries in this matter are Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan who are facing the vast majority of the influx, this puts a strain on their resources and people. Therefore such a crisis has devastated these neighboring countries as much as it has Syria. (Jones, 2015).

A transnational coalition could not only be beneficial to Syria but its neighboring countries as well. A pact that involves agreement from countries all over the world, which are willing and able to aid refugees. The coalition could ease the major strain, a large influx of refugees, that has fallen upon only a few states. The opposing party is not one single unified force, but rather a slew of different anti-regime troops, two of the main and most relevant include the "Free Syrian Army (FSA)" and the "ISIS".

Therefore the world is in dire need of a peace treaty between the regime and its opposition, a treaty that agrees to call a ceasefire and combat such a widespread issue. This transnational coalition will not only put an end to the war between the government and its opposition, but will save thousands of lives and improve the mutilated effects of Syria and its surrounding countries. If a transnational coalition does not come into effect promptly, Syria's condition can deeply worsen. Such a prolonged war with such intense foreign involvement, can not only bring about more bloodshed, slavery and torture but can also worsen the already severe social, economic and security issues all around the world.

Being part of the Security Council, it is a duty for all those involved to resolve such a widely disrupted peace and come together, in spite of sectarian and rivalrous tensions, and help combat the issue in whatever forms the country is able to. This formation is exactly what the committee hopes to debate and invoke speeches about.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How should the members of a transnational coalition be selected?

What are the functions of the transnational organization?

Should the refugees be relocated in the other parts of the world?

What is the amount of financial aid that has to be provided to the countries with the refugees?

How does the amount of the aid need to be determined?

What is the minimum amount of the accepted refugees needed to receive aid?

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TOPIC 2

Development of an Effective Global Information System to Aid in the War Against Terrorism.

Context and Summary

Since the 1960's countries have been working on developing the instruments that can be used to reduce the development of terrorist troops and track them when needed. However, the 9/11 attacks in 2001 in the United States of America changed the entire global perspective on terrorism and ways to prevent it. Despite the death of the leader of then-rising terrorist group "Al-Qaeda" Osama Bin Laden, the world is still trending with global terrorist threats and attacks up until this day (Hintz, 2011). Some terrorist groups such as ISIL and Boko Haram, can reach the entire globe through interconnected systems such as communications and finance, however other groups remain local or national depending on their objectives. Even though the UN has been developing anti-terrorist programs for many years, there are still weaknesses to the resolutions combatting global terrorism due to the difficulty of reaching consensus between different states regarding the extent of intervention of foreign nations.

History

The United Nations has long been involved in the fight against terrorism. Evidence of the determination of the world community to eliminate this problem is the fact that the UN has developed a number of international legal instruments that allow the international community to act against terrorism and terrorists. Since 1963 under the auspices of the UN, 16 international conventions have been developed, including the fight against hostage-taking, the hijacking of aircraft, bomb terrorism and the financing of terrorists (Hintz, 2011). The Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council helps build the international system's capacity to fight terrorism.

On September 8, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a global counter-terrorism strategy. This strategy - in the form of a resolution and the action plan annexed to it - is a unique tool for increasing the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. (United Nations, 2006) For the first time, all member states have developed a single strategic and operational approach to combating terrorism.

The strategy contains a number of important new initiatives: enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of technical assistance in combating terrorism in order to enable all States to participate effectively in this process, voluntary creation of assistance systems to meet the needs of victims of terror and their families, search for non-traditional methods to combat the growing threat of Internet use by terrorists.

Role of the International System

In the system of modern international relations, the United Nations occupies a central place and plays the most important role on virtually all global agendas. As was said in the G-8 on strengthening the UN program on the scourge of terrorism in Sankt-Petersburg (July 16, 2016): "The UN is a unique truly world-wide institution that is the only organization whose position and breadth of operations make it possible to achieve global unity in condemning terrorism".

This organization is the only universal mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and global security and the provision of sustainable development and stability. Based on the UN Charter, the entire international legal system of the modern world order must function as a center for coordinating the efforts of the world community in the fight against terrorism and its accomplices will continue to return (Hint, 2012). In modern conditions, where the dependence of different countries on each other is increasing, the importance of UN efforts in seeking answers to global challenges is growing.

The UN's Global Counterterrorism Strategy (2006) and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (2005) were established to support the fight against the terrorism, but there is little analysis about their potential impact and the important diplomatic and political steps that they represent (United Nations, 2006). Numerous country assessments are implemented by the Counterterrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to facilitate technical assistance and better synchronize the UNSC resolutions within them. The UN Security Council body observes the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 that prevents non-state actors from possessing tools and instruments that cause mass destruction (Hintz, 2011). Even though the United Nation has achieved a lot in the war against the terrorism, the focus has largely been on the process and less on results. It is important to analyze the results because of the appearance of duplicated efforts, as the UN may often evaluate the same institutions and provide similar technical advice.

Implications

One of the weaknesses of the UN's strategy against terrorism is the presence of contemporary global challenges that are threatening its effectiveness (Villani, 2015). An example is the transnational terrorism and illicit arms trade that jeopardize the security of the United Nations. The diversity of cross-border problems requires a case-by-case approach, since not every illicit cross-border trafficking issue poses a threat to international peace and security. These phenomena have highlighted the UN's security system's need to assure peace and international stability. When threats come from non-state actors it is tough for the UN to elaborate an effective plan to hinder them. (Security Council, 2012) Another weakness regarding the Security Council functioning is related to the lack of democratic mechanisms and accountability. The composition of the Security Council still reflects the power distribution of 1945. The third main deficiency of the UN system consists in the absence of a mechanism to empower the judgements of the International Court of Justice.

Questions a Resolution Should Answer

How can a global information system be implemented and where should the main data 'server' be placed?

Which countries should develop the information system?

How can the system secure support from states that might be involved in the support or funding of terrorist groups?

How can the system be implemented without impeding the sovereignty of states?

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Security Council II (SC 2)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear delegates,

I would like to send out a warm welcome to you all as we invite you into our committee: Security Council 2. The Security Council, the UN's most powerful body, is charged with maintaining international peace and security (Global Policy Forum). Additionally, it is responsible for accepting new members to the United Nations, as well as confirming any changes to its United Nations Charter.

The Security Council leads in diagnosing the presence of a threat to peace or any demonstration of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a debate and settles it by peaceful means by suggesting strategies for modification or terms of settlement (United Nations Security Council). Sometimes, the Security Council can fall back on forcing sanctions or even approve the utilization of force to keep up or reestablish worldwide peace and security. A Security Council resolution requires nine affirmative votes, and no veto from any of the five permanent states, which include the following: France, China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Russian Federation. The ten non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for a duration of two years (with an end date). In total, that is 15 Members and every Member has one vote. All Member States are obligated to agree to Council decisions. Thus, a representative of each of its members must be present constantly at UN Headquarters with the goal that the Security Council can meet whenever an issue emerges.

As your secretariat, I am eagerly looking forward to meeting and working with all of you in hopes of a fruitful conference. You can contact me via email (g00064452@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best regards,
Manal Machou



Moderators



Roa Daher



Ayush Bhatia



Syed Mohammad Mujahid

TOPIC 1

Nuclear Warfare Threats Arising from the Deteriorating Relations between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Context and Summary

Tensions between the United States of America and North Korea are reaching new heights with exchanges in insults between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un on an almost daily basis. North Korea's recent invention of an intercontinental ballistic missile, capable of reaching the mainland US has made matters even worse. Trump, on the other hand, plans to invest billions of dollars on missile defense and seems to be ready to go head to head with North Korea any time. Additionally, due to the increased USA military exercise with their ally, South Korea, North Korea is facing amplified hostility. In an attempt to suppress North Korea's actions, the US is forcing more economic sanctions on them. North Korea's attempts to be recognized as a nuclear state by the US, and the US's increasing hostility towards North Korea could inflict nuclear war anytime resulting in millions of casualties and collateral damage.

History

These tensions trace back to the Korean War which took place between 1950 and 1953 (Gannon, 2015). The then President, Harry Truman, suggested the use of nuclear weapons in the war. The fear of being bombarded with an atomic bomb still lingers with the North Koreans ever since the US president's statement. To defend themselves, they began constructing a nuclear power plant with the aid of the Soviet Union in 1980. After assuring to the US that their acts were peaceful, North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in 1991 which affirmed that they would not produce or use nuclear weapons. However, in the attempt to check their credibility, the International Atomic Energy Agency decided to inspect North Korea's nuclear disposal site. Due to this, North Korea threatened to withdraw from the treaty. In the beginning of 2003, The US initiated contact with North Korea again and joined them in the Six Party talks. This act was an attempt to bring an end to nuclear weapon production in Korea and repair the relationship between the countries. Nevertheless, the treaty was broken by North Korea when the US started targeting its financial assets. After Kim Jong-un was appointed as leader in 2011, the number of nuclear tests increased drastically. When DPRK launched its first rocket in space in 2012, the UN passed a resolution condemning the launch. This didn't affect the actions of the DPRK and the number of nuclear tests increased from 2013 to 2016. In 2017, DPRK successfully launched its intercontinental ballistic missiles which led to the current feud between Trump's US and Kim Jong-Un's DPRK.

Role of the International System

The root cause of the increasingly alarming tensions between North Korea and the United States lies in North Korea's refusal to stop or even delay the development of their nuclear weapons. The United States sees the continuous evolution of North Korea's nuclear arsenal as a detrimental threat to the stability of the region and a threat to the safety of the world, causing it to issue war threats as a substitute to diplomatic means which have not worked in the past (Sanger & Sang-Hun, 2017).

The United Nations Security Council has been working on the de-escalation of the North Korean nuclear threat since 2006 (UN Security Council, 2006). Since sanctions have not worked in the past, other methods have been suggested; these include black-listing North Korean diplomats and halting the country's national airline (Smith, 2017).

The Security Council has adopted eight major sanction resolutions to attempt to stop North Korea's testing of nuclear missiles. The most recent sanction placed on North Korea was placed on September 11th; it included limiting oil imports and textile exports both of which make up a large fraction of the country's income (Smith, 2017). However, the past has shown that North Korea remains unfazed by any sanctions placed on it. It has not stopped the testing or development of its nuclear missiles since 2006 despite all the unanimously adopted resolutions which include harsh sanctions on the country's economy.

Implications

The implications of a war between North Korea and the US are extensive as it would have a large effect on the two countries in addition to the international community. Moreover, both nations would also have to deal with the radioactive repercussions of the use of nuclear weapons on their people and the long lasting effect it could possibly have. Additionally, the economic consequences that would result from a nuclear war would be damaging to both countries and would have a large-scale domino effect that could paralyze global markets.

The countries most affected by the potential war, in addition to the two countries involved, would include China and South Korea. To China, keeping North Korea in a stable place is more important than halting its nuclear testing (O'Reilly, 2017). After all, an unstable North Korea could have devastating effects on China. South Korea, on the other hand, could suffer because of the geographical location of its capital which could impose a threat on Seoul. A nuclear war between the US and North Korea would erase all the progress made to improve relations between the two countries and would pose a major setback to the intended nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. A North Korean-American war would destabilize East Asia and cause another refugee crisis and the loss of millions of lives (Marcus, 2017).

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Why is North Korea still working on improving its nuclear technology?

Is there any way to encourage North Korea to disarm their nuclear weapons and halt any development on them? If yes, how?

Why does the United States feel threatened by North Korean nuclear weapons despite having one of the largest nuclear arsenals in the world?

How should countries deal with North Korea's consistent nuclear testing?

What is an effective way to de-escalate the threat of nuclear war between the two countries?

How could a North Korean-American war affect your assigned country? What is your country's stance on the steadily rising threat of nuclear war between the two nations?

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TOPIC 2

The Sanctioned Infusion of Artificial Intelligence into Military Programmes

Context and Summary

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to anything that does not incorporate the human mind to make its decision. Implementing AI in military is being considered by many countries in this age of growing technological advancements to make armies more affective and potent. Through preinstalled programs and functions, the AI machine assesses the environment and situation and performs the action based on its knowledge and ability. The dilemma that arises is that once deployed, they cannot be stopped with human intervention, and this could result in casualties. Furthermore, because they lack humanity, shared beliefs and moral attitudes, AI machines pose a threat to global peace. The introduction of Artificial Intelligence in military operations has the potential to trigger an arms race worldwide, giving superior power and position to the country which is the most technologically advanced. Their infusion in military programs will allow the wars to be fought on much greater and faster pace than humans can apprehend.

History

The idea of artificial intelligence spiraled from the invention of the programmable digital computer in 1940. A workshop in Dartmouth College encouraged the research in Artificial Intelligence. In 1950, Isaac Asimov published the Three Laws of Robotics, the first one stating “A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm” (Lien, 2017). In order to adhere to the rules mentioned above, the use of airplanes in armed conflicts was banned in 1899 because they had the potential to inflict heavy damage (Simonite, 2017). Today, there are several types of semi-autonomous systems which accompany the troops during battle. However, one distinctive feature that stands out between them and a fully autonomous robot is that the semi-autonomous robots are completely dependent on humans to execute decisions. Most recently, tech giants like Elon Musk have insisted on the ban of artificial intelligence in weaponry as they are capable of destabilizing nations and causing mass destruction.

Role of the International System

With the rapid development and proliferation of robotic weapons, machines are starting to replace humans on the battlefield. The Human Rights Watch has explicitly highlighted the possibility of “killer robots”, fully autonomous weapons that may be able to select and engage targets without human intervention. At present, military officials say that humans will retain some level of supervision over the decisions to use lethal force, but their statements often leave open the possibility that robots could one day have the ability to make such choices on their own power. International, non-governmental spectators are of the opinion that such revolutionary weapons would not be consistent with international humanitarian law and would increase the risk of death or injury to civilians during armed conflict. The Human Rights Watch has commented that a preemptive prohibition on their development and use is needed (“Losing Humanity,” 2012).

Several international spectators have, in recent times, revealed the increasingly suspicious activities surrounding various countries and their defense divisions. In a recent trip to Amazon and Google, the US Secretary of Defense James Mattis remarked that AI has “got to be better integrated by the Department of Defense”, clearly hinting at the potential additional military applications that Artificial Intelligence understandably has. Many have also called the infusion of AI into military a paradigm shift in warfare, connecting machine learning to AI’s capacity to perhaps disregard the human capacity to prevent attacks before they begin, which is key to international diplomacy (Simonite, 2017). A great number of international organizations, NGOs and civilian consortiums have, in fact, raised questions on the recently revealed unclassified 2016 Department of Defense (DoD) document, the Human Systems Roadmap Review, which reveals that the US military plans to create artificially intelligent autonomous weapons systems that plan on using predictive social media analytics to make decisions on use of lethal forces against humans, which highlights the proposition that robots with complete autonomy would be incapable of meeting international humanitarian law standards or the laws of war (Nafeez, 2016).

International NGOs have recommended that analysis needs to be done on the various legal standards that AI driven machines would have to adhere to before their inclusion in military operations, as multiple reports have highlighted that the rules of distinction, proportionality and military necessity are important tools for an AI – guided machine to differentiate between civilians and militants in war scenarios. It remains unclear as to whether AI equipped machines contain such elements of differentiation or not. But even with such compliance mechanisms, experts have commented that fully autonomous weapons would lack the human qualities necessary to meet the rules of international humanitarian law. These rules can be complex and entail subjective decision making, and their observance requires human judgment. For example, distinguishing between a fearful civilian and a threatening enemy combatant requires a soldier to understand the intentions behind a human’s actions, something a robot cannot do (“Losing Humanity,” 2012). Independent researchers from the International Review of the Red Cross have referred to the trend as the dehumanization of lethal decision-making and have proposed that there lies a duty upon individuals and states in peacetime, as well as combatants military organizations, and states in armed conflict situations, not to delegate to a machine or automated process the authority or capability to initiate the use of lethal force independently of human determinations of its moral or legal legitimacy (International Review of the Red Cross, 2012).

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

Is your assigned country of the opinion that AI-enabled autonomous weapons pose a significant threat? Based on your country's observations, what are the recommendations that your country/state would make to this council?

Would those recommendations be targeted at states or international stakeholders such as corporate organizations?

Does adopting laws and policies to prohibit the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons fall in line with your country's national and foreign policy?

Who are the key international stakeholders, state/non-state actors that have control of such advanced weaponry?

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UN High
Commissioner for
Refugees
(UNHCR)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

It is with the utmost pleasure and honor that I welcome you all to the 2018 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and to our committee, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I hope this conference allows you to work to the best of your capabilities and provide you with a platform to enrich your public speaking and strengthen your skills in the art of diplomacy, while engaging in debate over topics of crucial importance that have various effects upon the international community.

The UNHCR carries out its mandate as per the 1950 UNHCR Statute and is governed by the UN General Assembly (GA) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was formulated in the aftermath of the Second World War to assist millions of Europeans wishing to resettle in various lands such as the United States. The UNHCR is responsible for managing and coordinating relief activities in which refugees receive a fundamental level of assistance. This committee tends to work with specific operational partners that provide and deliver the services required to safeguard individuals' livelihoods such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). However, the influx of refugees needing asylum and adequate welfare has amounted to numbers not dealt with in the past. The resources provided by NGOs and operating partners have to be properly distributed whilst managing financial restraints that have come into being.

