



General Assembly I (GA1):
Disarmament and International Security



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2023! It is with honor and the greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the sixteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and specifically to our committee, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (GA-1). This committee, also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), is the primary panel for the consideration of matters of global security within the United Nations. Formed in 1945, it also serves in an advisory capacity to the UN Security Council. GA-1 is also able to make recommendations for resolutions on matters of peace and security as well as budgets and their use.

Every year in October, the 193-member states meet to discuss important issues that generally fall into two categories. To begin, there are issues concerning weapons, such as nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and other conventional weapons. Second, potential regulations for private sector companies that provide assistance and training to military and security services will be conferred. This background guide is the first step in your preparation for the conference.

We, as your chairs, are looking forward to meeting you all and hopefully making the most out of this experience by interacting, communicating, and cooperating efficiently. During this three-day conference we will be discussing the following topics: “Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race” and “Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance”. We advise that you expand beyond the background guide and conduct your own thorough research regarding both topics, your allocated countries’ stance, and capabilities in order to generate fruitful debate during this conference. We truly hope, and believe, that this year’s conference will be a memorable one for both parties. We wish you the best of luck with your preparations and we look forward to meeting you all at AUSMUN 2023. If you have any inquiries please contact us via email (GA1AUSMUN2023@gmail.com), please send your position papers to the same email address as well.

Best Regards,
Rama Hamarsheh, Rand Asmar, Ajay Sunil,
Chairs of GA1



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

General Assembly I

A two-thirds majority of the members are present and voting is required for the General Assembly to make critical decisions. Other questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority. These questions include recommendations on international peace and security, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, members of the Economic and Social Council, members of the Trusteeship Council, admission of new members to the United Nations, suspension of membership rights and privileges, and expulsion of members.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

Over the past few decades, there has been an increase in interest in outer space due to the world's rapid modernization through technology and scientific research. Many countries and nations have been interested in exploring outer space to find solutions to countless existing issues. With this increase in interest, there have also been many efforts placed forth by the United Nations (UN) to maintain peace in outer space, which initially began in 1957. This was caused by the many concerns raised with the issue of militarizing outer space. Militarization in outer space entails adapting space for military use by placing weapons in space alongside developing and creating weapons that will be able to function in space. In any case, the purpose of this discussion is to create a framework that ensures order to protect outer space while exploiting ways to maintain the status quo and preventing additional militarization of outer space.

There are already numerous existing treaties and policies to ensure peace between countries that have been enforced by the UN to balance and control the utilization of outer space. One of the first treaties, The Outer Space Treaty, was imposed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the General Assembly in 1967 after very careful consideration. Additionally, it provides fundamental guidelines for the peaceful use of space.

What started the space arms race between the US and the USSR began in 1957 when the Soviet Union sent the Sputnik 1 satellite into orbit. This initiated the long competition of who is stronger and which country has more power in terms of space exploration. On July 16, 1969, after many years of back-and-forth accomplishments between the US and the USSR, the space race ended when the US astronaut Neil Armstrong successfully landed on the moon, however, given the growing interest in space exploration and power from third parties, it is still yet to be believed that the space race has completely ended.

One of the many factors that led to the emergence of this issue is the Anti-Satellite (ASAT) test. This satellite device was designed by Russia to eradicate hostile space assets, limiting the ability of the opposing army to function on the battlefield. Human satellites are the main targets of these missiles which can lead to a disaster. After the experiment has been conducted, we can see that there is a vast amount of space debris created which poses a threat to many astronauts. Moreover, study shows that particles as small as one-tenth of a millimeter in size can cause catastrophic damage to satellites and spacecraft in low orbit, where the speed is roughly 10 km/sec. When debris from low-Earth orbit (LEO) re-enters the atmosphere, it poses a fatal threat to individuals and property on earth. Countries such as China, India, Russia, and the United States have successfully launched ASAT missiles during which other countries have been building and developing their own.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

Outer space

Outer space refers to the empty region beyond the Earth's atmosphere. This term is distinguished from airspace and terrestrial areas. Since the density of the atmosphere steadily decreases with altitude, there is no distinct barrier between Earth's atmosphere and space.

Militarization of Outer Space

A general meaning of the term "militarization of space" would include any use of space for military objectives. This definition also implies that weapons may or may not be present in outer space and that any space object that is a component of a bigger system carrying out a specific military function would represent the militarization of outer space.

Arms Race

Arms race refers to the rivalry of two or more groups for military superiority. The term is also used to describe any long-term escalating competitive situation where each competitor or competitive group focuses on outdoing others (Smith, 1980). It refers to a competition between two or more states to have superior military forces; a competition concerning the production of weapons, the growth of a military, and the aim of superior military technology

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

The Charter of the United Nations (1945), prohibits the threat or use of force in outer space. In addition, the Outer Space Treaty (1967), provides the basic framework for international space law by prohibiting the placement of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction in outer space. In 1985, the United Nations advocated for a complete ban on the weaponization of outer space in 'The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space' resolution which reaffirms the fundamental principles of the 1967 'Outer Space Treaty'.

The Conference on Disarmament (CD), in the early 1980's, addressed the agenda item "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" in an attempt to prevent the use of weapons in outer space. However, early space exploration in the mid-20th century had a military motivation, as the United States and the Soviet Union used it to demonstrate ballistic-missile technology and other technologies with military applications. Furthermore, the consequences of space weapons testing and aggression could last generations. As such, current technological advances only add to the urgency for policymakers to pursue a treaty to limit their use. It is therefore important to note the importance of discussing the weaponization of space which could demolish strategic stability, undermine national and international security and disrupt existing arms control instruments. As such, the three major implications of a space arms race include:

1. The destruction of satellites

Satellites are used to coordinate military operations in addition to more mundane tasks such as obtaining weather reports, managing on-ground communications, and navigation.

If states begin testing weapons in space, debris could clog the orbit resulting in difficulties in positioning new satellites. Furthermore, if an enemy state successfully destroys a country's satellites, military capabilities can be severely hampered or destroyed, leaving the country vulnerable to attack and unable to coordinate its military forces on the ground.

1. Diminished future use of the outer space

The proliferation of debris around the planet would jeopardize our ability to access outer space in the future by making satellite or rocket launches much more difficult, impeding scientific research, space exploration, and commercial operations.

1. Power imbalances and proliferation on the ground

Due to the fact that only a few states currently have access to space, any militarization would be limited to them, leaving other states to fend for themselves. This would create a clear power and political imbalance, which could lead to significant distrust among nations.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

With the rising concerns growing on the issue of weaponization of outer space, the significance of regulating militarization of outer space is necessary to prevent the possibility of a space arms race in the future. The space race between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1969 officially ended, however, this marked the beginning of a new space race for other nations including India, Japan, China, South Korea, and North Korea. The United States of America was one of the first nations to sign the Outer Space Treaty, however, the US has previously disagreed with the banning of space weapons, which China and the Russian Federation have agreed on. After launching the Tianwen-1 in July 2020, China has successfully landed on Mars as of February 2021. In addition, China has denied all allegations that have been made surrounding the attachment of weapons onto its military satellites by signing the UN treaty for preventing weapons of mass destruction from being used in outer space. Furthermore, Japan has launched a military satellite for communication between the army and the defense system which has raised controversy regarding its potential violation of the Outer Space Treaty. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) has not agreed to sign the Outer Space Treaty as of November 2021, however, due to the censorship and lack of transparency from the North Korean government, very little can be inferred about its stance regarding the issue.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

The General Assembly provides an international platform where matters regarding global peace and security are collectively discussed by all member states. The Assembly's work on disarmament is conducted through one of its central committees, the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security.

The conversation regarding the militarization of outer space ranges as far back as 1958 when the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space helped to draft the first international outer space law. One of the most crucial of these is the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. It explicitly forbids the presence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the earth's orbit or on celestial bodies. The act of establishing military stations or conducting military maneuvers on the moon or other planetary objects was also condemned. The flaw in this treaty is that it does not prevent member states from placing other types of weapons in space, and as a means of addressing this issue, in the final document of the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament, the aforementioned discussions and negotiations should take place in the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

The UN CD is the primary panel that manages and discusses space disarmament. However, ever since 1998, there has been a deadlock set by the US when they opposed plans to adopt a multilateral accord on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). The General Assembly continues to conduct these discussions in the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, and PAROS is once again brought up and adopted by the vast majority of member states, except for the US and Israel, who choose to abstain.

Additionally, in 2006, Russia and China submitted a draft treaty to the UN for the prevention of weapons in space. They urged member states for their cooperation in not resorting to the use or threat of use of force against space objects.

Timeline

Year	Diplomatic Initiatives and Milestones in Arms Control in Outer Space
1957	The USSR launches Sputnik which sparks the beginning of the space race between the USSR and the USA.
1957	The US proposes at the UN that space be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that the development of missile technologies be subjected to oversight and inspection.
1958	The USSR proposes at the UN that space be under UN control and that military uses of space and rockets be banned.
1958	Establishment of the UNOOSA: The first official UN branch dedicated to ensuring actions of outer space.
1959	UN Resolution 1348 (XIII) establishes the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), mandated to consider legal questions and facilitate international cooperation in outer space activities.
1961	UN Resolution 1721 (XVI) acknowledges the application of international law, including the UN Charter, to outer space and the principle of freedom of space; calls on states to inform the UN about objects launched into space.
1963	The Partial Test Ban Treaty signed by the US, USSR, and UK bans tests of nuclear weapons in outer space and other domains.
1967	The Outer Space Treaty, formally the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" is formed.
1978	The UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) is recognized as a "single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community."
1982	PAROS was introduced as an agenda item at the CD.
2000	China urges the CD to negotiate a new "international legally binding instrument" to stop the weaponization of space
2011	The CD establishes the working body "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" to discuss all issues related to an arms race in outer space.
2014	The EU hosts multilateral talks outside of the UN to finalize the Code of Conduct; no agreement is reached.
2021	The UN Secretary-General reports on states' submissions on threatening and reassuring behaviors in space and opportunities to advance norms, rules, and principles.
2021	UN Resolution 76/231 "Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors is adopted, establishing an open-ended working group to recommend possible norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviors that relate to threats by states to space systems.

(West and Vyse, 2021)

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(West and Vyse, 2021)

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

- How can nations increase transparency regarding the usage of military satellites?
- How can more economically developed countries aid less economically developed countries in the research and development of outer space strategic defence initiatives?
- What are some measures that the international community can take to de-escalate the threat of an international crisis via an arms race in space if one were to occur?
- What agreements, declarations, treaties or conventions has your state signed concerning this issue?
- What role has your state played to help adequately define or codify the uniform standards for PAROS?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 1: Militarization of Outer Space and the Possibility of a Space Arms Race

Bajarani, S., & Talmon, S. (2022, April 27). *Preventing an arms race in outer space and political game-play at the United Nations - GPIL - German practice in international law*. GPIL. Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://gpil.jura.uni-bonn.de/2020/02/preventing-an-arms-race-in-outer-space-and-political-game-play-at-the-united-nations/>

Conference on disarmament holds thematic discussion on the prevention of an arms race in Outer Space. UN GENEVA. (2021, June 1). Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2021/06/conference-disarmament-holds-thematic-discussion-prevention-arms>

Lauder, J., Klotz, F. G., & Courtney, W. (2020, October 26). *How to avoid a space arms race*. RAND Corporation. Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/10/how-to-avoid-a-space-arms-race.html>

Peperkamp, L. (2020). *An Arms Race in Outer Space? Atlantisch Perspectief*, 44(4)46–50. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48600572>

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

Soviet Union

Until 1929, when private gun ownership was prohibited, Soviet citizens were allowed to own firearms. Joseph Stalin's repressive and brutal regime came to power while firearm ownership was made illegal. During Stalin's reign, tens of millions of Soviet dissidents and others deemed a threat to the government were rounded up and either murdered or imprisoned or forced to work, sometimes to death. Stalin's heartless disregard for life, combined with his extreme paranoia, eventually led to the Communist Party's purge, at the same time as a total gun ban was imposed. During the purge, Stalin famously said, " If the opposition disarms, well and good. If it refuses to disarm, we shall disarm it ourselves."

Germany

Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany instituted gun control in 1938, around the same time he ordered the extermination of Jewish men, women, and children. By the time the killing ceased, his murderous decisions had resulted in the deaths of approximately 13 million Jews and others from various undesirable minority groups.

China

Mao Zedong of China was the greatest mass murderer of the twentieth century. According to the authoritative "Black Book of Communism," Mao's repeated, ruthless attempts to create a new "socialist" China killed an estimated 65 million Chinese. Anyone who stood in his way was executed, imprisoned, or forced into famine. In 1935, the Nationalist Chinese government-imposed gun control.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

The United States of America

The United States Congress has enacted gun control legislation, and the Supreme Court has ruled on several cases. The National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 was America's first major federal gun control legislation enacted in the United States. Many more legislations and policies have been issued since then. Moreover, The Gun Control Act of 1968 established the legal framework for the sale of firearms in the United States. It established licensing requirements, restrictions on who could purchase firearms, and interstate trading regulations. Gun control advocates want stricter restrictions on the sale, possession, and use of firearms, whereas gun rights advocates, see ownership as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Public gun control debates usually happen in the United States when a mass shooting occurs. These tragedies remind people of America's gun problem. According to studies, it was shown that the United States has a very large amount of firearm violence than other developing nations. There are many supporters of gun control, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted a study that says that 71% of Americans agree with implementing stricter gun control policies. The United States, which has had 1.4 million gun deaths in the last four decades, has approximately 40% of the world's civilian-owned firearms. Despite this, there has been almost no federal funding for research that could inform gun policy until recently.

Key terms

Firearms

A 'firearm' is typically used in a state's national and domestic context, including the legislative framework for the manufacture, transfer, ownership, and use of such 'firearms.' Private ownership would be included. However, the term firearm has many different legal definitions in different countries.

Gun Laws and Policies

Domestic regulation of firearm manufacture, trade, possession, use, and transport, with a focus on the small arms category of weapons (revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles, carbines, assault rifles, submachine guns, and light machine guns).

In the context of gun laws, some terms are used in several countries. These are some examples:

- *Shall-issue* refers to the granting of a required license or permit that is subject only to meeting certain legal criteria; the granting authority has no discretion in awarding licenses.
- *May-issue* is when local authorities have some discretion in granting a required permit or license. Some jurisdictions may offer administrative and legal avenues for a permit applicant to appeal a permit denial, while others may not.
- *No-issue* granting of a required permit or license is not allowed, except in certain very limited circumstances.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

To limit the proliferation of illicit firearms, member states of the United Nations have agreed to implement a range of measures to 'prevent, combat, and eradicate' the harmful effects of small arms and light weapons around the world. These include the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN small arms Programme of Action, the UN Register of Conventional Weapons, and the UN Arms Trade Treaty. However, still, the destabilizing accumulation, illicit transfer, and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to initiate, sustain and exacerbate armed conflict and pervasive crime globally. The high school massacres in the US, the armed gangs in Brazil, and the systematic sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo all share a common denominator: the availability of guns (UN, 2005).

Gun Violence and Human Rights

Gun violence is a daily tragedy that affects individuals around the world both physically and mentally. But more importantly, it violates the most fundamental human right – the right to life. Thus, all states have an obligation to fight actual or foreseeable threats to life and are required to take precautionary measures to protect their people from gun violence. In addition, people living in communities with higher levels of gun violence may find it harder or more dangerous to access local healthcare facilities as neighborhoods are usually armed with criminal gangs who can obstruct access to health services. Furthermore, the lack of security can have profound psychological effects, particularly for violence witnesses, members of the victim's family, and survivors of gun violence. Firearm violence can also have a serious impact on children and adolescents by disrupting school attendance, and difficulty in recruiting teaching staff in neighborhoods with higher rates of gun violence which can all reduce the quality of teaching and undermine their right to education.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

Gun Violence Worldwide

Gun violence is particularly prevalent in the Americas and specifically: The United States, Brazil, El Salvador, and Honduras (Amnesty International, n.d.). This is due to easy access to firearms, weak regulation, and poor implementation of the laws that combat gun violence. The issue is further fueled by corruption, organized crime, and a dysfunctional justice system in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2017, 39,773 people died from gunshot injuries in the USA as individuals can lawfully openly carry guns in public in 45 states. The US has also been subject to accusations related to discrimination as gun homicides disproportionately impact more African American communities and in particular young black men. The need to strengthen and develop more effective measures that enhance background checks and allow review of mental-health records for individuals who want to purchase firearms has been argued by gun-control activists for years. On the other hand, advocates of gun rights continuously argue that there is no evidence to suggest that gun policies will be effective if strictly implemented in curbing the rate of gun-related deaths (Santaella-Tenorio et al., 2016). Gun control advocates frequently point to Japan's highly restrictive firearm regulations, as well as the country's unusually low gun death rate. In a country of 125 million people, fewer than one hundred Japanese people are killed by gun violence each year. The majority of guns are illegal in the country, and ownership rates reflect this. Furthermore, the vast majority of police officers in the United Kingdom do not carry firearms, distinguishing them from their counterparts in the United States and other countries. Guns are only available to specially trained police units who respond to specific emergencies or deploy for specific types of operations.

The Impact of Mass Shootings on Gun Policy

In recent decades, there have been dozens of high-profile mass shootings. Firstly, mass shootings elicit significant policy responses. A single mass shooting increases the number of firearm bills introduced in a state by 15% the year after the shooting. This effect grows in proportion to the number of fatalities. Second, while mass shootings account for a small proportion of all gun deaths, they have a disproportionate impact in comparison to other homicides. According to Luca and Malhotra (n.d.), the per-death impact of mass shootings on bills introduced is roughly 80 times that of individual gun homicides in non-mass shooting incidents. Thirdly, when it comes to enacted laws, the impact of mass shootings is determined by the political party in power. Mass shooting increases the number of laws enacted to relax gun restrictions significantly.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

Economic Impacts of Gun Violence

In addition to the human impact, examining the serious economic consequences of gun violence provides a broader perspective on how widespread and costly this crisis is. Gun violence surges significantly reduce the growth of new retail and service businesses in the neighborhoods where they occur, resulting in fewer local jobs and fewer local establishments available for residents to shop at. Furthermore, in the United States, it was found that in states with stricter gun laws, the economic toll of gun violence is significantly lower, whereas, in states with weaker gun laws and higher rates of gun injuries and fatalities, gun violence costs

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

The UN General Assembly decided to enlarge the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and wanted to combat issues dealing with underdevelopment, violence, and insecurity. In particular, SDG 16.4 commits states to reduce illicit arms flows by 2030 drastically, and the UNODC is the body that oversees this effort.

Additionally, all member states have committed to implementing an extensive range of measures to prevent, combat, and eliminate the deadly consequences of small arms and light weapons worldwide. These include the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Small Arms Programme of Action (UNPoA), the UN Register of Conventional Weapons, and the UN Arms Trade Treaty.

In particular, the UNPoA places a political (but not legal) obligation for member states to implement the various measures agreed upon and report to the UN with periodic reports. These commitments include, but are not limited to, "regulating small arms transfers and brokering activities; criminalizing the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of small arms and light weapons; ensuring that weapons be marked and registered; enforcing arms embargoes; destroying surplus and confiscated weapons; raising public awareness; and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs"(Alpers, Philip and Marcus Wilson, 2013). However, this document has come under heavy scrutiny and criticism for "talking big but doing little" (Red Cross, 2018). In 2018, the Programme was updated by a UN working body to concentrate on "through-life ammunition management" which would require manufacturers to number their bullets, and for the UN to track and trace the buyers and sellers of said ammunition.

Timeline

Year	Event
1934	The National Firearms Act (NFA) — part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “New Deal for Crime”— was meant to curtail “gangland crimes of that era such as the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.”
1938	The Federal Firearms Act (FFA) of 1938 required gun manufacturers, importers, and dealers to obtain a federal firearms license. It also defined a group of people, including convicted felons, who could not purchase guns, and mandated that gun sellers keep customer records
1986	The Firearm Owners Protection Act was passed by Congress. The law mainly enacted protections for gun owners — prohibiting a national registry of dealer records, limiting ATF inspections to once per year.
1993	The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act amends the GCA, requiring that background checks be completed before a gun is purchased from a licensed dealer, manufacturer or importer.
1994	The Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

- If gun control policies were to be strictly implemented, how effective would they be at preventing firearm-violence?
- What are the social, political and economic effects of gun policies?
- The question of whether gun policies should make exceptions for cases of self defense.



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 2: Gun Control Policies: Effective or a Hindrance

Alpers, P. (n.d.). Gun control and the United Nations: Small arms policy, Firearm Injury and gun law. Gun Law and Policy: Firearms and armed violence, country by country. Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/united-nations>

Masters, J. (2022, June 10). U.S. gun policy: Global comparisons. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/us-gun-policy-global-comparisons>

Spartan, S. (2022, May 31). A brief history of gun control: A disarmed population is easier to oppress than an armed one. Spartan Firearms Training Group. Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.spartanfirearmstraininggroup.com/a-brief-history-of-gun-control-a-disarmed-population-is-easier-to-oppress-than-an-armed-one/>

The Economic Cost of Gun Violence. Everytown Research & Policy. (2022, July 19). Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/>

American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



MMXXIII

2022-2023



General Assembly II (GA2):
Economics and Finance



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

We are so excited to welcome you to AUSMUN 2023! It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly, also known as the Second Committee (GA-2 for short). We are honoured to be here with you all today, as we embark on this journey of debating and discussing some of the most pressing global issues that the world is facing today.

As your chairs, our main aims are to guide the discussions in the room, all the while ensuring that all delegates get equal opportunities to express their opinions and solutions to the topics at hand. The committee will address topics of development and economic policy, including sustainable development, international trade and economies, eradication of poverty, and globalization. We expect delegates to be fully aware of their country's stance on these fronts.

This background guide serves as an introduction to the topics to be discussed in this committee, which should be the first step for individual research. We advise delegates to explore their country's policies and past actions on these topics, and we further encourage them to go through the References to further their knowledge.

We hope that you will all leave the conference with a unique insight into these topics and develop the skills and potential which make you a better advocate as a youth in this generation.

We look forward to meeting you all soon and wish you the best of luck with your position papers and research journeys.

Best Regards,
Fatema Shams and Rayan Ghadhab,
Chairs of GA2



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

General Assembly II

The General Assembly was created in 1945 when the United Nations Charter came into force. The Charter states that the General Assembly shall be composed of representatives of the member states and shall be the main deliberative organ of the UN. Since then, the General Assembly has become the main forum for discussion of international issues. The General Assembly is the only body of the UN in which every member state has an equal voice. Each country has one vote, regardless of its size or economic or military power. This gives every country an equal opportunity to influence the decisions made by the organization. The voting procedure in the General Assembly is simple, where each member state is allowed to cast one vote on each issue. A majority of those voting is required for a decision to be adopted. If a vote is tied, the President of the General Assembly has a casting vote.

The General Assembly can take action on a wide range of issues, and it can consider draft resolutions, make recommendations, and initiate studies and reports. It also plays an important role in the election of members of the Security Council and other organs of the UN. The General Assembly holds regular sessions each year, which representatives from all UN members attend. The primary purpose of these sessions is to discuss, debate, and adopt resolutions on a wide range of international topics, which are then sent to the other organs of the UN for consideration and action. The General Assembly also has the power to establish and dissolve subsidiary organs, such as committees and working groups. These organs are tasked with researching and addressing specific issues and making recommendations to the General Assembly. The General Assembly also serves as the primary platform for international negotiations. Representatives from different countries come together to discuss and negotiate the terms of international laws and treaties which can range from disarmament and arms control issues to global trade and economic development.

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

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

Currencies, defined as “something (such as coins, treasury notes, and banknotes) that is in circulation as a medium of exchange” (Definition of CURRENCY, n.d.), have been part of everyday lifestyle from the beginning of modern civilization, starting with barter systems and eventually evolving towards having objects which represented a value, which could be exchanged for items. Some of the main features of money are durability, portability, divisibility, uniformity, limited supply, and acceptability (Walla, n.d.), which have been the bases for the evolutions currencies have faced throughout the years. Normal currency has transitioned greatly since 640 BC when the first known coin was minted, towards paper currency, and eventually mobile and virtual currency as we see at present (Beattie, 2019).

The reasons for the changes were mostly the cost of producing, their durability, and other features of money which eventually made it more efficient to make the change. However, the last 5 years have seen a rapid rise in “cryptocurrencies”, with the increasing popularity of Bitcoin as its value skyrocketed to \$60,000 in 2021 (Siripurapu, 2021). Also, the increase in ease of online banking and mobile payment with apps such as Appel Pay started to diminish the need for wallets and revolutionized how a customer aims. Furthermore, some central banks have also started considering the adoption of virtual currencies, including the Bank of England, the US Federal Reserve, and the European Central Bank at the forefront of this adoption (Elsayed & Nasir, 2022). These are known as Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), which are currently being -approached- quickly by the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of China to gain efficient ways of managing their economies (Siripurapu, 2021). These developments have been accompanied by doubts of security and legitimacy, although the covid pandemic may have played a big part in the fast rise of these technologies. The future of digital currencies has speculations of cryptocurrencies, NFTS, and Blockchain, are leading the way to the future of finance as opposed to the normal notes and coins of the day.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

Digital currencies are unclear whether they will be widely adopted or not. Several factors could influence the future of digital currencies, including government regulation, technological advancement, and public opinion. Government regulation is one of the most important factors that will influence the future of digital currencies. If governments decide to crack down on digital currencies, it could discourage their use and hinder their development. On the other hand, if governments decide to support digital currencies, it could help them gain mainstream exposure. As the technology improves, it will become more secure, faster and convenient for users. With the help of these improvements, cryptocurrencies will become more accessible to the public and will be used in many ways.

Cryptocurrencies have been in use for quite some time now but their popularity and usage is still in its initial stages. However, as more people start using them, the technology and infrastructure surrounding digital currencies will also start to improve. This will help in making them more accessible and useful for the public. On the other hand, if the public has a positive view of digital currencies, it could help them to gain mainstream adoption. The future of digital currencies is uncertain. Digital currencies have the potential to revolutionize the way we interact with the digital world. For the first time, we have a form of money that can be used across the globe, without the need for banks or other financial institutions.

This could lead to a more inclusive financial system, where everyone has access to the same opportunities. There are many different digital currencies available, each with its advantages and disadvantages. However, all of them share the same basic principle: they allow users to send and receive payments without the need for a middleman. This could lead to lower transaction costs, and more importantly, it could make it much easier to send money to anyone in the world. The future of digital currencies is very exciting. There is a lot of potential for them to grow and become more widely used. However, there are also some risks. For example, if one digital currency becomes dominant, it could become too powerful and centralized. This could have negative consequences for the global economy. Overall, digital currencies have the potential to change the way we interact with the digital world. They could lead to a more inclusive financial system and lower transaction costs. However, some risks need to be considered.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

The topic of digital currencies has caused various governments, banks, and companies to consider adaptations to their financial systems. Various major international financial institutions such as The World Bank and The European Central Bank have a similar definition of cryptocurrencies, where they categorize them into a subset of digital currencies as long as they follow a set of rules (Houben & Snyers, 2018). The international community have privacy and security concerns due to the popularity of cryptocurrencies, causing a set of regulations to be enforced in the near future.

Moreover, many countries are looking towards alternate international financial systems in the future, leading to the adoption of CBDCs. As of October 2022, 105 countries are currently exploring CBDCs, compared to just 35 in May 2020 (CBDC Tracker, n.d.). Furthermore, 10 of these countries have successfully launched a digital currency as of October 2022, with China leading with their pilot in 2023 (CBDC Tracker, n.d.). Although the speed of its adoption is increasing rapidly; however, there are many other cryptocurrencies that have been doing well too, such as Litecoin, Ripple and Monero. This is great news for investors and those who have been holding onto their coins for a while, as they are seeing some nice profits. However, it is also creating a lot of buzz and excitement around the space, which is attracting new investors and users.

The race for digital currency adoption is present among international banks as well, which look at it as a way of improving efficiency in their payment systems, due to the improved ease of data entry in the decentralized networks. Overall, the enforcement of strict regulations need to have efficient and safe digital currencies, including competitive markets, strict supervision to ensure transparency, and universal accessibility (Gupta, 2022).

Year	Event
9000 BCE	Barter system
640 BCE	The first coins minted in ancient China
1700s - 1800s	Paper currency spread throughout the world
1821	UK introduces the gold standard
1950	First universal credit card is introduced
1970s	The gold standard is evoked
1960s - 2000s	Developments for credit cards to improve security by having magnetic stripes and embedded chips, allowing credit facilities and online connectivity
1990	Paypal is formed, resulting in the e-wallet revolution
2009	Bitcoin – the first digital currency – is created along with the creation of Blockchain
2017	Introduction of NFTs
2020 - Present	Central and commercial banks across the world explore opportunities for utilizing cryptocurrencies including smart banking and CBDCs

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

- Is it possible to ensure transparency of digital currencies in developing economies, with corruption present?
- Should the regulation of digital currencies be international or by individual governments? How would it affect the global market?
- Do the potential benefits of CBDCs and cryptocurrencies to governments outweigh the risks and costs?
- What are some non-negotiable regulations to be followed for optimal usage of digital currencies? How would the committee ensure their execution?
- Will the benefits of efficiency and ease of using digital currencies be disproportionate to countries depending on whether they are MEDCs or LEDCs? How would it affect the global market?
- How would international relations affect the regulations of digital currencies? How would the committee solve issues concerning them?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

- Which countries are at the forefront of implementing cryptocurrencies? What are their statuses?
- What are CBDCs and how do they affect world economies?
- How are governments planning on regulating virtual currencies?
- What are the functions of money, and do all virtual currencies adhere them?
- How did governments and institutions regulate the financial framework of current cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin?
- What were the international actions taken to regulate virtual currencies? How successful have they been?

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Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

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Topic 1: The Future of Digital Currencies

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SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals that aim to achieve a sustainable future for all. The SDGs were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, and they are now the blueprint for sustainable development. The economic impact of the development goals in combatting change can be traced back to the early days of the United Nations. In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which included the right to an adequate standard of living. This was followed by the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in 1966, which recognized the right to work, the right to social security, and the right to an adequate standard of living, among others. In the 1970s, the UN General Assembly adopted several resolutions that recognized the need for a new international economic order. These resolutions led to the establishment of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1974. UNCTAD was tasked with promoting international trade and investment, and with providing technical assistance to developing countries. In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, which called for a new international economic order that would address the needs of the poorest countries. In the 1980s, the UN General Assembly adopted several solutions

- Strengthening the global financial system
- Adopting measures to tackle climate change
- Encouraging sustainable development
- Promoting peace and security
- Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people
- Protecting human rights

Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight goals that were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, which are an important step in combating climate change. The goals are a way to set targets for countries to work towards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. The goals will also help to reduce poverty and inequality. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals are a positive step forward in the fight against climate change. The 7th, 11th, 12th and 13th SDGs are the goals which will directly affect the reduction of climate change the most. The SDGs are important because they provide a framework for combatting the many challenges the world faces, such as climate change, poverty, inequality, and gender discrimination. The SDGs also recognize that economic growth must be inclusive and sustainable to be effective. In order to achieve the SDGs, it is estimated that annual global investments of \$2.5 trillion are needed ((UNCTAD, 2014)). This includes investments in infrastructure, education, health, and other areas. The good news is that there is already significant progress being made toward achieving the SDGs. For example, the world is on track to meet the target of universal primary education by 2030 by ensuring quality education access to all young children, especially in rural areas (United Nations, 2020).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

The economic impact of the development goals in combatting change has been widely debated. While some argue that the goals are too costly and will have negative impacts on economies, others believe that the goals are necessary to combat the effects of climate change. The debate surrounding the economic impact of the development goals is important, as it highlights the different ways in which climate change can be addressed. Some argue that the development goals are too expensive and will have negative impacts on economies. They believe that the goals will lead to higher taxes and that the money could be better spent on other things. They also believe that the goals will harm trade and that they could lead to job losses. Others believe that development goals are necessary to combat the effects of climate change.

The Goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. The SDGs are also integrated with the principles of sustainable development, which recognize that development must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The economic impact of the sustainable development goals has been estimated to be \$12 trillion, focusing in areas of four economic systems; food and agriculture, cities, energy and materials, and well-being (Filho et al., 2022).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

One of the first international actions taken against climate change was the creation of The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 during the Rio Earth Summit. This was one of the three “Rio Conventions”, where the other two concerned biological diversity and desertification (UNCC, “What Is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?”). The UNFCCC did not have specific targets to achieve but set a combined goal toward reducing the effects of climate change. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted by 192 parties, which had the main goal of limiting the amount of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by individual countries. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted for a second commitment period at the Doha amendment in 2012, where Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions further (UNCC, “What Is the Kyoto Protocol?”).

The Paris Agreement, which was adopted at COP21 in 2015 by 192 parties, is a more strategic and legally binding treaty on climate change. Its goal specifies limiting global warming “to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius” (United Nations Climate Change, “The Paris Agreement”). The treaty focuses on long-term strategies to reduce GHG emissions worldwide, by further asking countries to support each other financially and technologically. Parties are asked to maintain a transparent showcase of their GHG emissions, and the steps they are taking to achieve the treaty targets on time. As of 2022, the treaty has had great achievements with countries adopting low-carbon solutions to achieve their carbon-neutral targets.

Year	Event
2000	The United Nations adopts the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals aimed at improving the lives of the world's poorest people.
2002	The first MDG report is published, showing progress towards the goals.
2003	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals, which reaffirms commitment to the goals.
2004	The Millennium Development Goals Summit is held, at which world leaders reaffirm their commitment to the goals.
2005	The United Nations launches the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, a multi-donor trust fund to support countries in achieving the goals.
2006	The United Nations releases the Millennium Development Goals Progress Report, which shows that progress towards the goals is mixed.
2007	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals, which reaffirms commitment to the goals.
2008	The United Nations releases the Millennium Development Goals Progress Report, which shows that progress towards the goals is mixed.
2009	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals.
2010	The UN General Assembly adopts the Millennium Development Goals, which include a target to halve global poverty and hunger.
2011	The World Bank estimates that meeting the MDGs could lift 500 million people out of poverty.
2012	A report by the OECD estimates that achieving the MDGs could add \$1 trillion to global GDP.
2013	The UN releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to reduce extreme poverty by half.
2014	The World Bank releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to reduce child mortality by 40%.
2015	The UN releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to reduce maternal mortality by 45%.
2016	The World Bank releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to increase access to clean water by 2.1 billion people.
2017	The UN releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to increase access to sanitation by 1.1 billion people.
2018	The World Bank releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to increase access to education by 100 million people.
2019	The UN releases a report showing that the MDGs have helped to reduce hunger
2020 - Present	The UN has readjusted and restructured due to the impact of covid-19 and is slowly picking up and attempting to return to standard and more reformed operations.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

- What is the economic impact of the development goals in combating change?
- How do the development goals help to improve the economic conditions in developing countries?
- What are the benefits of the development goals in reducing poverty and inequality?
- What are the costs associated with the development goals?
- How do the development goals promote economic growth and development?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

- The long-term effects of the development goals on economic growth?
- What are the most effective methods for measuring the economic impact of the development goals?
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates that the cost of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 could be as much as \$5 trillion per year.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that achieving the SDGs could lift more than half a billion people out of extreme poverty.
- The World Bank estimates that achieving the SDGs could increase global economic growth by up to 4 percent per year.
- Achieving the SDGs could also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 3.7 gigatons per year by 2030.

