



AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Introduction

Director's Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community.

It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates. At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,

Sarvagya Sharma
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2024



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Moderators' Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024!

It is with honor and greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the seventeenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and to our committee, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Our topics for this year's conference are "UN SDG 16: Increasing the Inclusion of minorities in Development" and "Addressing Health Disparities and Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries".

As your chairs for this upcoming Model United Nations, we are looking forward to meeting you all in person and hearing about all the debates and ideas that our delegates have to offer. We trust that every delegate will be able to put in their best effort to make this committee enjoyable. Our goal is to have everyone leave this year's conference with great memories, which depends on how efficiently each delegate interacts, cooperates, and communicates with us, as well as with other fellow delegates.

With that being said, we expect each delegate to come into the conference with an understanding of the position and policies of the country that they will be representing. We also understand that for some this might be their first conference; therefore, if any concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact us at undpausmun24@gmail.com. We assure you that our team will be helping you through it all, so do not worry if it is your first time participating in such a conference! We hope to see you all at this upcoming conference and we look forward to hearing about issues that we will be discussing.

Best Regards,

Baden Paiva, Berra Sünnetçioğlu, Bouchra Sellam, Lana Zarif



Hi, I'm Baden Paiva, a freshman at AUS majoring in computer science. I like politics and debate, so naturally, MUN has become a hobby of mine. To me, the very spirit of MUN is not only the awards or the speaking but rather the friends made along the way. With that said, I'm very excited to meet you all and to have an exciting conference experience!



Hi! I am Berra Sunnetcioglu, a junior at AUS majoring in Psychology and minoring in English Language and Literature. After getting to meet amazing people in previous MUNs and connecting with many delegates, I knew I had to chair again this year. Can't wait to meet you all at this year's AUSMUN conference!



Hey :) I'm Bouchra Sellam, a junior majoring in Psychology at AUS. I have been participating in AUSMUN since 2018 as a delegate, and I am excited to use my experience to chair this year. I have made plenty of friends through my MUN conferences; therefore, to me, MUN is all about socializing and building connections with people. I can't wait to meet all of you and make this AUSMUN weekend a memorable one.