I encourage you all to read and research beyond this introductory guide as it does not take the place of the research of an individual. It is recommended to understand your countries' or Member States policies more in depth to grasp more information on the matters at hand. I wish you the best of luck and look forward to meeting you all at the conference! You can contact me via email (g00068426@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Regards,
Lena Khalifa



Moderators



45 Kamel Aladdein Samara



Haya AlMadhloum AlSuwaidi



Sara Charmand

TOPIC 1

Economic Integration of Refugees in Asylum Nations

Context and Summary

There has been a history of recent wars that have caused a spike in the number of refugees seeking asylum. While resolving these wars remains a priority, the UNHCR is tasked with attempting to integrate the refugees economically in the asylum nations as they stay lengthy periods of time in these host countries. The structural economic system is what hinders the process of integrating the refugees. High unemployment rates and the need for high-level skills have caused mismatch in countries with their natives, making it difficult to cooperate and unilaterally mobilize the refugees. In addition, if refugees do secure a position in the work force, they usually earn less than an average employee. Another aspect that hinders the process of integration, especially in third world asylum nations such as Jordan, is the dependency on foreign aid to sustain the costs of refugees. This dependency has a negative economic impact on the country. On the other hand, Canada's take on integrating the refugees in their economic system represents an arguably exceptional model, one where refugees are able to achieve middle-class living standards and employment rates as close to native Canadian rates.

History

Historically, the unorganized practice of asylum during the Cold War's "self-assessment" and the protraction stay of refugees have emphasized the difficulty of the economic integration of refugees. The situation has changed nowadays with the proliferation of refugees entering host countries, hardening the situation for both the host Member States and refugees themselves. According to The Migration Policy Institute's article (Peterson, 2015) "In 2014, there were 32 armed conflicts globally in 26 countries, with the number of refugees at its highest level ever recorded". Therefore, the UNHCR has been working towards this issue whilst taking into account the refugees entering the State and staying for long. "Between 1980 and 1999, refugee populations greater than 100,000 lived in host countries for more than ten years" (Jacobsen, 2001). The reasons behind difficult living conditions of refugees were due to historical and political factors, mostly resulting from the Cold War. In the past, the non-organized entrance of refugees has created many security problems that consist of the militarization of camps, the spillover of conflict from their countries of origin, increased criminal activity, and economic and environmental burdens on the host community (Jacobsen, 2001.)

Role of the International System

The European Parliament (2015) stated that "asylum applications in the EU countries rose for the fifth consecutive month reaching a new record high with more than 170,000 applications" and this number is expected to increase further. International organizations, specifically the UNHCR, have been seriously involved in combatting the difficult economic integration of refugees and their bad living conditions as well as offering durable solutions as per the short and long term issues to be tackled.

The UN has ratified the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees (hereinafter 1951 Convention), which aims to protect and facilitate the “assimilation and naturalization” (UNHCR, 2007) of refugees to host countries.

Moreover, the UNHCR has been focused on easing the access of education for refugees as it can help them to integrate economically better in the long term since “57 million children who remain out of school globally live in conflict-affected settings” (Peterson [MPI], 2015). According to the Migration Policy Institute, the UNHCR is “mandated with the provision of education for refugees globally.” In order to respond to the massive arrival of refugees the European Union has introduced a strategy that aims to facilitate the economic conditions of refugees in the market and “counter the negative economic effects of demographic aging and strengthen the EU’s economic performance” (Karakas [ERPS], 2015). Further, the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has been introduced and aims to support EU’s Asylum by taking in charge the refugees’ conditions once arrived in the host country.

Implications

The effects of economic integration on local and regional economics are not well understood to this day. Different studies have shown negative, positive and no effects on the local economies. This is because of both a lack of data on the subject and due to the complex nature of the issue. Still, there are multiple effects which are clear. The influx of refugees leads to an increase in spending which in itself may stimulate the local economy causing an increase in the domestic product of the country.

Moreover, refugees themselves may arrive with a specific skillset which may cause an overall increase in efficiency. On the other hand, it is clear that in developing countries, the arrival of refugees will increase competition over the most basic resources like land, water, and food. This was the case in Ghana where tensions rose due to locals losing control over their lands. Furthermore, while increased spending may cause an economic boost, this could shift the prices up (though some studies have shown that such increases in price are negligible) increasing the cost of living and lowering the already suffering standard of living. This is important as it is the world’s poorest countries that are home to the largest share of the world’s refugees. These countries accepted these refugees knowing that they can depend on the rest of the world to provide monetary support. In conclusion, while the effects may not be completely clear, it is evident that through monetary support from the outside world and a stable framework, economic integration of refugees would benefit a country in countless ways.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What are the unifying characteristics of refugees worldwide? While each crisis is unique and requires a tailored approach, there exist unifying characteristics. Could these characteristics provide a system for classifying crises and dealing with them more appropriately?

What are possible pathways for economic integration of refugees? Should refugees be guaranteed job opportunities or should they compete with the locals in search for employment? Moreover, as is the case worldwide, how would the exploitation of refugees economically be eliminated?

Would sending refugees to a further country with similar culture be more beneficial than leaving them in a border country where there are hostile relations?

Suggestions for further research

The following are some suggested topics which may help develop a deeper and more complete understanding of the topics to be discussed in the conference: Additional case studies of refugees' economic integration around the globe; The basic classical view of economics (in terms of aggregate demand and supply) since economic integration policies are motivated by the same laws that govern economics and a solid understanding of these laws should prove indispensable; Trends in refugee naturalization numbers over the past decade.

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TOPIC 2

Protecting of the Civil, Political, and Socioeconomic Rights of Refugees

Context and Summary

Refugees are persons fleeing armed conflict or other persecutions and they have access to official assistance from the UNHCR and other organizations (UNHCR, 2014). Refugees have a right to not only safe asylum, but also the safety net of civil, political, and socioeconomic rights, provided they abide by the laws and regulations in their country of refuge. While states have an obligation to cooperate with the UNHCR, the agency is not a supranational organization and hence, does not overrule the government. Moreover, State parties have the right to determine whether the entry into their territory is lawful or not, thereby enlisting restrictions on the entry of refugees. There are violations to the principles listed in the 1951 Convention wherein many refugees are rejected, subjected to discrimination and persecution in the country of asylum or being forced to return to their country. During a sizable entry of refugees, the State may be incapable of or reluctant to grant full civil, socioeconomic and political rights to refugees. This has in turn meant that there is a constraint on their freedom to basic rights to work and education including elementary principles of civil, socioeconomic and political rights.

History

The Refugee Convention, 1951, was held in Geneva and is the fundamental Convention relating to the protection of Refugee Rights (“The 1951 Refugee Convention”, n.d). It is the only legal binding mechanism which underlines refugee rights on a global level and has almost 150 member states as signatories, excluding Gulf States and India. A refugee was defined as a person affected by world war events that took place in Europe before January 1951; however, the 1967 Protocol on the state of refugees removed time-period and geographical restrictions (“The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol”, 2011). The Geneva Convention reaffirms that during times of war, high numbers of asylum seekers and refugees may place a burden on certain countries, due to them affecting the country’s economy in both the short and long term. In addition, it becomes extremely difficult to accommodate and provide resources for them if an action plan to combat and tackle the issue of refugees is missing. Therefore, it was recognized that the UNHCR, an international body, must develop action plans and achieve international cooperation. The Geneva Convention still acts as the most significant treaty tackling this issue internationally. It expresses the wish that all nations do their best to fulfill the basic needs for the refugees, while the High Commissioner for Refugees will always be in charge of assisting the countries by all possible means and overlooking the whole process.

Role of the International System

The UNHCR takes a lead role among other humanitarian agencies in an interagency “cluster” approach to coordinate protection, shelter, and camp-management for refugees as well as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). NGOs also play an important part in defending the rights of refugees and ensuring that certain measures are met, including a host of local organizations that are in daily contact with the refugees (UNHCR, 2014).

One of the core principles established in the 1951 Convention was that refugees should not be expelled or returned in addition to laying down the basic guidelines that states should afford for the refugees. By 2013, 148 countries had signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol that strengthened global refugee protection (UNHCR, 2014). The UNHCR has an active role in the protection of refugees from emergencies such as the Syria crisis, to more durable solutions such as resettlement in other countries. The UNHCR on occasion also partakes in rebuilding homes and communal infrastructure to aid IDPs as well as returning refugees. In 2013, the number of those returning to their home countries was relatively low at 414,600 refugees – the fourth lowest level of the past 25 years. Of this number 206,000 received UNHCR's assistance (UNHCR, 2014). The UNHCR mainly operates through funding, partnerships with national NGOs and humanitarian organizations such as the World Food Program (WFP), UN Development Program (UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Implications

Refugees' rights have always been infringed upon by various parties, with the most common threat being discrimination (Agblorti, 2011). A potential solution to avoid discrimination is to settle refugees in areas with people with similar language and culture as this has shown to minimize tensions and cultivate peaceful relations (Cuny, 1981). For example, in Chad and Pakistan, the refugees were able to assimilate peacefully and without any trouble due to both the locals and refugees speaking a common language and having similar cultures. The second main issue faced by refugees is being used as scapegoats by politicians when attempting to justify any economic downturns (Dryden-Peterson, 2003). This not only leads to more discrimination but could also lead to physical assaults against refugees and could lead to them not being able to find jobs or even buy amenities. As for the long term, by guaranteeing basic rights such as education, host countries are not only taking a step in breaking the cycle of violence and ignorance, but they are also investing in a more peaceful future (UNHCR). In addition, refugees are known to have to endure harsh living conditions; host countries should ensure that at least minimum sanitary conditions are present to avoid outbreaks of cholera and diarrhea. While settling refugees is a challenge, guaranteeing and protecting those refugees' rights is an even more burdensome task, one whose solution lies in attempting to eliminate discrimination in all its forms.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

What are the different rights that each refugee should have and how should they be protected? What qualifies as a basic right and what are the different methods and resources that each country can dedicate to protecting them?

How can countries and international organizations overcome previous failures and ensure international committees abide by international law?

Note: many resolutions are optimistic but end up not achieving much due to them being burdensome and costly to the different countries. A good resolution would attempt to strike a balance between idealism and pragmatism.

Suggestions for further research

The legal implications and policies as to how and why a refugee is to be accepted or rejected.

The legal commitment that each country undertakes by accepting refugees.

Previous mandates and attempts at formalizing the different rights of refugees. Knowing how the international community approached the topic and their downfalls could provide some useful insight.

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Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

As your Secretariat, and on behalf of your Committee Chairs, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th AUSMUN conference, and most importantly to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). While AUSMUN committees are designed to challenge even the most rigorous minds as they push for intense written and verbal negotiations, ECOSOC demands a great deal of creativity and diplomacy. Since its initiation in 1945, ECOSOC has become an inclusive table of discussion where policy makers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, youth and over three thousand non-governmental organizations meet to discuss economic, social and environmental reforms that ensure the implementation and regulation of the development goals internationally. Hence, the topics for this year's session are centered on two most crucial subjects in enhancing social development: the youth and family planning.

While at first the two don't seem to have an obvious connection to social development, you will find that they tackle one of ECOSOC's main areas of concern which lies in the instability of the international system caused by poor economic and social conditions. Hence, ECOSOC, with its diverse and equal representation, is a frontrunner in promoting high living standards and shedding light over the dangers of emerging economic and social issues.

I truly hope, and believe, that this year's conference will not only help you in understanding complex issues from a global perspective but also encourage you to discover your own interests and causes to fight for. We look forward to a fruitful conference with you!

You can contact me via email (g00065044@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best regards,
Ayesha Ali



Moderators



Saif Ali



Rizana Mariyam



Azmi Chahal

TOPIC 1

Investing in Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Youth

Context and Summary

The influence of science and technology dominates the world now more than ever. Scientific discoveries and the advancement of technology continue to play a huge role in strengthening the human resource capacity. ECOSOC has been proactively integrating science education with the youth by establishing scientific institutions under the science, technology and innovation (STI) policy in most of the countries. In order to tackle this development, countries like Egypt have requested scientists who have immigrated to move back to their countries so as to educate the youth (Zukang, 2008). Even underdeveloped countries like Tanzania have been pushing to promote their National Innovation Systems (NIS) to try and develop their country (Zukang, 2008). Innovative advancement is one of the important frameworks in the development of a country. The youth play a substantial role in this development and it is therefore, very important to invest in science, technology, and innovation. Lack of innovation and technology hinders the industrial growth of a nation which in turn obstructs its development.

History

The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain attracted the youth to the fields of sciences and economics. It also played a key role in the development of technological knowledge. Science and technology philosophers have argued since the late eighteenth century regarding the superiority of their fields of study. They claimed that unlike the other fields of study, science and technology are very closely related and are accredited to be the two driving forces of a nation's development and national security. It was during the 1950's that the Rockefeller brothers highlighted the lack of technically-trained youth. Since then, the United Nations has been pushing nations to invest in science, technology, and innovation for the youth. Technological development can lay a path for the youth to progress, create and innovate. In addition, the promotion of STI post-2015 development agendas has been the main aim of ECOSOC since the Annual Ministerial Review (2013) on STI.

Role of the International System

The United Nations has stressed the developmental gap between science and technology not only for the development of countries but also in order to achieve zero hunger by 2030 under the sustainable development goals. China has been forthcoming and supportive in devising a STI policy to implement and sponsor young scientists not only with its own wealth but also other developing countries. Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne (2017), Director of UNCTAD's Division on Technology and Logistics, emphasized that "science, technology and innovation are, alongside trade, the most powerful forces driving the progress that the world has witnessed in recent years in terms of growth, poverty reduction and overall human development."

However, in order to achieve this, appropriate holistic policy frameworks have to be designed. The UN has been predominantly and efficiently initiating policies and activities that prompt countries to upgrade and develop their STI system for the betterment of the youth. Moreover, these UN policies promote gender equality in STI in youth. The major limitation that the UN faces is that it does not have a say in policy-making within a country, which limits UN policy efficiency as the financial aid on youth investment can be concentrated majorly on other sectors and not STI equally.

Implications

The implications of lack of investment in STI for the youth is guided by the investment decisions of the public and policymakers. Underinvestment in the STI for the youth leads to substantial social, political and economic costs arising from negative circumstances and outcomes such as poor labor market entry, early school drop-outs and violence. Without adequate investment in these sectors, the youth may assist and contribute to the plaguing world problems of loss of productivity, diseases and crime.

It is estimated that risky behaviors by the youth induce losses worth billions of dollars (Youth Policy, 2017). Policy making organizations like the UNESCO ROSA help countries in developing their STI policies by providing guidance and by revising their national STI policies. In addition, policymakers have initiated developmental policies in the field of science and technology for the youth with the help of World Bank that finances around \$1 billion every year to support youth investments in general.

However, these financial aids are not distributed equally among all youth sectors and therefore, leaving the STI underinvested and leading to further socio-economic costs. As a result, problems will continue as long as there is no greater investment into STI and until governments and national institutions re-prioritize the investment into STI for youth.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What is the role of science, technology and innovation in the current economy for the youth? And to what extent will it increase economic growth and decrease crime?

How and in what ways can countries improve the environment for innovation for youth with the aid from UN and other developing countries?

To what extent can the STI investments lead to poverty eradication and in attaining the Millennium Development Goals with respect to the youth?

What percent of a country's economic revenue must be kept aside for youth investment in STI?

Suggestions for Further Research:

Knowles, J.C., & Behrman, J.R. (2005). The economic returns to investing in youth in developing countries: A review of the literature. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.

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TOPIC 2

Role of Family Planning in Social Development

Context and Summary

One of the most cost-effective and widely known health interventions is family planning. Family planning, in theory, is the regulation and control of when and how a couple will conceive children, as per natural birth control methods. For many decades, research has revealed that moderate investments in family planning can prevent the death of many lives and improve maternal and child health drastically. Due to the efficacious role family planning plays in achieving wider development objectives, the development community, along with ECOSOC, have been pushing to promote family planning worldwide. In addition, family planning excludes all the health risks that accompany contraceptives and birth control pills. The consequences that follow accidental pregnancy and unplanned birth have adverse and long-term effects on the couple, and imposes appreciable socioeconomic burden on individuals and society. With the most recent studies and research, family planning is becoming a necessity for governments to ensure the social and economic growth of the population.

History

The idea of modern population control is accredited to Thomas Malthus, who in the late 1700's and articulated his beliefs about all the major population issues associated with the industrial revolution. His theory and set of ideas changed the way people thought of population growth and set new goals for countries and governments to achieve economic and social stability. In many agricultural societies, numerous methods such as extended breastfeeding were used to separate births and maintain a balance between resources and population size. But in other societies, population regulation practices did not bring beneficial results to everyone. Modern methods of family planning have been developed to diminish unwanted birth and manage the population, such as birth control, contraceptives, and family planning programs. The United Nations has been concerned with this topic for decades, launching the UNFPA, which provides safe access to voluntary family planning, and having the WHO study the various effects of contraceptives and other unnatural family planning methods on women and the general health of the family.

Role of the International System

In the most recent Family Planning Summit in July 2017, the UN Secretary General mentioned the significant role the United Nations will play to empower people and develop nations. Investments in family planning are also investments in the health and rights of women, and that these funds propel development. Many countries around the world seem to understand the importance of education on this particular topic, promoting and supporting healthful behavior. The international system appreciates the efforts every country is making toward better, healthier communities, and is trying its best to aid these efforts by reinforcing a range of healthy methods to control pregnancy.

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities was established as a trust fund in 1967, and has been working toward promoting family planning as a step to eliminate poverty and uphold human rights. The UNFPA aims to fulfill the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which in summary supports the basic rights of couples to decide freely and maturely the number and spacing of their children. The UNFPA alone has donated a sum of 163.5 million dollars per year between 2012 and 2015 to address unmet need for family planning, and is helping promote sexual and reproductive health and rights in more than 150 countries. In addition, the United Nations Population Division and WHO are examining and studying family planning levels, and evaluating government policies on contraceptives. This great, ambitious goal has also extended to the African Union, who pitched in and recognized the significance of this issue, committing their 2017 theme to Harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Youth. The international system is looking to back up the family planning programs in order to ensure full effectiveness and success.