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Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

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Topic 2: The Economic Impact of SDGs in Combating Climate Change

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American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



MMXXIII

2022-2023



General Assembly III (GA3):
Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Issues



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Esteemed Delegates,

It is our greatest joy and utmost pleasure to welcome you to this year's Third Committee of The General Assembly (GA3) at AUSMUN. We are looking forward to having you with us and are very excited to see the potential and drive that you will bring to this committee. As your moderators, we will do our absolute best to make this conference as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. We have provided you with this background guide to help you understand the topics of discussion and steer you in the right direction for the research you need for both the conference and the position paper. It is crucial that you read the guide very well to understand what is asked of you in this committee.

This conference is an excellent opportunity to build your confidence, as well as improve your leadership, research, writing, public speaking, and critical thinking skills. Hence, we urge you to make the best out of this conference and we will be there every step of the way for any guidance or support. If you have absolutely any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at any time at ga3ausmun2023@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Your GA3 moderators: Naya Al-Mikhi, Mona Majdalawieh, Khaleel Zamqan

Pages: Mohamed Imbabi, Ahmad Mashaly



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

General Assembly III

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. The committee's first session was held on the 10th of January of 1946 and included representatives of fifty-one nations worldwide. The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee or SOCHUM or C3) is one of six main committees at the General Assembly of the United Nations. It deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters often in collaboration with The United Nations Human Rights Council, established in 2006. Topics The Third General Assembly discusses include, but are not limited to, the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, people with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

Voting procedure in The Third General Assembly takes place by a show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll-call. The name of each member shall be called in any roll-call, and one of its representatives shall reply with "yes", "no" or "abstention". General Assembly resolutions usually require a simple majority (50 percent of all votes plus one) to pass. However, there are some exceptions in this area. If the General Assembly determines that the issue is an important question by a simple majority vote, then a two-thirds majority is required. Important questions are those that deal significantly with the maintenance of international peace and security.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

In August 2014, a large group of unmarked Russian military vehicles crossed the border with Ukraine and entered the Donbas region. These Russian troops participated in an undeclared war in Donbas and maintained strategic reserves that would be ready to trespass into Ukraine when given the order to. In 2015, this war eventually settled into a static conflict between Ukrainian and Russian proxies with multiple failed resolution attempts, as well as a failure to maintain a ceasefire. By 2019, 7 percent of Ukraine was already designated by the Ukrainian government as being temporarily occupied by Russia. Throughout the year of 2021, bilateral tensions increased due to the buildup of Russian military near the Russian-Ukrainian border, and eventually on the 24th of February of 2022 this conflict escalated drastically as Russia launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

A “displaced person” is one who was forced to leave their home country due to war or persecution. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, an estimated number of 12.8 million Ukrainians have been displaced, 7.7 million of which have been internally displaced. This is equivalent to 17.7 percent of the country’s population. This alarmed UN human rights experts as well as The Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, which caused them to call for immediate action for the protection of displaced Ukrainians (UNHRC, 2022). This war has caused and is still causing thousands of civilian deaths and injuries, as well as mental and physical trauma. Due to this violence, homes, hospitals, schools, governmental facilities, and even entire cities were completely destroyed, leaving the people exposed and easily targeted. Many health concerns have also been posing an alarming threat on civilians due to the mines and explosive remnants of war. Many internally displaced civilians, most of whom are women and children have been subjected to multiple forms of gender-based violence such as sexual exploitation and abuse, including conflict related sexual violence. Women and girls fleeing towards the border increases their chances of being sexually exploited and even be used in human trafficking. Other vulnerable citizens such as the elderly, pregnant women and people with disabilities are among the last to flee war zones due to their health conditions and are ones who face the most difficulties during war as they struggle in poorly equipped shelters that lack basic health care and rehabilitation facilities. Food, water, healthcare, and basic living needs are scarce as sources have been destroyed, making it extremely difficult for Ukrainians to survive (HCR, 2022).

Secondary effects of this conflict and displacement are also a concern as this influences food production and availability both in the country and globally. The Russian-Ukraine war is having an incredibly large impact on global supply chain and trade, hindering the flow of goods, dramatically increasing fueling costs, causing certain product shortages as well as catastrophic food shortages around the world. Additionally, Europe’s dependence on Russian oil & natural gas is causing it to be the region most exposed to the consequences of this conflict. Replacing all Russian natural gas supply to Europe is impossible in the short to medium run and current price levels will have a significant effect on inflation.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

The issue of safeguarding the human rights of displaced Ukrainians is vital and critical to investigate. The conflict has been causing thousands of Ukrainians to be injured and killed, and countless others are being left on the street with neither money nor food. All their houses, schools, institutions, and hospitals were demolished. We are also concerned about the secondary effects of conflict and displacement on food production, which will have a global impact on food availability (OHCHR, 2022). In Ukraine, basic human rights are being violated. Several cases of law enforcement abuse, torture, killing, and inhumane treatment are occurring in prisons. According to an OHCHR report published in June 2022, Ukraine violated IHL and international human rights law concerning the treatment of war prisoners and the constraints of their imprisonment. Displaced Ukrainians' lives have been impacted greatly in the social aspect. People that had to get out of their houses, leaving all their memories and belongings behind are now traumatized and need intense medical care. From the economic point of view, Ukraine's economy has vastly weakened through a great rise in prices of food, export, and fuel; the rise in prices caused inflation in the prices of fuel, specifically affecting many countries around the world. The crisis had an impact on arms transfers as well as military spending. European governments along with the USA were unconvinced about supplying arms to Ukraine. The conflict's impact was clear when so many countries, including Ukraine, increased their military spending drastically (SIPRI, 2015). The countries most affected by the Ukrainian refugees are Russia, Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. Since the war started, these countries have been receiving the largest numbers of refugees that need medical care and places to live.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

The situation in Ukraine drove many international organizations to aid displaced Ukrainians while managing to maintain their rights. International organizations like UNICEF, UNHRC, IOM, OHCHR, IRC, CoE and the General Assembly were devoted to providing essential financial support as well as fundamental relief materials like blankets, sleeping mats, and emergency shelters to the displaced Ukrainians. The UN has promised to put humanitarian focus as the top priority and to ensure that these displaced Ukrainians are both safe and protected.

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution on 2 March 2022 that deals with aggression against Ukraine while “expressing grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, with an increasing number of internally displaced persons and refugees in need of humanitarian assistance”. Clause 15 of the resolution clearly urges efforts of the United Nations, including of the United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine, and humanitarian organizations to respond to the humanitarian and refugee crisis that the aggression by the Russian Federation has created. This resolution that the general assembly has adopted undoubtedly helps deal with the displaced Ukrainians crisis. The general assembly’s resolution has provided great aid to those displaced Ukrainians that were forced out of their country. Norway’s NRC is working to preserve the rights of displaced and vulnerable Ukrainians during this crisis by providing food, education, protection, legal assistance, water, and sanitation. The USA’s OPUSA also contributed by raising funds to send shipments of vital material aid and recovery supplies to help those displaced Ukrainians. In addition, Poland's Parliament enacted a law on aid to displaced Ukrainians, granting Ukrainian TDPs the right to stay lawfully in Poland for 18 months and use its health care, education, social services, and labor market.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

- 1917-1921: Ukrainian War of Independence, Ukrainian–Soviet War, Battle of Kiev and Battle of Kruty
- 1918-1919: Ukrainian War of Independence, Polish–Ukrainian War, Battle of Lemberg and Battle of Przemyśl and Chortkiv offensive
- 1941-1942: World War II
- 2001: insurgency in the Republic of Macedonia
- 2014 - Present: Russian annexation of Crimea and War in Donbas and 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

- How are displaced Ukrainians treated?
- What countries are aiding Ukrainian refugees and how?
- What actions are taken by the UN to help those displaced families?
- Are human rights protected in Ukraine?
- How does war in Ukraine affect human trafficking?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

- Long term global implications of the Russian - Ukraine war.
- The increase in illegal activity due to financial desperation among Ukrainian citizens.
- Inflation in countries dependent on Russian products due to placed sanctions.
- The socioeconomic effects of accommodating large numbers of Ukrainian refugees on neighbouring countries.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 1: Safeguarding the Human Rights of Displaced Ukrainians

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SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

Since the US withdrawal and the Taliban takeover in August of 2021, Afghanistan has been suffering a major humanitarian crisis (HRW, 2022). This crisis is a result of an economic collapse occurring due to decisions made by governments and international organizations, as well as by the United States and the Taliban's failure to reach peaceful agreements to avoid the humanitarian impacts a change in governance can cause. Before August 2021, Afghanistan's economy was 75 percent dependent on external assistance. Hence, after the Taliban reign, donor organizations led and controlled by the United States mandated the World Bank to cut off \$ 2 billion in foreign assistance that the bank has been providing through the Afghanistan Reconstructive Trust Fund (ARTF). Additionally, the World Bank has revoked the Afghan Central Bank's credentials, making it extremely difficult to interact with multiple international banking and financial systems such as the World Bank, ADB and IMF.

Consequently, the humanitarian crisis escalated so viciously that more than half the Afghani population, 24.4 million people, of which 12.9 million are children, are going through a level three and level four crisis due to high levels of food insecurity. Currently, this malnutrition crisis is above manageable thresholds in 27 out of 34 provinces and is constantly worsening. In the Ghor province, the WFP has reported catastrophic level 5 acute famine and malnutrition occurring in tens and thousands of civilians. The WFP has stated that '*Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally*'. Thousands of children are being admitted into emergency care due to acute malnutrition on a monthly basis, excluding the numbers dying of starvation in areas where no medical attention is available. If the lack of access to food, water and basic life saving healthcare continues, an estimated 212 children will die every day. Additionally, WASH needs are exacerbated, with 53 percent of water sources across multiple provinces drying up, as well as lack of water services causing increase in bacteriological water contamination leading to the spread of illness and disease, especially among children being starved and immunocompromised.

Access to education was already a challenge in Afghanistan due cultural and traditional practices. Yet with the humanitarian crisis, displacement, inaccessibility and lack of facilities, 4.2 million children, (60 percent female), are being kept out of school. With prolonged school closures and absences as well as a lack of sustained access to basic education, 7.9 million more children risk missing out on critical education and remain illiterate. All the mentioned issues, combined with the socioeconomic and human rights crisis, will give rise to atrocious consequences such as early marriages and child labor. This collapse of economy and numerous essential public service sectors due to lack of funding makes the people of Afghanistan face an emergent uncertain future.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

Afghanistan's children are among the world's most unfortunate children. They are barred from receiving life-saving vaccines against deadly diseases, as well as education, shelter, water, and sanitation. As mentioned in one of the official UN sites, the issue of Afghan children crosses 6 violations against children identified by the UN Security Council (SRSG-SVC), which are: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming of children, rape or other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction, and denial of humanitarian access for children (2021). A strong step must be taken by the countries of the UN to protect the rights of the children of Afghanistan and prevent violence against these children. The children of Afghanistan face many disheartening problems, most of which are social, economic, and political. On the social side of the spectrum, these children face child marriages and violence. Getting married at an early age causes serious health issues for young girls and unwanted pregnancies. In addition, around 250 children were killed in terrorist attacks in 2009; so many of which are sexual abuse. Furthermore, poverty is one of the biggest economic problems Afghanistan faces. Around 46 percent of their population lives below the poverty line. The annual gross national income per citizen is 370 dollars. Afghan children face several political issues as well, such as the lack of the right to identity. Ninety-four percent of births are not recorded in Afghanistan, which results in those unrecorded cases ending up having no official identity. Even when those unidentified individuals flee to other countries, they are considered illegal and have no civil rights as a citizen of that country (Humaniam, 2019). Countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Turkey are most affected by Afghan children fleeing to their countries due to poverty and no shelter.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

Having more than 2,000 children killed and injured in the conflict of Afghanistan, international organizations like UNICEF, Save the Children Fund, UNHCR, UNSC and General Assembly were devoted to providing aid to the people of Afghanistan to preserve their human rights. A resolution adopted by the Security Council on 17 March 2022 is set to maintain the human rights of children while bearing in mind that they have been disproportionately affected. Clause 5 of the resolution would help the children of Afghanistan by coordinating and facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance and financial resources to support humanitarian activities. While working towards improving the accessibility of the full spectrum of activities, they strengthen the cooperation and coherence of activities across Afghanistan, supporting everyone in need, including women and children. It would also monitor and report on violations and abuses against children, and support efforts to strengthen the protection of children. Through engagement, it would undertake specific commitments and measures to end and prevent violations and abuses against children. Finally, it would support existing mechanisms to improve the overall security situation in Afghanistan, provide assessments of the explosive ordnance threat and its impact on civilians, including children. However, there are definitely some limitations to such a resolution since security is hard to capture 100 percent and be monitored perfectly without a huge number of workers and security approaches.

Organizations like UNICEF and Save the Children would raise funds to safeguard children's futures, to protect their rights, and to ensure that crucial assistance is distributed equally to all Afghan children. The Government of Pakistan has provided shelter and protection to millions of Afghan refugees and children over 40 years. The Canadian government pledged to accept at least 40,000 Afghan refugees and children. UNICEF also managed to treat more than 300,000 children aged 6 to 59 months for severe acute malnutrition.

TIMELINE

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

- 1994-1996: Foundation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by the Taliban.
- 2001: Fall of the Taliban by US invasion of Afghanistan following the nine eleven terror attacks.
- 2006 - 2008: Re-emergence of the Taliban through Afghanistan's southern regions.
- 2017 - 2021: Taliban dominates more than 80% of Afghanistan's territory.
- 2021 - Present: Taliban took control over the country as a whole.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

- How to provide asylum for Afghan Children Refugees?
- Can all Afghan Children be rescued?
- How to deal with orphan Afghan children?
- What are ways to ensure all human rights are met for these children?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

- Human trafficking in Afghanistan its ramifications.
- Long term effects of increasing illiteracy among the children of Afghanistan.
- Consequences of the Taliban methods and ideologies on the future of Afghan children.
- The alarming health crisis among the vulnerable groups in Afghanistan.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 2: The Children of Afghanistan

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American University of Sharjah

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MMXXIII

2022-2023



General Assembly IV (GA4):
Special Political and Decolonization



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

It is a great honour that we welcome you to AUSMUN 2023 and the Fourth General Assembly committee which is also known as the Special Political, and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL). As your chairs this year, we are delighted to be working with you and are looking forward to hearing what you have in store for us. We'll be talking about "the question of Sri Lanka" and "the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions in Africa" during our committee meetings. We seriously advise you to utilize this background guide during every stage of your research as both issues have been extensively clarified and simplified to make your research journey simpler.

We can not wait to meet you all and to make the most out of this year's GA4 committee. If you have any inquiries or doubts do not hesitate to contact us through this email: (...), and we'd be glad to help out. Good luck with your research!

Best Regards,

Kinda Abdulmouti, Massa Aldeirani, Abdulkarim al Safadi



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

General Assembly IV

The Function of GA4

The only part of the UN that is genuinely representative of all peoples is the General Assembly. The Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Secretariat, and International Court of Justice are among the other important organisations. The General Assembly's role is to examine, debate, and make recommendations on issues related to international peace and security, such as development, disarmament, human rights, international law, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts between states, as stated in the United Nations Charter.

The Fourth General Assembly also known as The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) examines a wide range of topics, including a group of five agenda items related to decolonization, the effects of atomic radiation, information-related issues, a thorough examination of the issue of peacekeeping operations as well as an examination of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israeli Practices and settler colonialism, and other topics.

Why Was it Formed?

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is now considered as a doorway to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), as the GA4 usually evaluates the issues brought up by the council first. This is due to the Fourth Committee's wider perspective on international security, as well as giving every UN member state a chance to speak before the matter is brought up by other UN bodies. Consequently, the committee's decisions represent the consensus of the members of the nations in reference to important issues. The seven subordinate organisations that answer to the Fourth the United Nations Relief and Works Committee, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), and in the Near East, and Works Agency for State of Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as well as the Committee on Cooperative Operations for Peaceful Uses of Space (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021).

The Voting Procedure of the Committee

Each Member in the General Assembly has one vote [Rules 82, 83 and 85 reproducing textually the three paragraphs of Article 18 of the Charter]. A two-thirds majority is required to make decisions on crucial matters including but are not limited to maintaining global peace and security, admitting new members, and the UN budget. The General Assembly must also get a two-thirds majority in order to decide on proposals, proposals' parts, and amendments to proposals, however, these are put to vote separately. Decisions on other questions, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting. It is important to recognize that "members present and voting" refers to individuals who cast a yes or no vote. Members who opt to abstain from voting are regarded as non-voting committee members.



SUMMARY & HISTORY

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

One of the most useful instruments the UN has to help host nations travel the challenging road from violence to peace has proven to be peacekeeping. The capacity to deploy and maintain military and police from all over the world while integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to accomplish multifaceted missions is one of the peacekeeping's distinctive characteristics, along with legitimacy, burden sharing, and global reach.

UN troops offer protection, political support, and assistance in peacebuilding to help nations make the challenging early transition from violence to peace.

Three fundamental principles serve as the foundation for UN peacekeeping:

1. The parties' consent
2. Impartiality
3. The non-use of force unless necessary to defend oneself or the mission.

As a vital part of U.S. policy toward Africa and a crucial instrument for promoting more stability and security on the continent, many Members of Congress have shown an interest in the missions, efficacy, and financing status of U.N. peacekeeping operations in Africa. The United States has a significant role in founding, renewing, and supporting individual operations, including those in Africa, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council (the Council) with veto power.

The main financial supporter of U.N. peacekeeping is the United States. There are seven United Nations peacekeeping missions operating in Africa as of September 2019:

1. The U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA),
2. The U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA),
3. The U.N. Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA),
4. The U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS),
5. The U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO),
6. The African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and
7. The U.N. Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Remarkably, the UN only supported one peacekeeping mission in Africa in its first 40 years: the United Nations mission in Congo (1960-64). This served as the UN's "baptism in fire" for the challenging and sometimes torturous mission of maintaining peace on the unstable continent. The UN didn't send military soldiers to the continent once more until 1989, this time to assist in observing the creation of an independent Namibia. Encouraged by this positive outcome, more than seventeen operations were started in Africa in the 1990s, which made the story of African peacekeeping, as captivantly told by MacQueen, rich in diversity and full of adventure, with plenty of successes and failures, some victories (for example, in Namibia and Mozambique), and several significant tragedies (Rwanda and Somalia being the most notable).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

More than half of the UN peacekeeping missions in the world are in Africa. The continent not only contains half of the nations where the blue helmets are stationed, but it also receives about 80% of the total funding for such operations. With more than fifty thousand troops deployed in countries where insurgent groups and civil wars have murdered civilians and threatened to destabilize neighbouring areas.

The UN's peacekeeping missions on the continent have come under fire for a variety of issues, including but not limited to, poor management, a failure to act when people are in danger, peacekeepers' violations of human rights, and funding issues. According to reports, women and even children were assaulted in return for food and clothing and the UN hasn't taken any action against the soldiers involved. Earlier in 2021, the UN decided to withdraw 450 peacekeepers from the Central African Republic following a multitude of sexual abuse allegations. Additionally, peacekeeping forces have shown repeated failures to protect civilians, several missions have been accused of inaction and ineffectiveness.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

Abyei, a region claimed by Sudan and South Sudan (UNISFA), the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Mali (MINUSMA), South Sudan (UNMISS), and Western Sahara are all in Africa (MINURSO). The African Union (AU), European Union (EU), and other regional blocs are also the sponsors of a few peacekeeping or security operations. The largest are the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) Joint Force, the Lake Chad Basin Commission Multinational Joint Task Force, and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Recently, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Rwanda both sent soldiers to fight the insurrection in Mozambique, and an EU task force known as Takuba, directed by France, joined other operations in the Sahel. The foremost organisation for approving and managing global peacekeeping missions is the United Nations. Deploying peacekeepers often abides by three principles: the primary parties to the dispute must consent; peacekeepers must stay impartial but not neutral; and peacekeepers may not use force unless it is necessary for self-defence or the protection of their mandate. Nevertheless, UN forces have been stationed in conflict areas when not all major parties have given their approval, such as in Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



TIMELINE

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

The 1990s also saw a shift in global conflict and a rise in the demand for peacekeeping missions. Only 15 peacekeeping missions were carried out by the UN worldwide between 1948 and 1988; between 1989 and 1999, that number increased to 31. Seven of the 16 armed conflicts that engulfed the African continent in 1999—which totalled more than 1,000 battle-related deaths—were wars. MINURSO in Western Sahara, UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone, UNMEE in Eritrea and Ethiopia, and MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the four peacekeeping operations that the UN currently has operating in Africa. Today, there is a real chance that the continent may see other civil conflicts like those that tore through Sierra Leone and Liberia in the 1990s.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

- How can the deployment system for peacekeeping operations in Africa be improved to enable a rise in peacekeeping operations' success?
- What elements influence the success of peacekeeping operations in Africa?
- What are some reliable indicators of peacekeeping missions' success?
- What outside variables could compromise the success of peacekeeping efforts?
- What could non-African nations do to enhance the success rate of peacekeeping operations in Africa?
- What are significant issues which disturb peacekeeping missions?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Peacekeeping Missions in Africa: Are They Working?

- The gender divide in peacekeeping missions
- Sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions
- Reasons for failure of peacekeeping missions

SUMMARY & HISTORY

The Question of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a severe economic and political crisis due partly to its twin deficit economy. A 'twin economy' is one in which domestic spending surpasses domestic revenue, placing it at risk of external debt and increasing its reliance on foreign capital flows. This crisis has caused unheard-of levels of inflation, nearly complete depletion of foreign exchange reserves, a shortage of medical supplies, and a rise in the pricing of essential commodities.

For several years, the government has obtained numerous loans from other nations and international organizations to pay for the provision of public services. The nation's tourism industry has also been impacted by a number of concerns. The industry-first experienced a wave of extremist assaults on hotels and churches. In 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic struck, preventing travel. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, two of the nations that sent the majority of visitors to the country, finally broke out in 2022. The output of rice and tea, two of Sri Lanka's key export goods, was severely decreased in 2021 as a result of a restriction on fertilizers implemented by the government.

Finally, in 2021, the Sri Lankan government officially declared that this is the worst economic catastrophe that the country has witnessed in seven decades. In August 2021, a food emergency was declared. As of February 2022, the inflation rate reached to 17.5%, almost triple that of September 2021. Moreover, Sri Lanka has around \$4 billion in debt that needs to be repaid over the course of the rest of the year, including a \$1 billion foreign sovereign bond that matures in July.

As a result, in March 2022, it was reported from several locations that political parties and non-partisan organizations had organized and unorganized rallies over the government's poor handling of the economy. The political opposition organized a number of protests calling on the current administration to end the financial crisis and step down quickly in the wake of the broader economic catastrophe. Following these protests, on April 1, the government proclaimed a state of emergency. On April 2, it announced a 36-hour curfew starting at 6 p.m., and on April 3, it shut down social media for 15 hours.

Various measures taken by the government such as the curfew and social media blackout as well as the police actions taken to break up protests may discourage people from expressing their grievances. Furthermore, the UN was closely monitoring and warned against a drift into militarism and a weakening of institutional checks and balances in Sri Lanka.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

The Question of Sri Lanka

Human Rights Watch stated recently that the economic crisis in Sri Lanka is pushing millions of people into poverty and endangering their access to healthcare, education, and a livable wage. In order to create a new social protection system and achieve debt relief, the Sri Lankan government should collaborate with key financial institutions and partners. They also need to take action to ensure fair taxes and combat corruption at the highest levels of government.

Ranil Wickremesinghe became president on July 21 as a result of widespread demonstrations over economic mismanagement, corruption, and violations of human rights that began in March 2022 and drove President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit. The new administration has been in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout as well as with international creditors to restructure debts that Sri Lanka defaulted on in May. These debates are taking place while the new government's legitimacy has been harmed by a fresh crackdown on dissent.

In times of economic crisis, foreign financial institutions and governments that hold Sri Lanka's debt or are taking part in debt restructuring discussions are required by international law to take action to preserve human rights. In accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, private creditors are required to rectify any negative effects on human rights that they may be a part of.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The Question of Sri Lanka

With 6.7 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid, Sri Lanka's economic crisis is quickly turning into one of the greatest humanitarian disasters in decades. As the humanitarian effects of the economic crisis continue to grow, millions of people are experiencing shortages of food, gasoline, cooking gas, vital supplies, and medications. The 2.4 million people currently living in poverty, who are among those most impacted by the loss of jobs, food shortages, and rising prices for necessities, are of special concern to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC). Sri Lanka Red Cross Secretary General, Mahesh Gunasekara, said: "The situation has taken a devastating turn for people already struggling to put food on the table during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's even worse for single-parent households and millions who cannot work or send their children to school because of the fuel crisis. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), the primary national humanitarian player, is supported by the IFRC. Since the nation's independence, the SLRCS, a neutral and unbiased institution, has offered humanitarian aid. In 25 of the county's districts, over 10,000 dry ration food packs and 4,000 cash handouts have already been delivered, while 5000 school supplies have been distributed to 10 districts. 10,000 households in four districts are receiving food kits and clean water while waiting in line for gasoline for days. SLRCS and the Ministry of Health are collaborating closely to supply hospitals with critical medications that are currently in limited supply. Over 20,000 individuals, including protesters and security personnel, have been receiving emergency medical care from first responders and Red Cross ambulances throughout the most recent protests. Over a thousand patients received ambulance services from SLRCS and were sent to hospitals for additional care.

TIMELINE

The Question of Sri Lanka

- April 1: State of emergency
- Rajapaksa declares a temporary state of emergency, giving security forces sweeping powers to arrest and detain suspects, after a spate of protests.
- April 3: Cabinet resigns
- Almost all of Sri Lanka's cabinet resigns at a late-night meeting, leaving Rajapaksa and his brother Mahinda – the prime minister – isolated.
- The governor of the central bank, has resisted calls to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), announces his resignation a day later.
- April 5: President loses majority
- President Rajapaksa's problems deepen as finance minister Ali Sabry resigns just a day after he was appointed.
- The embattled leader loses his parliamentary majority as former allies urge him to quit. He lifts the state of emergency.
- April 19: First casualty
- Police kill a protester, the first casualty of several weeks of anti-government protests.
- The next day, the IMF says it has asked Sri Lanka to restructure its colossal external debt before a rescue package can be agreed.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

The Question of Sri Lanka

- What was the impact of the crisis on people's living situations
- What other issues were caused as a result of the economical crisis?
- Are the protests more harmful than they are beneficial?
- How are non-nations helping Sri Lanka out in this economical crisis?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

The Question of Sri Lanka

- Protests which occurred due to the economical crisis
- Current solutions to resolve this economic crisis
- Hunger strikes and loss of housing due to the Sri Lanka crisis
- Destruction of medical treatments and hospitalizations caused by this crisis

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American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



MMXXIII

2022-2023



Commission on the
Status of Women (CSW)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2023! It is with honor and greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the sixteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and to our committee, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Our topics for this year's conference are "Gender segregation in educational institutions" and "Are reproductive rights human rights?".

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 cswausmun2023@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 the heated debates that will be taking place about the issues that we will be discussing.

Best Regards,

Berra Sunnetcioglu, Motasem Ghanem, Rand Shubair



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Commission on the Status of Women

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an intergovernmental body and functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established on June 21 in the year 1946. It aims to improve gender equality and advocate for women's empowerment. The Commission holds yearly meetings to discuss matters on emerging issues that women may face daily. The CSW has the power to prepare reports and recommendations to ECOSOC on how to advance women's rights in the political, economic, social, and educational spheres. In addition to that, they also hold the authority to suggest ideas for solutions about the pressing issues in the area of women's rights that require immediate attention. The committee of CSW considers one primary theme to be addressed and prioritized at their annual meeting. The main theme of these meetings arises from the gaps and implementation processes of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

During the second half of the twentieth century, education systems expanded and were democratized around the world. Women's involvement increased so dramatically that their numbers now surpass men's in many industrialized nations (The Gender Gap in Employment: What's Holding Women Back?, 2017); however, gender equality did not happen uniformly. Gender segregation of majors and degree programs is a prominent feature of modern educational systems and a crucial reason for the ongoing social and economic inequality between men and women. While substantial gender inequality is found within educational systems worldwide, recent evidence shows clear differences among countries and nations in their degree and nature of gender segregation. Comparatively, in the past, education in colonies began as a "boys-only" endeavor for the most part. The founding of the new nation and the rapid westward expansion observed the creation of a public education scheme placing boys and girls together in the classroom (Piatt, 2009).

Concerns in recent decades regarding unequal educational opportunities between girls and boys led to many congressional actions, such as the equality act, to exclude any discrimination of participation in educational programs on the basis of sex. However, scientists have begun to assert that requiring boys and girls to be taught together has a negative impact on educational progress because of inherent differences in boy/girl learning behavior, or even in the development of their brains. For instance, Jean Christophe Labarthe examined two-year-old children in their attempts to build bridges from blocks. He concluded that the boys were two times as likely than girls to complete that task. Other studies alleged to show a physiological difference in the development of boys' and girls' brains. There is also the important concern of parental determination. While parents are offered the choice of allowing their children to be assigned to same-sex classrooms, in many instances the choice is between a same-sex education or a co-ed one.

Interestingly, this segregation does not only imply the physical connotation, but it also includes the cultural, and legal aspects of educational systems. A major question concerns the persistence of gender differentiation even in economically and socially developed nations. Research findings to date reveal a complex relationship between cultural beliefs, structural forms, and individual cognition in generating and maintaining sex segregation in the modern world (Hendley & Charles, 2015). Gender segregation causes a wide gap in access to education for women, which then leads to severe drawbacks to the United Nation's aim to empower women and provide education for all.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

The battle over one of the most complex ideas facing education is whether gender segregation in educational institutions should be practiced and promoted, or not. It is still a controversial subject on a worldwide scale. For instance, gender-segregated educational institutions are fairly prevalent in Muslim-majority countries. This is because it is seen as a custom and law in the religion of Islam. Some countries, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan, and Iran, promote the idea of having educational institutions to be gender-segregated as they see many benefits to it, which mostly stem from religious and cultural beliefs. Moreover, this explains why one of the countries that have the most common gender segregation in educational institutions would be Saudi Arabia, as it is the heartland of Islam. Other reasons why countries may be in favor of gender segregation schooling are reasons for safety and privacy. This is because it seems that such policies of segregation help guard against sexual assault and harassment. Many nations have created women-only areas to prevent harassment in crowded public settings. For instance, gender-separated buses, women-only passenger cars, and train compartments have been implemented in Mexico, Japan, the Philippines, the UAE, and other nations.

On the other hand, there are many countries that are not with the idea of gender segregation in educational institutions as they believe that it could limit the learning process among children in many ways. They believe as though gender-segregated educational institutions can invite misunderstandings of the other gender and may unintentionally alienate students from their peers of other genders. The United Kingdom, for instance, has a large number of mixed-gender educational institutions, rather than gender-segregated ones.

As stated in “The Sustainable Development Goals Report” of 2022, the United Nations (UN) has addressed the issue of gender inequality and the unequal opportunities that could be present due to the different genders and is actively working on eradicating gender inequality. Sustainable Development Goal number 5, specifically speaks about how the United Nations are looking to “Achieve Gender Inequality and Empower All Women and Girls”. The UN is ensuring that women have equal opportunity for leadership at all levels of decision-making in the political, economic, and public spheres, as well as full and effective involvement. Moreover, the issue of gender segregation in educational institutions should be considered in terms of whether it is empowering women or not. The belief that gender segregation in educational institutions could be empowering stems from the idea that they could accommodate the differences in how the different genders may learn, it can be a relaxed environment, and it could provide a sense of belonging to the children. On the other hand, it is believed that segregating students according to gender could reinforce gender stereotypes and promote poor social skills among the other gender, which would lead to them being unprepared for the “real” world outside the educational institution.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

United Nations, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UN Women have all been actively involved in providing education for women all around the world. Goals 4 and 5 from the Sustainable Development Goals by the UN address the issues of quality education and gender equality respectively. As mentioned above, goal 5 aims to ensure that all women are treated equally to their male counterparts in all aspects. Goal 4 of the SDGs focuses on providing quality education for both girls and boys around the globe. When combined, these goals aim to promote quality education to women and girls all around the world without discrimination. Furthermore, UNICEF has hosted a global partnership called the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) to encourage "the formation of partnerships between developed and developing countries in the United Nations to foster a collective effort towards the enhancement of women's education" (Glass, n.d, p. 6). More recently, UNESCO has published the UNESCO Strategy for Gender Equality In and Through Education 2019-2025, which highlights the importance of gender equality when it comes to the education sector. Different plans, such as the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan, have also been set out to ensure that gender segregation in education does not limit women from getting an education. As for past actions by the Commission on the Status of Women, the 55th CSW meeting concluded to promote access and participation of women and girls in educational institutions, science, and technology, and allow them to have full employment and decent work. Gender segregation, however, proves risks and drawbacks to the developments that International Organizations work towards fixing, as it does the opposite of promoting equality between the two genders. The negative effects of gender segregation in education can mostly be seen in developing countries and in poor countries such as Afghanistan and India.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

- 1848 - 1920 = The first wave of feminism
- 1960s - late 1980s = The second wave of feminism
- 2000 = The Dakar Framework for Action and the Education for All movement
- 2000 = Millennium Development Goals (“achieve universal Primary education” and “promote gender equality and empower women”)
- 2015 = Sustainable Development Goals (“quality education” and “gender equality”)
- 2020 = COVID-19 and remote learning poses risks to girls from entering the education sector again

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

- What are the effects of physical gender segregation on gender equity and gender discrimination?
- What is the stigma that surrounds women who seek education and how can we eliminate this stigma?
- What are the benefits of giving equal access to education to both genders?
- Should traditional and religious ideas have a say in what type of educational institution a woman should receive?
- How can governments and educational institutions mitigate the gap present between both genders regarding education?
- Are there other sectors in which gender segregation takes place (other than educational institutions)?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Gender Segregation in Educational Institutions

- Factors that play into gender inequality in educational institutions
- To what extent do culture and religion play a role in gender segregation
- Correlation between gender segregation and gender inequality

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

In the 1994 Program of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development, reproductive rights were defined as the “basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health” (United Nations, 1994, p. 46). Although reproductive rights are one of the basic rights to health for both genders, many countries, such as Honduras and some US states, implement laws that impede an individual’s ability to practice it. Many places worldwide do not have sanitary and easy access to family planning services, leading to unsafe abortion, pregnancy, and birth. Moreover, children around the world are forced into pregnancies and births without being mentally or physically prepared for this life-changing event, which violates reproductive rights.