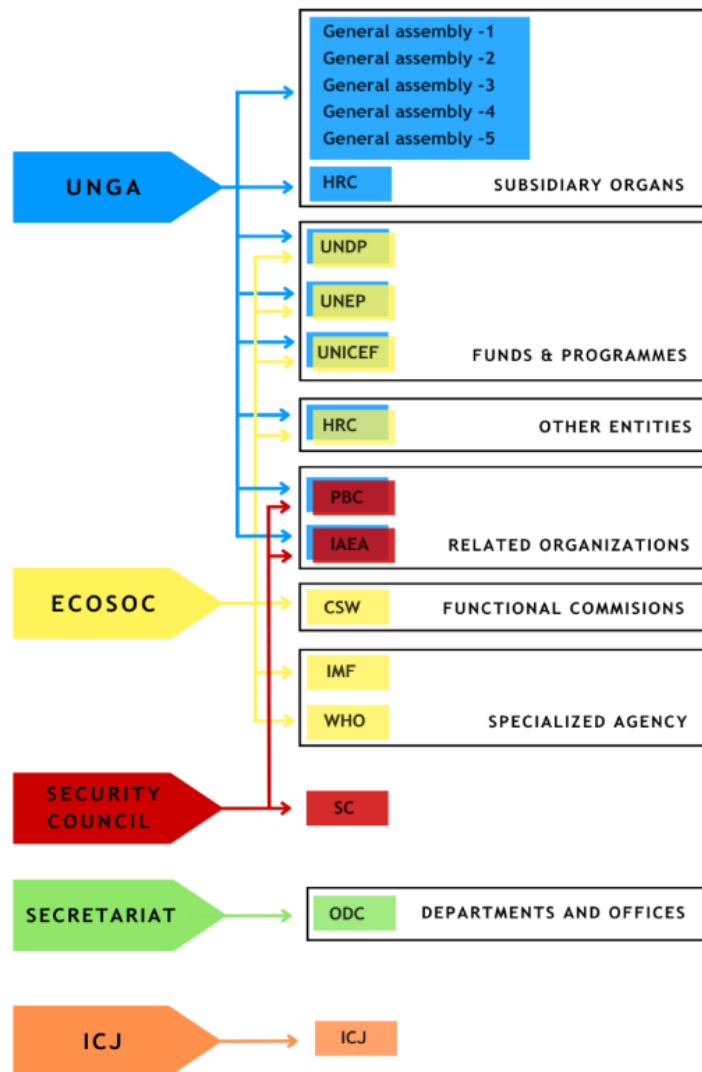


Hello, I'm Lana Zarif, a senior majoring in biology with a passion for international studies. I've been on the AUSMUN journey for seven years now, and I'm thrilled at the prospect of meeting you all. My hope is that we can learn and grow together during this conference.

Brief About Committee

The UNDP was established in 1965 as part of the UN's efforts to assist countries in eradicating poverty and attaining sustainable human development. The focus of this committee is on promoting economic growth that enhances the well-being of all citizens and preserves the environment and natural resources for future generations. Operating in approximately 170 countries and territories, UNDP is dedicated to eliminating poverty, diminishing inequalities, and fostering resilience to ensure sustained progress. Serving as the UN development agency, UNDP plays a crucial role in assisting countries in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The UNDP operates on a consensus-based decision-making process. Member countries engage in discussions to reach an agreement on various issues and initiatives. Each member state has an equal voice in the decision-making process, and decisions are typically made through consultations and negotiations. To carry out its mission, UNDP depends entirely on voluntary donations. These contributions come from a variety of sources, including UN Member States, multilateral organizations, the private sector, and others. The funding received is either in the form of flexible regular resources (core funding) or specified contributions earmarked for particular themes, programs, or projects.

This diagram visually represents the UN system and corresponds to AUSMUN. It reflects the relationships between committees and clearly demonstrates the committee's position, significance, and powers as defined under the UN charter.



Topic 1: UN SDG 16: Increasing the Inclusion of Minorities in Development

Summary & History

In 2015, all United Nations (UN) member states adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that target different facets of sustainable development. SDG 16 aims to promote peace, inclusiveness, and robust governance throughout the world, with a focus on integrating minority communities into development efforts. It recognizes that equitable and inclusive development hinges on prioritizing the rights and voices of marginalized and minority populations.

Minority communities enrich a nation's cultural diversity and heritage with their traditions and customs. There is a history underpinned of the fight for equality, and social justice as well as acknowledgement of the contribution of the minority people in the developmental process. This pursuit traces back to the early 20th century when civil rights movements gained momentum. Movements such as the U.S. civil rights movement and South Africa's anti-apartheid activism highlighted systemic discrimination faced by racial and ethnic minorities, advocating for equal opportunities in education, employment, and access to public services (Minority Rights, 2010).

International human rights took significant steps forward with the establishment of key documents, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) marked a shift from a generic focus to particular marginalized groups, emphasizing minorities' rights to equitable treatment regardless of their race, ethnicity, or cultural heritage (International Human Rights Law: A Short History, n.d.). The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities (DRPBM) was adopted by the UN in 1992, which recognized the rights of minorities to maintain their cultural and linguistic identity and participate in public life. (Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1992).

Minority participation in development at all levels has been significantly enhanced by the

adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, a crucial component of a country's prosperity over time, as minorities have been acknowledged as important over time. Despite this, challenges remain, such as the need for effective data collection, eliminating systemic discrimination, and converting inclusionary principles into real-world policies and practices. Excluding minorities from development efforts can have far-reaching consequences, leading to social injustice, economic disparities, and even political instability. As a result, it can strain international relations, trigger human rights violations, and threaten peace and security, underscoring the importance of making minorities feel included.