Implications

In the modern era of industrial advancement, conservative groups have had a tendency to stand against premature birth and abortion on grounds of religion and culture. They believe that contraception and premature birth are detrimental, and devalue the biological role of women as mothers. On the other hand, governments and high officials of many international organizations have realized the great importance of family planning on the health of families, and on preserving the rights and autonomy of women, while aiding the society and development of communities.

Unfortunately, many implications come along the way that integrate hardships and make it increasingly difficult for countries and governments to potentially promote family planning and support it. The UNFPA has found that there is insufficient, poor access to quality assured contraceptive supplies and equipment in many developing countries, especially with minimal financing options. Health sectors around the world diverge their focus on HIV, AIDS, and maternal health neglecting family planning. As a result, we stand today with modest supplies and services due to a funding gap in humanitarian crises, but we have a lot of possible solutions that could resolve the crisis within the next decade.

Questions:

Are governments committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health? And if they are, how so?

How can governments and countries increase their focus on universal education, gender equality, and global partnerships? And how can they better understand their direct correlation with family planning?

How should countries increase collaboration among contraceptive suppliers? And how should the countries' health sectors assess the physical effects of these contraceptives?

In what way should governments support the UN in achieving its family planning goals?

Suggestions for further research:

https://www.rand.org/pubs/issue_papers/IP176/index2.html

<http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/KampalaReportIBP.pdf>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4203450/>

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Human Rights Council (OHCHR)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you to the Human Rights Council (OHCHR) committee in AUSMUN 2018. During the conference, you will be discussing and debating two very essential and interesting topics that have been assigned to this committee, which are "Privatization and the Human Right to Water" and "Role of Technological Development in Human Rights Infringements."

The United Nations human rights programme has grown considerably since its modest beginnings about 60 years ago. Organizationally, it started as a small division at United Nations Head office in the 1940s. But, in 1993, the international community decided to establish a stronger human right field authorization with institutional support. The OHCHR is known to concentrate on global human rights efforts that observe human rights violations worldwide. The structure of the OHCHR is normal, which means that one country gets one vote. The voting procedure in the OHCHR is simply dependent upon the number of delegates present.

You can contact me via email (B00068408@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best regards,
Anfaal Faisal



Moderators



Abdullah Malek



Salma Al Jayyousi



Marah Hussein

TOPIC 1

Privatization and the Human Right to Water

Context and Summary

In July 2010, the access to clean water and sanitation was declared a vital human right by the UN General Assembly. However, the world still finds itself in a situation where 2.6 billion people lack access to this necessity. There has been much debate on what influences this inability to obtain clean water, one of those being privatization, or the movement of companies or assets from the public to the private sector. Privatization can occur for many reasons, such as austerity measures or political agreements, but the result is the same: companies must face the challenge of functioning as efficiently as they previously did. In the case of water and its distribution, there are positives and negatives. Some argue that the privatization of water companies will reduce financial burden on the state and bring in investments. On the other hand, water from private establishments is more expensive, and less governmental handling might create a state dependent on the outside for its basic needs. All this, coupled with the fact that the global water supply is quickly decreasing, opens the controversial discussion on the effects of privatization and our right to the essential element that is water.

History

The idea of privatization of water was first commonly seen in Europe, the United States and Latin America in the mid-19th century. Their popularity gradually decreased until the beginning of the 20th century, but after the formation of the Bretton Woods System in 1944, major international organizations were advocating for privatization. Numerous states were urged to privatize by the IMF and the World Bank to be able to take out loans. This left many with no choice and, since then, this trend has spread worldwide. Throughout the years there have been clear instances of failures of this system, an example being Bolivia in the early 2000s, where the integration of a private water system resulted in less of the population receiving clean water. A consequence in this case was the revolt of citizens in El Alto and other cities who wanted access to their human right. Nevertheless, various organizations and leaders continue to urge private-public cooperation to better provide and fulfil this humanitarian right.

Role of the International System

Resolution A/RES/64/292 adopted by the General Assembly declared that access to clean water and sanitation is an essential human right. The World Bank has recommended that governments partner with private companies to better deliver drinking and wastewater services to communities in developing areas, yet, in many instances, this approach proved to be detrimental to the access of the poor to clean water. High water prices brought on by privatized service deprive consumers of their right to water. The private sector and water service providers, are directly involved in the provision of water as users or suppliers. The international community has underlined that access to water for personal and domestic uses should not be threatened by cost recovery.

While business can contribute positively to the enjoyment of human rights, the opposite can also be true, for instance, through pollution, over-extraction or encroachment upon water resources that communities rely upon for drinking. Corporations do not have direct obligations under international human rights law in relation to the right to water, but business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all human rights, including the right to water (A/HRC/8/5)

United Nations agencies working on water and sanitation, such as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, are increasingly referring to the human rights framework to address the current water and sanitation crisis. However, states are expected to ensure this right is delivered to developing areas, by refraining from any intervention that denies the right to water, preventing third parties from interfering with this right in any way and adopting appropriate legislative, administrative or any other measures to fully realize the right to water.

Implications

Water, undeniably indispensable for life, is scarce in many areas of the world. In 2010, the United Nation's secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation as he implored all member states to enhance their efforts in ensuring the satisfaction of these inalienable human rights. To achieve that, major international organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank strongly promote water privatization as private water companies obtain the needed efficiency and experience to address issues with regards to health, governance, legal, economic, and scientific issues.

Therefore, many governments allowed private companies to authorize water policies. Furthermore, Manila Waters, a private water company in Philippines, was adopted in 2008 to improve the harsh water situation in the region. According to the World Bank website, "By the end of 2009, the population served more than doubled from 3 to 6.1 million and the share with access to piped water increased from 49 percent to 94 percent." This is an evident progress of substantial access increase as well as significant improvement in service quality. However, many member states denied using such methods as it was regarded a way of undermining human rights instead of promoting them.

To elaborate, in Buenos Aires, after the adoption of a French water company known as Suez, urban residence noticed an immense increase in their water bills where in 10 years their bills were increased by 88%. Additionally, the Water Wars that broke out in Cochabamba, Bolivia, were a result of the people's deep dissatisfaction of water privatization as their water rights of having affordable, and adequate water were violated. In conclusion, water privatization is an intricate process that can result in positive or adverse economic, legal, and social implications at various scales.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

How does water privatization affect human rights?

What is your designated country's stance on water privatization?

Should water be considered as a social and cultural good rather than an economic good?

What measures could be taken to prevent water from becoming a finite resource?

Are the current environmental and social conditions harming the global water cycle?

Are governments neglecting the protection and restoration of water?

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TOPIC 2

Role of Technological Development in Human Rights Infringements:

Context and Summary

The widespread use of various forms of technology undoubtedly has many benefits and can be used in ways to raise awareness and promote human rights. Nonetheless, it has also been utilized by people and governments in manners that threaten our human rights. The advancement of technology comes paired with the progression of the methods used to infringe these systems. Perhaps the most pressing issue that falls under this topic is the lack of cybersecurity and privacy due to surveillance done by many nations on their own citizens and on other countries as well. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1948 states 30 fundamental human rights that should be implemented globally, including the right to liberty and security (article 3), and the right to freedom and expression (article 19). Both mentioned rights and many others have seen to be violated greatly through technological means, and many officials urge the refining of human rights with respect to this topic to provide a better global environment.

History

The concept of mass surveillance through technological development began in WWI and WWII with nations spying on each other, and after 9/11 there was a greater stress on individual monitoring, which is considered a breach of privacy. It is important to note that as of June 2017, only 51.7% of the global population had access to the internet, meaning that half of the world's inhabitants do not have contact with the modern digital world. Organizations like the UN are working towards a more positive influence from technological development, which is evident in the recent partnership of the UN Human Rights Office and Microsoft to work on tackling human rights situations.

Role of the International System

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. This is in accordance with resolution A/HRC/23/40 by the Human Rights Council which clearly calls for promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance and/or the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data on a mass scale. The General Assembly has passed several resolutions alerting nations to this problem of privacy. Resolution 68/167 reinforces the idea that individuals have a legal right to defend themselves against digital interference or attacks. The General Assembly also adopted the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" in 1966 and this was legally put into place in 1976. It was signed by 167 states and ensured that international human rights were being maintained at a digital privacy level which related to communications surveillance.

Several international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Amnesty International, Internet Society, and Human Rights First recognize and acknowledge the right to freedom of privacy and work in conjunction with the UNHRC towards achieving their common goal to ensure this right is delivered to people across the globe. While it is impossible to control and prevent all violations of human rights across the globe, Article 39 of the United Nations Charter designates the UN Security Council as the only tribunal that may determine UN human rights violations. Yet, several independent non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, International Federation of Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, International Freedom of Expression Exchange among others, collect evidence and documentation of alleged human rights abuses and apply pressure to enforce human rights laws.

Implications

Technology has become a crucial factor in our daily lives; it has become the language we use to communicate, express certain opinions, and entrust information to. Due to such, it is imperative for legal authorities to protect and ensure humans' rights while using technology. Nonetheless, technology is racing out of legal control and imposes grave issues for disciplines of human rights. To elaborate, technology users might be exposed to many issues like violation of privacy, surveillance, deceptions as well as the lack of moral, social and sexual harassment boundaries.

Further, certain technological advancements with the purpose of safeguarding human rights have backfired to extreme measures in some nations as the technology was referred to as a 'Double-edged Sword' by the Human Rights Watch. For example, China adopted mass surveillance in 2014, which led to a notable decrease in transgression as it was reported that 100,000 crimes were solved with the aid of cameras in the short span of four years. China continued to expand its efforts and resulted in the installation of at least 20 million surveillance cameras by 2017. Yet, severe attacks were mounted on the rights of civic groups, lawyers, NGO activists, and more were targeted with violent measures under the system, making it China's worst human rights calamity witnessed in a quarter-century. In a report by Liu Feiyue, the Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch Founder, the condition was described as:

“A worsening and regressive human rights situation where the domestic security regime is more oppressive than anything seen in the past 25 years. You could say it is getting more and more brutal, and even more inhuman.”

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

How are technological advancements responsible for human rights violation?
What is your designated country's stance on technology's adverse effects on human rights?
How can the international system achieve a balance between the sovereignty of a country and the right to privacy?
How can the UN prevent an agency or a government invading public privacy?
What action should be taken to prevent international cyber-attacks on countries?

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear delegates,

Welcome to UNICEF. We are ecstatic to be your chairs and are confident that we will be able to create an environment wherein thought-provoking debates and realistic resolutions are made.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly (GA) resolved to create the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) through Resolution 57. At the time of its conception, UNICEF was created to provide assistance to children across Europe who had been left destitute by the Second World War. Specifically, UNICEF was a temporary emergency fund, designed to operate through 1950, and it sought to address the immediate crises that arose from the Second World War. The major success the fund accomplished resulted in a plea by the Member States and the UNICEF leadership in which they asked for it to stay in mission after its time came in 1950. As a result of the supreme help provided by the UNICEF in the disaster-stricken community, and the potential it had to improve children's lives across countries and over generations, the General Assembly in 1953 resolved to shift it from being an Emergency Fund to being a permanent Specialized Agency as per sections 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945). Later on, UNICEF changed from providing temporary relief to providing long-term sustainable development goals as well as assisting countries to be able to provide for their own children in the future. For example, UNICEF has extended its mission to Africa and Asia which were not previously included in its work.

We, the chairs, would like to thank you in abundance for your preparation, and participation in the upcoming conference. We hope this experience will be a memorable one for both parties. We look forward to meeting you at AUSMUN 2018. You can contact me via email (g00065451@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best regards,
Saadiya Majid



Moderators



Lotf Sadek



Sara Huneidi



Maryam Deeb

TOPIC 1

Protecting Children's Right to Healthcare and Education During Warfare and Crisis

Context and Summary

The world has been witnessing numerous devastating crises across several nations and regions. One of the most pressing issues is the Syrian refugee crisis which has left millions of families displaced across several neighboring countries as well as European countries (UNICEF, 2015). In addition, the refugee crisis that emerged in Africa has proven to be of great concern, for an influx of refugees, including women and children, have been placed in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia to escape the conflict taking place in South Sudan; however, this has put both the government and host-countries under extreme pressure due to the lack of sufficient resources needed to sustain the lives of refugees (Anon., 2017). These emerging crises and wars, amongst many others, disturb the security and wellbeing of millions of people; the most detrimental effects fall on children that find themselves helpless amidst the wreckage. During these crises, children face hardships pursuing their education as well as maintaining healthy lives due to the difficulty of receiving education and necessary healthcare.

Wars and internal conflicts lead to the disruption of economic, educational, social, and political safety and security. Studies conducted by UNESCO show that even minor shocks that arise in children's lives due to war can lead to a potential decrease in their future wages due to educational cessation or healthcare deprivation (Anon., n.d.). A rising pattern has been noted amongst countries undergoing internal conflicts and wars; conflict leads to lower educational attainment among children. In countries such as Guatemala, Rwanda, Colombia, and Bosnia, these patterns have been extremely prevalent; and thus, demands the implementation of laws and regulations to control the issue of educational depreciation (UNDESA, 2013). In addition, gender tends to play a role in the difficulty of educational provision; for example, in Tajikistan, it is female students who find the most difficulty attending school's due to concerns over their safety. Moreover, research conducted in Austria and Germany found that children who were ten years old during the war suffered from a 20% loss of a schooling year as well as decreased likelihood of attending institutes of higher education (UNDESA, 2013). Nevertheless, not only do children suffer from a decrease in educational provision, but also healthcare provision; children suffer from vast physical and mental health issues due to these wars, and they are often left unattended due to the lack of medical staff assistance (ICRC, n.d.).

Role of the International System

During the World Summit for Children that took place in 1990, the United Nations acknowledged this rising and alarming issue by establishing and adopting Resolution 51/77 which aims to effectively implement laws and regulations that ensure the safety of children during armed conflict (UNDESA, 2013). This resolution also led to the proclamation of a mandate that demands the creation of a Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in 1996. Furthermore, UNICEF continues to be a key operational partner in this resolution by ensuring that children whom are forced into the military are released, rehabilitated, and reintegrated safely into secure communities (UNDESA, 2013).

In addition, a resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 1999 identified six grave violations against children during armed conflict; of these violations, the fifth one prohibits any attacks against schools or hospitals. (Anon., n.d.). The Guidance Note on Attacks Against Schools and Hospitals was launched on May 22, 2014 by the Special Representative of Children and Armed Conflict; this declaration aimed to ensure that the monitoring and protection process of schools and hospitals was efficient by providing adequate tools for the tasks. This declaration also aimed to address the violation of using school premises for military purposes; and therefore, adopted the Safe Schools Declaration in May 2015. Furthermore, this declaration was endorsed and has been active as of September 2017 by 69 states (Anon., n.d.).

Implications

Despite the fact that the United Nations established mandates that prevent the usage of children in armed conflict, the problems persist. Due to the constant uproars of conflict in regions such as Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan and many other regions, children continue to find themselves at risk throughout these life-threatening conflicts (Anon., 2016). Although educational institutions and hospitals are declared as safe zones that must not be interfered with during armed conflict, there have been several incidences of attacks on these areas. Moreover, these hostile events can lead to forced closure of hospitals or schools, issue of school grounds or hospitals for military purposes, and can pose threats to students, teachers, or medical personnel throughout the attacks. Furthermore, these detrimental effects often fall more heavily on female children in underdeveloped countries, leading to an evident educational gap between both genders (Anon., n.d.). Moreover, educational disruption not only affects children during the present, but also the future. The hindrance of education can prevent children from pursuing education that is necessary for them to evolve and eventually pursue higher education; and therefore, many of these children can grow up to be low-income workers due to the absence of a degree. It is also important to note that children who have lived in war zones can suffer from both physical and mental issues that require assistance to guarantee their wellbeing. Apart from serious injuries that might arise during war, children also often go through conditions of post-traumatic stress and other life-long conditions that can prevent them from living healthy lives in the future (Anon., n.d.).

Questions a resolution must answer

What are some other action plans that can be implemented to ensure complete safety of educational institutions and hospitals?

How can host-countries ensure the safe rehabilitation of refugees that underwent war experiences?

What investments can be made to ensure children pursue primary education as well as higher education in host-countries?

Can new organizations be created to ensure that countries abide by the UN Violations?

What precautions can be taken in case of a sudden attack on a school or hospital?

Can laws be established to ensure the safety of school instructors and medical personnel during war?

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TOPIC 2

Role of Children in Drug Trafficking

Context and Summary

Drug trafficking has been recognized as a growing issue since the 19th century. (History, 2017) Currently, drug trafficking groups and gangs have been involving hundreds of children and adolescents in drug trade, exploiting them as means of drug transportation and packaging. Children as young as 9 years are being lured by trafficking groups in order to transport drugs (Xiaoming, 2000). The involvement of children in the illicit trade of drugs has spread across countless countries to a point where placing children under suspicion for criminal activity is no longer surprising. In England more than 71% of child arrests were on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking (Lusher, 2017). Research has found the main reason for participation of the young in illicit trade is to earn 'easy money'; some children are able to make more than \$2,000 a day (Lusher, 2017). Trafficking groups target vulnerable children by offering them large sums of money, however, when involvement occurs, escaping is difficult as the children are threatened to be killed or the traffickers threaten to harm family members of the child traffickers. If the children do not obey orders, they are beaten viciously or killed. The UNICEF is concerned for the safety of children involved as well as preventing further participation of minors in such criminal activity. The involvement of children in drug trafficking is a major issue that has been and will continue to corrupt the future generation unless action is taken by member states to inhibit the growth of this crisis.