One of the biggest issues that arise when reproductive rights are not practiced within a country is maternal mortality and infant death. Unsafe pregnancy and birthing practices can have severe complications for both the mother and the infant. Statistics show that over 500,000 women around the world die due to life-threatening complications during pregnancy, birth, and puerperium (Glazier, 2006). Furthermore, countries that do not practice reproductive rights for women have higher unsafe abortion rates. These unsafe abortion habits lead to many complications within the women population of a country. According to the World Health Organization, unsafe abortion leads to the death of about 68,000 women every year (UNFPA, 2014). Reproductive rights are not only confined to pregnancy and abortion, but they also include gender-based violence. Reproductive rights are closely tied to issues pertaining to poverty, gender equity, and education.

Previously, little thought was given to reproductive rights. Most issues relating to reproductive health were limiting women and their fertility in order to control the population. The 1968 Final Act of the Tehran Conference on Human Rights was the first document to address the issue of reproductive rights and place it under basic human rights, which stated that “Parents have a basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children and a right to adequate education and information in this respect” (UNFPA, 2014, p. 25). Following the 1968 Final Act were the 1975 Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and its Contribution to Development and Peace, which further elaborated on the topic of family planning right. The first place specific to women’s right to education and health was the World Conference on Human Rights which adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

While the conference was about human rights in general, the conference took new steps to ensure that women's and children's rights were well kept, especially when it comes to violence against women. Since then, many acts and conferences have been highlighting the importance of reproductive rights. Unfortunately, even though many acts and regulations exist to ensure that everyone has access to reproductive rights, many countries are still falling behind in providing this basic right to all their citizens. Many women around the world still do not have access to the right education and clinics to understand their reproductive health. In patriarchal societies, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nigeria to name a few, a woman's fertility still determines their worth. Therefore, it is essential to discuss these issues as it not only affects the population of a country but as it affects humanity as a whole.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

With numerous opposing views on the matter of reproductive rights, people find it nearly impossible to reach a middle ground. There has been some international effort made to discuss the issue; however, countless factors affect abortion such as religion, culture, and legality, and conflicting views make it hard to discuss. Access to safe, legal abortion is usually known to be a matter of human rights. Authoritative interpretations of international human rights law establish that denying women, girls, and other pregnant people access to abortion is a form of discrimination and jeopardizes a range of human rights. The United Nations human rights treaty bodies regularly call for governments to decriminalize abortion in all cases and to ensure access to safe, legal abortion in certain circumstances at a minimum.

The UN Human Rights Committee, like the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, has also noted that restrictions on abortion result in the disproportionate practice of illegal, unsafe abortions by poor and rural women or women unable to travel outside a jurisdiction where abortion is banned. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has also said that punitive abortion laws constitute a violation of children's right to freedom from discrimination. (Q&A: Access to Abortion Is a Human Right, 2022).

Even where abortion is technically legal, a lot of restrictions can make it inaccessible to marginalized people. This is because of the existing underlying issues such as poverty and systemic racism (Berger, 2022). This forces pregnant women, particularly from marginalized groups (people of color and/or low-income families), to look for unsafe abortion opportunities and to risk criminal or civil penalties, even when their circumstances fall within what is legally permissible.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

As stated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), “Women’s sexual and reproductive health is related to multiple human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education, and the prohibition of discrimination.” The OHCHR has addressed the issue and has made its stand clear: reproductive rights are human rights. However, it is evident that many nations around the world continue to violate this specific human right. They do this due to the traditions and customs engrained in the society they live in. On the other hand, there has been much progress regarding this topic and people have become more aware of this human right and how it has denied a simple human right to many women worldwide. So, countries such as Canada, Italy, France, and Sweden, have begun to implement this right for the women of their countries. Although there is still a long way to go when it comes to giving all women around the world the right for them to make decisions regarding reproduction, the Vienna 1993 World Conference on Human Rights have also taken measures to encourage and safeguard women’s rights, and that includes reproduction decisions being their choice to make. When discussing this topic, delegates should keep in mind whether the country they are representing is violating the executive decisions made and why they would do so.

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

- 1968 = Final Act of the Tehran Conference on Human Rights
- 1975 = Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women in their Contribution to Development and Peace and Plans of Action
- 1993 = World Conference on Human Rights adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- 1994 = International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Programme of Action
- 1995 = Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action & IV World Conference on Women
- 2000 = Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 2005 = World Summit Outcome
- 2015 = Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

- Does access to free health care promote reproductive rights?
- How do abortion laws go against reproductive rights?
- What can be done to eliminate the unhealthy practices that inhibit reproductive rights?
- Who is in control of deciding the choices made about women's reproductive rights? Who should be responsible for this instead?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?

- Women's sanitation products
- Education and its effects on reproductive rights practices
- The impact of the mental health of women who do not have the right to make decisions regarding their reproductive rights

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International Atomic
Energy Agency (IAEA)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the newest committee of AUSMUN. It will be an honor to share with you this exciting journey as we engage ourselves in intense debate and effective solutions to international conflicts at the International Atomic Energy Agency. We, the moderators, have put in our best efforts to make this experience an unforgettable one. Hence, we expect our delegates to put in the same effort in researching their country's stance on the topic, representing those stances and debating the opposing stances.

This conference is built on the simple basics and core principles of the United Nations. Accordingly, to ensure a similar experience to the United Nations, we strongly suggest that you learn the rules of procedure (points and orders) by heart. To be fully capable of participating and benefiting from this conference, it is important to keep in mind that this Background Guide is only to help guide your research, and can in no way replace your individual research. It is extremely important that you undergo your own individual research in understanding both the mandate and the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as your country's stance on the topics at hand.

Lastly, it is our duty to ensure you are confident and eager in your abilities to participate in the conference. Hence, if you have any suggestions or inquiries about the committee. Please feel free to contact us at: IAEAAUSMUN2023@gmail.com



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

International Atomic Energy Agency

History and Aim

During the early 1950s, nuclear development was on the rise. New methods to use nuclear substances were discovered, resulting in the uprise of unease and distress among the international community. Hence, The International Atomic Energy Agency was formed in 1957 with the aim of developing nuclear safety standards, aid members in planning and using nuclear science and inspect the member's commitment to the set safety standards. The IAEA is strongly connected to nuclear technologies and its applications, whether as a weapon or a economic tool. Hence, the foundation of the committee was based on the promotion of peaceful nuclear applications and ensuring these applications with mandates and laws. Now, working alongside the members of the Unite Nations, the IAEA promoting safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

Voting Procedures

The International Atomic Energy Agency must make crucial decisions with a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. A majority of the members present and voting shall decide on other questions, including the determination of further categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority. These questions include: The amount of the Agency's budget; The appointment of the Director General; To reconsider a proposal or an amendment which has been adopted or rejected; Decisions of the Board on amendments to proposals which require a two-thirds majority, and decisions on parts of such proposals put to the vote separately; The determination of additional questions or categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

The question of global nuclear disarmament dates to 1957 when the campaign for nuclear disarmament was first established. Afterward, in 1959 the General Assembly included nuclear disarmament in their resolution which caused a series of events/treaties to occur against the usage of nuclear weapons and technology. The treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) is the largest and most influential treaty that was created to stop the usage of nuclear weapons. This treaty was founded in 1968 and came into effect in 1970 resulting in 191 states to be a part of it. The nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful nuclear energy, and nuclear disarmament treaty are most generally ratified. Nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States) parties have pledged not to help, encourage, or in any other way direct any non-nuclear-weapon State party to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices under the terms of the NPT. In 1967, the treaty of Tlatelolco, establishing Latin America and the Caribbean as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, was opened for signature. Until the early 2000s, numerous countries joined NPT and around 10 NPT reviews took place. This showcases the start of nuclear disarmament and the important events in the past 60 years (Kimball & Bugos, 2022).

The main factors that lead to the creation of nuclear disarmament because of fear of the extreme danger that accompanies nuclear war and the possession of nuclear weapons. The supporters of nuclear disarmament suggest that the probability of a nuclear war occurring will decrease. In addition, the usage of nuclear weapons will cause many detrimental effects on the environment, economy, and civilization. It would cause catastrophic events to unfold such as countless deaths, and a large geographic area that can not be entered for decades (Wolfson & Dalnoki-Veress, 2022).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

This issue is of great significance as nuclear disarmament lessens the probability of any nuclear wars occurring or the usage of nuclear weapons transpiring. Therefore, the chances of thousands of people dying or becoming ill from radiation decreases, and unlike non-nuclear weapons, it does not affect the geographic structure of the targeted area for decades to come as radiation overruns that area and becomes inhabitable. (GICHD, 2017)

Not only does manufacturing, harbouring, threatening to use nuclear weapons, and testing nuclear weapons violate the UN charter, but it is also illegal according to Article 1 and the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The threat or use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, which have the potential to destroy human life, is inconsistent with the right to life and may constitute a crime under international law indiscriminately and catastrophically (NTI, 2022).

Nuclear disarmament caused positive implications such as fewer threats to international security. The disarmament and control of weapons of mass destruction are important especially if any conflict between two countries and having the ability to resort to nuclear weapons is a threat to international security. Therefore, the disarmament of nuclear weapons has helped keep international security and prevented mass destruction from happening.

The economic implications that happened because of nuclear weapon usage are countless and what they amount to may set back economies years or even decades of development, and growth. However, since there is nuclear disarmament occurring the chances of such detrimental consequences happening to the economy are very unlikely. The political implications of nuclear disarmament were positive as over time more countries started agreeing with the idea of removing nuclear weapons so that they can keep the peace all around and not cause any threat to international security. Finally, the social effects of nuclear disarmament were seen as positive as countries affected by nuclear weapons were able to grow and become more developed (Gaille, 2017).

The main countries that are affected by nuclear disarmament are Russia with 6,257 nuclear weapons, and the United States with 5,550. These two countries have the biggest nuclear weapon arsenal and are therefore the ones that were most affected by nuclear disarmament since it cannot be used (Kimball, 2022).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

Treaties under IAEA auspices are international agreements negotiated and concluded by IAEA Member States with the support of the Agency's Secretariat. Currently, 91 UN members have signed the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. None of the permanent five members of the UN security council signed it, meaning the signatories have come purely from countries without nuclear weapons. There have been multiple attempts to try and control nuclear weapons and disarm the UN members with a large arsenal and further stop countries from acquiring those weapons but none were successful.

Major advancements came in previous resolutions such as in 1996 when it banned the testing and explosions of nuclear weapons. Further treaties took place between Russia and the United States to monitor the number of nuclear weapons each state owns. These treaties proved to be successful as now both super powers have the ability to monitor the nuclear arsenal of the other and it led to a decrease in the total world nuclear arsenal. Furthermore, the 1996 resolution greatly helped areas that underwent nuclear tests such as the desert of Kazakhstan and states like New Mexico. However, issues between the two nations stopped the full potential of the treaties . Political Rivalry and disputes specifically between NATO and Russia have been hindering any new progress in nuclear disarmament. Due to the war in Ukraine, tensions have reached an all-time high between the two biggest holders of nuclear weapons on the planet. The two sides are cautious with their nuclear weapon but a war between the two could result in a nuclear war. The IAEA is responsible to limit the effects of nuclear weapons and eliminate the threat of the weapons ever being used. The use of such a weapon will be considered a crime against humanity.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

- 1950- the IAEA was formed with the goal of overseeing developments in nuclear technology and monitoring the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- 1961- The first nuclear power treaty passes which calls for negotiations to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states
- 1965: The US submits its first proposal on how to stop an all out nuclear war from happening
- 1967- Israel secretly obtains nuclear weapons
- 1974- IAEA publishes a list called the trigger list which contains items that could be used in making nuclear weapons.
- 1974- Iran's Comprehensive safeguard agreement enters into force
- 1975- Conferences start being held every 5 years to review the implementation of the treaties
- 1991- Iraq is forced to eliminate its secret nuclear program which was revealed after the gulf war.
- 1993- The IAEA declares North Korea in noncompliance with its safeguards obligations and refers Pyongyang to the UN Security Council.
- 2003- North Korea announces that it is leaving the NPT and Iran is suspected of hiding nuclear activity and not reporting to the NPT. Libya also announced that it is abandoning its nuclear program after the Iraq war. Additional Protocol signed and implemented voluntarily by Iran
- 2010's- The UK announces a plan to reduce its current nuclear arsenal, The United States withdraws from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

- How would the IAEA disarm nuclear weapons off of countries?
- How would political orders shift after the nuclear weapon disarmament?
- Who would benefit the most off of the disarmament and who would be most affected by the disarmament?
- Should partial disarmament occur where a limit to nuclear weapons is proposed or a complete one?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Question Of Global Nuclear Disarmament

- The economics effects of nuclear disarmament
- Reasons why some countries haven't joined NPT yet
- Possible solutions for nuclear weapons
- Ways to prevent any chance of a nuclear weapon being used
- The treaties and campaigns that were made for this issue
- Nuclear weapon free zones
- Safeguard inspections
- Global initiative to combat nuclear terrorism (GICNT)

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

Iran's foreign policy raises concerns due to its partnerships and proxy forces with militant organizations throughout the Middle East. The Iranian administration has worked to consolidate its power throughout the region ever since the 1979 Iranian revolution that saw the Shah deposed and Ayatollah Khomeini returned to his nation. Iran has done this by utilizing a network of affiliated militia organizations and other non-state actors, beginning with Hezbollah in Lebanon in the 1980s, to resist conventional armed forces. Iranian partnerships with Hezbollah in Yemen, militias in Iraq, and the Houthi group in Yemen have been made possible by regional instability and weak regimes in Lebanon (since the 1980s), Iraq (since 2003), and Yemen (since 2014). Given that the two nations have been partners for a long time, Iran has also backed President Assad in Syria. The UK and its allies view Iran's efforts as destabilizing the region, and many of these groups are subject to weapons embargos or are deemed to be terrorist organizations. Iran has attempted to influence Iraqi politics ever since the 1979 Iranian revolution and the 1980s Iran-Iraq conflict. Iranian influence in Iraq has grown since 2003 thanks to funding for Shia militias. The militia groups were able to grow in the middle of the 2010s because of the growth of Islamic State/Daesh and the Iraqi government forces losing territory in that country.

Iran has also been involved in the development of nuclear weapons, and uranium enrichment programs. Although there have long been international concerns about Iran's nuclear program, the first UN sanctions against Tehran were not implemented until 2006. This came after Iran was found to be in breach of its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1970, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) official statement. After an intricate two-year negotiation process and several interim agreements, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was finally signed in July 2015.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

Iran is known to have ongoing skirmishes with numerous countries (Middle-eastern countries, United states of America, Israel, and Syria) throughout the years, which is the reason why this issue is of great significance. Iran poses a threat to international security and peace because of developing nuclear weapons and harbouring them in the past. If not for financial sanctions and regulations being placed Iran would have continued to do so. Since Iran violated a key provision of the nuclear agreement it reached in July 2015 with the permanent UN security council and Germany, therefore violating the UN charter as it went against the regulations that were set. This Iranian breach occurred when regional tensions between Iran and the United States were rising. Iran downed an American spy drone on June 20, 2015. While Iran claims the drone was on Iranian soil, U.S. authorities claim it was in international airspace. A few hours later, President Trump authorized retaliatory attacks against three Iranian targets before abruptly cancelling them. Four oil tankers were assaulted in the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway where 30% of the world's crude oil supply travels, a month earlier. The American government dispatched an additional 1,500 troops and military equipment to the Middle East after concluding that Iran was probably responsible for the assaults. Early in June, close to where the other four oil tankers were targeted, two more oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman came under attack. Washington once more attributed the sabotage to Iran and dispatched an extra 1,000 troops to the area. Iran has denied having any part in the two occurrences.

The oil and financial sanctions turned out to be quite successful in slowing down Iran's growth. Iran was unable to remit its export proceeds and export hydrocarbon products. Between 2011 and 2014, oil exports decreased from 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD) to about 1 million BPD. By 2012, the Iranian economy was experiencing double-digit inflation and a severe downturn. From 5.8% in 2010 to 2.6% in 2011 and a negative 7.4% in 2012, real GDP growth declined. There were tremendous social effects, such as the unemployment increase in Iran between 2014 and 2018.

This issue has also caused countries to worry about their national security to grow as it was said that Iran had motives to use nuclear weapons for military-related goals.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

Ever since the 1978 Islamic revolution in Iran, the regime has been planning to become a nuclear super power in the region. Saddam Hussein's ambition of achieving nuclear power further accelerated interest from the Irani regime in developing nuclear weapons to secure its grasp on the region. Remaining middle east countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Isreal they were opposed to the idea of Iran becoming a nuclear state as it could possibly result in a new wave of war in the middle east. The US has also been fighting to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons or nuclear energy as it sees that the development of those weapons would sabotage their interests and allies in the region. In 2015 the issue of Iran's nuclear program was brought into the UN and the P5+1 agreed to ban the state from transferring, importing, and exporting arms, sensitive nuclear material and equipment, and missiles or missile systems for the duration specified, the US pulled out of the agreement in 2018 after suspecting Iran from hiding information from the IAEA. The 2015 agreement was the last one with Iran and the situation since then has been complicated with the US and its allies continuing to sanction Iran and with Iran willing to negotiate with the US to return to the agreed upon resolution. The IAEA committee finds it is of utmost importance to find a solution that satisfies both sides without increasing tensions between the two sides. It is in all parties' best interest that this issue is resolved peacefully through increasing talks between the state of Iran and the Arab League, through easing sanctions on the state of Iran in return for collaboration and easing of tensions, and through continuous monitoring of the regions nuclear programs

IMPORTANT DATES

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

- 1957- The United States and Iran signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement as part of the United States Atoms for Peace program
- 1970s- Iraq had ambitions to create a nuclear program as it wanted to establish itself as the power in the region and threaten Israel and the US. Iran signed the NPT's Safeguards Agreement. The safeguards allowed inspections for the purpose of verifying that nuclear enrichment for peaceful nuclear energy is not diverted to nuclear weapons. Israel secretly acquired nuclear weapons
- 1980s- The US stopped supplying Iran with highly enriched uranium after the Islamic revolution. Iran opened a nuclear research center at Isfahan with China's assistance
- 1990s- Russia and Iran signed a cooperation agreement on the civil use of nuclear energy. The IAEA expanded the Safeguards Agreement by adopting the Additional Protocol. Under the latter, inspectors would be allowed to conduct short notice inspections
- 2000s- IAEA inspectors only allowed partial access to the Parchin military base in Tehran, the US threatened Iran with war and sanctions if they do not abandon their nuclear program, later on in 2006 the IAEA reported the state to the UN Security Council for breaching the NPT agreement, it was later banned from buying weapons and it had its foreign assets frozen and further economic sanctions were imposed on the regime.
- 2010s- Iran has increased its production of weapon grade uranium in response to increased sanctions from the US and its Allies. Meanwhile, Russia started to help Iran in improving its nuclear program with the help of the Russians. Iran started to make significant strides toward building their first nuclear weapon. Later on in the decade the state met with P5+1 to negotiate a new deal called JCPOA which assured the regime's compliance with set regulations. Complications arose at the end of the 2010s claiming that Iran is not complacent with the JCPOA as a result the US pulled out of JCPOA and increased sanctions.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

- Why is Iran's development of Nuclear substances an issue while USA, Russia and others are not issues?
- How could the IAEA maintain an unbiased resolution to this issue?
- What role do other countries like Syria, Russia, Israel, Jordan, etc. (countries that are participating in Iran conflict or have allies participating in them) play in this conflict?
- With whom are European countries siding in this conflict and why? (Think further than the nuclear industry here)

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Iran & the Middle Eastern Peace & Security

- Conflicts that occurred with Iran's neighbouring countries
- The joint comprehensive plan of action (JCPOA)
- The deals done with Iran and policies implemented
- Iran's Military goals
- Timeline of political events that happened in Iran
- The stance that different countries are taking regarding Iran (with/against)
- Iran's nuclear program

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American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



MMXXIII

2022-2023



International Court of Justice (ICJ)



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Judges and Advocates,

We would like to welcome you to the sixteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) and more specifically to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It is our great pleasure to serve as your chairs for this conference and we hope you enjoy your experience with us. We seek to help, inspire, and guide you throughout the conference, leading your way to a fulfilling experience.

The ICJ works to settle disputes between member states in accordance with international law. The two topics selected for this committee are “Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia).” and “Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)”. We are well aware of the challenge faced when serving as a Judge or Advocate in the ICJ, however, we are confident that you are all more than capable of showcasing your talents and abilities in the best way possible in this committee.

We have put together this background guide to serve as your first step in your preparation for the conference. Please read it thoroughly, with focus on the further questions to be addressed, and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to meeting you all very soon and we wish you the absolute best in the upcoming conference.

Warm Regards,
Neimat Elkarib, Syed Abdul Rehman, and Yusr Mohamed
Your ICJ Chairs.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the United Nations, which was established in 1945 and began operating in 1946. The first ever case was presented by the United Kingdom against Albania in 1947. The court can entertain two types of cases: the first being disputes between states and the second being advisory opinions requested by other UN organs. Only states who are members of the UN and have accepted the court's jurisdiction can file cases in the ICJ. Although the court does not punish leaders, it can involve other UN bodies such as the security council and can also impose UN sanctions. Additionally, the court consists of 15 judges who must come from different nationalities, each elected by the UN and serving a 9-year term. These organs vote simultaneously but separately, and their votes determine the final verdict. At AUSMUN 23, we will have a president & two vice presidents, 4 counsels (advocates) - 2 of which are applicants and 2 are respondents, and 15 judges.

The procedure of the ICJ is as follows:

- The motion to set the agenda is presented with voting procedures, in other words, the topic to begin discussing will be chosen by both judges and counsels.
- After the agenda is set, each judge must take an oath.
- The applicants, who have presented the case to the ICJ, must then make their opening statement.
- The respondents will then give their opening statements.
- The judges may then question the advocates' opening speeches if they yield to points of information.

Opening statements should include why they have brought this case to the ICJ as well as facts and evidence they are planning on presenting. Opening statements must not provide detailed arguments as those will be addressed in the court session.

- A judge will then motion to open the general speakers list (GSL) where both judges and counsels may add themselves to the speakers list. This GSL may be interrupted by motions for a moderated caucus.
- A motion to present evidence will be raised by one of the counsels, if this motion passes after voting procedures, applicants will present evidence first followed by respondents.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

International Court of Justice

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

- The applicants and the respondents may yield their time to questions from judges or opposing counsels.
- A motion to introduce witness testimonies may also be raised after the evidence session has elapsed.

Witnesses will go through direct and cross examination. Direct examination is when the counsels question their own counsels. Cross examination is when opposing counsels question the witness.

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

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

On the 6th of December 2001, Nicaragua brought forward proceedings against the state of Columbia regarding territory and maritime delimitation. Nicaragua attempted to establish that the proceedings were subject to international customary law and that this case was under the mechanism of the Pact of Bogota. The Pact of Bogota, more formally known as the American treaty of Pacific Settlement (1948), is an agreement that obliges signatories to approach the United Nations Security Council or the International Court of Justice to settle disputes.

The focal point of the proceedings involves the question of sovereignty over various islands and maritime areas. In the early twentieth century, the USA, Columbia, and Nicaragua claimed to have sovereignty over several islands. In 1928, the states of Colombia and Nicaragua entered an agreement that included the formal recognition of Nicaraguan sovereignty over the cost of Mosquito and nearby islands. In exchange, Nicaragua recognized Columbian sovereignty over the islands of San Andres and other parts forming the archipelago of San Andres along Providencia and Santa Catalina. However, this treaty was also announced null and void by the newly appointed Sandinista government in Nicaragua in 1979. The reasoning behind their objections was the fundamental premise that the Nicaraguan government in 1928 was an imposition of the US military. This dispute continued until 2001 when Nicaragua brought the proceedings to the ICJ. In 2012, the ICJ unanimously declared their verdict in the favor of Columbia when the question surrounded the sovereignty of archipelagos and cays, namely Albuquerque, Bajo Nuevo, Serrana, and Serranilla. However, the ICJ also altered the maritime boundaries surrounding that area which resulted in Columbia losing some control over the said territories which were then ruled to go to Nicaragua. The case has seen significant back and forth between the two nation-states in the ICJ. Tensions have also been high since Nicaragua has laid accusations against alleged Columbian threats.

A critical issue that revolves around this case is associated with fishing rights. Since Columbia has lost maritime territory, it has also resulted in a reduction of its fishing zones. Nicaragua has brought forward the existence of Columbian naval vessels and argues that they are intruding on their naval and maritime jurisdiction. They have also accused Columbian vessels of making Nicaraguan fishing activities inoperable. Columbia has rejected these accusations and claims that 99% of fishing activities carry on without any reports of incidents (“Arguments in border”, n.d.). Although the ICJ considers that previous rulings have led to equitable outcomes, the countries are deeply concerned about the enclaves and new maritime territories that could restrict fishing operations.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

The substantive issues surrounding this case are divided into sovereignty and maritime boundary delimitation. The question of sovereignty revolved around the disputed islands that the ruling handed over to Colombia. When the court concerned itself with the question of sovereign territory, it referred to treaties and accepted legal doctrines, agreements, and the customary international law framework. The 1928 treaty (Esguerra-Barcenas Treaty) was signed between the two states where Nicaragua formally recognized Colombia's sovereignty over the archipelago of San Andres, Providencia, Santa Catalina, and the cost of Mosquitoes. However, the court deemed this, alone, as inconclusive grounds on which to proceed with. The ICJ then turned to the legal principle of *uti possidetis juris*. This principle is relevant in international law since it concerns itself with the retention of territory. In simple words, newly formed independent states (like Colombia) have the right to retain the territories and areas of their former colonial states (the archipelago of San Andres, Providencia, Santa Catalina, and the cost of Mosquitoes). Moreover, the historical validity of Colombia's claim over those areas was never in question, which gave the court more reason to rule the sovereignty in favor of Colombia.

The court also deemed the legal principle of effective occupation to work in the favor of the Colombian state. This doctrine allows a state to establish sovereignty over an area through displaying acts of authority. Such acts are not to be violent or oppressive, but rather structural in their manifestation of sovereignty such as the presence of legislation, infrastructure, regulation, public services, etc. Colombia was able to prove to the court, with various legal documentation, that they sustained such acts to reserve them the right to exercise sovereignty over the disputed islands. The court ruled in their favor as a result.

When the question shifted toward maritime spaces and boundaries, the ICJ ruled a larger Exclusive Economic Zone and maritime boundary for Nicaragua than Colombia. This was larger than Colombia had anticipated which resulted in their decision to pull out from the Bogota Pact as well. This would allow them to refuse ICJ's ruling and potentially impose their presence over the court-agreed boundaries. Although the dispute has not escalated towards violence, it remains very important since it affects the livelihood of many fishermen and hence the industry. Moreover, after the 2022 ruling, we must caution against the actions of the two nations when it comes to complying with the rulings which have not been the case after previous rulings.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

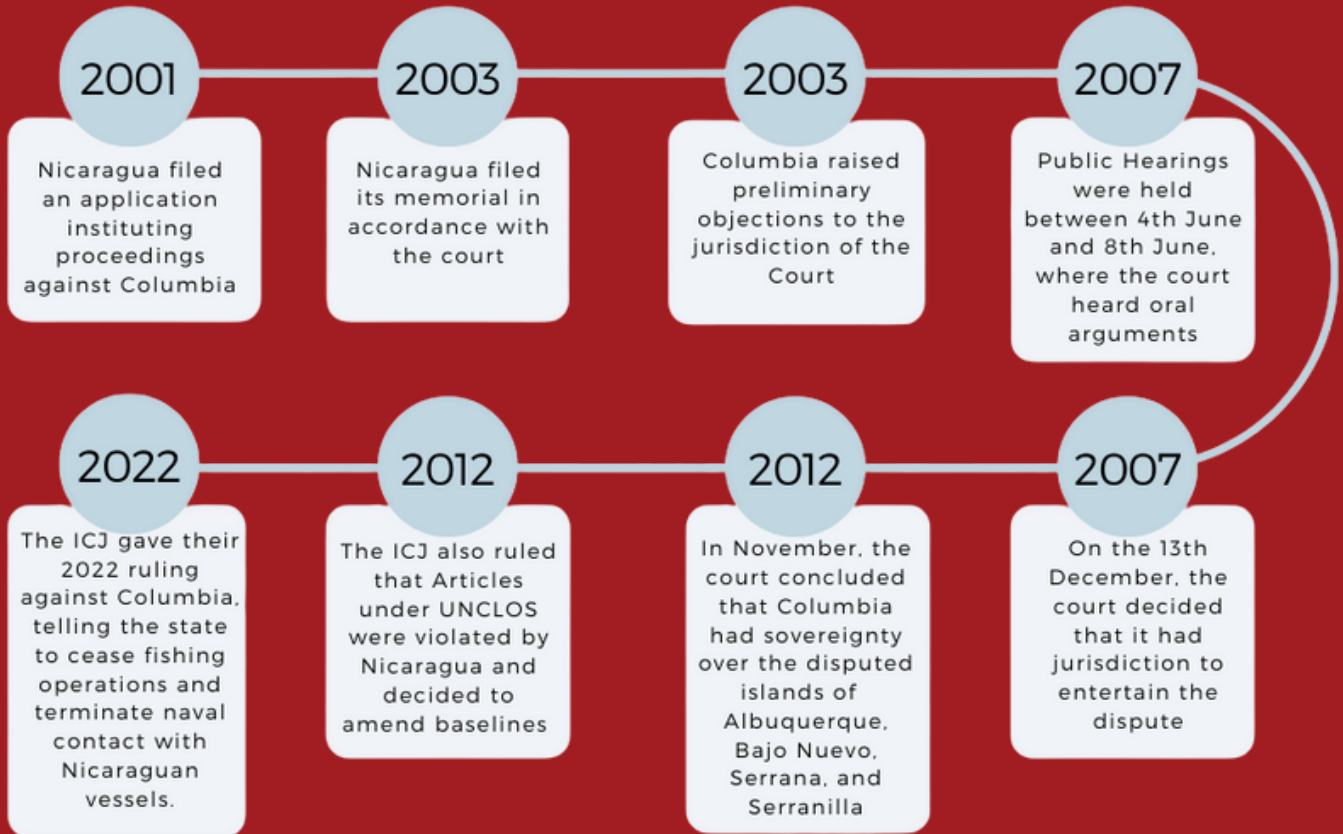
The International Court of Justice, under the decision that the Pact of Bogota is legally binding (Voglesong, 2022), decided to assert jurisdiction to settle the case. The ICJ was met with the issue of alleged violations of Nicaragua's maritime zones as well as claims and accusations submitted by Columbia. The ICJ proceeded with the case that led to the 2022 ruling.

The 2022 ruling identifies the allegations brought up by Nicaragua and establishes that Columbia had, in fact, violated the sovereign rights of Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan advocates were able to prove that Columbia was involved in interfering with fishing and maritime research conducted by Nicaragua. Moreover, Columbia's infringement also involved the authorization of its fishing activities in Nicaragua's Exclusive Economic Zone. As a result, the judges ruled that Columbia must cease all fishing operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone and terminate the Colombian navy's contact with Nicaraguan fishing vessels and maritime research expeditions. However, Columbia was still allowed to retain its military around the Exclusive Economic Zone as it was their right to patrol against drug trafficking and other crime.

The ICJ also found that one of Columbia's claims was admissible. The Columbian advocates claimed that the 2012 ruling was not in accordance with customary international law. They argued that the ICJ's delimitations of both nations' maritime boundaries were inaccurate, and this caused an overlap of Columbia's Exclusive Economic Zone and Nicaragua's Exclusive Economic Zone. Columbia claimed that this was a violation of Article 7 (mainly clause 6) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Moreover, they also argued that the court had used straight baselines to determine the delimitation which was responsible for the overlap. This also violates Article 7 of UNCLOS ("ICJ Rules", n.d.). The court then proceeded to admit Columbia's claims and stated that the use of straight baselines will be applicable 'restrictively' (the application of the baselines will not completely renew the previously existing boundaries, rather only an amendment). The court identified that such baselines denied the Columbian state access and navigation inside its own Exclusive Economic Zone. This was a violation of freedom of navigation under the UNCLOS.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)



SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

Judges can seek to infer international law from numerous treaties, agreements and the Customary International Laws and Conventions followed by the United Nations. In this particular case, it would be important to familiarize with:

- The Bogota Pact
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- The Esguerra-Barcenas Treaty in 1928
- Legal Principles and Doctrines surrounding concepts such as *uti possidetis juris* and *effective occupation*.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 1: Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

Arguments in border dispute between Colombia, Nicaragua conclude before UN High Court. Courthouse News Service. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://www.courthousenews.com/arguments-in-border-dispute-between-colombia-nicaragua-conclude-before-un-high-court/>

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Latest developments: Territorial and maritime dispute (Nicaragua V. colombia): International Court of Justice. Latest developments | Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia) | International Court of Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved November 20, 2022, from <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/124>

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

On the 23rd of June 1999, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) filed proceedings against Uganda for a breach of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity through acts of armed aggression. The case entailed three main claims: the violation of international law through Uganda's engagement in military force, the destruction of DRC nationals and property, and the exploitation of its natural assets (International Court of Justice, 2022a). The DRC sought reparations for claims of acts of intentional destruction and the restitution of national property and resources. The Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted a request to the Court for provisional measures to stop violations of human rights, the sovereignty of the DRC, and all military activity by Uganda in June 2000. The two parties were ordered by the court to refrain from armed action and take necessary compliance measures under the obligations of international law. Uganda then filed a counter-memorial with three counterclaims against the DRC. The first one claimed that the DRC had violated Article 2(4) of the UN Charter by using force against Uganda (International Court of Justice, 2022a). The second counterclaim was that the DRC permitted attacks on Ugandan diplomatic personnel and property in Kinshasa in violation of the law of diplomatic protection. The final counterclaim posits that the DRC has violated the terms of the 1999 Lusaka Agreement (McGuinness, 2006). Proceedings were undertaken by the court in April 2005 and the court handed down its judgments by December 2005.