With regard to various key terms one may come across or have already come across, the following aims to clarify the definitions used.

Minority has no internationally agreed definition, however, in this context, it refers to groups within a society that differ from the majority population in regards to ethnicity, culture, religion or language (Minorities | United Nations, n.d.).

Development refers to the improvement of the well-being of individuals and communities through economic growth, poverty reduction, healthcare, and social progress.

International Organisations (IOs) are entities like the UN, the World Bank, and others that work on international issues, who often play a pivotal role in setting global development agendas, including addressing the inclusion of minorities.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are private organizations that work independently from governments who often play a crucial role in advocating for and supporting the rights and well-being of marginalized groups.

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms to which all individuals are entitled, including the right to life, liberty, security, equality, and non-discrimination (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, n.d.).

Discourse on Issue

The UN Minorities Declaration of 1992 aims to promote and safeguard the rights of individuals belonging to national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities (Minorities | United Nations, n.d.). Aligned with this, UN SDG 16 focuses on creating peaceful and inclusive societies, extending beyond economic considerations to encompass social, political, and cultural dimensions. Disregarding the rights of minorities not only violates UN Charter principles, fostering discrimination and undermining state stability, but it also directly contradicts the Charter's emphasis on equal treatment (UN Charter, Chapter 1, Article 1). The exclusion of

certain groups not only perpetuates inequality but also obstructs joint international efforts to address overarching global challenges. By embracing inclusivity, as advocated by the Charter, we pave the way for effective collaboration essential to tackling issues that transcend national boundaries (United Nations Charter).

Failure to address minority rights leads to social discontent and tensions, potentially resulting in protests or conflicts. In contrast, the inclusion of minorities fosters social harmony, reducing tensions and enhancing mutual understanding. Inclusive economic policies empower minorities, fostering a diverse and innovative workforce that contributes to long-term economic growth. Conversely, excluding minorities from economic opportunities perpetuates cycles of poverty and hinders overall economic progress.

Excluding minorities from political engagement undermines trust in governance, fueling instability. On the other hand, when minorities actively participate in political processes, it not only contributes to stability but also enhances the inclusivity of governance. In summary, the promotion and protection of minority rights are crucial for societal stability, economic growth, and political cohesion, aligning with the principles of the UN Charter and SDGs.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Development

In a diverse world, including minorities in development is crucial. IOs, regional bodies, and NGOs are increasingly recognizing the importance of protecting the rights and identities of national, ethnic, linguistic, and religious minority groups. The UN Minority Declaration (1992) promotes such protection, and regional organizations like the Organization of African Unity and the European Union have clauses in their charters calling for safeguarding minority identities (Minorities | United Nations, n.d.).

Additionally, NGOs such as the Minority Rights Group work with countries worldwide to ensure that even the most oppressed of people have their voices heard. They offer legal support, consultancies, training, and more to minorities all over the world.

International agreements, such as the UDHR and the UN's 1992 DRPBM, lay the foundation for minority inclusion. Conventions like the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) address the needs of weaker minority groups. Despite the success of these measures, a critical limitation lies in translating these international commitments into national policies and ensuring the enforcement of human rights. Not to mention that some governments may not prioritize minority rights, leading to limited or even no implementation.

Stories of the expulsion and/or genocide of minorities have heavily populated the news

throughout the years. Most recently, Palestinians have had their supply of clean water and food cut off, while also being forced into different parts of the country (Mapping the conflict in Israel and Gaza, 2023). Beyond that, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar is another prime example of minorities being forced away from their homes and into refugee camps with barely all the essentials (Rohingya crisis, n.d.).

The UNDP is a leading UN agency that primarily focuses on promoting sustainable human development and addressing various global challenges, its “mandate is to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law, and inclusive institutions” (UNDP, 2023). Its work is aligned with the broader United Nations system and contributes to the UN's mission of promoting peace, security, development, and human rights.