History

The exact time for the uprising of this issue is not clear, however, many of the involvements of children in the drug trade began in the early 20th century. This issue emerged when drug trading gangs realized that children may be exploited as means of delivery and packaging of drugs, as children were not usually viewed as suspects of criminal action (Silva, 2002). This phenomenon began to spread amongst various communities such as Afghanistan, Brazil, USA, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Philippines, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Britain, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. This phenomenon is spread in regions where poverty, violence, lack of education and war is present. Brutal and harsh environments are a main factor that leads to children being involved in illicit trade as it is their last resort in order to earn money (Silva, 2002). Another factor that contributes to children's participation is domestic abuse and community violence

Role of the International System

Under UNICEF's mandate and to live up to the main aim (the United Nations, para.1), action has been taken by the UNICEF, General Assemblies as well as various organizations. This form of trading and child exploitation is considered to be a form of child labor. The UN has worked to abolish such actions, establishing laws to protect children's rights, such as resolution A/51/492 and resolution 51/77 of 1996 and 1995 respectively, including a recent resolution by the General Assembly, MA/C.3/68/Res.1 of 2013. The role of children in drug trafficking has also led to abuse, sexual harassment, and involvement in armed conflict, therefore, the UNICEF and other organizations such as IPEC/SIMPOC have taken action.

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor/Statistical Information, Monitoring Program on Child Labor alongside the UNICEF has carried out 38 rapid assessments of the worst forms of child labor in 19 countries. The program was funded by the United States Department of Labor. The UN has taken action by setting resolutions which included the establishment of a minimum age requirement as well as monitoring the recruitment of minors. Since the participation of children in illicit trade is also linked to growing up in poor communities, there have been resolution established to aid children living in such communities such as resolution /RES/61/146.

Implications

The involvement of children in drug trafficking is of great concern is because it engenders great danger to the future generation. Children are the future, and if these issues continue to impact the young population, it leaves room for corruption and an unstable future (Silva, 2002). There is also a great risk of this issue spreading beyond control as children who already work with gangs lure other children into participating in the illicit acts. Illicit trade has also led to great mortality rates (Dowdrey, 2003, para.1). Children taking part in such activities believe that they are at an advantage as they are making money, however, the only party benefiting is the drug dealer's side. What children fail to realize before taking part is that they are putting their lives at stake as well as corrupting their own chances for a better life. As mentioned in previous sections, the involvement of children in drug trafficking is mostly driven by need, therefore it is common to find such participating minors in countries. However, it is also common in more developed countries such as the US and the UK. In conclusion, there may be many factors leading to this issue, but there are many solutions that, if properly implemented, will ensure the wellbeing of the upcoming generation.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What are the factors that lead to children's participation in drug trafficking and how is it possible to prevent further involvement of children in such illicit activities?

What are the long-term effects associated with the involvement of children in drug trafficking?

What are the measures that must be taken by the international system and member states in order to shield and protect the youth? Are member states putting enough effort in order to protect their youth?

What is your designated countries' stance/actions towards this growing issue?

What is the role of technology/social media in the spreading of this issue?

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International Labor Organization (ILO)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2018! We are pleased to welcome you to the International Labor Organization (ILO). Since the early 1950s, the ILO has been providing technical cooperation to countries on all continents and at all stages of economic development. Projects are implemented through close cooperation between recipient countries, donors, and the ILO. If there are any problems in the application of standards in member states, the ILO seeks to assist countries through social dialogue and technical assistance. Over the years, ILO has brought together governments, employers and workers of 187 member states to set labor standards, develop policies and devise programs promoting decent work for all women and men. The ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights, pursuing its founding mission to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice.

The topics under discussion for the International Labor Organization in the upcoming session are: 1. Protecting Laborers amidst the Transnational Expansion of Export Processing Zones and 2. Promoting the Rights of Immigrant Workers. Here at AUSMUN 2018, we are simulating the Executive Board of the ILO. Delegates are thereby expected to collaborate in order to promote multilateral purposeful negotiations and formulate practical and realistic solutions in order to successfully complete the agenda and create resolutions that are both concise and impactful.

If you have any questions, kindly contact Omar Ghanem (ILO Secretariat) at b00060595@aus.edu. Please send your position papers to this email as well. We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Best Regards,
Omar Ghanem



Moderators



Nimrah Ayaz



Noora Al Suwaidi

TOPIC 1

Protecting Laborers amidst the Transnational Expansion of Export Processing Zones

Context and Summary

Export Processing Zones (EPZs) contribute to both the international economy and the domestic economic arena. However, many EPZs prioritize profits and neglect the well-being of their workers (ILO, 2017). The protection of employees is an essential component of International Labor Law (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Moreover, the ILO protects workers' rights throughout the world mainly because of the growing number of EPZs. The most pressing problems associated with the use of EPZ include labor rights of workers. Quite often, EPZs ignore the welfare of their employees in addition to hiring mostly casual workers. These people cannot create a union to fight for their rights (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Consequently, there is an international system for optimizing anomalies in the global labor market.

History

EPZs are typical in developing countries, which import raw materials, produce products and export goods back to other countries (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). EPZs have been in business since the beginning of the 20th century. These zones create the environment in which there is an absence of barriers to productive work, thus they contribute to economic development. However, all the benefits of such zones were achieved due to their employees who put many efforts at production enterprises. International organizations are at the forefront of protecting workers around the world, although EPZs have been evasive (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Furthermore, the representatives of the United Nations deal with the political, socio-economic and environmental aspects of transnational corporations. As Islam and Hossain (2016) note, Bureau of Worker Activities (ACTRAV) required a recent and continued growth in EPZs on all continents. The overall international context of the situation relates to the well-being of employees working in these zones.

Role of the International System

The international system is mandated to check for socioeconomic and political discrepancies that could have fundamental implications on human rights. For instance, the ILO coordinates its functions with domestic agencies to ensure that corporations and employers adhere to international labor laws (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). The organizations authenticate companies that comply with the International System of Units. Thus, the researched issue deserves attention from international agencies and should be appropriately discussed. Although the international system ought to check the excesses of EPZs, the issue has not received adequate attention (ILO, 2017). The United Nations focuses on major economic crimes and human rights violations, neglecting the critical discrepancies in EPZs. However, Cirera and Lakshman (2017) claim that the Bureau of Workers Activities (ACTRAV) makes concerted efforts to correct the anomalies, through collaboration with the International Labor Office and various workers Unions. This in turn means that some efforts are made, and specific attention is paid to initial problems by the international organizations.

Moreover, the UN standards provide for special norms in relation to workers of different social and racial groups. For example, migrant workers have the right to receive appropriate protection from the enterprises in which they work (International Labor Organization, 2017). In addition, the UN provides specific rules for employers who hire workers and make certain requirements for their duties. For example, employees can always complain of any management's decision and apply to appropriate authorities to ensure that their issue can be resolved timely. In case of any violations, sanctions can be imposed and managers can be punished.

Implications

The transcontinental expansion of EPZs has had both positive and negative consequences. These zones expand with little regard to the plight of their laborers (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Although the international system is also involved in this, EPZs are widespread in developing countries that have weak or no economic policies to deal with the industry (International Labor Organization, 2017). Accordingly, such zones exploit workers through low wages and unsafe working environments. Some EPZs employ illegal means to evade domestic and international taxes, which hurts local and international economies (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Additionally, the expansion of trade zones implies that there are both winners and losers. However, the global system works for the benefit of the masses, including people in the labor market and those that play critical roles across the value chain (Cirera & Lakshman, 2017). Those states that are affected most by the violation of labor rights are Kenya, Zimbabwe, India, South Africa, Nigeria, Cambodia, and Brazil. The least affected countries, including the United States and countries in the European Union, have firm economic and labor laws to protect all employees (International Trade Union Confederation, 2017). Therefore, the issue of workers' protection is significant because compliance with international labor laws implies the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can awareness of acceptable working conditions be raised among employers to ensure compliance with international labor law and decrease exploitation of workers?
How can the international system ensure the protection of workers in EPZs?
What role does your assigned country play in protecting workers' rights in EPZs?

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TOPIC 2

Promoting the Rights of Immigrant Workers

Context and Summary

Currently, there are approximately 232 million immigrants around the world, representing 3.1 per cent of the global population (Hoffer, 2014). It is estimated that one in eight immigrants are between the age of 15 and 24. Immigrant workers are among the most vulnerable members of the communities in which they live and work. In the current economic climate, it is important for governments to collaborate and discuss issues of migration and for a forum to exist at the global level. The erosion of barriers to international trade and investment has increased the mobility of goods and capital, but restrictions on the free movement of workers have endured. Businesses and organizations continue to deny their workers' rights, prosperity & safety in pursuit of making profits. The lack of labor protection for migrant workers undermines protection for all workers around the world.

History

Migration, especially for employment, has historically been a preserve of men, who have been traditionally regarded as the breadwinners in the household. However, this is fast changing and as responsibilities for household income are shifting towards women immigrant workers, rights have usually been denied throughout history in favor of profits. Mass emigration started in 1866, although this came to a halt during the 1920s because of the crisis in the world economy (Stuart, 2016). From the Middle Ages until the 19th century, it was common practice to bring skilled workers in commerce, the trades and various industries. However, 1975 saw a temporary halt in employment-related immigration. For several decades migrants were predominantly refugees, asylum seekers and spouses. Since around 2000, employment-related immigration has taken off again (Stuart, 2016).

Role of the International System

There have been plenty of organizations trying to solve this complication. These include United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) and International Labor Organization (ILO) which all aim to maintain international labor standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all. The instructions provided by ILO are specifically concerned with international labor migration. The ILO expressed the need to protect migrant workers by including in the Preamble to the Constitution as one of the objectives of the Organization, "the protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own." (Tripartite action, n.d.). The ILO's mandate, articulated in the Decent Work agenda, includes respect of rights at work and international labor standards, employment promotion, social protection and social dialogue.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How should nations reinforce their domestic labor markets?

What measures must be adopted by nations to ensure implementation of legislations with regards to employing immigrants?

How can developing countries make eradication of immigrant and domestic child labor a priority?

Determine the measures countries must take in order to fully implement laws to prevent exploitation of immigrant workers.

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure that I welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme committee (UNDP) of the 11th AUSMUN conference, one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in the region. You will be representatives of your assigned countries for the entire period of the conference, which is the essence of diplomacy. In order to actively participate in the debates and become effective delegates, research is a primary tool on which you will have to spend a significant amount of effort. UNDP is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was formed in 1965, and currently operates in 177 countries and is funded by voluntary contributions from the member states. It focuses on crisis response, climate and disaster resilience, peacebuilding, gender equality and all other forms of sustainable development. It also emphasizes on implementing sustainable development in the least developed countries.

The two topics for this year's conference are in line with this committee's objectives of providing sustainable development to the global community. It is therefore encouraged that you familiarize yourselves with the history and the past actions of the global community toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, it is important to understand your assigned country's positions with regards to the topics in question and find innovative and diplomatic ways to solve these issues.

You can contact me via email (b00065892@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best Wishes,
Mohammad Atallah



Moderators



Tala AlBunni



Ibtisam Sadiq Abeid



Nada Nassereddin

TOPIC 1

Harnessing Data Revolution to Drive Sustainable Development

Context and Summary

The Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be successfully executed without the presence of relevant, accessible, and accurate statistics. Those who execute decisions need to be well-informed of the current happenings, and as such, statistical capacity and data literacy must become dramatically enhanced. Furthermore, globalized statistical systems need to not only be up to date with their research but also ensure the coverage and level of data disaggregation leaves no one behind. Through the applied efforts of data producers in different data systems, the national and global statistical systems can enhance their technology and invest in improvements. More innovative methods are required to produce, and apply, the data to combat the multiple challenges that arise with the sustainable development notion.

History

The ability of the data revolution to provide means to achieve development-related aims was emphasized by the High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that was assigned by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon to follow the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Data Ecosystems, 2017). According to the report by HLP, governments would be able to ease the tracking progress with better data and statistics in order to make credible decisions based on evidence. HLP also emphasized that along with governments, CSOs, the private sector and international agencies should be involved too (Data Ecosystems, 2017). “A true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems” (UN 2013: 24) (Data Ecosystems, 2017, p. 16).

In September 2015, a strategic opportunity was in place to recognize the data revolution and portray the significance of data for development, as a result of the adoption of the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (“Data ecosystems,” 2017). A few months later, in December 2015, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) presented its detailed report to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), which comprised of a proposal consisting of 2302 global indicators in order to monitor the progress on each and every objective of the SDGs (Data Ecosystems, 2017).

Role of the International System

After the call for better and concrete statistical systems to follow up the progress of the new, transformative development agenda stated in the HLP report, a number of events were arranged for the purpose of supporting and cultivating the blossoming data revolution for the SDGs (Data ecosystems, 2017). UNDP, in collaboration with various partners, carried out a workshop in January 2014 concentrated on data and responsibility for the Post-2015 development framework (Data ecosystems, 2017).

The meeting was targeted to build bridges between different stakeholder groups operating in the data constituencies as well as the development world, from the local region to the global region, in order to build a base of understanding of the data revolution and to be able to discover its opportunities (“Data ecosystems,” 2017). During the 46th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2015, they acknowledged the significance of a systemic tactic going beyond official statistics in determining development progress (Data ecosystems, 2017). The African Union Commission Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning implemented the “Africa Data Consensus” which presented the notion of data communities cooperating with one another in a data ecosystem to attain the data revolution (Data ecosystems, 2017).

In April 2015, UNDP along with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI), Africa Gathering, Partnership for Statistics in the 21st Century, Data-Pop Alliance and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized the Cartagena Data Festival in Colombia. The purpose of this event was to fund the global efforts on enhancing the utilization of data for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. This would happen through connecting important stakeholders, such as innovators, donors, experts and thought leaders, in order to increase the pace at which required changes are made, to detect distinct tools and solutions for progress and to also stimulate innovations and partnerships to monitor the SDGs. About 500 people from all the different sectors met in Cartagena in order to examine topics related to accountability and citizen engagement, big data, data disaggregation, data journalism and social statistics.

Implications

244 countries all around the world are attempting to utilize their data efficiently. Businesses are providing technological solutions and encouraging efficiency. Governments are suitably aligning their budgets to their needs. Citizens are holding governments accountable for their actions, as well as refining their own data-collecting skills. While challenges have undoubtedly arisen, the positive implications have shone through. The motive behind these countries’ efforts in enhancing the data usage and produce is due to the notion that faulty data causes more harm than good. For the SDGs to be accomplished, the countries’ statistics need to be flawless; data needs to be accessible to all, as well as become properly developed. If the analytical skills are not fully formulated, how can a country realize what is missing and what needs to be done? This issue must be resolved as soon as time allows as it is vital for the development of the world. The world cannot progress in any form if the harnessing of data is defective, for one needs to have a solid resource to rely on.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What are some of the newest/best approaches nations can take to improve statistical capacity?

What are some action plans for accomplishing Sustainable Development Data?

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TOPIC 2

Introducing Happiness as a Measure of Development

Context and Summary

There exist several measures of development which determine the level of progress a country sustains. In our world today, the two most prominent indicators of a country's development are economic development and human development. Economic development primarily focuses on the country's wealth and it is generally calculated through the Gross National Product (GNP) which measures the rise of the real national income over a given period of time. It also considers other factors such as population growth, infrastructure, and urbanization. On the other hand, human development is measured through the Human Development Index (HDI), incorporates three main measures: life expectancy, education and real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. While these measurements are integral for assessing a country's development, they still do not account for happiness and well-being. Moreover, they do not adequately value free time, leisure, social capital and social welfare. These omitted domains which are prominent for every individual stimulated an international movement to rethink the measures of development. For instance, rather than solely depending on GDP, a nation could strive towards using both Gross National Happiness (GNH) and GDP. As a result, implementing measurements of happiness will influence policy making and promote public discussions to enhance the people's wellbeing.

History

Several international organizations and countries decided to adopt this approach in order to make the world a happier place. For instance, in November 2012, the General Assembly invited the Member States and former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to pursue the elaboration of additional measures that contribute to the pursuit of happiness and well-being (United Nations, 2012). It was a platform for the Member States to entertain new indicators and ideas for the sake of making policy corrections. This resulted in the drafting of Resolution 65/309 entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development." It specifically mentions, "the pursuit of happiness was a fundamental human goal, recognized that the gross domestic product (GDP) indicator was not designed to—and did not reflect adequately—the happiness and well-being of people" (United Nations, 2012). Furthermore, for the sake of officially recognizing happiness as a universal goal, the General Assembly of the United Nations drafted Resolution 66/281 which proclaimed the 20th of March as International Day of Happiness. In addition, after a debate was initiated by the government of Bhutan in the UN High-Level Meeting of 2012, the United Nations released its first World Happiness Report. This report "ranks 155 countries by their happiness levels and is released by the United Nations at an event celebrating International Day of Happiness" (World Happiness, 2017). For example, the 2017 World Happiness Report showed that the majority of Scandinavian countries moved to the top of the rankings while much of Africa remains at the bottom, struggling when it comes to happiness.

Role of the International Systems

Not only did these resolutions symbolize the importance of one's happiness, but they also urged other International Organizations to expand their fields of research. For example, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD/DESA) took an initiative to broaden the research on happiness and well-being by focusing on areas such as sustainable development issues. Furthermore, during the UN Sustainable Development Conference in Brazil, a discussion on the connection and direct relationship between that happiness and sustainable development occurred. Despite that, however, a long journey lies ahead. All these actions that were taken by the United Nations act as a stepping stone to ensure that every individual's happiness is taken an account for.