The main premise behind the dispute is the invasion of Congolese territory by Uganda and the violation of humanitarian law and human rights by both parties. The DRC alleged that from August 1998 until June 2003 unlawful Ugandan troops were maintained in DRC sovereign land (CASE CONCERNING ARMED ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CONGO, 2005). Uganda refutes this, claiming that the April 1998 protocol formed between the two parties governed the presence of its troops and that the decree of removal of all troops from the DRC by August 1998 required formal withdrawal from the protocol. The Court found that the DRC's consent to Ugandan troops was withdrawn by August 1998.

The Court also determined that the presence of Ugandan military activity in the DRC constituted belligerent occupation under international humanitarian law thus, rejecting Uganda's claim to confining troops to its border regions. Following these proceedings, the Court rejected Uganda's claims of self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter finding no credible evidence of an armed attack involving the DCR against Uganda for their claims on self-defense within the territory (Bodansky, D., & Gathii, J. T. 2007). The ICJ's findings of Ugandan power in Ituri allowed the determination that Uganda was obligated to take measures to ensure the restoration of public order and safety of the occupied area. Sufficient evidence concluded that the Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces troops had violated human rights law thus being assigned to Uganda.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

This dispute entails a question of violation of international law, more specifically the use of force in regions where sovereignty was questionable. Having found Uganda guilty of residing its troops in DRC territories, the court proceeded to examine claims of breaching international law whilst nonconsensually occupying these territories. The court found Uganda responsible for breaching several international laws including Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN charter, the principle of non-use of force in international relations, the principle of non-intervention, and human rights laws. Nonetheless, the DRC was also found guilty of violating the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. This dispute is important in establishing the credibility of the court and setting forth an example of its jurisdiction in solving such significant issues.

The court's ruling on the 19th of February 2022, in which Uganda was ordered to pay \$65,000,000 in reparations to the DRC, is one that places great economic pressure on Uganda. More recently, Uganda has paid its first installment of 65 million dollars, which came as a shock to many, however, analysts have concluded that this is a strategic decision by the Ugandan government to better the bilateral relations between the two countries (Kazadi & Matsiko, 2022). The Central Bank of Uganda reports that in January 2022, Uganda's exports to the DRC increased from \$29.9 million to \$74.3 million, setting a record high (Kazadi & Matsiko, 2022). This does serve in favor of the DRC for as long as Uganda has an interest in maintaining good relations with it, their reparations will be paid.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

On the 8th of February 1989, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the court asserted its jurisdiction to settle the legal disputes under concern. The first judgment was settled in 2005, followed by the resumption of proceedings in 2015. These proceedings continued until the court delivered its final judgments on the 9th of February 2022 (“Latest Developments”, n.d.).

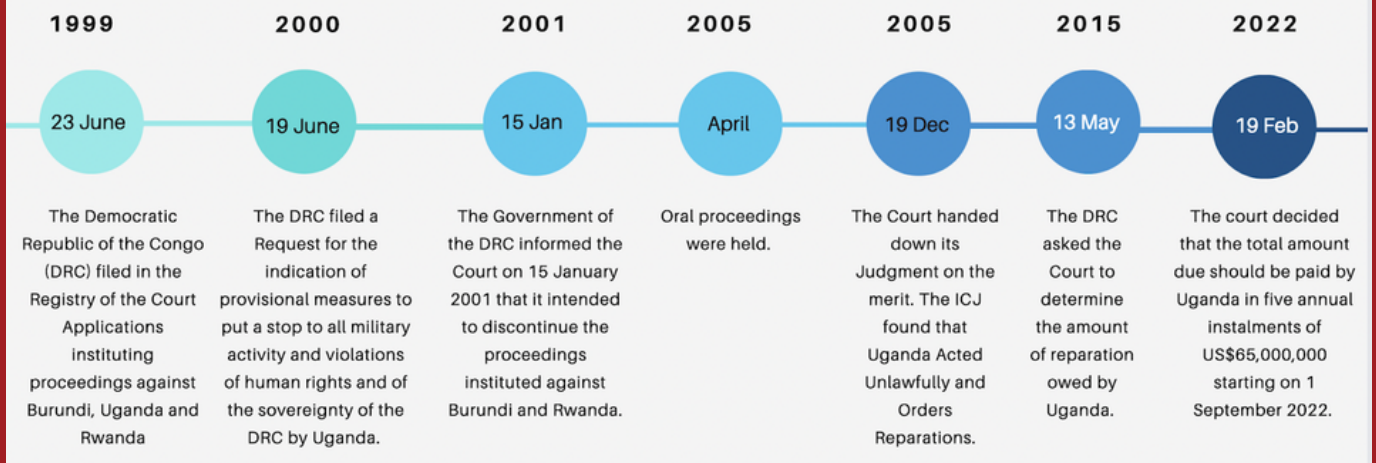
On the 19th of December 2005, the Court’s judgments found both Uganda and the DRC violating certain commitments and were under obligation to make reparation to the other party. The Court found credible evidence for a counterclaim of Uganda regarding attacks against the Ugandan Embassy and mistreatment of Ugandan diplomats in the DRC (Uganda violated international law by occupying eastern DR of Congo – UN court, 2005). This concluded that the DRC had breached its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Following an order on the 1st of July 2015, the Court proceeding on reparations resumed due to the failure of negotiations with Uganda as requested by DCR in May 2015 (“Latest Developments”, n.d.).

In 2020, the court decided in accordance with Article 67, paragraph 1 of the Statute to arrange expert opinion on damage claims from the DRC (International Court of Justice. 2022a). Following this, in April 2021, oral proceedings were held on the question of reparations for both the loss of human life and natural resources and the property damage. On its 9th of February 2022 judgment, the ICJ awarded a total of US\$65,000,000 in reparations for the damages to be paid by Uganda by September 2022.

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

ARMED ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO V. UGANDA)



SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

- Judges are encouraged to further review international law violations in depth as well as
- Specific humanitarian law violations & evidence provided
- Counterclaims made by Uganda
- Judgements on counterclaims

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 2: Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)

Bodansky, D., & Gathii, J. T. (2007). ICJ—prohibition against the use of force—self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter—duty of vigilance—IHR and IHL under belligerent occupation. *American Journal of International Law*, 101(1), 142–149.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/s0002930000029596>

CASE CONCERNING ARMED ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CONGO. (2005). In <https://ijl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Case-Concerning-Armed-Activities-on-the-Territory-of-the-Congo-Democratic-Republic-of-the-Congo-v.-Uganda-ICJ-2005.pdf>.
<https://ijl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Case-Concerning-Armed-Activities-on-the-Territory-of-the-Congo-Democratic-Republic-of-the-Congo-v.-Uganda-ICJ-2005.pdf>

International Court of Justice. (2022a). ARMED ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO v. UGANDA). In <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/116/116-20220209-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>.

International Court of Justice. (2022b). Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda) Reparations. In <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/116/116-20220209-SUM-01-00-EN.pdf>

Kazadi, C. K., & Matsiko, G. M. (2022, October 18). *What will Congo do with the millions paid by Uganda in reparation?* JusticeInfo.net. <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/107935-what-will-congo-do-with-the-millions-paid-by-uganda-in-reparation.html>

Latest developments | Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda) | International Court of Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved October 30, 2022, from <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/116>

McGuinness, M. E. M. (2006, January 9). *Case Concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo: The ICJ Finds Uganda Acted Unlawfully and Orders Reparations* | ASIL. <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/10/issue/1/case-concerning-armed-activities-territory-congo-icj-finds-uganda-acted>

Uganda violated international law by occupying eastern DR of Congo – UN court. (2005, December 19). UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2005/12/164092>

American University of Sharjah

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MMXXIII

2022-2023



Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the 2023 American University of Sharjah's annual Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN2023). As chairs of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), we are excited to meet you all. We are looking forward to hearing your ideas and conversations you will bring to the table regarding the solutions for solving international issues regarding our committee. We cannot wait to witness your debates and collaboration during the committee sessions.

The UN charter mentions four main objectives for its existence. These objectives are, to maintain international peace and security, develop relations among nations, encourage cooperation between nations to solve international issues and provide a forum for countries to work together. To meet the UN's goals we must establish proper communication, cooperation and act in a diplomatic sense within the committee. This is vital to maintaining the flow of the committee.

AUSMUN has been inspiring the youth by giving them a platform in which they can solve international conflicts and strives to improve the experience for new and returning delegates. We hope everyone has a memorable and valuable experience with AUSMUN 2023.

For any inquiries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us through the following email: pbcausmun2023@gmail.com



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), was founded in December 2005 by the General Assembly and Security Council. As a new international advisory body of the UN that assists peace initiatives in nations that had recently experienced conflict, Its goal is to coordinate all the necessary parties and mobilize resources while proposing comprehensive plans for post-conflict peacebuilding and rehabilitation. A number of offices for peacebuilding have also been established by the Security Council. Simply speaking, its primary purpose is to put forward ideas that help with conflicts and maintain the most peaceful outcome in doing so.

The UN-PBC is a subsidiary organ of the general assembly so voting works the same way as it does in the GA. One factor to note is no peacekeeping operation can be deployed, withdrawn or authorized without the United States' approval. Another factor to note is peacekeepers cannot be deployed without warning the main parties that are at conflict.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

The United Nations may get into conflict between certain countries, which may or may not involve them, hence the importance of peacebuilding. Peacebuilding is anything done in order to aim for peace between certain parties. In order to achieve and maintain peace, peacekeepers are employed by the World Organization. Unfortunately, the ability to keep peace between parties has the tendency to fail due to unjust factors. Leading to countless wars, crimes, and other acts of violence. The first significant instance of the UN peace breach was the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948. The British Mandate of Palestine was divided into a Jewish state and an Arab state by a UN decision in November 1947. (United Nations Resolution 181). Jews and Arabs in Palestine waged war almost immediately. Conflict continued to worsen as British troops prepared to leave Palestine, with both Jewish and Arab forces engaging in hostilities. Hence, the first peacekeeping mission was established in May of that year when the UN Security Council permitted a group of UN Military observers. They began to establish the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East to keep an eye on the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Ever since, countless conflicts between countries have arisen with the need for involvement from the UN.

The youth in particular is one of the first to experience violence and prejudice because of their social and economic vulnerability. During wars or any acts of terrorism, young people seem to be absorbed in it. Allowing young people to have insight into peacekeeping missions would help tackle issues faster, since they know the greater consequences of countries' actions. Therefore, their judgment would be greatly necessary in order to succeed with the peacekeeping criteria that the UN maintains.

Moreover, young people should have a greater role in peacekeeping missions. Therefore, the UN must start recognizing them as legitimate members of their peacebuilding missions. In the first place, young people are frequently disregarded because they are considered to lack experience and skills. Not enough consideration is given to their real-world situation in communities and in crisis zones. While young people are eager to access more opportunities for capacity building, their exclusion from peace processes prevents us from taking advantage of their special talents and abilities, supporting their capacity development, and modifying peace processes based on youths' first-hand knowledge and insights.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

Ever since the UN adopted the resolution 2250, the role of young adults in peacebuilding missions has gained significant traction. The youth are the future of this world and involving them in our critical missions is vital. The youth can play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. They are a key in sustainability, inclusivity, and success of peacebuilding efforts (UN, n.d.). This issue is of high significance due to the importance of youth in the current society. Including the youth in decision making benefits the future. This prepares the future generations to take initiative and involve themselves. This issue also gives the youth a voice. This voice is much needed in the current state of the world.

Currently, this issue has had positive implications on world affairs. The peacebuilding missions allow for training in host countries. This in turn improves the social and economic aspects of the host countries. Youth are seen as a political weapon in places of conflict (Ozerdem, 2016). According to the UN, in conflict areas the youth possess invaluable knowledge and are agents of change. Politically, some countries may or may not like the influence of Peacekeepers so that creates negative implications. Peacekeepers help young people gain skills and allow them to participate in decision making processes. This again helps the social state of said countries. Currently, there are 12 UN peace operations in the middle east, Africa and Europe. The countries most affected by it are where the peacekeeping operations are taking place. These countries include Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, South Sudan, Congo, Mali, Pakistan and Morocco (UN, n.d.).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

In an effort to support the role of young people in peacebuilding, the UN established the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) and the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The GYPI and the PBF both support the importance and implementation of gender equality. They also note the importance of the involvement of positive young adults within peacebuilding missions and programmes.

With the GYPI, the UN aims to increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping and implement the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015). These resolutions outline the "Secretary General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding" and on "Women, Peace and Security." This will strengthen and integrate women into existing peacebuilding missions. Accordingly, this will contribute to operational learning on the gender-responsive programs and missions, as well as causing the increase of funding of gender-responsive peacebuilding projects. Hence, allowing for the improvement of performance of the Secretary-General's target of 15% of peacebuilding funding towards empowering women and closing any gender gaps. Resultantly, this will increase the implementation of the Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan and increase the funding by the PBF towards future gender-responsive peacebuilding projects.

The GYPI will strengthen the participation of young adults in pre-existing and in future peacebuilding initiatives and support innovative projects, specifically projects that focus on youth empowerment and participation with peacebuilding missions and programmes. Further supporting the youth to partner with CSOs (Criminal Statistic Office), governments and UN organizations in their own countries which in turn will cause operational learning and ensure implementation of the Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on "Youth, Peace and Security."

Currently there are twelve ongoing operations in the Department of Peace Operations. The majority of the ongoing operations are in the middle east and africa. Some examples of the ongoing operations are the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to help bring stability to the middle east and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to protect civilians living in areas affected by conflict.

IMPORTANT DATES

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

- May 1948: First UN peacekeeping mission happened (Arab-Israeli conflict)
- 20 December 2005: PBC was founded
- 2015: Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and 2250 To involve the youth.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

- What other initiatives can be taken to improve the role of young adults in peacekeeping commissions other than GYPI and the PBF?
- How to ensure the implementation of any future initiatives taken.
- How could future conflict be prevented from happening in the first place?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Critical Role of Young Women and Men in Peacebuilding Missions

Team, O. (n.d.). ODS HOME PAGE. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/413/06/PDF/N1541306.pdf?OpenElement>

Team, O. (n.d.-c). ODS HOME PAGE. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

Perceptions of Women Leaders in Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping – CoD. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://community-democracies.org/women/perceptions-of-women-leaders-in-peacebuilding-and-peacekeeping/>

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

UN peacekeeping operates on three basic principles: consent from the involved parties, impartiality, and use of force only in self-defense or in defense of the mandate. Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools for navigating the path from conflict or war to peace. It has many strengths that allow it to succeed. For example, peacekeeping is able to gather troops and police from around the world to assist in diffusing a conflict. All while integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance peace efforts. Peacekeeping has been used for over two decades and has twelve UN peacekeeping operations currently deployed over three continents. To assess the state of UN peacekeeping operations, former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a seventeen-member high-level independent panel on UN peacekeeping operations. This panel should eliminate misconduct and hold peacekeepers' accountable for their actions. UN peacekeeping brings together the General Assembly (GA), the security council (SC), the secretariat, contributing troops and the host government. All in an effort to maintain peace and security to adhere to article 1 in the UN charter.

To improve the conduct of peacekeeping operations, the UN launched Action for Peacekeeping (A4P). In the A4P declaration, the UN outlines all the shared commitments that the peacekeeping operations operate by. Some of these commitments are advancing political solutions and strengthening the protection provided. As humans, we have a right to security as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This is in regard to the peacekeepers themselves. But also this relates to the people they are meant to be protecting from conflicts. This would mean that accountability is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Hence, one of the secretariat priorities for supporting the performance and accountability includes a Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS). The evaluations of the peacekeeping troops will allow the UN to hold any and all accountable parties up to their actions. The Status of Forces Agreement Compliance (SOFA) is another tool that will allow the UN to hold its troops accountable and ensure they are used effectively. This will allow the UN to ensure the completion of the field mission priorities.

In today's world, conflicts are deeply rooted. Countries are in second or third waves of conflict. Some examples of these countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, and South Sudan. The nature of these conflicts causes the peacekeeping forces to adapt to the changing needs of today's world.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

This issue is vital for the committee to discuss. As the usage of the UN Peacekeepers increases, the more crucial it becomes for us to hold peacekeepers accountable for their misconduct. Uniformed personnel have a standard to uphold. There are more than 100,000 peacekeepers deployed in 12 different nations (Bosco,2017). Any misconduct from them directly affects the residents of those countries. They represent the UN in those countries so, it is vital that there are means set in place to hold them accountable for their actions. There have been many reports of misconduct in deployed countries. There are insufficient means set in place to hold them accountable for their actions. There have been reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by many residents of countries in which peacekeepers are deployed in. Their misconduct violates the UN's code of conduct for UN personnel. It also violates the UN charter because it does not uphold universal respect and human rights. Just like the first issue, the countries in which these peacekeepers are deployed are most affected by it. Furthermore, the US has to authorize all peacekeeper missions. So, the peacekeepers also represent the US to a certain degree. Due to this issue, there are negative social implications. Citizens in countries where the peacekeepers are deployed are not happy. As stated above, reports have stated that sexual misconduct and human rights are exploited by peacekeepers. This has caused a huge social problem in countries where they are deployed in. There is a report about a peacekeepers sexually abusing a Haitian woman in 2016. She has not been able to move past the trauma that was caused by the peacekeeper (Wheeler, nd). This also has a political impact. Politically, the misconduct of peacekeepers is causing problems. The same people who are supposed to help are creating problems with their actions. So, it causes political issues in the host nations who are already suffering from political conflicts. Countries in which the UN peacekeepers are deployed include Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, South Sudan, Congo, Mali, Pakistan and Morocco (UN, n.d.). Peacekeepers also have a direct impact on the host nation's economy. They affect housing, retail, service markets and the labor force. Peace missions often offer a lot of jobs to the locals. It creates a source of income for many. Furthermore, the budget given to missions is also used in the host country. The budget is spent on the local economy, hired staff and local mission procurements. Peacebuilding missions also provide the host country with schools and hospitals which in turn boost their economy. Their misdemeanor does create a negative impact on the economy because the locals do not want to associate with them because of their actions. The local economy would not receive these benefits if they do not work with them.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

The UN seeks out highly qualified military officers from UN member states for this role. Unfortunately, cases of misconduct are not limited and do happen quite often. In order to tackle the issue however, the UN has ensured that all offenders are dealt with, investigated, and take the appropriate actions necessary for whatever allegations they committed.

Information on the nationality of military and police personnel accused of credible allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse was included in the Secretary-2015 General's report on Special measures for the protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/70/729). Payments to military troops who are suspected of engaging in sexual exploitation and abuse have been suspended from July 2015 until the investigation is finished or the person is repatriated from the mission. In cases where an inquiry has established validity, payments that have been suspended are withheld and paid to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The payments that were put on hold due to unfounded allegations are now fully paid back.

In the case of military units, the Secretary-General has asked Member States to set up on-site court martial proceedings for accusations that would qualify as sex crimes under national law. In order to speed up investigations and improve accountability, Member States have also been requested to consent to obtaining DNA samples of members of their uniformed forces who are suspected of committing sexual exploitation and abuse.



IMPORTANT DATES

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

- 28 March 2018: Launch of A4P, To reinforce shared political commitment to peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General announced Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) on March 28, 2018.
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- 25 September 2018: GA73 high-level meeting n A4P

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

- What consequences could peacekeepers face with violation of the peace regulations?
- How do we hold them accountable?
- Can they be punished?
- Who holds them accountable?
- What existing procedures are done, and how can they be improved?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

Secretary-General's statement on appointment of High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations | United Nations Secretary-General. (2014, October 31).

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2014-10-31/secretary-generals-statement-appointment-high-level-independent>

Action For Keeping Peace. (n.d.) | <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/a4p-declaration-en.pdf>

A4P Implementation in HQ and Field Missions. (2019, May 9).

https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/a4p-implementation-handout-9may2019_0.pdf

Project Approvals | PEACEBUILDING. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2022, from

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/project-approvals>

Accountability for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Making Peacekeeping More Effective | One Earth Future. (2018, June 2). <https://oneearthfuture.org/news/2018-06-02-accounta>

RESOURCES

Topic 2: Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

<https://www.pbfgypi.org/>

What is peacekeeping. (n.d.). United Nations Peacekeeping. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>

A4P Implementation in HQ and Field Missions. (2019, May 9). https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/a4p-implementation-handout-9may2019_0.pdf

Accountability. (2019, March 14). Conduct in UN Field Missions. <https://conduct.unmissions.org/enforcement-accountability>

Bosco, B. L., & → M. A. B. T. A. (2017, January 10). *Prioritizing UN Peacekeeper Accountability.* IPI Global Observatory. <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/01/united-nations-peacekeeping-sexual-abuse-guterres/>

Accountability for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Making Peacekeeping More Effective | One Earth Future. (2018, June 2). <https://oneearthfuture.org/news/2018-06-02-accountability-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-making-peacekeeping-more-effective>

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. (n.d.). United Nations Peacekeeping. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct>

Conduct and discipline. (2017, September 22). MINURSO. <https://minurso.unmissions.org/conduct-and-discipline>

Conduct and discipline. (2017, September 22). MINURSO. <https://minurso.unmissions.org/conduct-and-discipline>

Wheeler, S. (n.d.). *UN Peacekeeping has a sexual abuse problem.* Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/11/un-peacekeeping-has-sexual-abuse-problem>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/peace-and-security>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>

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MMXXIII

2022-2023



Security Council (SC):
High School Committee



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Esteemed delegates,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm to officially welcome you to the American University of Sharjah's annual Model United Nations conference as of February 2023, and specifically, to our committee, the United Nations Security Council. The committee is going to tackle two crucial security issues: 1) The effectiveness of the Security Council in Ukraine. 2) Peace in the Middle East: Turkey and Iraq. We, the chairs of security council, are eager to entertain all your fruitful and heated discussions all throughout the span of the three days. We wish to see your social interactions with the other delegates in this committee, as well as sharp communication skills during our committee sessions.

Being the largest in the region, AUSMUN calls for immense preparation prior to the conference such as detailed research on the topic, your country's stance on the topic, as well as a well written position paper that is expected to be handed to your chairs prior to the conference. This background guide can be used as a stepping stone for your research and will be all you need to know about the United Nations Security Council. In addition, we suggest you use the delegate handbook provided by AUSMUN to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure and formats that will be expected from you as a delegate.

Our aim as your chairs is to ensure that you leave this conference with a learning experience on basic global issues as well as having had a cherished time. We highly encourage all delegates to take part in compelling debates with their fellow delegates.

Best Regards,

United Nations Security Council (Highschool) Moderators



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was founded on January 17th, 1946, in Westminster, London and oversees all aspects of international peace and security. Its primary responsibility is to determine the existence of an international threat to world peace and security and terminate it. The Security Council consists of 15 members, five of which are permanent: France, China, the Russian federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The permanent five are given an exclusive voting right called the Veto power. The Veto power allows any of the permanent five to “Veto” or prevent a resolution from passing in the Security council. Any Non-permanent member that does not abide by resolutions put into place will be sanctioned. Like the UN as a whole, the security council was formed right after world war II, where peace failed to be maintained and a new promise to world security was made.

As per the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council’s primary function is to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations. It also plays a crucial role in investigating any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction, a threat to peace, or an act of aggression and recommend methods of reconciling or consequential actions thereof. Among the options that the UNSC can adopt for consequential actions is the placement of economic sanctions and other peaceful means or military aggression against an actor in certain cases. In addition, the Security Council has the right to recommend the appointment of the General Assembly’s Secretary-General as well as to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

Over the past years, Russia has militarily intervened in Ukraine and has been criticized by other countries for its hostility and violence towards Ukraine. This conflict began early in 2014 when the Russian army took control of the then Ukrainian-owned territory of Crimea. In 2021, the conflict was once again reignited after Russia placed hundreds of thousands of troops, as well as military equipment, near the Ukrainian border. With tensions higher than ever, fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine became true when Russia ordered a "special military operation" in Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

Ukraine sits amid Europe on the West and Russia on the East. Ukraine's geographical location has set up general distinctions in how Ukrainians recognize themselves. While Western Ukrainian parts have shared their attitudes about developing closer allies with the European Union and NATO, the Russian-speaking Ukrainian parts of the country, mostly living in the East, see Russia as their nearest ally. The continual drift of diplomatic opinions, the significance of Ukraine to Russia, Ukraine's economy, Ukraine's desire to join the EU and NATO, and its complex past have all been reasons that have produced tensions in the region. One example of this is Crimea, a peninsula once belonging to Ukraine that became part of Russia in 2014 through a referendum in which the people voted either to continue as part of Ukraine or Russia. However, after the takeover, the UN found that the outcome of this referendum was invalid. One month later a Russian-backed separatist movement started in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. A group of unmarked soldiers took the cities and declared them independent. In 2015, a peace agreement was made called Minsk II, and it termed for a cease-fire, the removal of tanks, mortars, and other heavy artillery, the drawing of foreign armed groups and weapons from Ukraine, recognized Luhansk and Donetsk as independent states and established that they could rejoin Ukraine if they wanted. This peace agreement has not been respected and fighting in the area continues.

The origins of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia goes back to the Vikings, but the significant history of the current conflict is traced back to Catherine the Great's expansion of the Russian Empire in the 18th century and the Russian Revolution in the early 20th century. Russian leaders have considered Ukraine like a "little brother" that can be shaped into a compliant vassal state that may be used to further expand Russia's power across Eastern Europe. Ukraine has shown resistance to the advances of Russia/USSR several times throughout the development of their common history and has only remained resisting into the present day. Ukraine resisted Russian occupation after the fall of the Russian empire and the rise of the USSR, during the Second World War, when a Russian-backed President refused to join the European Union. Acknowledging the origins of Russian and Ukrainian relations is vital to grasping the intentions behind President Putin's current decision to occupy the state of Ukraine.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

Russian drones and missiles have showered down on numerous cities, including the capital, Kyiv, reported by Ms. DiCarlo, damaging or destroying homes and relentlessly interrupting essential services. In response the UN Security Council has provided more than 185,000 people with essential basic winter supplies. Although humanitarian access has returned in Kherson and other regions, currently back in Ukrainian Government control, it is still exceptionally challenging to reach people in zones of the east and south taken by the Russian military and across the front line.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has harmed transport infrastructure, affected major transport through disruptions and led to a heavy surge of refugees going into the EU and bordering countries. The conflict has resulted in adverse impact on the region and accordingly this dispute be required to be discussed as a topic of is the UNSC effective in resolving disputes. The EU has presented actions to aid traffic flows and supply chains, ensuring the rapid and safe transfer of people caught in war zones and the transfer of crucial goods and commodities. On March 4 the United Nations Human rights council adopted a resolution that called for the rapid and certified removal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed units from Ukraine.

The US, EU and other members of the G7 have imposed debilitating sanctions on Russian businesses, individuals and financial institutions. The US, EU, UK and others have put a prohibition on exportation of goods to Russia, these exports include goods used by both its citizen and the military. Additionally, the G7 has withdrawn Russia from the Most Favored Nation list, depriving it of various trading benefits. All Russian departures have also been forbidden by the US, UK, EU, and Canadian airspace. The US, UK and EU have also frozen international assets and enforced travel sanctions on Russian oligarchs along with members of the Russian parliament.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

After the Russian invasion, the United Nations General Assembly on 2 March implemented a resolution condemning the “aggression” executed by Russia against Ukraine resulting in 141 votes in favor, 5 against, and 35 abstentions. The UN Human Rights Council implemented on 4 March a resolution calling for the rapid and certifiable removal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed units from the complete country of Ukraine. The UN Human Rights Council agreed on 5 March to immediately form an independent international commission of investigation in the wake of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine.

The five permanent members of the Security Council were called on to justify the use of the veto in an adopted resolution from the UN General Assembly. The UN Security Council approved a report on 6 May 2022 which firmly backs the Secretary-General’s efforts to accomplish a peaceful resolution for Ukraine. The Secretary-General appreciated the fact that for the first time the Security Council is talking with one voice for peace in Ukraine. On 30 September, Russia used its veto power on the Security Council’s resolution condemning the attempted aggression towards Ukrainian regions. The UN’s political affairs chief, Rosemary DiCarlo, informed the Security Council along with the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown on 21 October. Russia’s armed escalation in Ukraine will lead to further distress worldwide and must be overturned.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

10 November 2021- the United States of America reported the unusual movement of Russian troops near the border with Ukraine.

28 November 2021- Ukraine reported a build-up of Russian troops.

7 December 2021- US President Joe Biden warned the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin of "strong economic and other measures" if Russia attacked Ukraine.

17 December 2021- President Putin proposed a prohibition on Ukraine from ever joining NATO, which Ukraine rejected.

17 January 2022- Russian troops began arriving in Belarus.

19 January 2022- the US gave Ukraine security aid in the form of \$200 million. Biden states "Russia will be held accountable if it invades. And it depends on what it does."

24 January 2022- NATO troops were put on standby.

25 January 2022- Russian begins involving 6,000 troops and 60 jets near Ukraine and Crimea.

24 February 2022- Russia Invades Ukraine under the pretext of a "Special military operation".

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

- Does history merit invasion?
- In what way can the Security Council successfully confront the matter?
- What can other countries do to resolve the conflict?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

- Which countries are involved other than Russia and Ukraine and how are they affected.
- NATO's stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Actions from countries on the invasion.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of the Security Council in the Ukraine Crisis

Itfff. (2022, October 26). *The UN and the war in Ukraine: Key information*. United Nations Western Europe. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://unric.org/en/the-un-and-the-war-in-ukraine-key-information/>

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United Nations. (n.d.). *General Assembly resolution demands end to Russian offensive in Ukraine* | | *IUN news*. United Nations. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113152>

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SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

Following the events of the first World War, both Iraq and Turkey came out as relatively stable states, with Iraq operating under the British mandate and Turkey emerging fresh from the fallen Ottoman Empire. On October 30, 1918, the Ottoman Empire was made to sign an armistice agreeing that its South border remained ambiguous and that all Ottoman military activity must cease in specific surrounding Arab countries, one of them being Iraq.

The region of Mosul was one of the first areas of dispute between Turkey and Iraq. Britain was a leading actor in the issue as well, using Iraq as a means to gain land from Turkey. In 1923, a conference was held in Switzerland that called for an end to Turkey's Independence War. The question of Mosul was a critical one in this conference. Mosul belonging to Iraq was something Britain favored, as Iraq was operating under a British mandate at the time. Turkey on the other hand claimed that most inhabitants of the region were Turks and Kurds (an ethnic group found in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey), so Mosul rightfully belonged to them. No agreement was settled on for the conference and the issue was postponed and handed over to the previously established League of Nations, which later developed into what is now known as the United Nations.

In 1925 the League of Nations handed over Mosul to Iraq, leaving many to speculate that Britain and France had a strong impact on the decision due to their influential roles in the organization. Turkey's sociopolitical status was weakening simultaneously, as Islamist and Kurdish groups were rebelling against the state. This further deteriorated Turkey's chances of obtaining Mosul since the Kurds, the country's primary excuse for reclaiming the land, were disassociating themselves from Turkey as much as possible.

Despite the entire Mosul dispute, the League of Nations promised Turkey that they would receive a portion of the land's petrol for the next quarter of a century. Turkey fought back from the 1950s till late 1980s due to the fact that they were not getting their money's worth of petrol, which was eventually disregarded all together.

Under the British mandate, Iraq's relations with Turkey were wholly controlled by Britain whose interests were the main focus of the relations. When Iraq sought and gained independence in 1932, several pacts (Saadabad Pact and Baghdad Pact) took place that were consequential for military activity in the Middle East, especially in regard to Turkey and Iraq. These pacts brought the two nations closer together, as Iraq was the only Arab country involved in these military agreements relating to the Middle East.

The Saadabad Pact (1937) was one where Turkey, Iraq, and Iran agreed to not support any Kurds located in any of the three countries, however, this pact ceased to be significant following World War II.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

Iraq had previously complained to the United Nations Security Council committee regarding Turkey and their militia strikes which have effectively killed and wounded a significant number of people in the Kurdish areas of Iraq. In addition, Iraq had also launched rockets aimed towards a Turkish consulate based in the city of Mosul. The issue is believed to be escalating rapidly and tensions are rising as attacks continue to increase and spread within both nations under the guise of 'fighting back against terrorism and terrorist groups and agendas'.

Another rising issue regarding the topic is that Iraq's repeated suffering of Turkish attacks may as well leave it open to the same treatment from Iran. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran have previously admitted to launching strikes towards Iraqi cities before, and international criticism towards the actions was underwhelming in comparison to previous Turkish attacks.

On the 20th of July, 2022, Turkey launched a deadly strike on Dohuk, Iraq, a Kurdish hub which resulted in nine dead victims, three of which were children. An investigation was launched under committee supervision and the Security Council was requested to draft a resolution so that Turkey may withdraw from all Iraqi land completely. The United Nations Security Council committee did in fact strongly condemn the instance in Dohuk, however avoided pointing the blame at any participating party.

Turkey repeatedly uses Article 51 of the UN Charter as defense of their apparently deadly attacks on the PKK and the Kurdish people. As it stands, Article 51 of the UN Charter effectively gives a nation-state its right to defend itself against threats. Therefore, the Turkish government does not see it fit to seek Iraq's permission before launching strikes in its land.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

A separate point of contention between Iraq and Turkey is Turkey's building of 22 dams on the Tigris and Euphrates as part of their GAP project for water. Turkey faced more of an issue with Syria in regard to their dams, however, Iraq also found it to be a problem. This increased tensions between Iraq and Turkey which further worsened after the Gulf War when Turkey sided with the United Nations embargo on Iraq.

In 2017, relations between both countries were relatively positive. Iraq gave explicit permission for Turkey to militarily operate in the North against the PKK but only after discussing it with the Iraqi government. In addition, liaison offices were opened up in both capitals for the exchange of intelligence.

Despite the positive relations, Iraq and Turkey still often argued over military operations against the Kurds in Northern Iraq. In 2012, Iraq held a cabinet where representatives voiced their concerns about sovereignty violations occurring in the country due to Turkey's role. In 2017, Turkey's attack on Sinjar, Iraq left 5 Peshmerga fighters dead. Turkey claimed this to be a victory against terrorists, while Iraq once again claimed it to be a sovereignty violation.

Early this year in April, Turkey carried out Operation Claw-Lock, once again attacking the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Northern Iraq. Iraq responded in the same way, condemning Turkey's violation of sovereignty. In 2019, Iraqi President Barham Salih commented on Turkey's military intervention in Syria, stating that "Turkey's military incursion into Syria is a grave escalation; will cause untold humanitarian suffering, empower terrorist groups. The world must unite to avert a catastrophe, and promote a political resolution to the rights of all Syrians, including Kurds, to peace, dignity and security."