Numerous countries and organizations are actively working to address minority inclusion in development, but efforts must continue to bridge the gap between international commitments and effective national policies for minority protection and inclusion.

Questions That Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- How can countries ensure the effective implementation of policies aimed at increasing the inclusion of minorities in development?
- How can access to justice be improved for minority communities, especially in cases of discrimination or human rights violations?
- What strategies can be implemented to promote economic inclusion and empowerment of minority groups?
- How can countries enhance the political representation of minorities in decision-making processes?
- What specific legal frameworks and safeguards are necessary to protect the rights of minority populations and ensure their inclusion in development efforts?

Suggestions For Further Research

- Examine the Israel-Palestine Conflict with regard to the condition of the Palestinian people (<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/MAPS/movajdladpa/>).
- Analyze the conditions of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh (<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/rohingya-crisis>).
- Highlight the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Chinese vocational camps (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/08/31/china-unrelenting-crimes-against-humanity-target>

[ing-uyghurs](#)).

- Assess the unequal impact of crises like war, famine, and pandemics on minorities (<https://jech.bmj.com/content/75/10/970>)

Timeline of Major Events

1992: Adoption of the United Nations Minorities Declaration, emphasizing the promotion and protection of the rights of individuals belonging to minorities.

2007: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognizing their rights to self-determination, lands, territories, and resources.

2011: Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights - The UN Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, outlining the responsibilities of states and businesses to prevent, address, and remedy human rights abuses linked to business activities.

2015: Adoption of the UN SDGs including SDG 16, which focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

2016: The first annual review of SDG progress takes place at the UN High-Level Political Forum, providing a platform for discussions on the implementation of SDG 16.

2021: Ongoing discussions and initiatives at various international forums, NGOs, and civil society organizations focus on the implementation of SDG 16 and the specific challenges faced by minorities in achieving inclusivity in development.

2022: Civilian deaths due to conflict have surged by over 50 percent.

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<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

Topic 2: Addressing Health Disparities and Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries

Summary & History

Health disparities and the persistence of infectious diseases in developing countries remain pressing global challenges. As outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011), health disparities can be described as “differences in health outcomes between groups that reflect social inequalities” (p. 1). This complex issue revolves around the inequities in health outcomes, disease prevalence, and healthcare access in developing nations. These disparities are intricately tied to the persistence of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and are exacerbated by the lack of access to quality healthcare infrastructure. Therefore, a major goal of the sustainable development agenda developed by the UN is to ensure that every person is able to get access to adequate healthcare. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of inadequate access to health treatments and facilities in developing countries became crucial to tackle and discuss.

There are several economic and environmental factors that are the principal causes of health disparities and epidemics in developing countries. Economic factors such as income inequality are some of the most prevalent factors that cause many individuals in developing countries to face health problems. Low-income individuals often lack access to essential healthcare services, including preventative care and treatment for infectious diseases. Economic factors also create an issue with inadequate infrastructure, which results in insufficient access to medical facilities, skilled healthcare professionals, and essential medications.

Furthermore, poor environmental factors and malnutrition also increase health issues in developing countries. Almost all developing countries face severe issues when it comes to sanitized water resources. In fact, according to the UN (n.d.), “2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water, including 703 million without a basic water service; 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion without basic sanitation services; and 2 billion lacked a basic hand washing facility” (para. 8).

Moreover, developing countries lack general sanitation, which in turn causes health issues in those who live in unclean places. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2019), “3 billion people lack basic hand washing facilities with soap and water at home in 2017”, almost 75% of these 3 billion are individuals in developing countries (para. 8). Issues relating to sanitation are causing around 297 thousand children annually to die due to diseases such as diarrhea. Furthermore, wars and unrest in developing nations further impede individuals

from getting the suitable form of treatment and sanitation they require.