Implications

It has been established that the realization of happiness is a fundamental human goal, but the question remains on whether or not it is actually possible to measure happiness properly. With that, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Report Office listed three primary means to measure subjective well-being. These include: "measures of positive emotions (positive affect), measures of negative emotions (negative affect) and evaluations of life as a whole. Together, these three types of report are considered the primary measures of subjective well-being" (Hall & Helliwell, 2014). However, there are many who criticize the validity of these measures because of four certain concerns which the UNDP Report office of 2014 entails. For example, there is the issue adaptation where individuals, regardless of their miserable lives, report that they are happy because they have simply adapted to their situation. Other considerations include peer groups and other contextual effects, cross-cultural comparisons, and the issue of experiences versus memories. Therefore, the question arises on whether the measure of happiness is worth pursuing. Does it give us suffices information for proper influence policy making? Should we go beyond economic metrics and include intangible factors such as community vitality? All these questions need to be addressed to establish whether happiness should be introduced as a measure of development.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What constitutes happiness? Could the definition be universally accepted or is it based on empirical subjectivity?

How accurate are previous reports, such as the World Happiness Report, as measures of happiness?

What are new policies that could be implemented that could increase happiness? (Consider the UAE's launch of the Ministry State of Happiness)

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World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Secretariat's Welcome

Welcome Esteemed Delegates,

The members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) committee welcome the delegates to another insightful and exciting year at AUSMUN 2018.

The WIPO is one of the many specialized agencies of the United Nations that was established in 1967 in Geneva, Switzerland. The entity consists of 191 member states that are responsible for protecting the creative works of individuals, businesses, and governments, under a series of laws that protect and incentivize the creation of ingenuity. Member states are expected to cooperate to ensure the committee operates smoothly and efficiently by supervising the allocated budgets, decisions, and overall direction of the committee.

The WIPO has numerous international offices that cooperatively work with local industry leaders and civil society, specifically NGOs (World Intellectual Property Organization, 2017). WIPO's goal is to familiarize external actors to learn and share the same goal of encouraging and protecting intellectual property. The WIPO introduced the Madrid System, which is a "convenient and cost-effective solution for registering and managing trademarks worldwide" (Madrid – The International Trademark System, n.d.). By creating a secure platform for such creative products, it positively impacts and stimulates international trade and economic development.

We look forward to hosting fruitful and engaging discussions on the chosen topics and encourage all delegates to participate as much as they can in this exciting conference.

You can contact me via email (g00051008@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Yours Sincerely,
Ava Arjangian



Moderators



Esraa Elaraby



Moiz Nadeem



Fareha Khan

TOPIC 1

Defining and Measuring Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property

Context and Summary

Intellectual property (IP) is protected by law through using patents, copyrights and trademarks that grant people recognition and/or the financial benefit from their inventions or creations. Intellectual property tends to create an environment where creativity and innovation can flourish. IP is a highly contested topic and the extent of its limitations versus the freedom of information remains an unresolved matter.

Intellectual property is usually divided into two branches (The Two Branches of Intellectual Property, 2016), namely:

Copyright: This is an official term used to recognize the rights that creators have over an extensive list of literary and artistic creations, such as paintings, books, music, films and technology-based works including computer programs, as well as sculptures or other handmade creations. Using the term copyright, also known as author's rights, emerged to deter the act of copying someone's work without acknowledging the original creator, which may only be done by the author or with the author's permission. Therefore, copyright intends on combining the protection of author's works under specific laws and appealing to the public's interest in accessing that diverse content.

Industrial Property: This is one of the three main asset classes of commercial property. Industrial property takes a range of forms. These include industrial designs, patents for inventions, trademarks, layout-designs of integrated circuits, commercial names, designations, geographical indications and its protection against unfair competition. Object of industrial property consists of signs and symbols that convey any kind of information, particularly to the consumers regarding products and other services offered on the market. Protection is directed against the unauthorized use of such signs and symbols that could possibly mislead the consumers and against the misleading in general.

The Access to knowledge (A2K) refers to the rights to participate in the creation, distribution and the acquisition of raw information, analyses of data, and different knowledge tools and services (Access to Knowledge, 2017). A2K is a loose collection of civil society groups, individuals and governments converging on the idea that access to knowledge should be directly linked to fundamental principles of justice, economic development and freedom. In other words, Access to Knowledge demands the sharing of information without any implications of legalization or hiding of information.

By the end of 20th century, intellectual property rights seemed to collide with daily life. Expansive and extensive copyright laws, patents, and digital rights management technologies sought to shut down new forms of copying and any other means of imitation that was made possible by internet. International laws also included the patent rights that threatened the lives of millions of people around the world suffering from HIV/AIDS by limiting their access to cheap generic medicines. Groups have emerged around the world to challenge this wave of Intellectual Property and other right ownerships called "Access to Knowledge" or "A2K". These groups consist of software programmersthatprotestedtoremovethesoftwarepatentsinEurope,andAIDSactivistswhodemanded and forced pharmaceutical companies to permit making copies of medicines that would be sold in poor countries.

The purpose of Intellectual Property is not only to give the inventors or authors of the creations the recognition for their achievements and the financial benefit for their creation, but also to combat the deceptions of A2K. This includes the idea to create a copyright or patent free system where any idea or creation can be copied or exploited without any legal implications. As such, Access to Knowledge in the age of Intellectual Property maps the field of activism as a systematic scenario of historical incidents, different strategies and concepts. It urges critical thinking towards the battle of author's recognition and financial benefits versus the access of any invention under the term of knowledge.

Role of International System

The importance of IP was first recognized in the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property in 1883 and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in 1886. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) administers both of these conventions.

Countries have laws to protect IP, generally for 2 main reasons, which are as follows:

To give the recognition to the rightful creators and innovators for their creations and innovations.

To promote creativity and innovation, which ultimately is a contribution towards economic and social development.

The Berne Convention requires its members to grant the authors the following rights:

The right to claim authorship of a work.

The right to object to any distortion or modification of a work or any other derogatory action in relation to any invention or work, which would be prejudicial to the author's honour or reputation, also referred to as right of integrity.

The aforementioned and other similar rights are generally granted in national laws called Moral Rights. The Berne convention requires these rights to be independent of authors' economic rights. Moral rights are only permitted to individual authors, and, under several laws, remain with the authors even after the authors have transferred their economic right to a third party.

Relevant UN Actions & Implications

In the United Nation Human Rights Council resolution number A/HRC/23/L.20 accepted in 2013, the UNHRC emphasized on the "promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development" (Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights, 2013). All the protection rights of the individuals were emphasized on where as Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity was discussed and declared. Whereas, the access to knowledge in terms of medical and mental health was re-affirmed "to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" (Access to Medicines, 2013). Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects access to knowledge and science. The article balances the right of access with the right to protection of moral and material interests: "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits". "Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author." (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2017).

Questions a resolution must address

What is the extent to which any invention or creation can be given proper rights and can be marked as the intellectual property?

Can every protected invention or creation be exploited using the “Access to Knowledge” mark?

What is the main guarantee that any information used under Access to Knowledge will be used for a betterment purpose only?

Should all those creations or inventions, which do not have been recognized through filing of a copyright or a patent, be allowed for copying and or exploitation?

What is the exact nature of freedom that Access to Knowledge demands?

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TOPIC 2

Protecting Indigenous People's Intellectual Property in Documenting Traditional Medical Knowledge

Context and Summary

Traditional Medicine (TM) refers to a collection of health care practices and products with a long history of use (Traditional and Complementary Medicine Policy, 2012). It comprises the medical knowledge developed by indigenous cultures that incorporates plants, animals and mineral-based medicines, spiritual therapies and manual techniques designed to alleviate or treat illnesses or maintain well-being. Moreover, Complementary and Alternative medicine (CAM) refers to the cluster of therapies that extend beyond western medicine. TM and CAM are sometimes used interchangeably (Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2014).

Traditional Medicine forms a crucial corner of a community's identity, aside from being a reliable source of health care and income. On a global scale, the last two decades have witnessed a revived interest in the use of TM and CAM. It was approximated that Americans spent 33.9 billion U.S. dollars out-of-pocket on CAM accounting for 11.2 percent of total out-of-pocket health care expenditures. These factors, specifically the economic, provide incentives for the conservation of TM by the aid of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

Implications

Implementing and using IPRs for TM protection is a controversial and contentious topic lately discussed within the framework of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, and this accounts for several factors. Firstly, the fact that TM is based on natural resources does not defy the probability of these traditional medications to be unsafe to the customers so implementing IPRs should aid the authorities in testing and researching the materials being used in these medications. Secondly, traditional medicines contribute to the advancement of pharmaceutical treatments - one-third to one-half of pharmaceutical drugs were formerly extracted from plants, thus traditional knowledge can deliver appreciated direction in choosing and obtaining plant material of potential therapeutic interest.

Documenting traditional medical knowledge (TMK) may be valuable for several things, including the protective defence of traditional medicine; it can have forthcoming consequences on IP protection, commercialization and promotion of traditional medicine. The WIPO Traditional Knowledge Documentation Toolkit offers convenient practical assistance on how to tackle critical IP-related issues and questions before, during and after documentation exercises.

Role of International System

Several countries, particularly developing countries, are now demanding and working for the protection of Traditional Medical Knowledge. Some significant international laws and systems have served as the backbone for protecting the rights of indigenous people in documenting Traditional Medical Knowledge (Boisson de Chazournes, 1992).

Catering to this increasing demand, traditional medicines already comprise a multi-billion dollar, international industry, and the biomedical sector is increasingly working towards the recognition of potential genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Therefore, documenting and protecting these medicines is becoming a greater priority. Furthermore, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - signed in 1992 - is an international treaty meant to promote the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and fair and equitable benefit - sharing arising from the use of Genetic Resources. In particular, Article 8(j) of this Convention deals directly with Traditional Medicine and indigenous cultures. Currently, 193 nations are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2016).

Relevant UN Actions

Many problems regarding the protection of traditional medical knowledge have not yet been addressed and those addressed lack a clear solution. However, the WIPO holds itself responsible for carrying out a considerable amount of work under its mandate. The WIPO heads the discussion on intellectual property and traditional knowledge through the newly established Intergovernmental Committee, Genetic Resources, and Folklore, where the first meeting was held from April 30-May 2, 2001.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What is the importance of the traditional medicine, and its major role factor in contributing to a country's economy?

What is a feasible solution to introducing Integrative Medicine and striking a compromise between Western and Traditional Medicine?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using patents for Traditional Medicine protection?

What are the sui generis systems advantages and disadvantages of protecting Traditional Medicine documentation?

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World Food Programme (WFP)

Secretariat's Welcome

Hello delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you to the World Food Program (WFP) committee in AUS-MUN 2018. During the conference, you will be discussing and debating two very essential topics that have been prioritized to this committee, which are "Establishing a Framework to Increase the Supply of Food through Technology" and "Water and Food Security." You will also be working with each other to approach solutions that will solve these issues.

The World Food Program (WFP), founded in 1961, is a voluntarily funded United Nations Agency that provides humanitarian aid to stop world hunger by providing food to those in need, preparing and planning for emergencies, and helping many countries deal with hunger.

The WFP's efforts are focused on conflicted countries in which people are three times more likely to suffer from malnutrition and other nutrition-related diseases, than people who live in non-conflicted countries. Thus, as delegates, you should look for the root(s) of the issue, and try to find a solution for it that would suit the country's political and social environment and involve the international community.

The structure of the WFP is the general structure of the UN. The voting procedure in the WFP is simply dependent upon the number of delegates present each session. Voting procedures are extremely important, since they entertain the committee with various motions, and they aid in choosing a suitable resolution that would contribute to solving the issue. The simple majority is half the number of delegates plus one. There is no Veto power in the WFP, and the committee proceeds by taking the votes of all present member states.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you and I hope you will enjoy the conference. You can contact me via email (b00069944@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Warmest Regards,
Mohammad Khalaili



Moderators



Hind Sameh Alhalyan



Nariman Elewa



Zain Hussein

TOPIC 1

Establishing a Framework to Increase the Supply of Food through Technology

Context and Summary

Diminishing food supplies have recently become a major issue due to the increase in population, changing consumption patterns, conflicts, topographical features in certain geographies, and climate change. Around 1 in 9 individuals are undernourished, which makes around 12.9 percent of the population, and the vast majority of them reside in developing areas such as Africa and Asia (Thapa, 2015). The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recently held its nineteenth session in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2016. They selected “The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030” as one of their priority themes for 2016-2017.

To increase the amount of food produced, new technologies need to be established and existing ones must be developed and put into practice to aid in the battle of biotic stresses such as harmful insects and weeds, and abiotic stresses such as droughts or over watering. Technology can also help raise crop and livestock productivity, improve soil fertility, and make water available. Furthermore, the dimension of food accessibility can be addressed through refrigeration, which ensures the prevention of foodborne illnesses. This is achieved by storing the food at the right temperature, transporting food correctly and safely, and using agro-processing innovations which use electricity efficiently.

In addition to that, science and technology could be fruitful in producing high nutrient crops to combat malnutrition and starvation, and improve food utilization. The STI (Science, technology, and innovation) can address food instability through “precision agriculture,” which is a form of satellite farming, and early warning systems to possibly predict when shortages of food might occur. The farmers will then be able to plan ahead of time (UNCTAD, 2017). Other challenges that could be resolved with the aid of technology include but are not limited to: improving crop productivity in general, lack of water availability, the inability to predict when and how to farm, and lack of financial mechanisms to ensure income.

Role of International System

The WFP works hand in hand with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address and recognize the symptoms of hunger, in order to build solutions that target hunger challenges using technology. They also work with The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is a specialized agency of the UN devoted to eradicating hunger and poverty in rural areas of developing countries (IFAD, n.d.). Moreover, an NGO that works with the WFP to end food insecurity is Hunger Free World (HFW) which plans to end malnutrition by creating access to adequate food. The ultimate way to achieve that is through establishing a framework to increase the supply of food through technology.

Implications

In today's growing industry, agriculture must fulfil various objectives: it needs to be internationally competitive and produce agricultural products of high quality while meeting sustainability goals. In order to remain competitive, agricultural producers need rapid access to emerging technologies. Farmers are therefore challenged with many more constraints — and also more opportunities. In addition to being profitable, they need to meet environmental regulations and standards, as well as deal with indirect and direct consumer and lobby group pressures. They may also be flooded with information from various government and industry sources, that make choosing appropriate technologies more difficult.

Although implementing technological solutions might seem costly in the beginning, it would prove very beneficial in the long run as technology has many significant advantages over human labor and farmers. Among these will be the ability to quickly and accurately read and decipher nutrition facts. Using technology to increase the supply of food would also result in lower labor costs, and consistent production quality. In addition, wise management of scarce food through improved irrigation and storage technologies, combined with the use of technology in the development of drought resistant crop varieties, can contribute to sustaining dry lands productivity and increasing the supply of food ("Food security", n.d.).

Many developing countries have been suffering due to a lack of food and water, including Somalia, which is a politically unstable country. Due to a drought in 2011, Somalia experienced considerable destruction and damage to its crops and livestock, which caused the famine to be declared as a humanitarian crisis. The drought continued until 2012, as did the lack of food and water, leading to inflation in the economy and political instability. Although Somalia received international aid and crop conditions have improved, 2.51 million people are still in urgent need of food security. Technology could have helped prevent this by alerting the farmers when minor changes in the weather or climate occurred, indicating the coming of a drought, which would have caused the farmers to plan ahead of time in order to avoid the famine and inflation.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What is the role of technology in increasing food access, productivity and stability?
What are the possible short and long-term solutions to eradicate world hunger? What role does the use of technology play in attaining these solutions?

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TOPIC 2

Water and Food Security

Context and Summary

Food and water safety has always been a concern for nations and peoples. For a long time, nations have been dealing with this issue with varying degrees of success; either due to financial capabilities or because the method of rectifying the problem has been inefficient. Food and water safety comprises the method of preparation, storage and handling of edible goods that are consumed so as to not cause any physical or mental harm to the consumer. Even with today's advances in technology and medicine, several states, and particularly the lesser developed ones, still experience issues with water and food security.

The main causes of unsafe food and water can be found in natural disasters, war and poverty (Ludi, E., 2017). Firstly, natural disasters compromise agriculture, food stores and water reservoirs. Hurricanes, tsunamis, monsoon rains or earthquakes may cause sewage, pathogens or soil to wash into food stores, making it unfit for human consumption. When this food or water is rationed out, many people fall ill with potential fatalities if inadequate health measures are undertaken. Natural disasters may also destroy the food and water supply of a locale entirely, leading to starvation and eventual famine. Secondly, war torn lands usually suffer a shortage in food as battles raze fields and houses. The displaced people may have to turn to unclean foods to live, leading to further health problems. Finally, general poverty of countries may be a factor in the cleanliness and edibility of food and water. Lesser developed countries often lack a source of clean running water. As a result, inhabitants are forced to travel large distances to locate water wells, even as they are contaminated with faeces and microbes upon their discovery. This contamination renders food even more unsafe, which causes an estimated 2 million deaths annually.

Another aspect of Water and Food Security centers on the method of food storage. If the foods are stored in damp, unventilated areas, they run the risk of being infested with harmful microbes. Upon human consumption, the microbes infect people causing a myriad of condition, most with gastrointestinal symptoms. Similarly, some countries host "street markets" where the food is laid out in the sun and usually stored incorrectly, perpetuating the issue ("Assuring Safe Food Systems," 2016).

Role of International System

The World Food Program is mainly concerned with emergency measures that can be implemented in case of natural disasters or wars to stop the progression of famine and starvation but also works on preventing future hunger through the development of secure routes for food and water, among other things. In collaboration with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), the committee works on the curbing and eventual elimination of all food and water hazards that are an immediate or future threat to international health and wellbeing. So far, most discussions have focused on world hunger in general, such as the shortages in food due to growing populations. This is addressed in resolutions A/67/150 and A/66/220, which conclude that food and water security is tantamount to human health and survival.