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

1918 – Ottoman Empire signs the Moudros Armistice declaring its Southern border ambiguous. Britain occupies Mosul.

1923 – Conference held to discuss the end of the Turkish War of Independence as well as the issue of Mosul.

1925 – League of Nations hands Mosul over to Iraq.

1932-1958 – Saadabad and Baghdad Pacts signed.

1948 – Turkey recognizes Israel.

1952 – Turkey joins NATO.

1958 – Iraq withdraws from Baghdad Pact. Turkey eventually recognizes the new Iraqi government.

1960's – Iraq and Turkey dispute over GAP project and dams in Tigris and Euphrates.

1990 – Iraq-Turkey relations shift following Gulf War.

2003 – Turkey rejects joining the US-led coalition in Iraq.

2008 – Turkey, Iraq, and Syria reestablish the Joint Trilateral Committee for better management of water resources.

2011 – Iraq and Turkey begin to face strong strain on their relations.

2017 – Turkey and Iraq signed an agreement for Turkey to fight PKK in North Iraq. 5 Peshmerga fighters die in a Turkish attack and Iraq condemns Turkey.

2019 – Turkey launches Operation Claw-3.

2022 – Turkey begins Operation Claw-Lock, Iraqi foreign minister calls them out for sovereignty violation.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

- How do Iraq-Turkey relations play a role in the Middle East's political stability?
- Is Turkey's military involvement in Northern Iraq valid? Shall it cease, continue with more restrictions, or continue as it is?
- What actions shall nations and/or international organizations take to deescalate the tensions between Middle Eastern countries and Turkey?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

- Middle East stance on Turkey's military intervention.
- How the Security Council can effectively tackle the issue within its abilities and powers.
- Which countries other than Iraq and Turkey are involved in the issue, and how they've affected it.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 2: Peace in the Middle East (Turkey and Iraq)

Cable News Network. (2011, October 19). *24 soldiers killed in attack in Turkey*. CNN. http://edition.cnn.com/2011/10/19/world/meast/turkey-attack/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

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MMXXIII

2022-2023



Security Council (SC):
University Committee



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

It is our honor to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC-University) committee in AUSMUN 2023. We hope that you will enjoy attending the conference. Even though many consider AUSMUN a competition, our goal for the conference is to learn diplomacy and international policy, debate, socialize, and have an enjoyable time.

We hope that the topics chosen for the committee are interesting and exciting enough to spark up intense debates and competition during the three days of the conference. We are aware that the United Nations Security Council is an advanced committee, so we will be trying our best to guide you through the committee rules and ensure your comfort and familiarity.

The background guide is crucial for your preparation for the conference. We strongly encourage you to read through it so that you become familiar with the proceedings of UNSC as well as the topics.

Best Regards,

Mohamed Ahmed, Suma Alheyari, and Faisal Darwish

United Nations Security Council (University) Moderators

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Security Council

Function

Functions of the Council include the appointment of judges for the International Court of Justice, the appointment of the Secretary General, and establishing systems to regulate armaments. Furthermore, the Council is tasked with the most urgent issues in the world and is an important factor to the maintenance of peace and security between nations, the investigation, and resolve of disputes, the identification of threats to peace, and the identification of acts of aggression. When the Council receives complaints about a dispute, its first action is to use the following means: (United Nations Security Council, n.d.-a).

- Requesting the Secretary General to achieve a pacific settlement of a dispute
- Appointing special envoys
- Undertaking mediation and investigations
- Implementing principles for an agreement
- Issues a ceasefire in an attempt to de-escalate the situation
- Dispatch a peacekeeping force to aid in the reduction of tension and the separation of opposing forces

The Security Council is the only United Nations organ whose resolutions are binding, so it is important to consider this when formulating resolution clauses. Member states are required to abide by the resolutions that are passed by the Security Council. In case they do not abide by the resolutions, the Council must first attempt to enforce its decision through peaceful means such as sanctions and embargoes.

Formation

The Security Council was established on October 24th, 1945. Similar to the United Nations as a whole, it was founded after the end of World War II to address the failure of the League of Nations in maintaining world peace. The creators of the UN Charter decided that France, China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States would have permanent seats in the Security Council due to the key roles that they played in establishing the UN. The P5 members possess the right to veto, which will be elaborated upon in the voting section of the background guide. Furthermore, there are 6 elected non-permanent member states. These are the 2 Latin American seats, the Commonwealth seat, the Eastern European & Asian seat, the Middle Eastern seat, and the Western European seat (United Nations Security Council, n.d.-a).

Voting

For resolutions to pass, there must be a positive vote from at least 9 member states. If any of the P5 members choose to cast a negative vote, then the resolution is rejected. This is known as the Right to Veto that the P5 members have the right to exercise. According to Article 27 of the UN Charter, nations that are directly involved in a dispute must abstain from voting provided that the resolution being proposed only invokes the chapter on UN's pacific settlement of disputes (United Nations Security Council, n.d.-a).

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

One of the recent buzzwords in international relations is maritime security. The term "maritime security" highlights emerging problems and encourages cooperation to solve them. However, there is still no global agreement on what maritime security is. Where there is no consensus, buzzwords enable global coordination of behavior. But they always run the risk of disagreements and political tensions fading. Since there are few ways to definitively define maritime security, there is a need to develop a framework that can be used to identify areas of agreement and dispute (Bueger, 2015).

The right to freedom of navigation, considered a cornerstone of international law, is increasingly under threat. Threats to international peace and security, and efforts to keep the world's oceans open and safe for shipping and seafarers, include piracy and armed robbery, terrorism, drug trafficking, nuclear and firearms trafficking, human trafficking and immigration. Includes smuggling, illegal activities in the fishing sector. Waste trade and intentional and unlawful damage to the marine environment (2021).

A truly global and integrated response is needed in the face of growing interconnected threats. Solutions that directly address these problems and their root causes which are poverty, lack of alternative income sources, insecurity and poor governance. Additionally, disputed borders and shipping lanes, and depletion of natural resources due to illegal or unreported fishing pose threats to maritime security (2021).

The numerous international laws that are used to respond to or seek to protect by law enforcement authorities, navy officers, other governmental officials, shipping firms, and other participants in the maritime business. Although it may present legal issues for current methods, it exposes possible concerns to marine security. Please be advised that the main military element of the efforts to enhance maritime security continues to be focused on national security. examining how the coast guard generally affects maritime law. To advance the shared objective of maritime security, additional minor modifications to the law of the sea are required (Klein, 2011).

Criminals and terrorists usually use ships for smuggling, the small arms trade is closely related to the illicit drug trade. As a result, its impact is as serious and pervasive as the illegal drug problem. However, there is a difference between the illegal trade in firearms and the secret trade. It is not necessarily against the law for a government to covertly arm a group outside its country, but if the host country's protocols are not followed, the host country may consider the act illegal to its internal affairs. The term "illegal arms trade" as used herein refers to the global trade in conventional arms that violates national and international law (MOSELEY, 2009).

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

Like other international terms, “maritime security” serves to highlight emerging problems and garner support for solutions. When discussing safety at sea, it is common to refer to the 'threats' prevalent there. They allude to dangers such as piracy, maritime terrorism, conflicts between states at sea, trafficking of drugs, people and illegal products, proliferation of arms, illegal fishing, crimes against the environment, accidents and disasters at sea. There is a demand that maritime security should be characterized as the absence of these hazards. This "wash-list" way of describing maritime security helps prioritize issues, provide clues as to how those issues are related, and provides guidance on how to address those threats. It has been criticized for being inadequate because it does not outline strategies (Bueger, 2015).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

Senior United Nations officials said at the Security Council that warned against disputed borders, depletion of natural resources and armed attacks. Maritime security is being hampered at an alarming rate by related challenges like piracy to terrorism (2021). Against this background, emphasizing through its Declaration the need to protect the lawful use of the seas, the lives of seafarers and the security of coastal areas, the United Nations in 1982 (2021).

The threat that piracy poses to international trade has raised awareness of the maritime dimension of security and placed it high on the political agenda. Interstate conflicts in regions such as the Arctic, South China Sea and East China Sea, and heavy investment by growing superpowers such as China and India in deep-sea navies, have increased awareness regarding the importance of oceans (Bueger, 2015).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

The goal of the United Nations is to ensure that the seas and oceans are used for both individual and collective human benefit in a peaceful, cooperative, and legally defined manner. A 15-year process that saw the establishment of the United Nations Seabed Committee, the signing of a treaty prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons on the seafloor, the adoption of the General Assembly's resolution declaring that all seabed resources outside of the scope of national jurisdiction are the common heritage of mankind.

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini reaffirmed the EU's position as a global provider of maritime security. In line with the strategic objectives of the EU Global Strategy, it supports global cooperation, maritime multilateralism and the law of the sea (2018).

According to Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission, safe seas and oceans are essential to the well-being of Europe (2018). The key points of this updated action plan are:

- Launch a regional strategy for global issues to enable a coordinated response to security challenges in European waters and key hotspots such as the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa.
- Increase cooperation across borders, between organizations, and between military and civilian actors.

SOLAS Convention is the most important international agreement related to the safety of merchant ships. The first version was approved in 1914 after the Titanic disaster, second time in 1929, and the third time in 1948. An implied acceptance mechanism is embodied in the 1974 edition, stating that an amendment will enter into force on a specified date unless objections to the amendment are received by that date from a specified number of parties (Maritime Security).

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

- **Date:** February 2021
- **Event:** Involvement of the state and private institutions in arms trafficking rings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Outcome:** Arms trafficking are enabled by corruption and a lack of accountability at different levels of government.

- **Date:** March 2021
- **Event:** Arms Trafficking in Latin America.
- **Outcome:** The increase of organized crime by the use of simpler weapons trading.

- **Date:** June 2021
- **Event:** 7 million bullets were stolen in Guanajuato, Mexico.
- **Outcome:** Difficulty to estimate accurately how much ammunition state institutions lose, as most of the losses go undetected, which in turn is harder to track.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

- What measures should be adopted in the maritime security field?
- Should clearance point officers be held responsible?
- Will new security measures be effective with maritime law?
- What if ships do not comply with the new security measures?
- How will new security measures affect trade between countries?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Maritime Security in Managing Rising Weapons Trafficking in High Risk Areas

- Maritime Law
- Current Maritime Security Measures
- The Transport of Weapons Trafficking

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

Drug trafficking has been a growing issue in Africa, especially with West Africa being a key element in the traffic of drugs from Latin America to Europe (Bagley, 2009). This drug trafficking issue has also branched into many other issues involving health concerns, the hindering of economic development, money laundering, corruption, human trafficking, prostitution, and many other illicit activities (Bagley, 2009). When Africa's strategic location in the globe is combined with its weak border control, poor economy, and corrupt government, it becomes a safe haven for drug traffickers all around the world (Bagley, 2009).

Drug trafficking in West Africa is not a new phenomenon, in fact, it began around the mid-1980s. However, before the 2000s, it was mostly only marijuana that was trafficked through Africa. Currently, Africa is a worldwide drug transit hub for marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamines (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). This fast growth of drug trafficking in Africa is emerging in a time where Africa is already suffering from legal instability and corruption (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). The weak criminal justice systems in Africa are struggling to keep up with the rising threat of drug trafficking which is allowing the drug scene to infiltrate into its borders and for organized crime to flourish in the region (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). Furthermore, the drug trade has greatly increased money laundering happening in the region as more and more criminal groups are getting involved and are seeking methods of purifying their monetary gains (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). Additionally, amidst the rapidly increasing drug trade in Africa, casual drug use has also been increasing at a fast rate which is leading to the spread of diseases like HIV throughout Africa. According to the Open Society Foundations, "Of the estimated 1.8 million people who inject drugs in West Africa, 11.8 percent are living with HIV" (Malinowska, 2014). These numbers are alarming and are also rapidly increasing which is causing a worldwide threat that must be resolved. In South Africa, 45% of injecting drug users in prison are HIV positive (Reid, 2009). Moreover, among inmates in Ghana, "injection drug use carries an odds ratio of 5.7 for HIV, making this the strongest behavioral risk factor for HIV infection while in prison" (Reid, 2009). These factors further intensify the pressure being placed on Africa as a whole amidst worsening economies and political instability.

By examining the history of the drug trade scene around the world, it is evident that what allows drug trafficking to spread in a region is weak state institutions (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). In Africa, it has been made clear through media commentary and interviews that the financial gains made by drug trafficking has been used to propel corrupt government officials in elections (Reid, 2009). As a result, a weak and corrupt state institution is created with little to no resistance against mass drug trade.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

Drug trafficking in Africa has many implications on Africa and the World. It hinders the development of the economy in Africa, enables the spread of diseases like HIV, increases corruption amongst government officials, and applies pressure on the growth of the region hindering its development. However, it is not just Africa that is affected by this rising issue as the drugs that are trafficked through Africa are then shipped all around the world. For instance, 172 tons of pure cocaine produced in Latin America was shipped to Europe through West Africa (West Africa Commission on Drugs [WACD], 2014). This transit hub in Africa is aiding the spread of drugs all around the world increasing drug use which can lead to many other implications relating to health and the economy. This rise of African drug trade violates three major international drug control treaties which are “The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol”, “The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971”, and “The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988”. These treaties aim to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for medical use while preventing them from being used or trafficked in illegal channels (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2003).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

Drug trafficking in West Africa has been addressed by many International Organizations (IO), such as UNODC, UNOWA and the INTERPOL. A Mini Dublin Group conference on drug trafficking in West Africa was convened by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and the Spanish Embassy in April 2022. The purpose of this conference was to give the organizers a chance to converse with representatives of diplomatic organizations that are collaborating with UNODC to combat regional drug trafficking and transnational organized crime (Cfeltess, 2022). Drug trafficking in West Africa has resulted in a great issue that has yet to be completely tackled, with the help of the United Nations, as well as other IOs, the issue has been addressed and these organizations are actively attempting to come up with effective resolutions to eliminate the worsening issue. As the case of drug trafficking in West Africa worsens, it has been set on the United Nation's Security Council agenda, considering the serious threats it puts the countries in. Some of the many steps included in ECOWAS's plan in tackling the issue are:

- Enforcing effective laws and regional corporations against illicit drug trafficking in West Africa.
- Tackling and resolving upcoming threats towards drug abuse and related health and security problems. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

- 1994-1996: Foundation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by the Taliban.
- 2001: Fall of the Taliban by US invasion of Afghanistan following the nine eleven terror attacks.
- 2006 - 2008: Re-emergence of the Taliban through Afghanistan's southern regions.
- 2017 - 2021: Taliban dominates more than 80% of Afghanistan's territory.
- 2021 - Present: Taliban took control over the country as a whole.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

- Have any of the previously applied solutions worked in the past? How so?
- How can the issue be talked about by its roots?
- What implementations can be made in order to ensure the future generation's avoidance towards drug trafficking?
- What impact has drug trafficking in West Africa made on the physical and mental wellbeing of its citizens and how does that affect the economy?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Drug Trafficking in West Africa

- Drug trafficking impacts on the economy
- Current measures taken towards drug trafficking in West Africa
- Countries being negatively impacted by drug trafficking in West Africa
- Socio-economic causes and solutions

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- 2022-05-02 DRUG TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA: A THREAT TO YOUTH. (n.d.). [Www.unodc.org. https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2022-05-02-drug-trafficking-in-west-africa_-a-threat-to-youth.html](https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2022-05-02-drug-trafficking-in-west-africa_-a-threat-to-youth.html)
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- EcowasResponseActionPlan. (n.d.). [Www.unodc.org. https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/ecowasresponseactionplan.html](https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/ecowasresponseactionplan.html)
- Global Drug Trafficking: Africa’s Expanding Role | Wilson Center. (n.d.). [Www.wilsoncenter.org. https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/global-drug-trafficking-africas-expanding-role](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/global-drug-trafficking-africas-expanding-role)
- Global response needed to counter rising security threats at sea. (n.d.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. Retrieved November 19, 2022, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/August/global-responseneeded-to-counter-rising-security-threats-at-sea.html>
- Issuing Presidential Statement, Security Council Underlines Importance of Maritime Safety, Safeguarding Oceans for Legitimate Use | UN Press. (n.d.). [Press.un.org. Retrieved November 19, 2022, from https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14598.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14598.doc.htm)
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- Moseley, A. (2009). THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY INSTRUMENTS IN CARICOM STATES DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, THE UNITED NATIONS. https://www.un.org/Depts/los/nippon/unff_programme_home/fellows_papers/fellows_papers/moseley_0910_barbados.pdf

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Reid, S. R. (2009). Injection drug use, unsafe medical injections, and HIV in Africa: a systematic review. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 6(1), 24. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1477-7517-6-24>

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Wacommissionondrugs. (2022, March 6). NOT JUST IN TRANSIT. West African Drugs Commission. <https://www.wacommissionondrugs.org/report/>

West Africa Has a Drug Problem. (n.d.). [Www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org). <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/how-drug-trafficking-und-ermine-west-africa>

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MMXXIII

2022-2023



United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

We welcome you to AUSMUN 2023 and introduce you to our committee, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)! We are highly honored to act as your chairs and are excited to guide you to a fruitful and stimulating debate.

The United Nations Development Programme was established in 1965 by UN officials who were united in their mission to end poverty (UNDP). The UNDP was formed through the merger of the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the United Nations Special Fund. Since then, the committee's priorities have included reducing poverty, empowering women, preserving the environment, and generating new employment opportunities. Achim Steiner, the chairman of the committee's Executive Board, which consists of 36 members from both rich and developing nations, is based in New York City.

You'll find in this background guide everything you need to familiarize yourself with this year's topics, from history and definitions to extra resources and questions that will aid you in your research. Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at undpausmun2023@gmail.com. Being a delegate can be intimidating at first, but as long as you learn new skills and interact with people from all walks of life, we can guarantee you a fun experience. We urge you all to contribute and collaborate with your fellow delegates, and of course, we cannot wait to meet you all!

Warm Regards,
The UNDP Chairs

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Development Programme

History

The United Nations Development Programme was formed in 1966 by the General Assembly of the United Nations as an effort to aid in the elimination of poverty and to promote sustainable human development, democratic governance, the rule of law, and inclusivity in institutions. This committee intends to support change and provide a means for countries to access knowledge, experience, and resources to achieve the goals mentioned earlier.

Relevance

The UNDP works in 170 nations to alleviate poverty, inequality, and other factors contributing to the world's inequity. It focuses on four essential areas: poverty eradication; democratic governance; environmental and energy conservation; and crisis prevention and recovery. The ultimate goal is to advocate for change and lay the groundwork for a better future for future generations ("Preventing Violent Extremism," 2016). Furthermore, the UNDP devised the Sustainable Development Goals to transform their intentions into action and create a program to safeguard peace and prosperity by 2030 ("Preventing Violent Extremism," 2016). The UNDP guarantees that its goals are met by conducting systematic analyses of global challenges and focusing on systems that can aid in the resolution of these global concerns. Every year, it compiles a report tracing and tabulating the degree of development of various countries using its Human Development Index (HDI). HDI is a country's average performance in the three fundamental areas of human development—health, knowledge, and standard of living—and is summarized and combined in the HDI to gauge a country's development achievements and propose policies and procedures to assure long-term growth.

Structure and Functions

The executive board of the UNDP consists of the Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and Executive Office Chief of Staff. They are appointed for a three-year term by the Economic and Social Council. The Bureau comprises one president and four vice presidents from various geographical regions. The Bureau plays an essential role in overseeing numerous bureaus. There are five regional bureaus for various continents or regions. Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America, and the Caribbean are among them. Bureaus are responsible for setting up meetings, encouraging formal and informal contact and conversation during briefings, and, most importantly, disseminating knowledge about their specific regions during meetings. These regional bureaus have hubs for each continent, which are located in specific countries on those continents. The Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, Management Services, Policy and Program Support, and so on are examples of bureaus with distinct roles. (2021 Organizational Chart). Subsequently, multiple offices carry out various tasks and functions that align with the UNDP's basic goals.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Development Programme

For example, the Human Growth Report Office's goal is to help people have more opportunities, choices, and freedom. This is accomplished by promoting innovative new ideas, advocating for practical policy changes, and constructively challenging policies and approaches that stifle human development. For example, attempts to provide individuals with opportunities to increase their freedom and criticizing policies put in place for future development. Furthermore, to report development transparently, the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) conducts audits and other assurance activities, as well as independent investigations into suspected misconduct, fraud, and corruption. It reports its findings and concerns to management and the Executive Board. (OIAI) assists the UNDP in meeting its objectives by providing advisory services and internal audits when releasing reports and analyzing development.

Funding

The United Nations is part of the UN system, consisting of several funds, specialized organizations, and programs, each with its own goals, objectives, leadership, and budget. Instead of assessed payments, all funds and programs are funded voluntarily. The specialized agencies, on the other hand, are international, independent organizations supported through voluntary and assessed contributions. The United Nations organizes its work with each of the UN system entities interacting with it to achieve its aims. A more sustainable financial strategy is required due to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's unifying nature, according to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). It also requires UN Development System institutions to improve the quality and functioning of their organized conversations to fund the development outcomes outlined in the Strategic Plans. As a result, through a series of Structured Funding Dialogues, the UNDP offers consistent updates on the implementation of the Integrated Resource Plan and Integrated Budget (2018–2021) and the Strategic Plan (2018–2021). These talks with member states are vital for addressing funding quality issues and better aligning financing with Strategic Plan goals. The quality, predictability, and transparency of funding, as well as the alignment of financial resources with UN strategic plans, are just a few of the topics discussed in these conversations ("Structured Funding Dialogues," n.d.). Additionally, the UNDP runs the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP), which embodies the principle of "thinking globally, acting locally" in sustainable development. For projects in climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, international waters and chemicals, land degradation, and sustainable forest management, the program directly provides grants to local communities, including indigenous people, community-focused organizations, and other non-governmental organizations, of up to \$50,000. SGP demonstrates how community action may sustain the delicate balance between human needs and environmental requirements by offering both technical and financial support to projects that protect the environment and enhance people's livelihoods and well-being (GEF Small Grants, n.d.).

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 social and economic objectives adopted by the United Nations Member States to deal with issues involving poverty, inequality, justice, and peace as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. When discussing the effectiveness of the SDGs on poverty, many factors come into play. According to the United Nations, eradicating poverty is “the greatest global challenge.” People require set frameworks to improve livelihoods, economic opportunities, and productive resources. There are many aspects of poverty, such as lack of resources, low income, geographical location, and governmental policies. However, the focus is on SDG 1: End global poverty in all forms. Goal 1 asks for the eradication of all types of poverty by 2030.

Additionally, it strives to help those impacted by other economic, social, and environmental shocks, calamities, and extreme weather occurrences related to climate change. Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for the abolition of poverty in all of its forms by 2030. It aims to provide social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to essential services, and assist people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters. It also aims to increase access to basic services for the underprivileged and vulnerable. SDGs are also vital in addressing critical concerns such as global warming and dangerous emissions which directly affect low-income communities such as Uganda and Ethiopia, who depend on natural resources (African Development Bank et al., 2002). For example, the survival of a country can rely on the availability of fresh water and energy. With rising global temperatures, any change in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons can cause widespread famine and drought (World Meteorological Organization, 2021).

Many policies and agendas have failed to improve or enhance global economic and environmental conditions significantly. With current international financial assets, financing the SDGs is possible. However, current investment levels are significantly below the needed (UN, 2020). Poor and vulnerable such as Bangladesh and Mozambique, which heavily rely on their agriculture industry and foreign assistance, continue to suffer from food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and stalled economies. Rich countries such as Finland, Denmark, and Sweden score highly on the SDG index, but many of these countries still produce damaging socioeconomic and environmental spillovers. With recent conflicts such as the Russo-Ukrainian War, these goals have been sacrificed for the sake of temporary economic and political gain. Children account for 40 percent of the additional 10.4 million people in Eastern Europe experiencing poverty. In addition to the war in Ukraine, inflation is driving 4 million children below the poverty line (UNICEF, 2022).

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

Some of the most impactful aspects of poverty are low income/resources. They manifest as hunger and malnutrition, limited access to healthcare and other necessities, social isolation and prejudice, and a lack of participation in decision-making. In 2015, more than 736 million people lived below the poverty line. These 736 million people, or 10% of the world's population, managed on less than \$1.90 daily. Before the pandemic, 10% of the world's population struggled to meet even the most basic needs, including access to water, sanitation, education, and health care. These regions experience the most significant increases in extreme poverty. More than 160 million children were at risk of continuing to live in extreme poverty, and 122 women were living in poverty for every 100 men in the 25- to 64-year-old range. With collective humanitarian efforts, however, for ten years, the percentage of employees worldwide who live in extreme poverty has decreased by half, from 14.3 percent in 2010 to 7.1 percent in 2019. The proportion of workers living in extreme poverty has declined by 50% over the past ten years, from 14.3% in 2010 to 7.1% in 2019. Because of rapid economic growth and higher agricultural productivity, the number of undernourished people has decreased by nearly half in the last two decades. According to the report, numerous levels of deprivation must be addressed based on the most recent data collected before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- More than half of the poor (593 million) do not have access to electricity or clean cooking fuel.
- Almost 40% of the poor (437 million) do not have safe drinking water or sanitation access.
- More than 30% of the poor (374 million) lack nutrition, cooking fuel, sanitation, and housing.

In light of these worries, the General Assembly declared the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty at its 72nd session (2018–2027). The Third Decade's goal is to maintain the pace created by the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) toward poverty eradication. United Nations System-Wide Action Plan for the Second United Nations Decade to End Poverty (2008-2017). "Full Employment and Decent Work for All" is the theme. The Second Committee held a panel discussion on the "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" on October 20, 2008. (2008-2017). "Ending extreme poverty is at the heart of the world's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and build a sustainable future for all." "But success in leaving no one behind will remain elusive if we do not target the people who are farthest behind first," the Secretary-General said. Mr. Guterres noted, "acting together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty." He said children are more than twice as likely to live in extreme poverty as adults, condemning them to "lifelong disadvantage" while also perpetuating "an inter generational transfer of deprivation." Mr. Guterres noted that girls are particularly at risk.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

In today's world, vaccinations are believed to be the most effective methods advancing global welfare, (*UNICEF, 2022*). For over 200 years, vaccines have been responsible for the mitigation of diseases such as, but not limited to, Polio, Measles and Smallpox, (*UNICEF, 2022*.) Despite the benefits in keeping children and communities protected, however, the level of immunisation in the world has yet to reach a substantial measure. Children in communities that are most in need of vaccines, often from the Global South, continue to be the ones least likely to get them; this violates the United Nation's 3rd Sustainable Development Goal, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages in life, (*Goal 3 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2022*). UNICEF's immunisation efforts to improve safe accessibility to vaccinations are to ensure all children, regardless, can receive the vaccines they need to live a long and healthy life. Implications of the lack of accessibility of vaccines for children in developing countries:

Social

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a prominent example of the detrimental consequence of insufficient vaccination accessibility in less developed countries. It affected more than 500 million people worldwide and led to 15 million deaths, (*Division, 2022*).
- Disrupted essential health services in 92% of countries (*Division, 2022*)
- Immunisation coverage significantly decreased (*Division, 2022*)
- 22.7 million children missed basic vaccines in 2020, 3.7 million more than in 2019 (*UNICEF, 2022*)
- Global life expectancy decreased (*UNICEF, 2022*)

Economic

- For every dollar invested in vaccination in the world's 94 lowest-income countries, US\$16 is expected to be saved in healthcare costs, lost wages and lost productivity due to illness and death (*ABPI, 2022*).
- By promoting good health in children, vaccines help to increase cognitive skills, physical strength and performance at school – this aids in efforts to build an educated and capable workforce (*ABPI, 2022*).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

Political

- The role of political views in influencing vaccination rates and consequently COVID-19 impact, (*ABPI, 2022*).

Global Hotspots

- Burundi
- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- Haiti

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to foster financial stability, facilitate international trade and sustain economic growth, providing grants and concessions to least developed countries, alongside the World Bank. In Tunisia, UNICEF has worked with the IMF to encourage the Government to redirect funds from insufficient fuel subsidies towards the protection of children. UNICEF used information on the budget for fuel subsidies to analyse alternative policies, emphasising that child grants would be more cost-effective and bring a greater benefit to underprivileged, leading to better outcomes. As part of the COVID-19 response, encouraged by the IMF, the government reduced dual subsidies whilst implementing temporary cash-transfer measures, targeting over 623,000 families with children.

The World Bank finances Ecuador's purchase of vaccines, managing supply chains and logistics for storage. In Nepal, the World Bank strengthens the healthcare system and procedures diagnostic tests, therapeutics and laboratory equipment, allowing for greater access to vaccinations. Through the expansion of surveillance and monitoring, UNICEF is able to track vaccination progress. A new analysis by the UNDP shows that most vulnerable countries, where less than one percent of the population are fully vaccinated, are located in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad. Developed by the UNDP, the WHO and the University of Oxford, the Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity assists researchers and policy-makers to run nation-wide analysis and establish programs that effectively administer vaccines to underdeveloped areas.

In September of 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) set a progressive goal, targeting vaccine equity. The United Nations health agency called for 70 percent of the global population to be vaccinated by mid-2022 under the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy. Other vital actions of the strategy include equitably distributing manufacturing facilities across areas and supporting a strong vaccine delivery program. WHO and UNICEF continue to collaborate with COVAX and COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP) partners to support priority vaccinations to children.

Through UNICEF's joint efforts with partners and countries, vaccines have become more accessible after the repercussions and setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF and WHO records indicate that as of 2021, 152 countries fully introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to protect children against pneumonia and 116 countries introduced rotavirus vaccine to protect children against diarrhoea as part of the immunisation program. As of 2021, the Human Papillomavirus vaccine has been introduced in 114 countries, yet only 12 percent of girls are fully protected against HPV.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

- April 2011: Last mass death from famine (Somalia) (Aizenman, 2022).
- November 2014: The earth's atmospheric composition of carbon exceeds 400 parts per million, the first time in hundreds of thousands of years (Lindsey, 2022)
- May 2020: The impact of COVID-19 has led to an unprecedented reversal of progress in ending poverty (United Nations, 2022).
- September 2022: Inflation and the Russo-Ukrainian war exacerbated the effects of COVID-19 on eradicating poverty (United Nations, 2022).

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

- How should UNDP policies be adjusted to regain the progress lost in exacerbating poverty?
- What are the key factors blocking SDG progress and what could be done to them?
- What steps should be taken to prevent the situation in Ukraine from further exacerbating poverty?
- How do political unrest and conflict aid the proliferation of poverty worldwide?
- How can the UNDP reconcile global inequalities to effectively end poverty?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

- The role and efforts of your country in the contribution towards SDGs.
- The country's position on the current issue and the severity of its situation.
- The impact that recent global events have had on the UN's 1st Sustainable Development Goal.
- How child poverty has emerged in recent years.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene

Human security in the Anthropocene continues to weaken as more threats form daily. 6 out of 7 people worldwide face insecurity, with more reporting high anxiety levels (UNDP, 2022). Unprecedented events such as COVID-19 and wars are critical situations that have caused and continue to cause significant losses in international economies, education, sustainability, world peace, and public well-being. In 2022, the UNDP released the Special Report on Human Security, titled “New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene: Demanding Greater Solidarity.” In this report, they stress that the issue calls for “a bold agenda to match the magnitude of the challenges, put forward with humility in the face of the unknown.”

Threats of displacement, climate change, discrimination, and food insecurity cause devastation worldwide, and people in poverty are affected the most. Making sure every human can live freely and safely is the core of the UNDP, and agency is the key to bringing about solidarity and trust. The UNDP defines agency as “the ability to hold values and make commitments, regardless of whether they advance one’s well-being, and to act accordingly in making one’s own choices or in participating in collective decision making.”

The origin of the period known as the Anthropocene is highly debated. One theory is that it was the onset of the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s; this was when humans started to have a considerable impact on the balance of carbon and methane in the atmosphere. Other scientists attribute it to 1945 when the first atomic bombs were tested and dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 2016, however, the Anthropocene Working Group agreed that the period commenced in 1950 with the significant increase in human activity’s impact on the planet known as the Great Acceleration (National Geographic, n.d.).

It has been rising to previously unheard-of heights as the COVID-19 pandemic has begun. On average, people lived longer, wealthier, and better lives than ever. However, an increasing sense of uneasiness has been developing underneath the surface. Around the world, six out of seven people reported feeling uneasy in the year. Not only was this sense of unease strong, but it had also been increasing throughout most data-collecting nations. These nations include New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and Austria, some of those with the highest HDI scores.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene

This shows how the human security concept helps identify blind spots when development is assessed simply by measuring achievements in well-being and suggests ways to enrich the human security frame to account for the unprecedented challenges of the Anthropocene context.

In addition to the harmful effects of technology, violent conflict, horizontal inequities, and evolving challenges to healthcare systems, there are four other dangers to human security, which are socio-political, economic, health-related, and environmental. Even though each threat, when considered separately, poses the same fundamental problem, they have a new manifestation because of the Anthropocene environment they emerge from and their increased interconnectedness. As a result, when planning or evaluating policies, current development journeys frequently miss the point by concentrating on tackling issues in isolation.

The amount of human-made mass exceeded the total living biomass on the planet in 2020, and it is expected to double in the next 20 years if current growth rates continue (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Dangerous planetary changes contribute to a self-reinforcing cycle that exacerbates and results from the interaction between environmental and social imbalances (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Those who suffer the most from these threats in the Anthropocene are already vulnerable. It follows that those are also people lacking the power to make substantial policy changes (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). These Anthropocene-related threats affect human security in multiple areas: food system disruptions, worsening health threats, intensifying the effects of factors contributing to political and violent conflict, and threats to economic productivity.

Recently, the main factors contributing to human security threats in the Anthropocene include COVID-19, digital technology, climate change, and biodiversity loss (United Nations Development Programme, 2022). Furthermore, since the 2020 Human Development Report suggested that very high Human Development Index countries could not achieve this status without contributing significantly to planetary change, it is clear that commitments to development have caused a neglect of the environment, thus leading to new threats in the Anthropocene, such as horizontal inequalities, violent conflict, and digital crimes. (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

- 1994. The UNDP Human Development Report New Dimensions of Human Security coined the term “human security” within the UN system.
- In 2016, the Anthropocene Working Group agreed that the Anthropocene is different from the Holocene, and began in the year 1950 when the Great Acceleration, a dramatic increase in human activity affecting the planet, took off.
- In September 2022 Mental health workers and doctors report that thousands of Ukrainian refugee children displaced by war are showing severe symptoms of psychological trauma.
- In October 2022, WAAS begins formal collaboration with the UN Human Security Unit on a global campaign to promote Human Security for All (HS4A).