In conclusion, addressing the root causes of health disparities and infectious diseases in developing countries, such as economic inequality and poor environmental conditions, is crucial for achieving global health equity and saving lives in these vulnerable populations. Failure to resolve the health issue in developing countries can cause global implications, the most important being the death of individuals who are unable to access healthcare.

Discourse on the Issue

Having access to primary healthcare is a human right that every individual deserves. It is crucial to be able to provide humans with their basic needs of a healthy body and a healthy environment. Discussing the health disparities in developing countries is important not only on the national level but also on the international stage in the era of the hyper-interdependent state. Globalization and trade have made it increasingly easy for epidemics to spread and become pandemics. The most salient example of an epidemic becoming a pandemic is the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic was a screening for how a globally interconnected humanity might react to viral disease. Moreover, it quickly overwhelmed weaker healthcare systems around the globe, singling them out as requiring improvement. While the whole world suffered from the pandemic, developing countries suffered even more as they lacked the infrastructure and materials to help combat it (Levin et al., 2021). Therefore, discussing the issue of healthcare in developing countries is crucial as the lives of many depend on it. Ignoring our obligations to give every human their right to healthcare would go against the universally accepted human rights and the UN SDGs.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Development

Numerous past actions have been taken by IOs to address health disparities and combat infectious diseases in developing countries. One of the most notable actions to aid this cause is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Health Inequalities, 2023). The MDGs set specific targets related to health, leading to significant progress in increasing access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV and reducing malaria-related deaths. Similarly, the UN SDGs have aimed at improving the health and well-being of individuals all around the world. By discussing and adapting these goals, the UN aims to highlight the importance of alleviating the health disparities and issues that arise in developing countries.

In addition to all the goals developed by the UN, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,

Tuberculosis, and Malaria, established in 2002, has mobilized substantial resources to support countries in their efforts to combat these three major infectious diseases. This program aimed to provide funding for testing, treatment, and prevention programs (The Global Fund, n.d.). Furthermore, the WHO plays a crucial role in this topic by providing guidance, support, and technical assistance to countries in their healthcare efforts. Moreover, UNAIDS, a joint program of the UN, focuses on ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in African countries such as Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, and Botswana, providing leadership, advocacy, and support to national responses. Access to medicines initiatives, including the Medicines Patent Pool and UNITAID, work to increase access to affordable medicines, particularly antiretroviral drugs for HIV, in developing countries. All these programs have aimed to alleviate health issues that arise from both economic and environmental factors in developing countries. While the UN and other organizations have taken initiatives and programs to help developing countries when it comes to health disparities, more is needed to ensure that every individual has access to adequate health facilities and treatments.

Questions that Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- How to improve medical infrastructure in developing countries?
- What preventions should be taken by countries to ensure that epidemics do not spread?
- What can be done to restore health systems in countries that are experiencing/experienced wars?
- How to improve environmental factors that are leading to epidemics and health issues?
- What actions should be taken by developed countries to ensure that individuals in developing countries receive their human rights?

Suggestions For Further Research

- Discusses possible solutions to alleviate the environmental conditions
- Assesses the impact of HIV/AIDS on developing countries
 - (https://www.who.int/health-topics/hiv-aids#tab=tab_1)
- Assesses the impact of Malaria outbreak
 - (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>)
- Examines how COVID-19 highlighted the importance of adequate healthcare in all countries around the world, especially in developing countries
 - (<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-peoples-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems>)

- Highlights the impact of healthcare disparities and epidemics on women

Timeline of Major Events

1986: The Global Programme on AIDS (now UNAIDS) is established after the first AIDS case was reported in 1981

1990: WHO launches the Roll Back Malaria to help developing countries combat the malaria outbreak

2000: United Nations develops goal 6 from the Millennium Development Goals, which targeted HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other disease outbreaks in developing countries

2005: The WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR) are updated to enhance global cooperation when responding to public health emergencies

2010: The UN develops the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 3 that focuses on good health and well-being

2020: COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates the lack of and the need for equitable access to healthcare and vaccines

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