Implications

Food and water security is especially salient for the protection of vulnerable groups, the young, the elderly and pregnant women, who collectively constitute a significant segment of the population in any given area. These people are especially susceptible to water and food borne diseases due to their weakened immunity. Secure food and water protects and further reinforces their health and maintains it. Furthermore, any outbreak among them could easily lead to an epidemic which is much tougher to control.

Almost 1.8 billion people use a source of water that is contaminated with chemicals, human waste, sewage or microbes. In addition, 1000 children die every day from contaminated water diarrhea cases (“Water, Food and Energy,” n.d.). Although these issues are preventable, countries like Yemen, Somalia, Laos, Ethiopia and parts of Southeast Asia still suffer from water-borne diseases that claim the lives of hundreds every day. Furthermore, recent hurricanes in the Caribbean have caused widespread destruction in parts of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. While Texas has started to rebuild, Puerto Rico remains without safe drinking water and a stable and sufficient food supply. The immediate deployment of an alternative food and water supply is essential to the prevention of the spread of disease and further casualties. The key to ending the issue is immediate intervention.

Moreover, the Yemeni Civil War has served as the main factor in the outbreak of cholera in the region. When Sana’a’s sewage systems failed, fecal matter seeped into the country’s drinking water. As of late, there have been 983,484 reported cases and 2,225 deaths (World Health Organization, 2017). Though this disease is easily preventable through proper sanitation, water treatment and hygienic measures, the civil war has led to the collapse of the country’s sanitation systems, making the epidemic difficult to arrest.

Similarly, the Rohingya in Bangladesh are suffering food shortages and unsafe drinking water. While the WFP is trying to relieve the pressure on the affected individuals, there remains a need to establish water treatment plants and proper sewage and sanitation systems in order to tackle the problem at its core.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What emergency measures can be implemented to ease the situation in affected countries?

How can governments reinforce the screening methods already in place? What other screening methods could be useful?

How can the access to a stable and safe food and water supply be ensured for the most vulnerable groups of people?

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The United Nations Trusteeship Council (UNTC)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Trusteeship Council. My name is Aman Sandhu and I will be your committee Secretariat during AUSMUN 2018.

The United Nations Trusteeship Council (UNTC) temporarily stopped functioning in November of 1994 due to a bill passed in May 1994. The Trusteeship Council is one of the main organs of the United Nations and is assigned the task of supervising the administration of Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System. It is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Trusteeship System has worked towards its goal of achieving Trust Territories and attain self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining hands with neighboring independent countries.

The Trusteeship Council has the authority to examine and discuss reports from the administering authority on political, economic, social and educational advancement for the people of the Trust Territories and in consultation with the administering Authority to examine petitions from and undertake periodic and other special missions to Trust Territories. UNTC functions as a historical committee and will follow the rules and regulations from the particular year the events in discussion took place.

We, the chairs, would like to thank you in advance for your preparation for, and participation in the upcoming conference. We hope this experience will be a memorable one and we look forward to meeting you at AUSMUN 2018.

You can contact me via email (g00071114@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Yours Sincerely,
Aman Sandhu



Moderators



Hanin Abdelsamad



Salma Ahmed



Diala Almalik

TOPIC 1

Establishing Self Governance and Independence of the Pacific Islands

Context and Summary

It is important to note that during this conference we will stop historically at the adoption of UNTC to the trust territories, which were territories colonized during WWI and before it, until right before their independence in 1994. Thus, the only international systems to interfere in this issue are the League of Nations and UNTC.

In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference took place to put an end to World War I which was a major step towards peace at that point of time in history. The conference resulted in the formation of what we now know as “The League of Nations.” Article 23 of the covenant of the League of Nations states that this organization was formed to protect and provide a peaceful, fair living to the native occupants of all territories which were taken by the League council members during the war (Un.org, 2017). The situation remained stable throughout the years. However, the League of Nations unsuccessful. This was further reflected by the eruption of World War II an ultimate proof of the inability of the League to maintain peace and justice. Furthermore, World War II ended the League of Nations, and eventually the United Nations and specifically UNTC, was held responsible for the supervision and the protection of the trust territories.

An important point to consider regarding this topic is the dangers the islanders were exposed to during their colonization. An example of those dangers is the creation of “Centre d’experimentation du pacifique” in 1964. This allowed for nuclear weapons testing on islands, which had various negative effects on islanders living there (Campbell, 1996). For over 50 years, the Pacific Islands were used for nuclear weapons testing (Schofield and Cocroft, 2016). Several lives were lost as a result of the tests performed on the islands. Thus, a lot of complaints were raised by the people who used to live there. However, we must also note that \$759 million was paid as a compensation by the participating country, the United States, to the islanders living in Marshall Islands, one of the Pacific Islands (Hopley, 2011).

Role of International System

The trusteeship system is one of the few UN systems to have fully completed its task. One of the Pacific Islands, currently known as Palau, was one of the Trust territories which have successfully proclaimed their independence in 1994 (Un.org, 2017). As mentioned before, the League of Nations was the only organization to have ruled those territories officially before the UN. Before the League interfered, the islands were either under the ruling system of tribes, local hierarchies or under the colonization of a major force.

After their independence, the Pacific Islands Forum was established to further improve the harmony and collaboration between all Pacific Islands countries to achieve smooth transition between their dependence and their independence (Un.org, 2017). In addition to that, due to their shared history, Australia plays a very important role in protecting the Pacific Islands’ natural resources and continues in helping various islands to improve economically, and politically. The Government of Australia also encourages them towards development and urbanization (Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2017).

Implications

Even though it might seem that the independence of the Pacific Islands will be beneficial to the Islands and a major loss to the countries, which once occupied them, we might want to look from the opposite perspective to understand the situation better. First, the economies of most Pacific Islands are already self-sufficient, relying primarily on mining, fishing and planting. However, these economies are still not considered to be stable in the event of a disaster (Browne, 2006). The economies of the Pacific Islands can improve greatly way if tourism is enhanced. The islands require better transportation systems that allow people to visit easily and comfortably. However, this requires a lot of funding due to the large distance between the islands and mainland countries. We will mainly be discussing whether the Pacific Islands would be able to improve economically, culturally and socially on their own.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Are the Pacific Islands better off being independent?

Will the economy of the Pacific Islands get better upon independence, and if so how can it improve?

How will the education and health systems of the Pacific be improved upon their independence?

Was the money paid to the Islanders as compensation to nuclear testing enough to account for the health problems and deaths that occurred?

Are the Pacific Islands strong enough economically and politically to establish self-governance?

What plan should be put and enhanced to ensure a smooth process of self-governance?

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TOPIC 2

Shifting the Mandate to Encompass Issues of Environmental Integrity and the Protection of Global Commons

Context and Summary

According to an article, “the ‘Global Commons’ refers to areas or resources that are not politically owned by any specific country or state. These include: The High Seas, the Atmosphere, Antarctica and Outer Space” (“Law Division,” para. 1). Issues in relation to the ‘Global Commons’ arise as these areas and resources have been overused, and now face congestion and degradation due to their nature of being deductable, which makes them competitive. The primary pressing concern is the overuse of these commons as there are no property rights to any individual and/or organization. As such, no one can bear the full cost of a certain action.

According to an online report, “‘Environmental Integrity’ refers to environmental laws that are being advocated by the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) in order to enforce more effective environmental laws” (“Who We Are,” para. 1). Some of the main issues of ‘Environmental Integrity’ include the continuous addition of air and water pollution caused by the methods of disposal that each individual seeks and aims to help in the protection of the global commons. Furthermore, environmental integrity tries to address issues of congestion and overuse of certain resources to prevent them from running out and to ensure their protection.

History

There has been no set governance over the global commons in the past, as they require international legal entities to maintain diverse management and represent a large pool of states. The sheer size of the Global Commons, in addition to their nature of being used variously by different states, makes it impossible for them to be governed by a single polity. However, with the increase in global population sizes, a concern regarding the abuse of Global Commons has emerged. As population has increased, demand for these commons has increased as well. In addition, new technologies are exploiting some of these commons for processing, transporting or marketing their products. ‘Environmental Integrity’ is a response to irresponsible human activity in the commons and refers to methods which help support plant and animal life, and aim to protect it. In addition, environmental laws are set in order to prevent any issues regarding plant and animal life as well as the environment. Human activity also causes many issues regarding environmental integrity, as activities including incineration and extensive burning of fossil fuels contribute to the pollution in the environment.

Role of International System

The United Nations Trusteeship Council, alongside the World Bank, aims to protect the Global Commons. Other organizations, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and UNEP, govern the High Seas, which refers to the part of the ocean that does not come under the economic jurisdiction of any state and is open for all. Moreover, the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) ensures the protection of the Antarctic.

Collectively, these organizations aim to ensure the protection of the Global Commons, considering they lie outside national jurisdictions. During the conference, you will be discussing already established environmental protocols that are in favor of protecting the global commons in addition to possible advancements in these methods in order to make them more efficient.

Implications

The immediate implications of a failure to manage the Global Commons include over-congestion and the abuse of shared resources by numbered parties. As there is no set governance protecting these areas, each state abuses these commons, which leads to competitiveness and the potential outbreak of conflict between the states. In addition, human activity has also caused the congestion of the commons, as many fisherman use areas of the high seas extensively considering they are not under any regulation permitting them from doing so, they tend to take advantage of that and overuse such commons.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What obligations can be set in order to control the use of the Global Commons?

What are effective methods for preventing the congestion of the Global Commons?

How can states contribute to the development and efficient use of the Global Commons?

How can established environmental laws be regulated in the Global Commons? How will these laws be enforced?

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Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

A very warm welcome to the Commission on the Status of Women AUSMUN 2018! The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) deals with the standing of women, who form 50% of the world's population, on issues that are usually overlooked, and whose addressing requires a strong and continuous effort.

Soon after becoming a sub-commission under the Commission of Human Rights, CSW grew into a formal commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 21st June 1946, and held its first session in New York in February 1947. Under its wide spread of functions lie the decisions on further actions to promote the status of women around the world, the evaluation of the progress made in reaching the fifth UN sustainable development goal of gender equality, and the adoption of agreed resolutions that are drafted with the cause of empowering women. The CSW is composed of all member states, and holds an annual conference with a different theme every session.

The topics chosen for this conference deal with reproductive health as well as intimate partner violence against women, both of which are issues that are extremely important in shaping the future. We, in the committee, will discuss efficient and targeted means by which these problems can be resolved.

You can contact me via email (b00062461@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Yours sincerely,
Venkata Saicharan Thatipamula



Moderators



Eman AlAli



Mohamed Ibrahim Ansari



Leila Khattab

TOPIC 1

Women's Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health

Context and Summary

In their report, "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda," the Universal Access Project describes women's rights to sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) as a woman's ability to freely and safely make decisions pertaining to her sexual activity and reproductive organs (Universal Access Project, 2015). The project classifies consent and the right to choose as fundamental sexual rights women should be provided globally. Organizations, as such, describe reproductive rights as the rights pertaining to family planning, access to measures to prevent and treat causes for sexual and reproductive diseases, and the provision of sufficient infrastructure that is available to whoever needs them. Statistics show that globally, 225 million women lack the resources vital to meeting their reproductive and sexual needs (Global Fund For Women, 2017). The UN and its sister organizations emphasize that the protection of these rights lies in providing women with the resources and information necessary to carry out and protect their decisions. This includes family planning services and programs and hygienic and accessible healthcare facilities. These facilities and programs should accommodate to the sexual and reproductive needs of a majority of women. For example, statistics show that daily, 830 women die from complications during child birth due to lack of sufficient medical resources and personnel. SHRH programs work to provide facilities and programs to help with the prevention of issues such as maternal mortality (World Health Organization, 2016) and aim to spread awareness against the issues and causes that they consider obstacles in their journey of providing sexual and reproductive rights to women.

History

The discussion on sexual and reproductive health first begun in the mid-1980s prior to the result of feminists' struggle against sexually violent acts such as rape, access to safe and effective contraceptives and safe motherhood, domestic and marital violence. The feminist movement has a history of activism focusing on women's sexuality. Approximately 30 years on, the issues of sexual and bodily autonomy have been mainstreamed into the schemes of various agencies and international organizations. However, the issue with "mainstreaming" gender lies in that it offers a political agenda to comprehend women's reality and their oppression becomes drenched down and technical.

The beginning of the second wave of feminism saw women's organizations lobby for the right to access to safe contraception, better laws and policies that address rape, abortion, domestic and marital violence and the eradication of the female genital mutilation. As a movement, the fight for women's sexual rights has had its share of victories and losses. Issues like HIV continue to threaten women and the sexual and reproductive privileges of marginalized women are, in particular, challenged. Certainly, many of these struggles must be tackled before most women are able to experience the optimum spectrum of sexual and reproductive health, freedom, and rights. However, feminist movements in the past have been unable to affect all the changes without external aid. So, in order for women to comprehend their sexual and reproductive rights, both national and international, state and non-state organizations, along with the UN play a vital role.

Role of International Organizations

The UN has recognized “women’s rights to reproductive and sexual health as a key to women’s health” through its SRHR issues and “The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,” which works to protect women from discrimination in the allocation of resources and ensures the right to life, reproductive choice in abortion, reproductive choice in family planning, informed consent and equality before the law for all women globally. However, these efforts have faced some challenges as inequality is deeply rooted in some cultural practices. Providing victims with a platform to share their struggles within communities where women do not have access to both sexual and reproductive health and rights has proven to be a difficult task thus far for international organizations such as the UN.

Implications

Violations against women’s sexual and reproductive health rights are ingrained in basic societal values relating to their sexuality. In patriarchal societies, the concept of a woman’s role in the family unit is defined by her fertility. In such societies, cases of child marriage and marital rape are common and often remain unresolved. Additionally, women are also often criticized for infertility, suffering ostracism and being subjected to numerous human rights violations as a result (Shalev, 1998). Providing sexual and reproductive health rights are seen by some economists and sociologists as a way to combat gender stratification and the economic and political inequality that the international community faces today. In fact, current economic analyses state that a return on investment of \$130 for every dollar spent is possible through improved access to sexual and reproductive health for women.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How should the resolutions tackle the issues faced by the UN when working to provide sexual and reproductive health and rights?

How big does our organization impact the present problems facing women on sexual and reproductive rights?

How will you integrate these rights into the perspective of your respective nation?

Resolutions should take into account the cultural, traditional and religious aspects of the topic. How will you relate this into your resolutions and respective organization?

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TOPIC 2

Intimate Partner Mental, Physical, and Sexual Violence Against Women

Context and Summary

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is reported to occur in all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups, with the brunt of it being borne by women (World Health Organization, 2012). IPV comprises physical, sexual or psychological harm that is caused by either an intimate, or an ex-partner through physical or psychological abuse. The relationship between IPV against women and their consequential poor physical and mental health has been studied and demonstrated in numerous scholarly articles (Dillon, Hussai, Loxton, & Rahman, 2013). Although the detrimental nature of the issue is apparent, the actions against it have not been enough to subdue the actions causing harm to women and the advancement of society as a whole.

Studies show that one in three women who have been in a relationship have suffered from some form of IPV in their lifetime. The reasons these women are unable to leave their abusive relationships include the lack of other economic means, stigma or concern for their children. The long-term effects of IPV on women has caused researchers to recommend the screening of male counterparts in terms of their previous offenses and their behavioural traits as a means of prevention (Coker, et al., 2002). The applicability and the logistics of this idea seem to be impractical and ineffective; a better method of screening, or a more involved approach is necessary for preventing IPV.

Role of the International System

The United Nations' first move on this subject was the development of the World Plan of Action in 1975 which did not explicitly state the protection of women, but included clauses on general domestic violence. Furthermore, the UN adopted a resolution on "battered women and violence in the family" which addressed the topic more specifically (United Nations, 2012). Following this, the UN conducted the Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family in 1986, with the inclusion of special emphasis on legal reforms on the subject, followed by a 1989 publication on Violence against Women in the Family, which was specifically directed to address the issue of domestic violence with special focus on women (United Nations, 2012). The UN then went on to establish the CSW which was used to guideline the protection and safety policies to protect women, and this was done as a response to the 1975 World Plan of Action, as it was concluded that the protection of women fell under the umbrella of this plan. Since the formation of the CSW, developments have been made by reaffirming the Beijing Declaration that was designed to protect women from all forms of violence. The CSW also revised and represented the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Implications

The WHO has classified that the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is the type of violence that can easily be found in societies. Through its research, the WHO confirmed that through the use of a survey, it was found that 10-69% of women had been victims of IPV in some form. The WHO also concludes that IPV leads to psychological and physical abuse, with statistics displaying that 40-70% of causes for death for murdered women was part of IPV. IPV has also been linked with later onset diseases such as gynaecological disorders, adverse pregnancy outcomes and other chronic pain syndromes. A thorough survey was conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), which showed the trends in IPV relating to the aforementioned diseases.

In terms of international affairs, women's rights and security have become a widely prioritized subject which is being discussed on several platforms, where every country wants to uphold its image. In the CSW, speakers from many countries have put forth their country's contribution in order to garner praise and appreciation. The Brazilian Secretary of Women's work reported her country's progress through the operation of facilities to protect violated women (Commission on the Status of Women, 2016). The Minister of Women Affairs of Nigeria displayed her country's concern for the protection of women by describing the country's commitment through the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act of May 2015.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What is the most far-reaching, and economically and logistically feasible method by which IPV can be tackled?

How can each individual's privacy and beliefs be respected while the preventive measure is executed?

How will the resolution cater to the differing socio-economic strata in each respective state?

What can our organization do to reduce the stigma presented by IPV?