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

- How Higher Human Development Index values have come with higher planetary pressures?
- Does Human insecurity tend to be higher in countries with lower Human Development Index values?
- Did the COVID-19 pandemic affect human security? And how will countries recover?
- Can the Anthropocene context affect forced internal displacements?
- What are Inequalities and the assault on human dignity?
- Is the mental health crisis a human security emergency?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

- The intricacies of human-made mass and biomass imbalance.
- How the anthropocene is expected to evolve decades from now.
- How your nation has responded to different threats in the modern era.

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2022-2023



United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Honorable Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) committee in AUSMUN 2023. We hope you have an enjoyable time at the conference, in which we aim to give you many chances for insightful debates. Our goal for this conference is to focus on environmental protection and sustainability as well as the consequences of our actions on the environment. We hope to make this conference enjoyable while also enabling you to improve your debating and communication skills.

This background guide contains valuable information that may guide you in understanding the topics. However, we encourage you to venture and research outside the background guide to try to maximize your knowledge of the two topics.

We look forward to meeting each one of you! For further inquiries, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
Maryam Al Khayatt, Lana El Zarif, Ameer Sarfarazhusain



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Environment Programme

Because of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) was established in June 1972, with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The UNEP serves as the United Nations' environmental coordinating agency. It has made major contributions to the identification and analysis of global environmental problems, the development of regional and worldwide environmental programs and conventions, and the promotion of environmental science and information. One of its most significant responsibilities is to help developing countries establish environmentally friendly policies and practices. UNEP was established to monitor environmental conditions, influence policy-making with science, and coordinate global solutions to environmental concerns.

UNEP's objective is to educate, enlighten, and enable nations and individuals to enhance their standard of living without compromising that of subsequent generations by providing leadership and encouraging partnership in environmental care. UNEP seeks to achieve transformative change for people and nature by addressing the core reasons of the three global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. For a UNEP resolution to pass, a simple majority must be reached. More than half of the countries attending must vote for the resolution in order for it to pass. Each country has the freedom to vote for or against the resolution being presented.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

In the last 5 years our world has encountered a number of worldwide crises, ranging from the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to intense and numerous wildfire outbreaks. Australia faced one of the deadliest wildfire seasons to ever exist in 2019-2020 (Lang and Moeini-Meybodi, 2021). The West Coast wildfires in the United States grew to historic levels in 2020. One of Nepal's deadliest wildfire seasons in nearly a decade began in early 2021 (Lang and Moeini-Meybodi, 2021). The earliest wildfire went up in flames when oxygen levels were higher, approximately 419 million years ago during the Silurian era. The biggest wildfire to ever be recorded is the 2003 Siberian Taiga Fires that took place in Russia. Over 55 million acres (22 million hectares) of land were burnt by a succession of disastrous fires in the taiga forests of Eastern Siberia in 2003, during one of the warmest summers Europe had seen up to that point. What is regarded as one of the deadliest and greatest wildfires in human history, is thought to have been caused by a combination of very dry circumstances and growing human exploitation.

A wildfire is defined as a wild land fire that is uncontrollable and usually occurs in rural regions (NGS, 2022). For hundreds of millions of years, wildfires have burned in savannas, forests, grasslands and a variety of other habitats, which proves that they are not constrained to a certain continent or environment. Wildfires are getting more intense and expanding in scope across the Earth's ecosystem. While doing so, they are severely affecting the environment, wildlife, human health, and civilization from Australia to Canada, the United States to China, across Europe, and the Amazon. For the past 450 years, societies all over the world have lived in fear of fires and have attempted to seek different ways to suppress fires as much as possible. However, wildfires obtain distinctive obstacles to our society and need a different line of action towards their suppression and prevention.

There are several circumstances that can cause a wildfire. Wildfires can be caused naturally, by lightning or climate change. Lightning strikes the earth as often as 100 times every second (average) and has been the cause of some of the most significant wildland fires such as the Yellowstone wildfire that occurred in the United States in 1988 (National Fire Administration, 2003). However, human activity is the primary cause of wildfires. A minority of these fires are intentional such as those made by Indigenous people as a part of their rituals (National Fire Administration, 2003). Others are accidental, and are caused by hikers or campers being negligent or not paying attention to how to adequately put out a fire.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

Wildfires have had an immense impact on the environment in countries all over the world. Not only has there been catastrophic damage of land and forests but countless losses of human lives. The repercussions of these wildfires are substantial and lead to wildfire and habitat loss, economic depletion as well as increasing Greenhouse Gas emissions. The global carbon cycle may be dramatically impacted by wildfires. Because they release significant amounts of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, into the atmosphere, wildfires have a direct effect on weather and climate. The release of large quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere by wildfires in ecosystems like peatlands and rainforests, stores significant amounts of lost organic carbon, which aggravates global warming. This approach, allows wildfires to expedite the positive feedback loop of the carbon cycle, making it more challenging to stop global warming.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

The combined effects of climate change and human activity have had significant impacts on wildfires, influencing their scale, severity, and consequences on our ecosystems and community. The economic, social, and environmental factors of development are all significantly impacted by wildfires. The true costs of wildfires are frequently undermined thus, resulting in less political focus and minimal financial resources being allocated to combating wildfires. Therefore, developing successful strategies to decrease the danger and effects of future wildfires requires a thorough evaluation of the various impacts of wildfires and the costs associated with them.

The economic costs that are associated with wildfires include the expenses of firefighting and the loss of numerous assets. There have also been indirect economic effects based on how they affect economic activities and a reduction in the value of assets in the area. Countries have reported a sharp rise in the cost of wildfire damage in recent decades, despite the lack of global statistics on such economic repercussions. The cost of these catastrophic wildfires is frequently difficult to estimate, but in regards to the long-term effects, the underprivileged populations around the world suffer significantly. The negative effects wildfires have on these communities could lead to an economic decline as well as impede efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Wildfires harm ecosystems and biodiversity by disrupting the complex relationships and various flora and fauna's habitats. Wildfires destroy the land's capability for supporting particular species of animals and plants. The plant features that support countless creatures are destroyed or altered, which drives the animals out of the area or causes their deaths. Wildfires also contribute to a decline on human health and our wellbeing. People with allergies and respiratory conditions may have deteriorated health due to the effects of smoke and dust, which cause extreme breathing discomfort. Therefore, it is impossible to completely extinguish wildfires, but there are many things that can be addressed to minimize the effect it has on our environment.

For countless of years, most politicians flinched at the mention of climate change in regard to wildfires, blaming them with 'politicizing disasters' even if the connection to the phenomenon was relatively clear. Political stability and wildfires have been linked for some time, but the connection is too obvious to disregard. Weather extremes and social stress are made worse by wildfires, which have an impact on the economy and political behavior. Although wildfires' influence on politics and geopolitics is currently minor, it will inevitably become more pronounced—and worrisome—in the future. If wildfires are not being taken into account, billions of people will be forced to flee their homes or struggle to survive due to wildfires, unbearable heat, and shrinking coastlines. The result would be an extraordinary strain on social and political structures, not to mention the world economy.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

Wildfires are devastating in countries all around the world. Each incident has a different set of contributing causes, but a common thread unites them all: rising temperatures and drier seasons which are forced by burning fossil fuels has increased the likelihood of wildfires. The countries most affected by wildfires are the Arctic and Siberia, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and Australia. This is due to humid temperatures and human caused climate change.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

The United Nations is currently playing a very instrumental role in protecting forests and mitigating the risk of wildfires globally. The Sustainable Development Goals have a deadline of 2030, and experts have designated this period as the final opportunity to avert catastrophic climate change. These two dates coincide with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which is now taking place from 2021 to 2030. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global call to action for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems for the benefit of both people and the environment. It attempts to stop environmental degradation and restore them in order to accomplish universal goals.

Further, a global framework for action at all levels is also provided by the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, which aims to stop deforestation and forest degradation while managing all types of forests and non-forest trees sustainably. The United Nations Forum on Forests had a special session in January 2017 when the historic agreement on the Strategic Plan was achieved. The United Nations General Assembly then approved the accord in April 2017. The Strategic Plan is focused on achieving the six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets by 2030. The four Global Objectives on Forests listed in the United Nations Forest Instrument are fully encompassed and built upon by the goals and objectives outlined in this brief document.

The signatories to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have also committed themselves to, inter alia, promoting 'sustainable management ... conservation and enhancement' of greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs 'including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. However, do keep in mind, not all countries have ratified the UNFCCC.

There have also been multilateral actions taken across the globe by governments themselves to further this aim. A prime example includes, The Bonn Challenge, which is an international initiative that aims to restore 150 million hectares of damaged and deforested landscapes by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. The Challenge, which was established in 2011 by the German government and the IUCN, received pledges totalling 150 million hectares in 2017. Moreover, multiple international law frameworks help in mitigating wildfires. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's signatories have pledged to support, among other things, "sustainable management" of "conservation and enhancement" of the world's oceans, forests, and other terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres also remarked at the Alliance for Rainforests event Sept 2019 “And we must speed up our transition to a cleaner, greener future, with a healthy forest system at its core... The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the vital role of forests, as does the Paris Agreement on climate change, along with all other United Nations conventions and programmes.”

The first truly worldwide commitment to address the climate catastrophe is the Paris Agreement. A single, comprehensive agreement that aspires to keep global warming to well below 2°C (3.6°F) and make every attempt to go above 1.5°C (2.7°F) was signed in 2015 by 195 countries, including the European Union. Considering that Wildfires emitted 1.76 billion tonnes of carbon globally in 2021; countries are also bound by international obligations under the agreement to do everything they can to mitigate the same. The 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants cites the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution as its source: "Fires, in particular domestic wood and coal heating and open fires such as refuse burning, forest fires, and after-crop burning, are identified as a major stationary source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" (PAH). 36 Parties to the Convention and the 1998 Protocol have pledged to reduce the amount of PAH.

The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was finalized in response to the effects of haze pollution brought on by forest fires in 1997–1998. The Convention mandates that signatories take action to avoid, be ready for, and respond to fires that could endanger other signatories. The treaty outlines how a request for help should be made, as well as the responsibilities placed on other signatory governments to assess and act upon any request. It also particularly anticipates international collaboration to combat land or forest fires. Following that, it discusses the need for any exemptions, for responding states to have access to facilities, and for the transportation of personnel and equipment.

Following this convention: - The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was finalized in response to the impact of haze pollution caused by forest fires in 1997–1998 the Convention requires signatories to take steps to prevent, prepare for and respond to fires that may pose a threat to other signatories. The convention specifically anticipates international cooperation to combat land or forest fires, and provides for how a request for assistance is to be made and the obligations upon other signatory states to consider and respond to any request.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

It then deals with issues of necessary exemptions and the provision of facilities for responding states and the transit of necessary equipment and personnel. In order to guarantee comparable systems and training, the convention also calls for scientific and technical cooperation amongst parties. Although it appears to be almost perfect, this convention or international solution has not yet been widely adopted inside a UN committee; it is currently solely applicable to ASEAN member states. Much might be learned from this and applied globally for everyone.

The above international frameworks state obligations to prevent a wildfire. To add on, during the course of a wildfire States have obligations under a number of international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); a state will have an international obligation not only to take measures to alleviate the suffering of a population affected by a wildland fire, but also, where possible, to take measures to control fire that is posing a threat to homes, lives, or property.

TIMELINE

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

- 1910 (United States) : Big Burn (Great Fire of Connecticut) :Although it only lasted two days, the first fire combined with strong winds burned 3 million acres (1.2 million hectares), or about the size of the whole state of Connecticut, and took 85 lives.
- 1919 (Canada): The Great Fire of 1919 is still regarded as one of the biggest and most destructive wildfires in history, despite having occurred more than a century ago.
- 1939 (Australia):Black Friday Bushfire:The 1939 bushfires in Victoria, a state in southeast Australia, that burned more than 5 million acres and are referred to in history as "Black Friday," were the result of several years of drought, strong winds and high temperatures.
- 1987(China and Russia): Black Dragon Fire:The Black Dragon fire of 1987, also known as the Daxing'annling Wildfire, was possibly the deadliest forest fire in the People's Republic of China and the largest single fire in the world in the last several hundred years. Over the course of more than a month, it burned continuously, obliterating over 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares) of land, 18 million of which were forests. Although the actual cause is unknown, human activity may have contributed to the fire.
- 2004 (United States): Alaska Fire Season:In terms of the total area burned, the Alaskan fire season of 2004 was the worst ever recorded. 701 fires burned more than 6.6 million acres (2.6 million hectares) of land. Of these, 215 were caused by lightning, while the remaining 426 were caused by people.
- 2010 (South America): Bolivia Forest Fires More than 25,000 fires occurred in Bolivia in August 2010, damaging a total of about 3.7 million acres , especially the country's part of the Amazon. The government was obliged to cancel multiple flights and issue a state of emergency due to the dense smoke they produced. A number of fires ignited were by farmers to clear ground for planting .
- 2014 (Canada):Over 150 different fires started in the Northwest Territories in the summer of 2014, a region of about 1.1 billion square kilometers in northern Canada. 13 of them were thought to have been started by people. US\$44.4 million was spent on firefighters' operations, and a total of roughly 8.5 million acres of forest were totally destroyed. The Northwest Territories Fires were among the worst to be documented in almost three decades.

TIMELINE

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

- 2020 (Australia): Australian Bushfires: The devastating effects on wildlife caused by the Australian bushfires of 2020 will go down in history. The severe bushfires ravaged New South Wales and Queensland in southeast Australia, burning 42 million acres, obliterating thousands of buildings, displacing 3 billion animals, including an astonishing 61,000 koalas, and killing numerous individuals. Early early 2020 was Australia's warmest and driest year on record, which had a significant role in the disastrous wildfires.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

- How can countries try to stop the impacts of wildfires?
- What causes wildfires to spread rapidly?
- What policy changes are required to subside the effects of wildfires on wildlife and our environment?
- Which areas are most affected by wildfires?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

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SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: The Effectiveness of SDG's on Ending Poverty

- The role and efforts of your country in the contribution towards SDGs.
- The country's position on the current issue and the severity of its situation.
- The impact that recent global events have had on the UN's 1st Sustainable Development Goal.
- How child poverty has emerged in recent years.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

The world has witnessed numerous wars throughout history that have impacted global culture, politics, and the environment. Additionally, various internal conflicts within nations have taken place throughout history, such as mass protests and strikes. The devastating effects of annihilation have resulted in the degradation and demise of the world and its natural environment. Not only has war been harmful to society, but it has also emitted high quantities of greenhouse gasses, which have contributed to global warming and resource depletion (VRai, 2022). Moreover, mass vehicle deployments, as well as the excessive use of ammunition, can cause severe physical harm to sensitive ecosystems and geodiversity (CEOBS, 2020). Additionally, weapons and military equipment used in wars create environmental residues. For example, the trenches constructed and chemical gasses used during World War I (1914-1918) left significant environmental deficits. Trenching resulted in grass erosion as well as animal and plant killing. Erosion was also caused by forest chopping in order to expand the system of trenches. Additionally, in World War II (1939-1945), war, chemical pollution, and air strikes all contributed to a decline in the world's plants and animal populations, as well as a drop in biodiversity. Thus, the various wars that history has witnessed have gradually added to worldwide environmental damage.

Warfare is a destructive act. According to an environmental study, it has a substantial effect on the planet's most essential ecosystems. More than 90% of significant wars between 1950 and 2000 occurred in countries with biodiversity hotspots, and more than 80% of those wars occurred within the hotspots themselves. Less than one-third of the 34 identified hotspots were devoid of severe conflict throughout this time, and the majority saw recurrent violent incidents (Hanson et al., 2009). Additionally, wars have very harmful ecological impacts, as discovered by Daskin and Pringle (2018) through their study on biotic life. They discovered a link between armed conflict and animal decreases in Africa's nature reserves. The researchers also found that wildlife populations frequently change during periods of peace and decline during periods of war, with declines getting worse as battles occur. Hence, the impacts of war on ecology and biodiversity can be detrimental. The devastation seen in nature have led to environmental terrorism and eco-terrorism. Environmental terrorism, or the unlawful use of force or violence against environmental resources, has become more prevalent in the past century, and can even be applied to the current Russia-Ukraine war. Moreover, eco-terrorism, or the destruction of infrastructure has also negatively affected society and the environment. For instance, Spardo (2020) found that the movements associated with eco-terrorism have historically participated in unlawful acts to demand alterations in environmental regulations. In turn, the movements damaged civil rights and properties, which further influenced the environment through the spread of debris. It is important to consider the global implications wars have on the environment. For instance, the greenhouse gasses emitted through wars prompt global warming, decrease biodiversity, and pollute the air. These implications make it difficult for individuals to live a healthy life.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

The environment is a significant factor in individuals' lives. It is critical to healthy living and the survival of life on Earth. When we destroy the environment by waging wars, we endanger ourselves and the future generations. To prevent further harm on the environment, the UN added "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts" in its charter. This topic addressed specific issues with environmental protection in non-international wars, with an emphasis on how international norms and regulations governing natural resources can improve environmental protection during and after such wars. It also addressed issues about the accountability and culpability of states and non-state entities.

The devastation that comes with war has many implications on the globe's economy, politics, and social aspects. Global environmental change has a myriad of consequences, from little nuisance to harm and death. Food and water shortages, pulmonary illnesses, mental discomfort and psychological health issues, family disruption, social network losses, property damage, unemployment, wage instability, and wealth erosion are all common implications. One of the most prominent global changes caused partly by wars is climate change. The air and water quality, water supply, and safe shelter deteriorate because of global warming. It could also make it more dangerous for individuals to stay under the sun for long hours due to strong UV rays and the dangers that accompany them.

Environmental degradation is a humanitarian challenge as well. The repercussions are usually severe for some communities compared to others. Individuals with less societal, economical, and political support are more likely to suffer negative consequences from pollution, resource scarcity, extreme weather and other environmental concerns. For example, wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have had a substantial impact on these countries' environmental conditions. Due to the countries' societal, economical, and political status, they found it even more difficult to improve their environmental conditions. Hence, wars' effects on the environment are a crucial problem that needs to be resolved as it has global implications.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

Among the very first words of the UN Charter (in its Preamble) are "to rescue subsequent generations from the scourge of war," and those words served as the primary impetus for the creation of the United Nations, whose founders had witnessed the destruction of two world wars by 1945. Since the United Nations was established on October 24, 1945 (the day its Charter entered into force), it has frequently been required to stop conflicts from turning into war, to assist in reestablishing peace after hostilities have broken out, and to foster long-lasting peace in societies that have recently emerged from conflict.

Along the lines of these conflicts, the UN has also assured an active and obligatory role to regulate the way that conflict should be conducted in the worst possible scenario. However, the laws regarding the protection of the environment have not been directly addressed or asserted quite frequently; international documents supporting the same exist widely.

1949 saw the beginning of international law. Articles 55 of the 1949 Hague Regulations and Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention place restrictions on the occupying power's discretion with regard to property damage in the event of a hostile occupation. It would be appropriate to quote the following clause from the latter rule: "Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is absolutely necessary by military operations." This hints to the environment not being destroyed intentionally.

Furthermore, in Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions in 1977, two clauses of Protocol I specifically address the risks that contemporary warfare poses to the environment. They do this in connection to people, who are the focus of IHL, but they still safeguard the environment in the traditional sense. It acknowledges that militaries should not cause widespread, long-term, and severe damages to the environment. This starts the direct address and beginning of regulating warfare with consideration to the environment.

These principles were then focused and developed in International Humanitarian law individually, the following conventions were internationally adopted that contributed to the regulation of the environment during warfare:

- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, of 17 June 1925.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, of 10 April 1972.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

- A Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (" ENMOD Convention "), of 10 December 1976.
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, of 10 October 1980.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction of 29th April 1997

These instruments of international law are only applicable to countries who did ratify them and so are taking active measures to follow them.

Lastly, in the biggest and vaguer picture, regulatory actions towards Weapons of Mass Destruction are also inter-alia an act of protecting the environment of the earth.

However, these conventions (the international law) do not directly address or aim to protect the environment; rather these conventions just happen to have a positive causation on the environment. Alas, there still needs to be a direct address and concern for the environment in International Humanitarian Law.

TIMELINE

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

- World War I (1914): Millions were killed, trenches destroyed ecosystems, biodiversity was lost, air was polluted due to chemicals.
- World War II (1939): Millions were killed, war residue, infrastructure was destroyed, Hiroshima bomb caused millions of refugees.
- Vietnam War (1955): chemicals polluted the air, vegetation was destroyed
- Gulf war (1990): loss of oil in Iraq, destruction of infrastructure, pollution of air
- Rwandan Genocide (1994): displacement of people put pressure on surrounding ecosystem to survive
- Iraq war (2003): loss of various oil fields, infrastructure destruction

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

- How will the current wars or conflicts affect the environment?
- How would a possible nuclear war affect the globe?
- How can the UN prevent the effects of war on the environment?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

War and Conflict: A Cause of Environmental Crisis?

- How have wars affected the environment?
- How will greenhouse gasses affect life on earth?
- How can the Ozone's destruction harm humans?
- Can the Russia-Ukraine war affect the environment?
- How has history shaped our current reality?

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2022-2023



United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

With extreme joy and happiness, we introduce the UNHCR committee at AUSMUN 2023. We, the moderators of UNHCR, warmly welcome you to this committee.

Throughout the conference, as your moderators, we will guide and support you and make sure you enjoy the experience. It is important that you keep in mind your role as an official delegate to the United Nations, which is to represent the nation's interests in relation to the topic and work on creating an effective resolution. Furthermore, being polite, professional, and diplomatic is of the utmost importance when debating, speaking with, and working with fellow delegates. All delegates are expected to come thoroughly prepared and well-researched on their country's position, efforts, and plans on the topics presented. In addition, it is of utmost importance to keep in mind that the background guide is only to help guide your research and give a brief introduction to the topic; therefore, it is not to be considered as a replacement for your individual research. You must undergo your own individual research to be fully prepared for the conference.

Kindly don't hesitate to contact us at unhcr.ausmun2023@gmail.com if you have any questions, and we're extremely excited to meet you all and watch you debate. We are more than certain that you will do an amazing job and make the most of this conference.

Best regards,
Moderators of UNHCR



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, founded in 1950, was formed during the aftermath of World War II to aid millions of Europeans who fled their home country. UNHCR is a global organization with a primary purpose of saving the lives of refugees and ensuring their rights. UNHCR works to reduce forced displacement by encouraging states and other institutions to create conditions that promote human rights protection and peaceful conflict resolution.

The UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council govern UNHCR. The High Commissioner, who is appointed by the UN General Assembly, is in charge of UNHCR's direction and control. With the assistance of a Deputy High Commissioner and Assistant High Commissioners for Protection and Operations, the high commissioner directs the work of the committee.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Ukraine Emergency Situation

The Russo-Ukrainian war has been an ongoing conflict between the two nations since the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity in 2014. The revolution erupted when the then-leader of Ukraine, President Viktor Yanukovich, decided to reject the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement – an agreement chartered towards strengthening political and economic cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. Following his expulsion from office, a clear spark of political unrest was lit throughout the country, which eventually led to an initial annexation of Crimea by the Russian military. With the nation’s people divided, the conflict resulted in increased political tensions between Russia and Ukraine, extending over a period of 8 years before reaching a turning point in 2022.

Following multiple failed bilateral agreements between the two nations, the conflict took a turn onto a more militaristic basis rather than its previous proxy nature. Throughout 2021, the Russian military continued to build a large military presence surrounding the borders of Ukraine and Belarus, which was conducted in two main movements: Firstly, between March and April 2021, and second between October and the start of the invasion in February 2022. At the same time, the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) reinforced its accusations of a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine, which was denied unceasingly by the Kremlin. The involvement of NATO only furthered the already-existing political tension, seeing President Vladimir Putin explicitly criticize NATO for its involvement. Russian officials also questioned Ukraine’s right to join NATO, further reemphasizing conflict.

Finally, on the 24th of February 2022, Putin announced a “special military operation” following their recognition of pro-Russian states within Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk). This was interpreted by both Ukraine and the rest of the international stage as a full-scale invasion of the nation, although the Kremlin never issued it as a declaration of war. In the months leading up to the invasion, Russia continued to accuse Ukraine of enabling anti-Russian protests, “Russophobia” and inciting tensions between the two nations.

This invasion sparked multiple sanctions and boycotts on both Russia and Belarus for their involvement in the build-up and has continued to be a concern for the Human Rights of the citizens involved. This was, however, a concern well before the start of the special military operations in 2022. Between 2014 and 2021, there is an estimated 3000 civilian casualties because of the conflict, along with an estimated 4000 detainees who fell victim to torture, abuse, and other violations of human rights. This number has only grown since the start of the invasion. The international stage has at many points called for a full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine, and many countries are now working towards providing both military and humanitarian aid for the nation. The refugee crisis at hand is a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict between the two nations - and it is only set to worsen should it escalate beyond what the current state. Both regionally and globally, this could result in the displacement of a large population of Ukrainian citizens to other nation-states.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Ukraine Emergency Situation

The crisis has resulted in the displacement of approximately 6.6 million civilians inside the country. Many of these refugees have been displaced to the immediate neighbors of Ukraine, which include Hungary, Poland, and Moldova. The total number of civilians who are expected to need humanitarian aid can rise up to 13 million, almost double the current humble estimates of the displaced individuals. Although the full impact of the crisis is not yet known, the conflict will have outcomes of great consequence for the civilian population of Ukraine. Of those in direct danger of displacement, the UNHCR is expressing special concern for the women and children, which – given the history of the conflict between 2014 and 2021, are at increased risk of gender-based and sexually exploitative violence.

Economically, it is estimated that the minimum aid needed for the neighboring host countries for providing the necessary health benefits to Ukrainian refugees would be around \$67.5 million. Much of this amount would go towards those residing in Poland, which, as of September 2022, has seen an in-take of almost 1.4 million Ukrainian refugees.

The focus of the conflict has been in and around the capital of Ukraine – Kyiv. This is the area that has seen the most displacement in terms of Ukrainian civilians. The affected area is only set to grow as Russian forces have been taking aim mostly at the health and power infrastructure of Ukraine to cripple the civilian population. This includes attacks on power grids, which not only restricts civilian access to electricity but also to heat. This is of extreme importance given that we are heading into the months of winter. Due to such predicted socio-economic challenges the number and condition of the Ukrainian refugees can increase and worsen respectively. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a clear and direct violation of UN charters; more specifically on the territorial integrity of the country and the maintenance of international peace.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Ukraine Emergency Situation

UNHCR has been working with Ukraine since 1994 and has taken initiatives to combat the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, which has been declared a level 3 emergency – the highest level of emergency. UNHCR is sending its staff to Ukraine to aid and assist Ukraine’s people and ensure their security and safety. UNHCR has sent cash assistance as well as different essentials such as shelters, blankets, sleeping mats, and many more. Furthermore, the Blue Dot Safe Space, established by UNHCR and UNICEF, offers support for the refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. 34 Blue Dot Safe Spaces have been established in nations in Europe, such as Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Italy.

Moreover, several organizations have expressed their support for Ukraine. Project HOPE is an NGO that deals with the need for medical and mental health resources. This organization assists hospitals in maintaining some normal operations while also assisting displaced people who would otherwise have limited access to health care services. Project HOPE sent antibiotics and surgical supplies to Lviv, Ukraine.

Another organization is CARE, which is an international humanitarian organization founded in 1945. The organization launched initiatives, following the Ukraine Crisis, to help the most vulnerable people, particularly women, children, and the elderly. With an aim to reach 4 million through its Ukraine Crisis Fund and in collaboration with the organization People in Need, CARE plans to distribute essential emergency supplies, such as food, water, hygiene kits, money, and many other basic needs.

Additionally, nations in Europe have supported Ukraine by taking in the Ukrainian refugees and supporting them. Refugees moved to neighboring countries, such as: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia. The Netherlands has taken multiple efforts to support Ukraine. It has provided humanitarian relief funds as well as medicines and aid materials. In addition, the Netherlands is assisting with investigations into human rights breaches and violations of international humanitarian law.

UNHCR has also used the internet to share and encourage people to donate and aid the Ukrainian refugees.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Ukraine Emergency Situation

- What can the international stage do to support further refugee in-take from Ukraine?
- Who is responsible for funding the improvement of refugee camp conditions?
- Who is responsible for funding the food, water, and healthcare of refugees from Ukraine?
- What are the long-term implications of the Ukrainian refugee crisis?

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Assessing the Health Standards in Refugee Camps

For as long as conflict has existed, displacement has been a recurring issue. Recently, the number of forcibly displaced people has been skyrocketing reaching an estimated record 103 million people worldwide including 32.5 million refugees (UNHCR 2022). Throughout history and up until today, one of the greatest challenges faced by refugees escaping conflict or poor economic and social conditions is the lack of access to proper healthcare. What makes this absence of healthcare especially critical is that asylum seekers undergo long, arduous journeys that subject them to intense physical and mental health issues only to find no access to treatment at their final destinations.

As many refugees are escaping war conditions, many refugees tend to arrive at camps suffering from severe mental health conditions, most notably, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, adjustment disorder, panic attacks, and anxiety. Moreover, extended stays in these camps tend to exacerbate these conditions or cause them in people who were not already suffering from them (Van de Wiel et al., 2021). Mental health is still generally neglected by many people around the world today even among people who have not been displaced. Thus, many people do not see it as a priority among refugees in camps.

According to the World Health Organization, some of the most common physical health issues faced by refugees include hypothermia, burns, and gastrointestinal illnesses (2016). As refugee camps tend to be crowded and unsanitary, many wounds tend to be infected, and many communicable diseases tend to spread rapidly and worsen among their hosts. Moreover, as most health conditions in camps tend to go untreated for extended periods of time, they tend to worsen and become critical despite being easily treatable, which increases the strain on volunteer doctors and medics working in these camps. In fact, most of these conditions occur due to the conditions of the camps themselves rather than in the conflicts or the journeys to the camps as it was found that 63% of medical consultations in the Calais refugee camp in 2015 were due to the conditions of the camp (Médecins du Monde, 2015).

In addition to the physical and mental health issues caused by the conflicts, the journeys, and the camp conditions, many children tend to be unvaccinated in camps, which is critical as vaccines need to be administered before a certain age. Furthermore, pregnant women require antenatal care within a certain time period, which is usually not provided in camps. A survey carried out in Europe found that 54.2% of pregnant women did not have access to antenatal care and 34.5% of children were unvaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella in 2015 (Chauvin et al., 2015).

There are multitudes of barriers that prevent refugees from accessing healthcare including “financial and language barriers, administrative problems, and a lack of knowledge and understanding of their rights” (Daynes, 2016). This is to the point that one-fifth of refugee patients stopped seeking medical care.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Assessing the Health Standards in Refugee Camps

The most notable recent waves of refugees were due to the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine. In both cases, a large number of refugees headed to European countries. However, there are many more refugee crises occurring all around the world (DePillis et al., 2015). Many refugees in camps tend to eventually integrate into their host countries. Therefore, it is important for the host countries to ensure that the refugees receive medical attention as the lack thereof will cause long-term health complications. Especially pertaining to infections, injuries, lack of antenatal care and vaccinations, and mental health.

One of the long-term implications of conflicts is that the populations suffer from long-term health issues that remain even after the war is over. Moreover, the resulting long-term mental health complications can affect the upbringing of consecutive generations. Therefore, to mitigate these issues that extend beyond the ends of conflicts from occurring, the international community must cooperate to ensure at the very least the refugees living within the safety of camps have access to healthcare.

Since in theory, refugee camps are temporary, they do not receive enough attention in terms of healthcare as many countries tend to focus on their permanent long-term populations first. However, many camps tend to remain for years upon years such as the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya which has existed for 30 years. This conflict does not necessarily impact an individual actor on a global scale, but more so rather every nation-state as a whole - whether that be from the perspective of taking in refugees, or having displaced citizens. This is also a clear violation of fundamental human rights for global citizens.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Assessing the Health Standards in Refugee Camps

UNHCR has set a priority to ensure that all refugee camps meet the health standards needed for refugees. The UNHCR's public health programming aids refugees to remain as healthy as possible. UNHCR cooperates with governments and partners to provide emergency health care, improve local health care, and integrate refugees into national health systems and plans. Over 140 partners in governments, ministries of health, UN agencies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector work with UNHCR.

UNHCR has developed a comprehensive public health strategy that applies to both emergency and non-emergency operations in both camps and out of camps.

UNHCR teaches community health workers to meet with refugees to diagnose, treat, and refer them for common illnesses; furthermore, the workers follow up with pregnant women, newborns, and check on people with chronic diseases and illnesses. These workers are fluent in refugee languages, which allows them to communicate and teach refugees about health, hygiene, and preventative health measures.

Other than UNHCR, Qatar has aided the Syrian refugees in Jordan. In 2021, due to the difficult refugee conditions, wars, and the arrival of winter, the urgent need for health support has increased, and with the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, Syrian refugees in Jordan's Hashemite Kingdom, particularly in the Zaatari camp, are in constant need of treatment and medicine. Therefore, Qatar Fund for Development assists strategic partners Qatar Charity and Qatar Red Crescent in managing the health care centers and hospitals that QFFD finances, which in turn provide a variety of health services to Syrian refugees in the country.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Assessing the Health Standards in Refugee Camps

- How can healthcare for refugees in refugee camps be funded?
- How can improvements to refugee camp conditions be funded to mitigate health complications resulting from these conditions?
- Who is responsible for providing healthcare to refugee camps?
- What kind of programs can be run to improve the mental well being of refugees in camps?
- How can medical practitioners be incentive to work or volunteer in refugee camps?

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2022-2023



United Nations Human
Rights Council (UNHRC)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

To start, we would like to welcome you to the 16th annual AUSMUN 2023! It is a pleasure to serve as your moderators for this conference. We are honored to have you all in The United Nations Human Rights Council committee. We are your chairs: Hana Moataz, Mariam Maher, and Shania Dsouza. We are thrilled to set into motion the 16th annual AUSMUN and have set our hearts on creating a memorable experience for you all. We hope that this conference will boost and strengthen your debating and speaking skills, your overall knowledge on some of the most crucial issues present today and spark within you the passion to make a difference.

As the conference draws near, we welcome all the delegates, whether you have a bare minimum or ample amount of experience. We encourage all delegates to interact with each other, as well as the chairs, to ensure a lively conference where all participants feel welcome and heard. We hope this conference is a delightful experience for all delegates. We look forward to meeting you all and discussing the rights of people of determination, and extrajudicial executions on the rise in South Sudan's Warrap State. Please do not hesitate to contact us at UNHRCAUSMUN2023@gmail.com

Best regards,

Hana Moataz, Mariam Maher, and Shania Dsouza,

Chairs for UNHRC



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Human Rights Council

History

The United Nations Human Rights Council was formed by the United Nations General Assembly on 15th March 2006. The council's first session took place from 19th to 30th June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its "Institution-building package" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms. Among these mechanisms were the Universal Periodic Review mechanism which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States, and the Advisory Committee which serves as the Council's "think tank" providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues. As well as the Complaint Procedure which allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council (UN Human Rights Council - International Justice Resource Center, 2018). Each mechanism and committee does its part to ensure the UNHRC's goals and expectations such as promoting and protecting human rights, helping empowering people, and ensuring a human rights perspective is injected into all UN programmes are all met (OHCHR, n.d.).

Structure and Function

The council was created to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, as well as to identify instances of human rights violations and offer solutions. The Council serves as a forum for dialogue between Member States, with input from other stakeholders. As a result of its discussions, the Council may issue resolutions calling on States to take specific actions or uphold certain principles, or it may create mechanisms to investigate or monitor questions of concern. With this, it upholds the standards it has set for human rights and takes on any issues regarding it. The council can discuss any subject related to human rights that have to be addressed throughout the year (OHCHR, n.d.).

There are 47 United Nations Member States that have been elected by the UN General Assembly that are represented on the council, with a specified number of seats going to each major geographic region. General Assembly Resolution 60/251 provides that Member States should be elected considering the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights (UN Human Rights Council - International Justice Resource Center, 2018). The council meets in Geneva at the UN Office. The Human Rights Council also works with the UN Special Procedures established by the former Commission on Human Rights and is now assumed by the Human Rights Council. These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts, and working groups that monitor, examine, advise, and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Human Rights Council

Voting Procedure

Each member of the UNHRC shall have one vote. Decisions in the committee shall be made based on the majority of the present and voting members of the participating states in the committee. If a member abstains from voting during roll call, then they are not considered to be entitled to a vote (not voting). Amendments to a draft resolution are formally proposed orally from the floor. The Chairs choose the order in which amendments are considered if there are multiple ones presented. Before the adoption of the entire text, a Member State may also cast a vote on certain parts of a draft resolution. A paragraph, a section of a paragraph, or several paragraphs may be the subject of this. After a maximum of two delegates have spoken in favor of and two delegations have spoken against the proposal, the request for a paragraph vote will be put to an immediate vote if it is contested and will be approved by a simple majority. Following a vote on a paragraph, the entire draft resolution or decision will be discussed. It is still assumed that adoption will occur without a vote. The draft resolution will be rejected in its entirety if all of its operative clauses are rejected (United Nations, n.d.).

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

People of determination is a term applied to persons who require help due to a disability that restricts their intellectual and/or physical capacities in the fields of clinical diagnosis and functional development. A disability may be brought on by genetic factors, birth complications, diseases, or accidents, or it may develop later in life. Barriers can be more frequent and have a higher impact on people with impairments. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), barriers are more than just physical obstructions. The WHO defines barriers as follows: "Factors in a person's environment that, through their absence or presence, limit functioning and create disability. These include aspects such as: a physically inaccessible environment, a lack of relevant assistive technology (assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices), people's negative attitudes toward disability, services, systems, and policies that are either nonexistent or impede the participation of all people with a health condition in all aspects of life."

Over the last century, persons with disabilities have been subjected to harsh and terrible treatment. Prior to the 1930s, handicapped persons were considered sick and unfit, and as a result, they were frequently abandoned by their own families owing to a lack of knowledge about their situation. Dr. Alexis Carrel, a Nobel Prize winner on the staff of the Rockefeller Institute, published the book 'Man the Unknown' in 1935, proposing the removal of people with disabilities by small euthanasia institutions outfitted with the appropriate gases. In the midst of World War II, Hitler ordered a widespread 'mercy killing' of the sick and disabled in 1939. Despite the fate of German nationals with disabilities abroad, the United States was gradually implementing more humane treatment and assistance for individuals with disabilities. As World War I drew to a conclusion, the 1917 Smith-Hughes Act, which provided financing for vocational training for relocated industrial employees, became law. There was also some acknowledgment that people with certain disabilities may benefit from vocational training. This was followed by the 1918 Soldier's Rehabilitation Act, which was intended to vocationally rehabilitate disabled soldiers. People with disabilities fundamentally formed the independent living movement by learning from social activist movements involving minority civil rights, consumerism, and women's rights. Many persons with disabilities were becoming dissatisfied with how society saw and treated them, which sparked the independent living movement. People with all types of disabilities had to negotiate an able-bodied world in which public phones were inaccessible to the deaf, buildings and transportation were inaccessible to those with physical disabilities and blindness, and school segregation existed for those with mental and physical disabilities, particularly those of ethnic minority status. Many disabled persons were also outraged by conventional perceptions of them as inept, ill, and helpless. Those with disabilities came to discover that they often understood what was best for themselves and that rehabilitation and medical specialists were not enabling them to live freely.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

Echoing this notion, DeJong (1979b) cited three propositions that essentially described the philosophy of independent living: (a) consumer sovereignty—disabled people know best what their requirements are; (b) self-reliance—disabled people must rely on themselves for their self-interests; and (c) political and economic rights—disabled people have the right to participate in economic and political life.

People with developmental disabilities face a higher risk of being exposed to situations of abuse and exploitation. The danger of medical and physical neglect is higher for those with developmental impairments. When a caretaker or caregivers fail to provide for a disabled person's basic requirements, this is considered neglect. Chronic neglect can further impair the functioning of a person with developmental impairments and has long-term negative impacts on a person's physical, emotional, and cognitive development.

Neglect may manifest itself in a variety of ways. It can occur in private households, as well as in group settings like group homes or institutions, in addition to schools and workplaces. Primary caregivers, such as parents, family members, personal care helpers, or staff members, frequently establish and sustain circumstances of neglect. A caretaker, for example, may purposely restrict the individual's food, medicine, or access to medical treatment, putting the person in danger. Examples of common negligence include inadequate food and drink provision, leaving a disabled person unattended or placing the person in a potentially harmful position, inadequate heating, and cooling, withholding personal or medical attention, not creating a safe atmosphere for the individual, and restricting access to critical medical equipment, such as hearing aids. Neglect is frequently assumed to primarily harm children. However, neglect isn't limited to children. Senior folks and disabled persons are also victims of neglect. In fact, according to the Administration on Aging, 2.1 million Americans over the age of 65 are mistreated, neglected, or exploited each year.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

People of determination are not a homogenous group – they have different capacities and needs and contribute in different ways to their communities. In times of crisis, they may be at heightened risk of discrimination, exploitation, and violence, and face numerous barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. There are many people of determination who are institutionalized, chained up, or repeatedly involved in the criminal justice system. And as a result, they are frequently denied the right to live independently. Many of these human rights abuses are a result of entrenched stigma and a lack of community-based services essential to ensuring their rights. People of determination do not have much access to protective laws or, in the rare cases that they do, the laws are not encouraged or upheld. Additionally, even though other treaties such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was signed by 155 nations and ratified by 126, including Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia (Disability Rights, 2019) recognize disability as a category of discrimination that is prohibited, adequate implementation has not been achieved in all Member States. Such as in the United States, where the senate had failed to ratify the international treaty (UNCRPD) that was intended to protect the rights of those with disabilities. Furthermore, there still exist international instruments and national laws that explicitly derogate certain human rights based on disability. People of determination require a human rights treaty to organize and emphasize the protections of their inherent human rights (UN Enable - Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

OHCHR's mandate is to guarantee that the rights of people with disabilities are respected across the United Nations system. The team's primary focus is on giving guidance on the human rights-based approach to disability, particularly through reporting and activities mandated by the Human Rights Council, namely the annual panel on the rights of individuals with disabilities. The activity of OHCHR includes:

- Raising disability knowledge, understanding, and acknowledgment as a human rights problem, as established in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Developing disability-related guidelines and mainstreaming their rights throughout the United Nations organization, especially through the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)
- Facilitating and coordinating policy debate on the rights of people with disabilities within international organizations and across humanitarian and development agendas, including the SDGs
- Facilitating disabled people's involvement and participation in United Nations procedures in collaboration with disability-representative organizations

In addition, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force in 2008. It has 50 items aimed at combating prejudice and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. The task is to make the Convention's rights a reality in the daily lives of individuals with disabilities. Across the Asia Pacific, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) collaborate with disabled people's organizations, governments, employers, and other groups to increase knowledge of disability issues and overcome structural hurdles that are at the root of discrimination.

Several NHRIs, including Australia, the Maldives, New Zealand, and Palestine, have launched national investigations to enhance access for individuals with disabilities to jobs, education, and public transportation. NHRIs also play an essential role in promoting, protecting, and monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities, as stated in Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They do it in collaboration with organizations for people of determination.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

- Louis Braille invents the raised point alphabet. It was first taught at St. Louis School for Blind in 1860.
- Armenia's parliament passed the law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on May 5. This is a long-awaited reform that has the potential to improve the lives of Armenia's approximately 200,000 disabled citizens by safeguarding them from discrimination and generating chances for a more inclusive society.
- Internationally significant case law expressing the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Access to work, education, amenities and transportation, electoral procedures, and healthcare are examples of such case law. Public policy shift toward self-directed modes of care for individuals with impairments (Personalization in the UK [2003], the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia [2013]). Policy, legislative, and social reform agendas are still being implemented. Increased complexity of lobbying organizations combined with well-aligned social policy ideas.
- Adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); The CRPD has been ratified by 163 countries, and most countries have begun to develop legislation to protect the human rights of people with disabilities. The United Nations Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies is launched.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

- To what extent have the rights of people of determination been recognized?
- What has the United Nations previously done in order to tackle the issue?
- What ratification of treaties can be implemented in order to ensure the rights of people of determination?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Rights of People of Determination

- *Civil rights for people with disabilities.* The Arc. (2021, June 8). <https://thearc.org/policy-advocacy/civil-rights/>
- Hearing Health Foundation. (2021, February 11). *Equality for all: Understanding disability discrimination in the workplace.* Hearing Health Foundation. <https://hearinghealthfoundation.org/blogs/equality-for-all-understanding-disability-discrimination-in-the-workplace>
- U.S. Department of State. (2021, January 19). *Promoting the rights of persons with Disabilities - United States Department of State.* U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/promoting-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/>

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) clearly states that everyone has the right to life. It is violated by extrajudicial killings (also known as arbitrary, summary, and extrajudicial executions). According to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, extrajudicial killings mean ‘the deliberate killing of individuals outside of any legal framework’. This is a violation of human rights. South Sudan is known to be in a crisis regarding this matter.

South Sudan is currently facing a serious humanitarian crisis. About two-thirds of its population is estimated to be in dire need of humanitarian assistance in 2022(World Bank 2022). Recent conflicts in South Sudan have resulted in renewed famine risk. The Russia-Ukraine war has also contributed to the lack of sufficient aid being provided to civilians in South Sudan.

The world’s youngest country South Sudan gained independence on 9th July 2011 in the hopes of achieving peace and stability. In 2013 and 2016, the brutal civil war disrupted the country. The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) did bring in some stability and recovery. The shift to a Transitional Government of National Unity in 2020 contributed to peacebuilding as well. However, crimes against civilians are still the main issue.

Extrajudicial executions have been a persistent violation in South Sudan for several years. The security situation in South Sudan deteriorated when a governance vacuum emerged after President Kiir dissolved the whole government in February 2020 and did not appoint new state governors until July. Violence surged in Warrap and other states, leading to killings and displacement (South Sudan: Summary Executions in North, 2021).

Warrap state in South Sudan has witnessed widespread violence against civilians including unlawful killings over the years. It became a serious issue in 2020 when the number of victims of violence started rising tremendously. The recently appointed governor Aleu Ayieny has been accused of encouraging a violent approach in certain instances. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Human Rights Division reported 14 incidents of extrajudicial killings in Warrap State, resulting in the execution of 29 men, including boys and elderly men. State officials order unlawful killings of civilians and local officials defend it as a form of deterrence in the absence of rule-of-law institutions (Disturbing Wave of Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan’s Warrap State – UN Experts Note, 2021)

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

In almost all reported cases of extrajudicial executions, the Commission on human rights in South Sudan found that members of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, the National Police Service, or the National Security Service either carried out or were present within the vicinity of the executions (UN report, 2021).

According to the UN report on the Disturbing wave of extrajudicial executions on the rise in South Sudan's Warrap State, UN experts state that extrajudicial executions have been an ongoing violation for years now. There has been an escalation in cases which is 'utterly disturbing' and 'seems well planned and coordinated' says the Commission chair Yasmin Sooka. The executions announced via megaphone are said to be 'systematically ordered by the local government outside any judicial process'.

Yasmin Sooka adds that the executions are manifestly illegal and deny suspects their judicial rights. Alleged suspects are then lined up and publicly executed by firing squads, including in community markets, in the perverse belief that this might deter others from offending. (UN report, 2021)

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

The rule of law is all but nonexistent across South Sudan due to the judiciary's extremely underdeveloped institutional capability, which also causes extended delays in the administration of formal justice. Authorities are purposefully taking advantage of these flaws by using extrajudicial executions to win over the public in some localities. The rule of law is profoundly threatened by these illegal killings that encourage impunity. Additionally, the disdain for the suspects' human rights and the brutal nature of these killings highlight and reinforce a troubling dysfunction in the governance (Disturbing Wave of Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan's Warrap State – UN Experts Note, 2021).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established in July 2011 to ‘support the new government, protect civilians, monitor, and investigate human rights violations, support humanitarian assistance, and promote the implementation of the peace agreement’. The report on UNMISS states that ‘UNMISS has definitely saved lives and helped prevent a far worse trajectory for the conflict in South Sudan’.

A question the UN is faced with at present regarding UNMISS is ‘how can the mission prioritize protection when there are millions of vulnerable people across a huge area and extremely limited resources? And how can a mission like UNMISS communicate the impact of its protection work and allocation of resources to the neediest people in South Sudan?’ (UNMISS-Report, 2019)

The mission, however, does not emphasize enough on extrajudicial killings, especially in the Warrap state. UNMISS condemns extrajudicial killings but there is a need to focus on specifically solving the instability in the country and holding the government more accountable.

Financially, the EU and United States are large donors of humanitarian assistance to South Sudan. Commissioner for Crisis Management of the EU, Janez Lenarčič, said ‘Only five donors, including the European Commission, account for almost 77% of the total aid to South Sudan. This lack of interest risks turning this already disastrous situation into a forgotten crisis. A scale-up of the humanitarian response is urgently needed from all donors to ensure that adequate capacities are in place. Not getting things right now will make matters even worse next year with even more lives being lost.’

Hence, it is evident that sufficient humanitarian aid and holding the government accountable are necessary to bring stability to the country, therefore, leading to prosperity and improvement in the region.

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

- 8 July 2011- United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
- 9 July 2011- South Sudan gained independence through a referendum
- 24 December 2015- Governor Akec Tong Aleu was appointed who is allegedly partly responsible for extrajudicial killings in South Sudan
- ‘Juba, 10 August 2022 – The United Nations Mission in South Sudan, (UNMISS) joins the Government in expressing grave concern over reports that four officers from the rebel South Sudan People’s Movement/Army (SSPM/A) have been summarily executed in Mayom County, Unity State, in the north of the country.’ (UN Envoy in South Sudan Condemns Extrajudicial Killings in Mayom, n.d.)

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Extrajudicial Executions on the Rise in South Sudan

- The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan
- Political instability in South Sudan

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United Nations International
Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

It is with utmost honour and privilege we, the chairs of the United Nations Committee on Children's Emergency Fund, welcome you to American University of Sharjah's sixteenth annual Model United Nations conference.

Whether it's through governmental reform, technological or medical advancement, we are moving towards evolution and change with each passing minute. New potential for development and a far higher goal for the betterment of humanity sprout with such advancement.

AUSMUN seeks to establish a legacy of cooperation and dedication by offering professional venues for the youth to thrive intellectually and personally in these unpredictable times where change seems to be the only constant. We look forward to creating an experience that successfully promotes social growth, uphold international peace and security, canvass responses to a variety of urgent current concerns, and successfully raise living standards and constitutional rights.

Taking into consideration that many have been, or know of people that have been affected by the recent pandemic, we hope that you, as delegates, will be enthusiastic and passionate in debating your stance on the topics you are yet to discuss.

If you have any questions in regards, please feel free to send us an email on unicefausmun2023@gmail.com

We wish you the best of luck,

Aws Mohammed, Mahra Almesaybeh and Oneli Vihansi,
Chairs of UNICEF



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

Established on 11th December 1946, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund was put in place with the purpose of providing assistance and care to children after World War II.

The United Nations Committee on Children's Emergency Fund has been at the frontlines of many humanitarian crises. With a presence in 192 countries and territories, the organisation is one of the most well-known social welfare organisations in the world. The activities of UNICEF include vaccine distribution and disease prevention, treating mothers and children diagnosed with HIV, strengthening maternal and childhood nutrition, enhancing sanitation, promoting education, and offering emergency aid in the event of disasters.

The focus of UNICEF's activities is on creating community-level services that support children's health and wellbeing. With a network of 150 country offices, headquarters, and other locations, as well as 34 "national committees" that carry out its goal through programs created with host governments, the majority of work is done in the field. While its Supply Division, distributing rapid supply response to emergencies - such as vaccines, essential medicines and health products, helps provide more than \$3 billion in essential aid and services, seven regional offices offer technical assistance to country offices as needed.

Voting Procedure

For resolutions to pass, a majority of the members who are present and voting must agree on the Committee's decisions. Members who cast a positive or negative "tote" are referred to as "members present and voting" for the purposes of these regulations. Members who choose not to cast a ballot are said to have abstained. A second vote must be performed if the vote is equally decided in the results of a vote. The proposition or motion will be deemed rejected if the vote is again evenly divided.

The vote will be taken in the order of the members' names as they appear in the English alphabet, starting with the person whose name is picked at random by the President. When a member's name is mentioned during a roll call, the member's representative must respond "yes," "no," or "absent."

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

According to “UNICEF” (2020) “Vaccines are among the greatest advances in global health and development. For over two centuries, vaccines have safely reduced the scourge of diseases like polio, measles, and smallpox, helping children grow up healthy and happy” (para. 1). Many illnesses that killed or seriously incapacitated individuals just a few generations ago have been minimized, and in some cases eliminated, through vaccines.

Vaccines are an important step in every child’s life and is a right that every child should have easy access for in all countries worldwide. UNICEF always makes sure that all children have access to routine immunizations. Urgent action is needed to stop the dangerous trend of routine immunizations backsliding and the re-emergence of vaccine preventable diseases. United Nations (UN) agencies in over 100 countries to engage communities, obtain and disseminate vaccinations, maintain the safety and efficacy of supplies, and provide affordable access for even the most remote households. Vaccine distribution and acquisition are only a small portion of unicef activities in this area. Strong health systems are necessary to ensure that children receive dosages that will protect them against illnesses that can be prevented. Along with enhancing supply chains, data systems, and disease surveillance, UNICEF is investing in community health professionals and institutions. This in turn aids in creating those more durable systems.

Polio and measles will be eliminated in a few years, yet every year, about 3 million people, primarily children under the age of five, pass away from diseases that are curable with vaccinations. Children in developing countries are having a difficult time receiving the immunizations. To fully realise the potential that vaccines represent for the alleviation of human suffering, the international community must continue to invest the required resources, funds, and labour. It is reasonable that many were optimistic that paediatric illnesses may likewise be eliminated through vaccination after the smallpox epidemic was successfully vanquished in 1977. The ability and availability of vaccination gives women the authority to safeguard their own health and the health of their children by independent action, adding to their psychological sense of control and empowerment. Since infants in their first year of life and pregnant women are the priority groups for primary health care services in poor countries such as; Somalia, South Sudan, Zambia, and Ghana, immunisation services are best provided in conjunction with other treatments that they require.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

In today's world, vaccinations are believed to be the most effective methods advancing global welfare, (*UNICEF, 2022*). For over 200 years, vaccines have been responsible for the mitigation of diseases such as, but not limited to, Polio, Measles and Smallpox, (*UNICEF, 2022*.) Despite the benefits in keeping children and communities protected, however, the level of immunisation in the world has yet to reach a substantial measure. Children in communities that are most in need of vaccines, often from the Global South, continue to be the ones least likely to get them; this violates the United Nation's 3rd Sustainable Development Goal, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages in life, (*Goal 3 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2022*). UNICEF's immunisation efforts to improve safe accessibility to vaccinations are to ensure all children, regardless, can receive the vaccines they need to live a long and healthy life. Implications of the lack of accessibility of vaccines for children in developing countries:

Social

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a prominent example of the detrimental consequence of insufficient vaccination accessibility in less developed countries. It affected more than 500 million people worldwide and led to 15 million deaths, (*Division, 2022*).
- Disrupted essential health services in 92% of countries (*Division, 2022*)
- Immunisation coverage significantly decreased (*Division, 2022*)
- 22.7 million children missed basic vaccines in 2020, 3.7 million more than in 2019 (*UNICEF, 2022*)
- Global life expectancy decreased (*UNICEF, 2022*)

Economic

- For every dollar invested in vaccination in the world's 94 lowest-income countries, US\$16 is expected to be saved in healthcare costs, lost wages and lost productivity due to illness and death (*ABPI, 2022*).
- By promoting good health in children, vaccines help to increase cognitive skills, physical strength and performance at school – this aids in efforts to build an educated and capable workforce (*ABPI, 2022*).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

Political

- The role of political views in influencing vaccination rates and consequently COVID-19 impact, (*ABPI, 2022*).

Global Hotspots

- Burundi
- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- Haiti

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to foster financial stability, facilitate international trade and sustain economic growth, providing grants and concessions to least developed countries, alongside the World Bank. In Tunisia, UNICEF has worked with the IMF to encourage the Government to redirect funds from insufficient fuel subsidies towards the protection of children. UNICEF used information on the budget for fuel subsidies to analyse alternative policies, emphasising that child grants would be more cost-effective and bring a greater benefit to underprivileged, leading to better outcomes. As part of the COVID-19 response, encouraged by the IMF, the government reduced dual subsidies whilst implementing temporary cash-transfer measures, targeting over 623,000 families with children.

The World Bank finances Ecuador's purchase of vaccines, managing supply chains and logistics for storage. In Nepal, the World Bank strengthens the healthcare system and procedures diagnostic tests, therapeutics and laboratory equipment, allowing for greater access to vaccinations. Through the expansion of surveillance and monitoring, UNICEF is able to track vaccination progress. A new analysis by the UNDP shows that most vulnerable countries, where less than one percent of the population are fully vaccinated, are located in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad. Developed by the UNDP, the WHO and the University of Oxford, the Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity assists researchers and policy-makers to run nation-wide analysis and establish programs that effectively administer vaccines to underdeveloped areas.

In September of 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) set a progressive goal, targeting vaccine equity. The United Nations health agency called for 70 percent of the global population to be vaccinated by mid-2022 under the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy. Other vital actions of the strategy include equitably distributing manufacturing facilities across areas and supporting a strong vaccine delivery program. WHO and UNICEF continue to collaborate with COVAX and COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP) partners to support priority vaccinations to children.

Through UNICEF's joint efforts with partners and countries, vaccines have become more accessible after the repercussions and setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF and WHO records indicate that as of 2021, 152 countries fully introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to protect children against pneumonia and 116 countries introduced rotavirus vaccine to protect children against diarrhoea as part of the immunisation program. As of 2021, the Human Papillomavirus vaccine has been introduced in 114 countries, yet only 12 percent of girls are fully protected against HPV.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

- What is the most effective method of implementing efficient distributions of vaccines to developing countries?
- What is the major obstacle stagnating the accessibility of vaccinations to children in developing countries?
- What are the major global hotspots deserving of immediate attention at the moment?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Accessibility of Vaccines for Children in Developing Countries

- Most negatively impacted countries at the moment
- Successful immunisation efforts in the past
- Importance of parental consent
- The role of fear mongering on social media in the hesitation to get vaccinated

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

“The majority (89%) of the global population aged 10-24 lives in less developed countries. In developed countries, up to 60% of young people are classified as ‘NEET’: Neither in employment, education or training. Meanwhile, more than 500 million struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day, a level of poverty from which many never escape.” Said Liyong in (2015). Limited educational options, unemployment, the HIV/Aids pandemic, conflict, and various kinds of violence affect the expanding young population. Academics believe that the disgruntled might cause social and political upheaval if a sizable group of young people are unable to find jobs and make a living. However, it is now understood that youths play a crucial role in fostering long-term stability and providing protection against future conflicts.

In addition to academic studies, a growing amount of data from the field demonstrates that the great majority of young people are capable of acting as active and productive change makers. In reality, many already do, but since there is a widespread lack of dis-aggregated data and research on age and sex, their contribution often goes unnoticed or is simply ignored. Masses of people are displaced during conflicts when their homes and villages are destroyed, sharply expanding the global refugee and internally displaced population. The current estimate is over 50 million, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (n.d.). The majority of conflict is waged in poor nations, mainly in Africa, where child soldiers are found in particularly high numbers. Between the ages of 10 and 24,300,000 young soldiers are said to be putting their lives in danger as part of active military operations. However, it is typically a lack of possibilities in their communities that pushes young people into lifestyles of violence and terrorism. Recruitment might take the form of conscription, kidnapping, or coercion.

Drug usage is a regular aspect of life for many young troops, protecting them from discomfort both physically and emotionally and keeping them alert. It is more frequently employed as a tool to exert control over their behaviour and thinking than to relieve their repressed angst. Girls and women also experience threats of rape, sexual trafficking and exploitation, mutilation, and humiliation during wartime. Young people cannot not but be impacted by the dismal reality in their neighbourhoods, whether they are victims or bystanders. Trauma immediately affects them, as does their inability to get healthcare, education, or proper nourishment, among other things. There is no one agency or group that specialises on the problem of adolescents and conflict. This is due to the fact that the issue crosses over into the agendas for peace, security, and development, as well as the fact that its scope necessitates participation from all players, including society, governments, and the global community.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), youth empowerment is “the expansion of assets and capabilities of young people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives”, (*UNICEF 2022*).

According to the UN’s World Population Prospects, there are 1.3 billion people aged 15-24 in the world, nearly one billion of which live in developing countries. As a consequence of such demographic realities, the youth’s potential for change and positive action is receiving increasing research attention, and this particularly true given the recent wave of social upheavals and humanitarian crises. In order to address not only the challenges of physical violence, but also those of structural and cultural violence, youth should be conceptualised and studied as agents of positive peace, (*GDC UNICEF, 2022*).

Global Hotspots

- South Sudan
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka

Implications of empowering youth in conflict-ridden areas:

Social

- Emotional trauma, separation from family, frequent placement with different guardians, and school changes can leave young people feeling disempowered, (*UNICEF, 2022*).
- Youths and adults may serve together in formal leadership capacities, and/or in partnerships, such as on boards or committees, (*UNICEF, 2022*).
- By empowering youngsters, the rate of violence and crime can be decreased. It also provides young people a sense of belonging and opportunities to achieve their visions and dreams, (*UNICEF, 2022*).

Economic

- A reduction in youth unemployment can significantly add to the country's GDP and accrue economic gains to society, (*UNICEF, 2022*).

Political

- The government and administration in the country should accept their social responsibility in encouraging entrepreneurial activities that provide youth with ideas and interest-free loans, organise awareness campaigns and seminars, and create opportunities for self-empowerment, (*UNICEF, 2022*).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

UNICEF's child protection response received 50 per cent of the fundings required to meet its targets in 2020. Around 122,054 children (51 percent girls) received psychosocial support through various different approaches. Approximately 59 per cent of the overall target was met, with the negative setback of COVID-19 measures in the first two quarters largely overcome through innovative delivery mechanisms. As per the thematic reports on South Sudan, "a total of 4,132 unaccompanied and separated children (13 percent girls) against a target of 8,618 children (31 per cent girls) were identified and reunified with their families or placed in alternative family care, which roughly aligns with initial planning assumptions."

11,416 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) received prevention and response services from UNICEF and partners, including legal, medical, and psychosocial support (48 per cent girls). These figures, rather than accurately representing how many children have benefited from UNICEF services, instead reflect the difficulty in identifying GBV victims. To improve data collection techniques in 2021, work is still being done.

Two significant peacebuilding initiatives launched in 2020 involve collaboration between UNICEF and other UN agencies and organisations. The first initiative, funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), aims to promote a culture of peace by establishing the Rule of Law, ensuring equal access to social services, and strengthening the Rule of Law through active participation of important community players. The second effort concentrates on COVID prevention to strengthen social cohesion and is directed towards larger regions.

Both programs encourage social services that are sensitive to conflict and strengthen peace and involve the empowerment of women and young people. They are both grounded in conflict analysis.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

- What role could the youth play in implementing peace?
- What are the negative implications of recruiting child soldiers?
- Why are the youth underutilised in peacemaking?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

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SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Empowerment of Youth in Conflict-ridden Areas

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American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



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2022-2023



United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2023! It is with honor and the greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the sixteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and specifically to our committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). We are excited to meet you all, and we look forward to fruitful, productive and memorable committee sessions. During this three-day conference we will be discussing the following topics: “Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults” and “Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs”. Our topics are relatable, engaging and controversial, therefore, we are excited to hear everyone’s thoughts and resolutions.

We have put together this delegate guide to help you start your research, and we recommend that you begin exploring each topic. As your moderators, we are here to help you get the most out of this experience. Please do not hesitate to reach out regarding any inquiries. You can contact us via our email: UNODCAUSMUN2023@gmail.com. We wish you the best of luck with your preparations and we look forward to meeting you all!

Best Regards,

Malak Hatem, Mariam Almaazmi, and Rubin Abdul Latheef



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was formed in 1997 under the United Nations Secretariat, which is one of the six UN organs. UNODC's purpose is to address global issues that involve drugs, corruption, terrorism, and organized crime. It strives to bring world peace, security, and justice. Besides that, the office is committed to accommodating people with proper health and sustainable well-being necessities. They manage to do this by offering practical assistance, and they try to take action by encouraging transnational approaches. To elaborate on the issues, UNODC is responsible for the prevention and justice of crime, whether it is physical or cyber, and terrorism. It also handles trafficking issues like human and drug trafficking, smuggling, prevention, and treatment. Moreover, firearms, falsified medical products, money laundering, naval crime and piracy, and wildlife crime are also some of the major issues they tackle. UNODC operates in over 80 countries with 115 field offices and more than 2000 people working with them worldwide. It also works with many governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption, and is the guardian of most of the related conventions, particularly:

- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols (against trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms)
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption
- The International Drug Control Conventions

Voting Procedures of UNODC:

The UNODC must make crucial decisions with a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. A majority of the members present and voting shall decide on other questions, including the determination of further categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority. However, decisions of the UNODC on simple questions other than those mentioned before require a simple majority vote where just over half of the members have to be in favor of a question. It is important to note that the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Whereas, members who choose “present”, may abstain from voting and are considered non-voting members of the committee.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

The popularization of vaping among young adults is a topic of utmost concern in most modern societies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines the vape as an electronic device used to deliver “nicotine, cannabis, flavorings, chemicals and other substances”. Vapes, also known as ‘electronic cigarettes’, heat up any of the liquids listed to create a vapor that is inhaled. Like cigarette smoking, vaping is highly addictive and alters the neurotransmitters in the brain. For teenagers and young adults, vaping leads to slower brain development which affects self-control, mood, decision-making, memory and concentration (Bay State Health, 2021). According to the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey, around 28% of high school students and 9% of middle school students reported vaping daily. The most popular age group who vape are individuals within the age group of 18-29 year olds, thus contributing to the growing concern for the respiratory and neurological health of adolescents.

Many argue that vaping is a less harmful alternative to smoking cigarettes, because smoking delivers nicotine through the burning of tobacco, thus causing smoke-related illnesses. On the other hand, vaping delivers nicotine through heating, which creates an aerosol for users to inhale. The concept of vaping was first introduced in 2003 when the modern electronic cigarette was invented by Hon Lik, a Chinese pharmacist, in hopes to create an alternative to conventional smoking. From there, the e-cigarette made its way to the European and American markets in 2006, eventually finding its audience in younger adults. However, a much more complex design for the vape was initially designed in 1963 by an American named Joseph Robinson, which he called the ‘Mechanical Butane Ignition Vaporizer’. From there, many individuals tried to enhance the idea of an e-cigarette by creating a device that helped users inhale nicotine without heat combustion.

The popularization of vape amongst young adults is an issue that is growing at an alarmingly fast rate. Unlike smoking cigarettes, which produces the familiar nicotine odor, vaping comes with the choice of selecting desirable flavors such as candy, fruit, and dessert. Amongst teen and young adults, vaping is seen as a popularity and status symbol that is much less harmful than conventional smoking, and it is marketed as such. Vapes are marketed as “the safer product” and continue to grow in popularity, despite the age restrictions, taxes and health campaigns (Thomas, 2020). Some of the primary factors for the rise of this issue, listed in order, are curiosity, friends and family using vape (peer pressure), availability of many appealing flavors, and the ability to do tricks using a vape.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

According to a journal article published in the journal *Primary Care Respiratory Medicine*, the uptake of vaping and e-cigarettes have increased by almost 20% among teenagers between 2011 and 2018 in the United States. Moreover, there was a 25% rise in e-cigarette usage among teens in Eastern and Central Europe. In Canada, a total of 90% of students in grades 7 through 12 had consumed products containing nicotine. There are not many reports and studies done on poorer countries such as Asian and African nations; however, that does not mean that the issue is not prevalent in other parts of the world. Additionally, researchers claim that the cost of vapes and e-cigarettes in developing nations should be reduced, in order to persuade people to give up smoking (Austin, 2018).

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

The popularization of vape amongst young adults is a significant issue that affects and targets youth from almost all societies and countries. It is an issue that directly pertains to the health and well-being of young people, because vaping increases the risk of developing a nicotine addiction and causes lung diseases, injuries and illnesses. Moreover, according to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (2020), tobacco is the leading cause of death in the United States, even though its use is "entirely preventable". The UNODC is consistently attempting to raise awareness and hold campaigns pertaining to drug usage amongst teenagers and young adults. Despite the efforts of the UN and its organizations, the issue of vaping continues to arise in most societies around the world, which means that all countries, societies and communities face the same risk. Vapes and electronic cigarettes are growing in popularity and sales; hence, it gets harder for authorities to regulate the usage amongst teenagers and young adults. The products are also sold at a range of different prices for different classes of society, making it easier for all kinds of users to indulge.