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UN Educational,
Scientific
and Cultural
Organization
(UNESCO)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

As Secretariat of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it is a great honor and pleasure to welcome you to this committee of the 11th American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) conference. UNESCO is a 72-year old, Specialized Agency of the United Nations. The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

UNESCO has a list of notable achievements like the 1978 Declaration on Race and Racial prejudice to fight apartheid in the South Africa, the establishment of the World Heritage committee in 1976 to save and preserve World Heritage sites across all countries and the establishment of CERN in 1954 and establishment of Information For All Programme, to name a few. Thus, UNESCO's aim is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

As UNESCO issues concern all countries, membership of the United Nations carries with it the right to membership of UNESCO. The Organization currently has 195 Members and 10 Associate Members. Membership of UNESCO is governed by Articles II and XV of the Constitution and by rules 98 to 101 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

Lastly, please do remember that UNESCO issues affect all countries regardless of their economic conditions or political regime or status. Thus, all member states must engage in these topics with great vigor.

You can contact me via email (b00065272@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Best wishes and good luck,
Zulfikar Shahpurwala



Moderators



Rohit Khiara



Najwa Hubaishy



Tala Al Otaibi

TOPIC 1

Engaging and Empowering Youth through Access to Technology and Media

Context and Summary

The youth has been part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's core element for decades. UNESCO considers youth as the inspiration that aids and strives for expansion and variation in our society. Unfortunately, however, a significant fragment of our youth tends to disengage from global issues due to the circumstances surrounding them. The impact that international communication technology, ICT (the combination of informatics technology and applications such as instant messaging, social networks or video-conferencing), has on our youth is a very vast one. UNESCO's main goals in this field include filling the technological gap between countries with 31% access to technology and the ones that have up to 77% access; progressing the connection between ICT and youth empowerment; promoting information society, which focuses on the development of the information technology industry; and, finally, promoting the participation of stakeholders to increase use of technologies.

History:

Between 1995 and 1996, UNESCO introduced resolution 50/81 "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond," which served in favor of introducing programs for youth.

During the early 2000's, ICT was mainly used for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as increasing the availability of the Internet worldwide. Furthermore, the United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was introduced with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The ITU later termed 2011 the "International Year of Youth," elaborating on how ICT helps the youth become more educated and have better access to information. In 2014, the ITU released a 10-year review in the WSIS+10 high level event for the sake of developing new strategies for the aim of WSIS and a commitment to continuing efforts on the topic.

Over the years, UNESCO has worked constantly on the issue of "Engaging and Empowering Youth through Access to Technology and Media" with the aim of promoting ICT and making it part of our daily lives. This process has birthed a host of different programs and organizations, such as the project to increase the opportunity of peace and self-expression, which lead to Power of Peace Network (PPC). Moreover, the promotion of gender equality lead to the creation of "Girls in ICT day." Finally, the promotion of girls' education lead to the establishment of a program called "Connect to Learn."

Role of the International System

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board of Coordination (UNSCEB) founded the United Nations Group on the Information System (UNGIS) in April of 2006 during the Tunis Agenda for Information Society in 2005. UNGIS' main purpose was to monitor the achievements of the obligations of WSIS and provide sustenance. This included roles such as helping simplify the access to ICT and promote its use for development. UNGIS had 30 participants with the ITU acting as a moderator.

UNESCO is striving to promote ICT for teens in rural areas, such as South Asia, East Asia, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa, by introducing the “Empowering local radios with ICTs” project with the aid of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). This project has helped advance the radio quality in the aforementioned countries. Furthermore, the “One Laptop per Child Programme,” funded by UNESCO, helps provide children with low cost laptops in areas such as Latin America and Africa and increases the availability of ICT to those children.

To help encourage people to increase the use and availability of ICT, politicians, businesses and educational services have discussed different methods that help promote ICT, including The International Forum on ICT and Education 2030, which was hosted earlier this July. UNESCO has also implemented guidelines on the use of ICT in education, such as its use of Open Educational Resources (OER), which make use of Google Maps.

Implications

Because of the technological divide between the developed and developing world, countries such as Bangladesh, Uganda, the Latin Americas, Cambodia, Haiti and many other African Countries have much to gain from the empowerment of their youth in the field of ICT (Anon, 2017). By engaging the youth in ICT, countries may not only begin to bridge the gap but also enhance social skills of the youth, build ecological development programs within the country and contribute to a positive influence on the environment. If the youth in these countries is not engaged in this growing field, the technological gap will widen and drive down living standards in developing countries.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can developed countries help the undeveloped ones in the field of ICT?

Which international organizations can help the most?

How can these organizations effectively engage the youth?

What are the ways in which UNESCO can incorporate ICT in global education?

What are cheaper alternatives to making ICT more accessible?

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TOPIC 2

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage of War-Torn Nation States

Context and Summary

In addition to the loss of lives due to continuing warfare, a country's economic, social and political status also declines rapidly. However, another, often neglected, consequence is the destruction and downfall of a country's cultural heritage. Cultural heritage consists not only of monuments and materialistic objects, but also of traditions and living expressions that are passed down inter-generationally ("What is intangible cultural heritage," n.d). As such, cultural heritage has often been victim to armed conflict in surrounding areas. For example, the Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan has suffered abandonment, military invasion and explosions ("World Heritage in danger," n.d) due to the persistent war in Afghanistan. UNESCO strives to protect these World Heritage sites and keeps track of them using the List of World Heritage in Danger.

History:

In response to the proliferation of war near heritage sites, UNESCO began sending experts to assess the state of the sites that are inscribed on the World Heritage List ("UNESCO mission reports on war damage to cultural heritage in Lebanon," 2006). From then onward, the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger has been growing. Thus far, UNESCO has a total of 54 sites enlisted on this list. The first site to be listed was the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls in the year 1982 ("List of World Heritage in danger," n.d). The records help UNESCO, along with other international communities, restore the sites and place them under protection and ensure their removal from the list as soon as possible.

Role of the International System

UNESCO has released the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. This ensures and encourages that States will implement peacetime protective measures in order to safeguard any property. Later on, the 1954 First Protocol was released. This protocol refrains the export of any movable cultural property in order to maintain its protection. Likewise, the 1999 Second Protocol was adopted in order to strengthen provisions of the Convention ("About the convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its two protocols," n.d).

In addition, UNESCO also issued the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in 1970 and the World Heritage Convention in 1972 ("UNESCO strengthens action to safeguard cultural heritage under attack," 2014). All these instruments were endorsed by the international community for the sole purpose of protecting cultural heritage in times of armed conflict.

Furthermore, the UN Security Council appointed for the protection of cultural heritage through the publication of resolutions such as the Resolution 2100 on Mali and the Resolution 2139 on Syria ("UNESCO strengthens action to safeguard cultural heritage under attack," 2014).

UNESCO has also pushed its Member States to prepare for and prevent these conflicts beforehand through awareness, advice and training. Moreover, the committee has also launched a web-based international observatory. Observatories like these are used to continuously monitor sites such as the ones in Syria. To further help out the community, UNESCO also works on reconstructing and rehabilitating damaged sites.

Implications

Of particular importance to UNESCO in contemporary times have been the recent events in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Mali and Yemen. The pervasive conflict in these countries has resulted in significant ramifications for their heritage sites. A pertinent example of such catastrophes is the destruction of the Great Mosque of Aleppo, which was the largest and one of the oldest mosques in the city. Other destroyed sites include the Great Mosque of Samarra in Baghdad, the Old City of Sanaa in Yemen and the Nimrud in Iraq ("Precious monuments lost in the Middle East," 2017). Often the target of opposing sides during civil wars, these sites carry both cultural and symbolic value, which is what UNESCO aims to preserve.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Identify the primary factors that lead to the destruction of these sites during war. What are some distinct ways in which UNESCO can safeguard the cultural heritage of war-torn sites?

What measures can UNESCO take in order to prevent any damage beforehand?

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World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2018. We are pleased to welcome you to the World Health Organization (WHO). This year's staff are Hend Mitkis (Secretariat), Shayna Sahayaraj (Moderator), Mariam Al Hamad (Co-moderator), and Emad Toubar (Co-moderator). The World Health Organization is an autonomous organization that directs and coordinates international healthcare issues with the aim of attaining the highest possible level of health globally. The WHO's constitution established the organization as a specialized agency of the UN in accordance with Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations (1946). The WHO operates within the scope of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In WHO, we consider health as a human right for all under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Delegates should collaborate to promote multilateral negotiations and come up with practical solutions. Coherent research, simulation, and collaboration are keys in WHO in order to successfully complete the agenda and create resolutions that are concise and effective. This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee.

You can contact me via email (g00056998@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Yours Sincerely,
Hend Mitkis



Moderators



Mariam Al Hamad



Shayna Sahayaraj



Emad Toubar

TOPIC 1

Illegal Organ Trade

Context and Summary

Ever since the first transplant in 1954, the demand for organ transplants has been growing at an exponential rate. However, the number of organ donors through the years has been slowly declining while the number of people in need of organ transplants continues to rise. Patients in need for transplants started looking for other alternative solutions as the supply fails to meet the demand, and hence, they eventually turn to the black market. In the black market, organs are traded unethically and illegally in large numbers. To combat this issue, member states of the World Health Organization set up a resolution that states “take measures to protect the poorest and vulnerable groups from ‘transplant tourism’ and the sale of tissues and organs” (WHO, 2007). While this resolution has had some effect, the illegal organ trade continues to be a growing issue that must be tackled by more regulations and protocols.

Role of the International System

The World Health Organization has worked diligently over the years to tackle the issue of illegal organ trade and human trafficking. One of the measures that the WHO has taken is implementing the “Protocol to Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime” This protocol aims to encourage cooperation between member states in tackling the issue of human trafficking as well as assisting the victims of trafficking by protecting their identities and providing legal assistance. The protocol also focuses on the means of preventing human trafficking by improving education around the subject, tackling poverty, and encouraging NGOs to help contribute to fixing the issue. The World Health Organization also enacted resolution WHA63.22 in which members states need to be “sensitive to the need for post-transplantation surveillance of adverse events and reactions associated with the donation, processing, and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs as such and for international exchange of such data to optimize the safety and efficacy of transplantation.” The resolution also encourages raising awareness to voluntary organ donations and international cooperation to manage and facilitate those donations.

Implications

Countries that commonly face the problem of illegal organ traders include China, Iran and Pakistan. Countries with organ demand include Malaysia, Oman, Korea, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan (WHO, 2007). It is still difficult to keep track of the illegal trade business fully as most of the situations are only heard of after the reported deaths of any patients that have gone abroad for transplants. There are also a lot of attached medical risks, such as HIV and Hepatitis B and C. A 2016 study conducted in the United Kingdom revealed that patients who had undergone surgeries abroad were barred from local transplants due to the potential lack of compliance of such operations with international standards (Morgan, 2016). As a result, these patients are more desperate to resort to illegal measures. The WHO has reported several deaths in these overseas operations (WHO, 2007).

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What will countries do to ensure the end of the illegal organ trade?

What measures will countries implement to prevent illegal organ trade groups from forming?

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TOPIC 2

Sustainable Vaccine Practices and Financing

Context and Summary

The role of immunization is to protect individuals from viruses, bacteria and diseases that could potentially harm them. Vaccines are considerably rare and inaccessible in underdeveloped countries because the supply lies solely in foreign aid from other governments in times of disparate need. In order to counter this issue and imbalance in immunization, the WHO launched the Middle-Income Country Strategy in 2014. This scheme involves using a task force for 8 different immunization consulting partners occupied with vaccine manufacturing, etc. with the aim of developing the existing initiatives in middle income countries, and assist them in providing suitable vaccines to civilians in need. The most prominent issue with sustainable vaccine practices is the lack of finance. To help with the funding for vaccination procedures, the GAVI Alliance has pledged itself to aiding some of these countries significantly. As of yet, 16 countries have been helped with a total of US\$ 8.4 billion.

Role of the International System

The UN and WHO are actively implementing various strategies which will enable countries to benefit from higher living standards and healthcare. In a joint project with UNESCO and the World Bank Committee, the WHO has committed itself to raising awareness of the importance of such sustainable schemes, and preparing countries to look into long-term immunization projects. Moreover, investing in research and development for new vaccines is highly critical in order to assure the quality, safety and effectiveness of such vaccines. Releasing under-developed vaccines to the market is far more harmful than releasing no vaccines at all.

Resolutions such as the World Health Assembly Resolution - WHA65.17, which discusses the Global Vaccine Action Plan, attempt to outline the best possible ways to tackle the issue. A key factor that delegates will need to keep in mind is the implementation of this action plan, its usefulness and how it can be improved at the conference. In addition, during May of 2017, countries came together in a conference in Geneva to discuss progress on the 2012 Global Vaccine Action Plan, which provided the guidelines to attain universal access to immunization by 2020. This included clauses to improve the data collection process, mobilize vaccines, as well as expand the reach of the available vaccine services. Two years prior to this, another conference took place in which the WHO addressed the issue of “tackling antimicrobial drug resistance.” This conference set out five directed aims which revolved around improving resistance, surveillance, awareness, and optimizing the use of these vaccines.

Implications

Specific global nutrition standards are not being met because of the lack of immunization to protect the people around the world. Highly priced vaccines are essentially ineffective because the specific viruses they resolve are rarely contracted by the wealthy. Consider the vaccine developed for the treatment of AIDS, which could significantly change the lives of individuals around the world.

However, the patent acquired by Martin Shkreli, the owner of the drug company, increased the prices by up to 5000%, thereby rendering the vaccine inaccessible to the people most affected. As such, financing and ensuring access for suitable vaccine practices must be a main focal point of discussion.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How will countries ensure that the vaccine is appropriate to target the demographics of the nation?

Who will finance NAP's revolving the matter?

How will the vaccines be regulated and how will we ensure that all parties have access?

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World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Secretariat's Welcome

Greetings delegates,

I welcome you with pleasure to the United Nations World Tourism Organization of the 11th AUSMUN. I hope this will be a fruitful and enjoyable experience to all of you and I am looking forward to the start of the conference to meet you.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is a UN specialized agency that was established subsequent to World War II, in 1975 by the International Union of Official Tourist Propaganda Organizations (IUOTPO). The UNWTO's head office is located in Madrid, Spain. The UNWTO is responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism (UNWTO, 2017). It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the tourism sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. The UNWTO aims to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially goals especially 1, 8, and 17 ending poverty, promoting sustainable economic growth, and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development respectively. The UNWTO has 158 state members, 6 associate members, and 2 observer states

This year, the questions before the United Nations World Tourism Organization are: Promoting Ecotourism as a Poverty Reduction Strategy; and Exploitation of Children in Tourism.

If you have any inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly through email (g00068339@aus.edu). Please also send your position papers to this email.

Best Regards,
Haya Amer Ojel



Moderators



Hamed Ali



Karen Kandalraft



Fatima Almheiri

TOPIC 1

Promoting Ecotourism as a Poverty Reduction Strategy

Context and Summary

Tourism has steadily developed as a major global industry that will unceasingly increase as resources allow an expansion of people and businesses to engage as suppliers and consumers. As the global community grows progressively aware of sustainable methods and the importance of diminishing the high rates of poverty, it has reached a widespread concurrence that tourism has the potential to elevate a country environmentally, socially, and economically, thus reducing poverty. This can be achieved through the merger of ecotourism and pro-poor tourism.

History

The United Nations highlighted that since tourism operates in many geographical areas, it can be a key resource to influence the level of poverty in the district. Tourism generates possibilities for communities to profit from their own natural and cultural assets in ways such as employment and supplies of commodities and services. A strategy that has been used to enhance economic opportunities for the local people and provide them with training programs is the practice of using tourism as a tool to reduce poverty. Travel and Tourism industries can reduce poverty through sustainable supply chain management by using local sources of goods and services, encouraging minute independent enterprises, and by building partnerships.

Role of the International System

The International Ecotourism Society is an international, non-profit organization that holds conferences such as the Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference to promote convenient policies. Other national organizations include Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation and Ecotourism Society Pakistan. Countries like Australia, Uganda, Thailand, Kenya, and Brazil all comprise societies that play major roles in promoting ecotourism, especially in terms of poverty reduction. They conduct seminars and lectures to provide guidelines and educational resources and training in their respective countries.

Relevant UN actions

On the 21st of December 2012, a resolution acknowledging ecotourism as a key tactic to combating poverty was unanimously adopted. The General Assembly welcomed the resolution based on UNWTO's recommendations that highlights funding ecotourism programs and respecting indigenous communities. Moreover, the UN Sustainable Development has also conducted an Expert Group Meeting (EGM). The UN continues to actively work with UNWTO in order to implement policies and consequently, combat poverty.

Implications

Not all tourism positively assists local factions and is regulated in a sustainable manner. There are two main negative environmental impacts of tourism: harm to ecosystems and strains on natural resources. As countries and regions where the economy is piloted by the Tourism industry have become increasingly perturbed with the ensuing environmental effects, the concept of Ecotourism has emerged. Ecotourism is used to illustrate tourism ventures that work in harmony with nature; it preserves the environment while improving the wellbeing of local people. This initiative has had positive effects on sustainability in tourist-catering businesses. Furthermore, as tourists learn more about Sustainable Tourism, there has been a growing trend toward holiday destinations and programs that benefit the host country and do not negatively impact the environment. Governments have begun to work with enterprises that covet ecotourism, and these public-private partnerships yield favorable outcomes.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Should there be laws implemented to ensure ecotourism in all countries?

What strategies will be used to promote tourism to reduce poverty?

Should the revenue from Ecotourism contribute to poverty reduction in host communities? If so, by what proportion?

How can Ecotourism negotiate with and succeed in different types of economies?

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TOPIC 2

Exploitation of Children in Tourism

Context and Summary

Of one of the most common channels of exploitation of children is child-sex tourism. Child-sex tourism is defined as the commercial sexual exploitation of children by people who travel from one location to another and take part in sexual acts with children and young people. They often travel from wealthier states to less developed states, but child-sex tourists may also be travelers within their own countries or regions. As a result of poverty, children are often exploited and manipulated into forced sex work in this growing industry. Because of the economic imbalance between developed and under-developed nation-states, people stemming from the middle tier of the economic ladder in developed countries often find themselves able to afford sex-tourism in developing and under-developed countries.

History

The problem of child-sex tourism was first brought to the world's attention in the 1990s largely as a result of the work of "End of Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism" (ECPAT) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Whilst legal action has been enforced in many countries, the problem has not ceased to exist and remains an issue that plagues a plethora of countries. The World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm in 1996, served as the first global acknowledgement of the issue as a matter of universal concern. The promises made by the nations at the World Congress were captured in a global Declaration and Agenda for Action. Countries promised to change relevant laws, policies, programs and practices to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in all its forms, whilst protecting the rights of child victims and not further harming them.

Role of the International System

Ever since the acknowledgement of child-sex tourism as a universal issue, a host of initiatives by international organizations have emerged. These include ECPAT, OHCHR, UNICEF, and a multitude of others working on smaller scales. Ensuing discussions within IOs have divided the problem into two factors: the punishment of alien sex-tourists and deeper regulation within local tourist industries to protect children. However, the international community continues to face difficulty in profiling the typical child-sex offender.

Implications

There is a plethora of gaps in policy and practice which have prevented the successful regulation and minimization of child-sex tourism: insufficient training and awareness, lack of resources for care and protection services, insufficient prosecution of offenders, and cooperation from businesses. Furthermore, several legal gaps continue to hinder any international efforts to profile, locate, and charge child-sex tourists with an offence. Resolutions must address these gaps and offer viable solutions.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

What is the extent of the negative effect of child-sex tourism on the international community?

What kinds of gaps in policy and law need to be addressed by the committee?

How are some of these gaps to be tightened? Under what framework may countries cooperate to strengthen the law regarding child-sex tourism?

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United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Secretariat's Welcome

Greetings delegates,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the committee of The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). In this committee we hope to present you with the best and most beneficial experience as we mark our 11th AUSMUN conference. UNOOSA was established as an expert unit of The United Nations (UN) with the expertise to assist the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The division of Outer Space Affairs was formed through the political department in 1992, where the unit was originally located. The Department was then relocated to the UN office in Vienna during 1993. The committee works on promoting sustainable social and economic development through the utilization of both space technology and science. It also assists other UN members with governing space activities, legal frameworks, as well as helping developing countries develop in terms of using the space science technology.

The committee is just a section of the office, which focuses on the policy and legal affairs. It also works on the distribution of reports on international space activities as well as, international space law. The number of members in the committee has increased since it started, starting with 18 members in 1958, and reaching 84 members in 2016 during the GA resolution 71/90. Overall, UNOOSA is very much involved in many of the world's current events, and is a major factor into becoming a developed or developing country that has to do with outer space affairs.

You can contact me via email (g00068760@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Please send your position papers to this email as well.

Yours Sincerely,
Nouf Ismail Yousif



Moderators



Maryam Altaf



Sanya Rizwan



Feraas Ibrahim Tayeh

TOPIC 1

The Privatization of Space Exploration

Context and Summary

Space exploration is the discovery of the outer space and progress towards technological advancements and benefit humanity. Privatization of space exploration outlines the fact that the government should handover the control of exploring the space to the private firms. Populations believe that governments' fail to prioritize space exploration programs as they are already occupied in the country's politics and its responsibilities, hence, space exploration should be privatized. Moreover, major NASA programs have been discontinued as the government could not fulfil their responsibility and failed to keep up with the budget inflation (Shi, 2016). Currently, NASA has paid commissions to some of the major private companies to continue its failed programs and perform several functions (Shi, 2016). The United States government and NASA has already started working with various private space companies to expand and fasten the process of discovering the outer space achieve their current goal of sending humans to Mars (Bradley, 2017).

History

Space exploration rooted from World War II where the opposing sides, the United States and the Soviet Union, took control of the rockets and used them as weapons to win the great war. This continued during the Cold War, where countries raced to explore the outer space trying to outdo each other. The beginning was marked in the late 1950s by Sputnik and then Apollo moon landings but lost its significance after the war when the countries prioritized other aspects to show their power (Shi, 2016). Nevertheless, space exploration boomed again in 2004 when the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act came along in the United States and legalized the privatized discovery of the space (Shi, 2016). This open the doors for several private space firms to run in a new race and discovery the celestial world.

Today, internationally, the world has progressed more than ever and discovered various space technologies and private spacecrafts have not only launched but also safely returned to the land (Graber, 2015). NASA has been working with international private space industries like SpaceX and Boeing which will help them send a manned spacecraft to Mars soon (Shi, 2016). Due to the legal privatized space discovery, the International Space Station was restocked, and the progress shows that the legalizing privatization has allowed space companies, which prioritize space exploration, to work and boost the discovery process.

Role of the International System

Privatizing space exploration is still a new concept for the world to grasp onto. However, the United Nations has formed several treaties and amendments with the international community such as the Outer Space Treaty in 1967, the Liability Convention in 1972 and the Moon Agreement in 1979, which have led to the idea of and agreement on maintaining peace and safety in outer space. The committee has planted the idea of safety and a friendly environment between all the countries within space exploration.

However, the United Nations did not take any specific step towards privatizing space exploration. It is agreed that states and private companies can explore the outer space if they maintain harmony by fulfilling the treaties. Bloc countries like the United States of America and Russia have already worked on Amendments which allow private space firms to work and explore the outer space. These countries have shed light upon collaboration between the government and the private firms for the countries betterment overall. The progress has been recorded by these countries after working together and individually.

Implications

UN officials have not taken any decisions regarding privatization of space exploration yet. Bearing in mind that space exploration is a key which can help the vUnited Nations and its Member States to the successfully work towards the Sustainable Development Goal (United Nations: Office for Outer Space Affairs., 2016). Moreover, it is important to look upon privatizing the discovery process of outer space as it can lead to a much faster funding and exploring process. Plus, we are aware that private firms help discover more resources than the government alone can. NASA is one of the examples which outlines the fact that working with private firms can help create jobs and boost the economy of the country along with the growth in the field of space technology (Shi, 2016). However, this progress has been witnessed within the wealthy countries only.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can privatizing space exploration help society?

What regulations and standards can be set so that all the countries can benefit?

How can the programs be implemented within the organizational budget?

How does this correlate to the countries' economy?

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TOPIC 2

Combating the threat of space junk and orbital debris collisions

Context and Summary

More than 500,000 pieces of debris, or “space junk,” are tracked as they orbit the Earth. Space junk is split up into both natural and artificial (man-made) particles. Meteoroids orbit the sun, while artificial debris orbits the Earth for the most part; this is commonly referred to as orbital debris. Orbital debris is any in orbit around the Earth which doesn't benefit mankind any longer. Some examples of this include nonfunctional spacecrafts, fragmentation debris and mission related debris. Over 20,000 pieces of debris larger than a tennis ball orbit the Earth. They travel at speed up to 17,500 MPH. At this speed, this debris could potentially damage a satellite or spacecraft. There are also millions of pieces of junk that are too small to be tracked. The increasing population of space debris increases the risk of harm to all space vehicles. However, the vehicles most at risk are the International Space Station (ISS), space shuttles, and other spacecrafts with humans aboard.

History

In the beginning the artificial junk only totaled up to only 30 objects, but after the explosion of Ablestar launch vehicle after deploying its payload. This vehicle created 300 new additions to the space junk. After that the rate of the space junk has only risen exponentially. However, over the past 10 years many collision avoidance maneuvers with the shuttle and the station have been conducted. NASA implemented the conjunction assessment and collision avoidance process for human spaceflight beginning with shuttle mission STS-26 in 1988.

Furthermore, before launch of the first element of the International Space Station, NASA and DoD jointly developed and designed a more sophisticated and higher fidelity conjunction assessment process airspace missions. This was extended in 2007 to all NASA maneuverable satellites within low Earth orbit and near the geosynchronous orbit. In 2005, NASA implemented a similar process for selected robotic assets such as the Earth Observation System satellites in low Earth orbit and Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System in geosynchronous orbit. (Garcia, 2015)

Role of the International System

The UAE Space Agency is considering legislation on orbital debris mitigation, mimicking the UN guidelines. Outside of the UAE, policies on space debris vary among the many organizations and governments involved in the space industry. NASA, Russia, China, Japan, France and the ESA have all issued orbital debris mitigation guidelines. The US DARPA proposed a craft called the Phoenix that would snag the particles and recycle the debris if possible. On the other hand, the Japanese developed a laser cannon to install on the ISS to allow a clear path for the station. In ESA, scientists are currently testing different weighted nets, firing them at targets using compressed air (Smith, 2015). However, these are all at the prototype stage. As of 2017, there is no international regulatory framework for this matter.

Implications

The idea of space travel and establishing life on Mars has been circulating for the past few years. As the issue of space junk and orbital collisions hardly seems resolved, the plans for inhabiting other planets or conducting air space missions may be delayed or put to a halt. As mentioned previously, there are millions of pieces of debris, most being smaller than a third of an inch, and impact by these tiny shrapnels can cause seriously damaging collisions. In Low Earth-orbit, objects travel at 4 miles (7 kilometers) per second. This can damage critical components such as pressurized items, solar cells, or tethers. Moreover, these collisions can also create new pieces of potentially threatening debris (Taylor, n.d).

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Should an international regulatory system be put in place to enforce debris damage mitigation?

Should governments set aside a certain budget of their taxes to combat damage due to debris?

What are the most effective methods that can be implemented to clear up the space junk?

How are the technological innovations tackling the problem?

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Special Summit of Futuristic Technology

Secretariat's Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2018! My name is Mustafa Akbari and I will be the Secretariat of Tech Summit, otherwise known as the Special Summit on Futuristic Technology. From the whole board of the Tech Summit committee, we hope you have an engaging, informative and fun conference in AUSMUN.

The Special Summit on Futuristic Technology is a special committee under the General Assembly. A Special Committee is a sub-committee that is only run if there are global issues regarding new technological advances that are can or are resulting in global consequences. For our two topics, Mission to Mars and Weaponization of Space, there are many global issues developing within that can have huge ramifications on the world, especially with the flood of technological innovation. As the Special Summit on Futuristic Technology is under the General Assembly, the same procedures will be implemented. Specifically, on the topic of voting procedures, motions will be passed when two thirds majority of those present vote in favor. You can contact me via email (b00059747@aus.edu) if you have any questions. Please send your emposition papers to this email as well.

Regards,
Mustafa Akbari



Moderators



Annabelle Ghanem



Shivam Daftari



Rasha Darra

TOPIC 1

Mission to Mars

Context and Summary

The first successful launch of a satellite probe to Mars was on November 28th, 1964 with the flyby of Mariner 4 sent by NASA, the principal space agency in the United States. Since then, dozens of satellites and rovers have been sent to Mars for further exploration. The Mars Rovers were the most popular since they could land on the surface and send back surface data. Currently there are two operational rovers, both under the auspices of NASA, in addition to 5 orbiters from NASA, the ESA (space agency of the European Union), Roscosmos (space agency of Russia), and the ISRO (space agency of India). However, there have not been any sample return missions or manned missions, although some have been planned. This includes missions by China and the United Arab Emirates aimed for 2020. With revolutions in technology, private companies such as SpaceX have also entered the “space race” with planned missions to Mars including a permanent settlement by MarsOne.

Role of the International System

Current international law regarding outer space regulations revolves around 6 main treaties, the most important being the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and the Moon Treaty of 1979 (although it has not been ratified by space exploring nations). Current space law is vague, and no new treaty has been created to reflect the changing environment of space explorations and missions to planets. This new territory requires a united response if humans wish to continue to explore and eventually expand in the solar system. The United Nations has not played a significant role in neither space exploration nor space travel regulations. It will be the responsibility of nations, especially those taking lead roles in space exploration to create treaties that can be enforced properly by the United Nations.

Very few international organizations deal with Mars specifically, instead focusing on space as a whole. Companies such as SpaceX and Virgin Galactic have revolutionized the playing field in regard to space explorations. As mankind becomes more advanced, the necessity of clear-cut regulations become greater. Governmental space agencies are also battling it out to see who can win the new space race. US President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order, mandating that NASA have boots on Mars by 2033. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs currently regulates outer space issues. In addition, the United Nations will launch its first UN satellite in cooperation with Sierra Nevada Corporation, expanding the scope of the UN significantly.

Implications

The implications of a mission to Mars are widespread, seeing that it would represent a major milestone in the history of mankind. Different implications would occur depending on who launches to Mars and what is launched. There is the question of sovereignty over manned missions and settlements established on the planet Mars. According to the Outer Space Treaty, no country may lay claim to the Moon or any other celestial body. Therefore, the laws such settlements are subject to depend on new treaties to reflect the current situation. Conversely, private corporations have settlements established on Mars. Having claimants to portions of the planet could set a dangerous precedence for future space expeditions.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Delegates should consider the differences between missions to Mars by private organizations, individual nations, or the UN as a whole. In addition, there should be note to the distinction between unmanned (probe or rover) vs. manned missions. Delegates should consider the following questions when writing resolutions.

If a settlement is established on Mars, would the UN or the country sponsoring the mission have sovereignty?

Should common heritage of mankind principle be applied to all space explorations?

How should international law apply to private companies vs a country?

How does the idea of self-determination fit into the future of space settlements?

What updates are necessary (should some be needed) to current international law dealing with outer space?

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TOPIC 2

The Weaponization of Space

Context and Summary

The weaponization of space is a long-standing phenomenon that has been the subject of countless debates and discussions since the 20th century (ILR & ILR, 2017). It involves the placing of weapons in outer space or on celestial bodies as well as the launching of weapons from Earth that are intended to target objects in space and obliterate them. The weaponization of space is not the same as the militarization of space, whereby a country would utilize their space assets to help them on the conventional battlefield. (Harsh Vasani, 2017) Major powers of the world, mainly the United States of America, China and Russia have demonstrated a progressive development in this field, although it remains unclear whether space has been weaponized yet. Publicly, countries have not placed weapons in space, but they have developed weapons that can fire into space. (ILR & ILR, 2017) Consequently, tensions between countries on whether space will become the next frontier of war and another battleground to fight in are on a continuous rise as countries progress forward. The threat of space weaponry has already been committed, although not majorly, in the jamming of enemy satellite signals such as GPS and communications. It is relatively inexpensive to do and has been recorded to have been done in Afghanistan, Iraq and North Korea and probably committed by a number of other countries.

History

The history of weaponization of space mainly began at the end of the 20th century; it came after the period of the early exploration of space in the mid-20th century. The United States, China and the Russian federation have been the most active in progressing in this field over the years. The United States has a significant amount of space weaponry compared to any other country and has been investing billions of dollars on a yearly basis for improving its space capabilities. (Which countries spend the most on space exploration? 2017) (Rogers, S. 2017). Other countries do not have as rich a history in space weaponry due to their lack of resources or their interest on focusing on more pressing concerns. However, certain countries have shown progress in the recent years. France, representing Europe as a whole, expressed its concern in 2008; to adopt a defensive approach in developing space weaponry. (The militarization and weaponization of space: Towards a European space deterrent, 2008)

Role of the International System

In the 1960s and 1970s, a number of treaties were established between world leaders to prevent the weaponization of space. In 1967, the Outer Space Treaty was implemented and agreed upon. (The Outer Space Treaty, 2017) Other treaties include the Partial Test Ban Treaty, Launch Registration Convention and the Moon Agreement. These treaties ensured the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind. (Space Law Treaties and Principles, 2017).

However, the treaties only banned the placement of weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons in space and therefore did not limit countries from developing and possibly using other types space weaponry. (Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space (PAROS) Treaty , 2017). In space, almost anything can be used as a weapon, even a small piece of debris and due to this, many countries argue that the existing laws of space to prevent space weaponization are insufficient. In 2010, during a general assembly meeting, the Russian Federation requested the actualization of the regulations regarding space activities, to fill in the gaps in space law and apply a stricter and more specific framework concerning space activities. Various countries have stressed time and time again that the existing bans in space laws are lacking and insufficient, yet countries still struggle to come to an agreement regarding what actions to take. (Momentum Gathering for Weaponization of Outer Space, 2017).

The United Nations has done relevant actions in preventing the weaponization of space. In 1958, an ad-hoc committee concerning the peaceful uses of outer space was formed which later became a committee on its own (COPUOS). This committee became responsible for ensuring the safe uses of space and facilitation of any problems that might arise. (COPUOS History, 2017). Relations between countries are tight, especially developed ones as they are all fearful of the futuristic technologies of rival countries and seem to expect the worst.

Implications

Most countries are opposed to the weaponization of space. Even key leaders like the Russian Federation and China are against an arms race in outer space. (US, Israel are the only countries to oppose UN ban on weapons in outer space, 2017). If space were to be weaponized and a war in outer space became another commodity, countries like the US, Russia and China would not be as affected as less developed countries such as countries in the African continent, Australia, and numerous others. The most active countries in space technologies, some of them including Japan, India, Canada, European countries, would be placed at an advantage over other countries. (Aerospace Technology, 2017) Moreover, countries with a larger variety of weapons would be at a better advantage, such as those possessing Ballistic missiles along with nuclear weapons and high technological assets. Space weaponization is vital issue of concern. Countries must discuss and overcome their differences concerning futuristic technology and how it can cause space weaponization.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

How can developing countries be aided in the field of space weaponization?

What better space restrictions should be implemented to prevent the weaponization of space?

How can countries agree to more binding space laws?

Can countries agree on a defined term for space weaponry?

Should new treaties be adopted concerning space weaponization?

What should new treaties address that are different from previous proposed solutions?

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