Because of that, the UN Charter is constantly violated by this issue since it stands to firmly protect youth and raise awareness against drug use, which includes vaping. Since the issue is a social one, a campaign called the UNODC Youth Initiative was launched in 2012 in hopes to connect youth around the globe and "empower them to become active in their schools and communities" to promote drug prevention and a healthier lifestyle (UNODC, n.d).

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the MPOWER measures which are intended to help in the country-level implementation of effective interventions to reduce the spread of tobacco. The MPOWER interventions have rescued lives and reduced medical expenses. The first MPOWER report was launched in 2008 to advocate government action on six tobacco control schemes in cooperation with the WHO FCTC to:

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies.
- Protect people from tobacco smoke.
- Offer help to quit tobacco use.
- Warn people about the dangers of tobacco.
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.
- Raise taxes on tobacco.

The WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic (2021), reports:

- Since 2007, 102 countries have introduced at least one MPOWER measure at the highest level of achievement.
- More than half of all countries now cover tobacco packaging with graphic health warnings at best-practice level
- 15 LICs today have at least one MPOWER policy in place at best-practice level compared to three in 2007, showing that tobacco control is possible regardless of income level
- 78% of high-income countries (HICs) regulate ENDS, of which 7% have a complete ban on sale in comparison to MICs, of which 40% regulate ENDS, and 10% have a ban on sales without any other regulation, leaving about 50% of middle-income countries (MICs) with no regulations on tobacco. In contrast, 76% of LICs neither regulate ENDS nor ban their sale.

The most recent report (2021) documents that there have been new countries that have implemented some of the procedures at the best practice level since the last report:

- Bolivia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, newly adopted complete smoke-free laws over all indoor public areas, workplaces, and public transport.
- Austria, Cook Islands, Jordan, Philippines, Tonga, moved up to best-practice level with their tobacco use cessation services.
- Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, United States of America enforced large graphic pack stickers.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

- Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Venezuela, introduced thorough bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorships (TAPS)..
- Denmark, Georgia, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Sri Lanka moved up to the best-practice group by imposing taxes that make up at least 75% of retail prices on products that contains nicotine, tobacco and other related substances..
- The United States FDA requires all products that have been on the market since August 2016 to submit applications for review, to continue selling vaping devices and other nicotine products.
- Nicotine concentrations cannot exceed 20 mg/mL of e-liquid in 14 countries.
- The US has implemented various school-based initiatives to reduce smoking in schools such as The Tobacco Prevention Toolkit, CATCH my breath Youth E-cigarette prevention program, and Vaping and JUULING lesson plans

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

- 2003 - The first commercially successful electronic cigarette created in Beijing, China by Hon Lik.
- 2006 - Electronic cigarettes introduced to Europe and the U.S.
- 2008 - Turkey's Health Ministry suspends the sale of e-cigarettes.
- 2008 - The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaims that it does not consider the electronic cigarette to be a legitimate smoking cessation aid.
- 2009 - Brazil bans sale, importation and advertising of e-cigarettes.
- 2019 - The Indian government passes an act prohibiting the production and sale of electronic cigarettes, which also includes all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) such as vapes or vape pens.
- 2014 - The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control invited all its signatories to consider prohibiting or regulating the use of e-cigarettes in their countries. Since then, over 30 countries including Brazil, Mexico, Singapore, and Thailand have banned the production, trade, and advertisement of e-cigarettes. Some other countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and France have brought out laws to regulate the manufacture, sale, advertisement, and use of e-cigarettes.
- 2022 - The Philippines government bans distribution, importation, manufacturing, sale, offer for sale and online retail of flavored liquid refill solutions other than tobacco and menthol flavor for vapor products. It also restricts advertising, including use of social media influencers and celebrities.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

- What are the reasons for the popularization of vapes among young adults?
- What are the health risks of vaping, especially at a young age?
- What can be done to regulate the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)? How effective have the past actions been?
- How can the non-medical use of cannabis products containing high levels of THC (vapes and concentrates), be regulated?
- What are the impacts of electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS) on young adults?
- To what extent should governments regulate the use of vapes among young adults?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

- Influence of social factors such as social media, peer pressure, and passive smoking on the number of smokers among young adults
- Awareness and rehabilitation efforts that can be put into effect for young nicotine addicts
- Consequences of banning e-cigarettes
- Vapes with Illicit drugs such as THC

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 1: Popularization of Vape Amongst Young Adults

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SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

While urgent actions are being called for to combat climate change, the illicit drug economy is emerging as an important factor. Deforestation, monocultures, pollution of waters and soil as well as the high carbon footprint of in-house cultivation, are some of the most eminent effects of illicit drug economies. Worldwide, approximately 275 million people use illicit drugs every year with enormous social and health consequences. However, not only are human lives negatively affected by illicit drug economies, but the production of these deadly drugs also causes negative environmental effects.

Coca plantations in the 20th century had accounted for approximately 7 million hectares of deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon. Further studies conducted during the 21st century reveal that this destruction is still rampant; from 2001-2013 over 290,000 hectares of forest were lost due to processes of cocaine manufacturing.

Another concern regarding this industry is that much of the habitat destroyed for drug crops lies inside the hearts of biodiversity hotspots like the Northern-Andean ecosystem, which is known to be “the most species-rich region on Earth.” These isolated areas are chosen for their ideal location, far from urban areas and potential detection. Clandestine infrastructure like airstrips for illicit drug transportation also contribute to this phenomenon. Pesticides and precursor chemicals not only harm habitats for plants and animals, but also get into the soils and rivers, threatening nearby villages and the health of the inhabitants. As a result of all these actions, biodiversity is thus endangered. Animals lose their habitat; the ecosystem is destabilized. Fields and greenhouses with illicit cannabis cultivation can be found all over the world. For outdoor cultivation, land is cleared, water resources are exhausted and soil dries out. Indoor cultivation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Lights, air conditioners and heaters require a lot of energy. The often-long trafficking routes increase the carbon footprint of the illicit supply chains too. Thus, the drug market leaves deep traces in many ways to harm the environment.

Historically, conflicts and violence are proven to be expensive. Hence, all terrorist groups need finance to operate and further cause more conflicts. It is a means for certain groups to accomplish their objectives and these objectives are proven to cause more harm than help anyone at all. Terrorist groups are therefore involved in different levels of organized crime. One of them is illicit drug production and trafficking. Hence, the illicit drug production has far more consequences than just the environment.

According to the World Drug Report of 2022, illicit drug economies can have local, community or individual-level impacts on the environment. Extended studies and findings concluded that the carbon footprint of indoor cannabis can be between 16 to 100 times more than the cannabis that is produced outdoors. The deforestation that takes place to clear out these areas causes more of the environment to be destroyed.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

The environmental impacts of illicit drugs are a huge threat that modern society is facing. Although the international community along with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is taking numerous steps to halt drug production, other related events lead drug production to spike. The 2022 World Drug Report reveals that conflicts may also disrupt and shift drug trafficking routes. Although the UNODC has played a huge role throughout the years to further combat such issues, the ever-evolving use and production of these illicit drugs makes the process a lot harder than it should be.

The environmental impacts of illicit drug production differ depending on the substance being produced. Consider, for example, the cocaine supply chain. Often, in countries like Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, coca leaf cultivation occurs in fragile ecosystems and pristine forests, even in natural parks, causing deforestation and loss of habitats. In Afghanistan, partially desert areas provide the space for cultivation. However, since water is scarce, this led to groundwater being transported to the surface by solar pumps for irrigation, causing groundwater levels to drop drastically. It also contaminates the remaining water and threatens local health. In other source countries, the environmental impacts derived from opium poppy cultivation are also related to deforestation. These are high environmental costs to supply opium and heroin markets.

Illicit drugs are on the rise, as well as their impacts on people and the planet. Drug abuse comes with devastating effects on the user's life along with their local community in many ways than just one. It increases crime, violence, financial instabilities, vagrancy and much more. Treating these individuals and combating this phenomenon comes with a cost. Since 1971, the War on Drugs has caused the United States to spend over \$1 Trillion. In addition, countries like Canada spend approximately \$500 Million annually to address the issue of illicit drug use. Combating the increase in crime rate and other social issues causes governments to increase their spending to combat illicit drug related issues.

The production of these illicit drugs is proven to be extremely harmful. Hence, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been effortlessly working to stop this global phenomenon. As its main focus is to stop drugs as a whole, it has taken multiple steps to ensure the decrease of drugs on a global scale. It promotes programs that combat money laundering associated with the illegal drug market, to monitor illicit crops and strengthen certain governments' capacity to put an end to drug trafficking and production.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

The UNODC has been active in combatting and addressing the environmental impacts of illicit drugs. According to the 2022 World Drug Report, illicit drug markets can have “local, community or individual-level impacts on the environment”. The environmental impacts include deforestation connected to illegal cocoa cultivation, waste generated from synthetic drug manufacture (sometimes 5-30 times the volume of the end drug product) and dumping of waste which naturally affects the soil and living organisms.

The United Nations considers the environmental impacts of illicit drugs as one of modern societies’ most pressing issues. However, the policies set by the UNODC and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs have proven to work in the opposite direction: the respective organizations’ efforts to thwart illicit drug industries has resulted in further environmental damage. For example, the attempt to intercept illegal drug shipments drives habitat destruction and immense forest loss “by incentivizing traffickers to seek out more new routes” to get their products across. Because of the prevention of drug shipments, traffickers begin to create their hubs through environmentally devastating activities of logging, frontier ranching and much more to earn their inflated profits.

The UNODC specifically holds authority to propose policies and campaigns to combat the issue; however, their initiatives so far have not been doing enough to protect the environment. Even though initiatives such as the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs call for the immediate drug eradication measures to protect the environment, the problem continues to grow globally, specifically in Latin America and South-East Asia (McSweeney, 2015).

TIMELINE

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

- 1961, 1971 & 1988 - Supply reduction measures towards the cultivation of crops used for the illicit production of drugs are based on the three UN drug control conventions.
- 2013 - The United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development stresses that alternative development initiatives ‘should include measures to protect the environment at the local level, through the provision of incentives for conservation, proper education and awareness programs so that the local communities can improve and preserve their livelihoods and mitigate negative environmental impacts’.
- 2015 - Goal 15 in the draft Sustainable Development Goals includes, to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.”
- 2015 - The World Drug Report contends that “the environmental impact of illicit drug production and trafficking has been broadly documented, with significant attention to the way in which illicit crops cause the degradation and destruction of primary forests in Latin America and South-East Asia.”
- 2016 - The section on development-oriented drug policy in the UNGASS Outcome Document states “comprehensive strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening the rule of law” and “ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives, by taking into account the vulnerabilities and specific needs of communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation, ... with a view to contributing to the building of peaceful, inclusive and just societies, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and in compliance with relevant and applicable international and national law”.
- 2019 - One of the general aims of Colombia’s current drug control strategy issued by the Ministry of Justice and Law, is to develop alternative sources of revenue that integrate conservation tools to control deforestation and recover ecologically important ecosystems.
- 2019 - The Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) partnership among the Governments of Colombia, Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom highlights the potential of an inclusive land registry for addressing deforestation in Colombia.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

- Can the UNODC involve other organizations in the bids to combat the issue? If yes, how?
- Since illicit drug production takes place in poorer nations, what can the governments of these countries do to reduce or control operations?
- What are the laws/fines set in place for illegal drug production, as well as environmental destruction? Who bears the cost?
- What are the short and long-term effects of environmentally destructive activities on communities? How does illicit drug production contribute to that?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

- How drug cultivation impacts different types of ecosystems.
- The effects on soils of illicit drug production and eradication
- The effects of the discharge of chemical wastes from coca processing to soils and waterways
- Conflict between indigenous land owners and illegal settlers, who are often associated with armed groups in protected areas, and cultivation land.
- Carbon footprint of indoor and outdoor cannabis.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Topic 2: Environmental Impacts of Illicit Drugs

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American University of Sharjah

AUSMON



MMXXIII

2022-2023



World Health Organization (WHO)



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

With great pleasure, we would like to welcome you all to the WHO committee of the 2022 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations. We are extremely excited to see the fruitful and witty debates along with creative resolutions throughout the course of the committee. To make sure that you have a smooth process, we would like to extend our help through this background guide to help you better understand the topics. We also highly recommend you go through the “Delegate Handbook” on the AUSMUN website to understand all the specific details about structure, procedure, and awards information.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO continues to be one of the most important committees of the UN as healthcare has become of the foremost priorities of most countries. The topics on the agenda present the most important causes of concern for the world in regards to healthcare. We expect the delegates to work together to solve the imminent issues facing WHO.

AUSMUN provides a great platform to learn adaptability and to understand the working of world politics. We highly encourage all delegates to come well prepared and to engage in fruitful debates. We are looking forward to meeting the excellent delegates and hope to see you all on February 3rd.

Sincerely,
The Chairs of the WHO



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

World Health Organization

Created in 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) is an international body that is a part of the United Nations, dedicated to various aspects of health policy and planning. Six regional offices of the WHO are located in Africa, the eastern Mediterranean, Europe, the Americas, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. The organisation also has some 150 field offices around the world. The WHO has been working for over 60 years on issues such as smallpox eradication, family planning, childhood immunizations, maternal morbidity rates, polio eradication, and AIDS.

As a whole, the job of the WHO includes monitoring “the core global functions of establishing, monitoring, enforcing international norms and standards, as well as coordinating multiple actors toward common goals”. The work done by the organisation is conducted by the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) which indicates the core ways and procedures to track progress. The primary roles of the WHO include providing accurate scientific information and policy recommendations to help countries combat diseases. As well as sending medical professionals to countries in order to provide hands-on medical treatments rather than grants or loans.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

Local and state public health workers, who have been fighting the COVID-19 pandemic for the past three years, are exhausted, battered, and, in many locations, demoralised. And now they face a brand-new virus that is spreading quickly: monkeypox. The reaction requires sensitive political moving and right now has run into weaknesses in testing, antibodies, and antiviral medicines — like the involvement in Coronavirus. Authorities in public health are concerned about the public health system's ability to face multiple threads simultaneously in the face of exhaustion and persistent under funding.

Although clinically less severe than smallpox, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus passed from animals to humans) with symptoms similar to those of smallpox. [1] It could take days or even weeks after exposure before you experience symptoms. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle pains, lethargy, and swollen lymph nodes, are among the early indications of monkeypox. A rash frequently appears a few days later. The rash initially appears as unpleasant, flat, red pimples. These lumps develop into blisters that ooze pus. The blisters eventually harden over and fall off; the entire process can take two to four weeks. You can also get sores in your mouth, vagina or anus. [17] After more than two years of a pandemic, it is understandable that news of a new virus spreading around the world could cause concern. However, despite the discovery of more cases, health experts say that monkeypox is unlikely to cause a situation similar to that of the coronavirus. “As surveillance expands, we do expect that more cases will be seen. But we need to put this into context because it’s not Covid,” Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, the W. H. O. 's technical lead on Covid-19, said in a live online Q. and A. on May 23. [2]

In 1970, a 9-month-old boy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a region where smallpox had been eradicated in 1968, was the first human to be diagnosed with human monkeypox. Since then, the majority of cases have been reported from the Congo Basin's rainforest and rural areas, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and human cases have been reported from central and west Africa in increasing numbers. In 11 African nations, human cases of monkeypox have been reported since 1970: Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Monkeypox's actual prevalence is unknown. For instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, an outbreak with a lower case fatality ratio and a higher attack rate than usual was reported in 1996–97. The discovery of a concurrent outbreak of monkeypox and chickenpox, both caused by the varicella virus, which is not an orthopoxvirus, may account for the apparent or actual shifts in transmission dynamics in this instance. Over 500 suspected cases, over 200 confirmed cases, and a case fatality rate of approximately 3% have occurred in Nigeria since 2017. Cases have been reported up until this point.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

Because it affects countries in both west and central Africa as well as the rest of the world, monkeypox is a disease that has a significant impact on public health worldwide. The first monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa occurred in the United States of America in 2003, and it was linked due to contact with infected prairie dogs. Gambian pouched rats and dormice from Ghana had been brought into the country to live with these pets. Over 70 cases of monkeypox were reported in the United States as a result of this outbreak. Monkeypox has also been reported in travellers from Nigeria who travelled to Israel in September 2018, the United Kingdom in September 2018, Singapore in May 2019, and the United States in July and November 2021. Numerous cases of monkeypox were discovered in a number of non-endemic nations in May 2022. To learn more about the epidemiology, infection sources, and transmission patterns, research is currently underway. [3] Overall the global implication of the monkeypox virus is negative as a lack of information about the virus can add to the anxiety of countries worldwide. This could have unintended consequences as the world is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

Scientists are taking a cautious sigh of relief as the death rate of the monkeypox outbreak has been lower than the anticipated rate which was created on the basis of historical data. At least 22 of the more than 57,000 people who were found to have the monkeypox infection have died, or about 0.04%. That's a lot less than the 1 to 3 percent of outbreaks caused by a similar viral strain that has occurred in West Africa over the past few decades. All of this has prompted researchers to reconsider their previous understanding of the virus.

In point of fact, the actual death rate almost certainly exceeds the current estimates: Due to a lack of resources for testing and surveillance, some nations, including African nations, may not be capturing all deaths during this outbreak. In addition, it may continue to rise, particularly if the virus spreads more widely among individuals at high risk for severe diseases, such as children, the elderly, and those whose immune systems are severely compromised. [4]

The difficult questions that have arisen during this outbreak are prioritised in the following list. For instance, although there are vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics that can assist in the prevention, detection, and treatment of monkeypox, additional research is required to assist in determining the most effective application of these products. The duration of illness and the reasons why some people get sicker than others raise additional concerns. The current monkeypox outbreak seems to be different from previous outbreaks, which raises questions about how people get infected, how the virus changes, how different specimen types can be detected, and what factors make people more likely to get sick. Due to a lack of disease surveillance capabilities in highly affected countries and a lack of research on current medication, it becomes important to discuss the topic as ignoring such problems could exaggerate the problem globally.

Everyone should be able to stay safe in the event of an outbreak. Everyone, not only in the United States but also in endemic and non-endemic nations around the world, must benefit from the information gleaned from this study. Education, outreach, establishing trust, and community support are necessary for a successful response. To further refine outbreak response strategies, ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of communications and response efforts is required. [5]

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

The Dangers of Stigmatization and Discrimination

The COVID-19 virus led to a sharp rise in violent crime against people of Asian descent. During the height of the pandemic, Muslims faced significant discrimination in India and Sri Lanka. A significant number of Africans were forcibly evicted or forced to live alone in China. There are concerns that a similar rise in discrimination could result from an intensification of the monkeypox outbreak.

Monkeypox Misinformation

#MonkeypoxIsAirborne is trending on Twitter, and there have been a number of reports of primates being poisoned since the WHO declared an emergency. Despite the fact that the monkeypox virus mostly affects men, nearly one in four American women are concerned about contracting the virus. This seems to be because there is a lot of false information about the virus on the internet.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

WHO's Mandate

The World Health Organization is making this outbreak its top priority in order to stop the spread; Monkeypox has long been regarded as a priority pathogen. The United Nations places a high priority on figuring out how the virus is spreading and avoiding its spread. Additionally, messages that stigmatise particular groups of people have been circulating regarding this outbreak: The WHO has made it abundantly clear that this cannot continue. No matter who they are, what they do, who they choose to have sex with, or anything else, anyone who has any kind of close physical contact with a monkeypox patient is at risk. The World Health Organization emphasises that stigmatising individuals due to a disease are prohibited. [16] [8]

IO's Already Working on the Issue

PAHO

Member States of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) held a Special Session of the Directing Council today to consider a Resolution to address the outbreak, including supporting equitable access to vaccines for at-risk populations in the region, as monkeypox cases continue to rise in several Americas nations. Some nations have already enacted guidelines to keep people "safe" during this time. In terms of remaining as sanitary as possible, the procedures are really no different from COVID-19 protocols. If you choose, you might still need to wash your hands and wear masks. [10]

Major Countries Involved

USA

The IHR National Focal Point of the United States of America (USA) reported an imported case of human monkeypox to PAHO/WHO on July 17, 2021, in Dallas, Texas, USA. This is the first time human monkeypox has been found in a traveller to the USA and the first case reported in the USA since the 2003 outbreak. Contact with pet prairie dogs that had been co-housed with monkeypox virus-infected African rodents imported from Ghana during a 2003 outbreak of monkeypox in humans in the United States was identified as the source of exposure. During the infectious periods, the case patient's potential community and healthcare contacts had been monitored by the US CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and state and local health departments.[11]

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

Africa

Monkeypox has emerged as the most common orthopoxvirus infection in humans since smallpox was eradicated globally. Since it was first identified as a human disease in 1970, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been home to the majority of human monkeypox cases that have been reported. However, the number of cases in other countries in West and Central Africa has been rising over the past ten years; For several decades, many of these nations had not reported any cases. Beginning around 2016, monkeypox cases have been accounted for and affirmed in over 5 countries. [12]

Germany

Worldwide, monkeypox is spreading, and Germany is becoming a global hotspot. Despite this, The esteemed government of the Republic of Germany is undermining the innate nature of the auspiciatic capabilities of the virus and is downplaying the risk it poses. It is reasonable to assume that the actual number of infections is much higher given the general lack of testing facilities and widespread ignorance regarding the symptoms of monkeypox. [14]

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Wildfires: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires

It then deals with issues of necessary exemptions and the provision of facilities for responding states and the transit of necessary equipment and personnel. In order to guarantee comparable systems and training, the convention also calls for scientific and technical cooperation amongst parties. Although it appears to be almost perfect, this convention or international solution has not yet been widely adopted inside a UN committee; it is currently solely applicable to ASEAN member states. Much might be learned from this and applied globally for everyone.

The above international frameworks state obligations to prevent a wildfire. To add on, during the course of a wildfire States have obligations under a number of international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); a state will have an international obligation not only to take measures to alleviate the suffering of a population affected by a wildland fire, but also, where possible, to take measures to control fire that is posing a threat to homes, lives, or property.

TIMELINE

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

- June 1st to June 25th: 17 countries reported their first cases of monkeypox.
- July 2nd to July 39th: 11 more countries report their cases of monkeypox.
- 7 July: The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee, which had previously declined to declare the monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency, meets again to discuss the spread of the disease.
- 11 July: United Kingdom downgrades its classification of the monkeypox outbreak from "high consequence infectious disease" but intends to remain vigilant.
- 23 July: monkeypox outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization.
- 4 August: Specialists banter how to address disgrace and the way that monkeypox has up until this point basically impacted men who have intercourse with men (MSM) and individuals from the LGBTQ+ people group and whether restricting one's sexual accomplices is a valuable technique for forestalling the spread of the infection.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

- Keeping in mind the statistical and theoretical data, is monkeypox really the new COVID-19?
- The significance of monkeypox, and whether it being a global health emergency is justifiable?
- What are the social considerations of monkeypox?
- What are the opportunity costs of further investment in reducing the spread of monkeypox?
- Are the actions by WHO really impactful considering individual country efforts, and lack of budget of the organisation? Do other UN committees need to interfere?

REFERENCES

Monkeypox: The New COVID-19

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[3]: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/monkeypox>

[4]: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02931-1>

[5]:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/07/21/u-s-monkeypox-research-priorities-speeding-science-for-impact/>

[6]: [How monkeypox spreads: Experts clear up misinformation – NBC news](#)

[7]: [Monkeypox Outbreak: Africa Falling Behind on Vaccines as Virus spreads – Bloomberg](#)

[8]: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1123212>

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[10]: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2087251>

[11]:

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[13]: <https://africacdc.org/disease/monkeypox/>

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SUMMARY & HISTORY

Framework of Collaboration of Different UN Agencies to Prevent & Deal with Future Pandemics

In 2020, the world suddenly came to a standstill due to a virus Nobody would have expected that the reason the entire world economy stopped was not due to wars, guns, bombs, or international politics but rather due to the virus. Although humanity had experienced many pandemics, the impact of COVID-19 was heightened due to globalization and advancements made in the travel industry. The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic was found on Nov 17, 2019 and was declared as a pandemic on March 11, 2020 the WHO declared it as a pandemic. Epidemics are diseases resulting in a sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease in a particular area or region. Pandemics are epidemics that have spread across the world affecting large amounts of people. (“Lesson 1: Introduction to Epidemiology”, 2012).

Epidemics are more common than most people think and occur every few years in underdeveloped countries. These are usually due to a lack of adequate vaccination and healthcare. Most of the population in developed countries are vaccinated against such diseases due to exceptional healthcare and are able to combat any disease before it becomes an epidemic. Throughout history, there have been occurrences of pandemics with severe death tolls such as the bubonic plague which killed over 20% of London’s population in the 1600s, the Spanish flu in the 1920s affected over one-third of the world's population, and the HIV pandemic in the 1980s that continues to be a problem (Miller, 2022). During the HIV pandemic, the WHO played a key role in fighting the disease by holding the first meeting to assess the global AIDS situation in 1983 and then establishing the Special Programme on AIDS in February 1987 to drive research and country responses to the pandemic. (“Why the HIV epidemic is not over“, n.d.). The Spanish flu was caused by influenza and its variants continue to affect people and kill people every year. As medical research improved, people were able to fight the pandemics. Before medical masks, people used to have different clothes to protect themselves by covering their noses and mouth. The economic effect of the past pandemics was not felt across the world as globalization was still at its initial stage.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as millions of people traveled around the world, the virus spread at a rate that was never seen before. The ensuing lockdowns in different countries, curfews, and shutdown of commerce impacted greatly as no one was prepared for a pandemic. Well-developed countries like U.A.E were able to afford lockdowns without extreme economic consequences, but developing and under-developed countries such as India and Brazil had too many daily wage workers who needed daily work to barely survive. This resulted in very high death rates and severe daily infected rates in these countries. Due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, debates about the relationships between countries in terms of fighting pandemics emerged. The issue faced by the WHO is to create an international pandemic framework to help countries combat and prevent pandemics. A simple framework does not only support countries' use their resources against diseases but collaboration between the countries through the framework are important for fighting pandemics

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Framework of Collaboration of Different UN Agencies to Prevent & Deal with Future Pandemics

The risk of pandemics continues to increase due to an increase in globalization, travel, misuse of natural resources, and differences in changes in land use (Jones et. al., 2008). As seen throughout history, pandemics are followed by economic and social crisis with very large death tolls. Pandemics also result in people losing their rights. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, many people were forced to stay inside their houses, people were required to wear masks, people were banned from travelling, and restrictions affected the business of many people. Thousands of people were fired as companies tried to survive as the change in interest rates caused a change in the economic environment and people had to do it to protect themselves and their loved ones.

The effects of pandemics are felt more severely by developing countries and among low-income households. These households do not have savings and cannot afford the luxuries of staying at home. Underdeveloped countries also have a lower vaccination rate as they do not have the infrastructure to create or facilitate the administration of vaccines. As seen in the COVID-19 pandemic, when the entire world switched to the digital world for communication, low-income households had to scramble to get mobile phones and laptops to keep up with the rest of the world. The lack of collaboration between member nations during the COVID-19 pandemic was one of leading factors for negative effects of the pandemic lasting for years. China was able to react quickly and avoid high death tolls within the country. In preparation for future health threats, there is a need for a framework with better collaboration between member nations. The discussion of this topic will help underdeveloped countries be better prepared to face and deal with pandemics. The efforts to collaborate ensure that even developed countries gain an advantage from sharing information as pandemics are a danger to every country's social and economic state.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Framework of Collaboration of Different UN Agencies to Prevent & Deal with Future Pandemics

The WHO has always had frameworks prepared to prevent pandemics. Throughout history, pandemics are one of the few phenomena that incite mass fear and panic. From all the lessons learned throughout the past, especially from the pandemics in Europe, WHO passed the International Health Regulations (IHR) in 2005 to provide a framework to help countries understand their rights and obligations in handling health events such as epidemics and other medical emergencies that have the potential cross international borders (“International Health Regulations”, n.d.). The IHR is legally binding on 194 WHO member states. The implementation of IHR was up to the nations themselves and WHO played a vital role in improving the collaboration and information sharing required to fight potential health threats. The IHR focuses on three main aspects: Detect, Assess and Respond.

The “Asia pacific strategy for emerging diseases and public health emergencies” was released in 2005 to combat health emergencies in Asia. This was passed along with IHR and has specific requirements for Asian countries. This also outlines specific instructions for an Influenza pandemic and mentions the initial ideas of the “One Health” concept. The One Health concept is an idea of a unified approach, involving all member nations, to protect the health of people, animals, and the environment and plays an important role to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to global health. Following the pandemic in 2019, WHO gathered on 7 May 2021 and released a report about the steps WHO will take to better prepare member nations for a future pandemic (“Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations”, 2021). The report focused on how to end the COVID-19 pandemic and on increased collaboration among member nations, using One Health, with sustainable development goals.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Framework of Collaboration of Different UN Agencies to Prevent & Deal with Future Pandemics

- What are the steps required to prevent pandemics in developing countries?
- What are the lessons learnt from COVID-19 to improve pandemic frameworks in each country?
- How to increase sharing of medical knowledge between nations?
- Why did the IHR fail to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Framework of Collaboration of Different UN Agencies to Prevent & Deal with Future Pandemics

- Economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Difference in vaccination rates among countries
- Ethics of knowledge sharing in the medical field

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Arab League



WELCOME LETTER

Chairs, Pages, and Moderators

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Arab League! The Middle East is home to rich cultures and dense histories, and its importance in global affairs cannot be understated. While the region is often embroiled in a myriad of complex conflicts, there have always been well-intentioned diplomats that are hard at work negotiating the security and wellbeing of fellow citizens. We hope that you will show us that you are one of those collaborative and thoughtful delegates when we meet in a few months.

During the conference, we will explore the ongoing crisis in Lebanon and the indeterminate situation regarding Arab refugees. The economical, mental, and physical pain that the people of Lebanon and the Arab refugees have faced is significant. It is in your hands to devise solutions that appease all involved parties and relieves the long-standing suffering of innocents affected. After reading this report, you will understand that the situation is critical; I hope delegates in this committee will appreciate its intricate complexity and collaboratively work towards resolutions.

In regard to preparation, please ensure you read this background guide thoroughly. Come to the conference able to answer key questions and those suggested for further research. Keep in mind success in this committee will rely heavily on collaboration and negotiation despite tense political differences. We suggest you understand previous attempts to foster peace in both topics, and how they succeeded or failed: you may find your learnings helpful as you craft new solutions.

I know many of you may feel nervous; please don't be. Come well-researched, ready to debate, and prepared to negotiate. We know you will do great! Feel free to contact us via email at [committee email?] with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to facilitating a productive discussion with you all soon.

Sincerely,

Your chairs- Afrah, Malek, & Zaina



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Arab League

The Arab League was founded on March 22, 1945 in Cairo, Egypt. It was founded in order to discuss and present a united front on matters that concerned the region. While at inception, there were only seven members, there are now twenty-two member countries. Every member of the league has one vote after discussion, and the decisions are only legally binding to the member countries that voted for them. While initially, the Arab league mainly focused on social and economic concerns, politics soon became a source of discord for the organization. Various conflicts including the Israeli-Palestinian situation, the Libyan revolt, and the Iraqi-invasion of Kuwait all caused tensions and disarray. While disputes run amok as they do in any organized group, the founding mission of the Arab League remains sincere: to work collectively toward furthering the interests of Arab citizens.

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

Repatriation is ultimately the ideal solution for refugees who were obliged to flee their home countries plagued with war and turmoil. Nearly 40% of the world's refugees come from the Arab world, due to the conflict that the middle east is characterized by. The magnitude of this refugee crisis has revealed the shortcomings of global covenants in resolving the humanitarian issues that come with armed conflict. Furthermore, not only has the pressure been on these displaced individuals, but also the host nations who take in these mass populations. Pro-democracy uprisings broke out in several Arab nations in 2011, including Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. The results in Libya and Syria were fatal, which sparked civil wars and allowed terrorist organizations, primarily ISIS, to take control of some areas of these nations. Yemen as well, as political rivalry between the Houthi movement and the government has descended into a brutal civil war. These battles have had devastating effects, with hundreds of thousands of people dying and millions fleeing their homes.

It is essential to highlight the challenges that refugees encounter in their host countries, particularly in terms of social consequences, labor market outcomes, and economic outcomes relating to education, poverty, and the labor market. There is currently not much progress made in regard to the early repatriation of refugees who have recently left wars in Arab nations. However, discussions for repatriation have begun on both the national and international levels, and there is also a steady, albeit still modest, the flow of refugees in neighboring countries migrating back to their war-torn homes. The refugees have found themselves in extremely challenging circumstances as the socioeconomic and political situation in their own country would slowly deteriorate. While mass repatriation at this point is still premature for all war-torn nations, the current situation requires that we acknowledge and explore the repatriation issue in all of its facets so that, when the time comes, well-informed decisions may be made.

The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) supports repatriation as one of the long-term options for refugees, provided that it is done freely and without being forced. In actuality, it is challenging to specify what repatriation is voluntarily made. For instance, as per The Non-refoulement doctrine, it is prohibited for host nations to send refugees physically to their country's borders. Despite this, they can still exert some of the same political and economic forces which could imply that repatriation is the only practical choice at the time. At home, the situation is still dangerous. By doing so, you'll not only put the refugees at risk of violence but also start a vicious circle of displacement if the circumstances in the home country does not aid in a safe return. Even while none of these conflicts have been resolved completely, the requirements for reconstruction and repatriation are receiving more and more attention. For instance, the long-term settlement of Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan requires significant financial contributions from the international donor community because Lebanon and Jordan are unable to support the Syrian refugees due to a lack of resources. In these conditions, refugees are pressured to return back to their home country, despite the lack of safety and security in their home country.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

The refugee crisis has become a hallmark in the middle east, as out of the 60 million people refugees in the world. (Yahya, Muasher, 2018). Refugees most notably exist in the Arab world from the 76-year-old Israeli occupation of Palestine, and from the reparations of the 2011 Arab Spring movement. The Syrian Civil War produced the largest displacement crisis in modern history, with around 6 million Syrians displaced globally and over 6 million displaced within Syria. (Grandi, 2021). Recently, these refugees have been impacted the most by the COVID-19 Pandemic, as their living conditions left them vulnerable to the virus.

Countries near Palestine and Syria have taken the greatest number of refugees. Lebanon and Jordan have taken on the largest number of refugees in the region, with their already struggling economies not taking it lightly. One of the most concerning refugee situations is in Lebanon, where 20% of the population are refugees (Grandi, 2021). The people there are suffering from deep economic issues where politicians blamed refugees instead of their own political failures.

Non-Arab countries in the region have also been affected. Turkey has taken in the largest number of Syrian refugees at 3 million. (Norman, Hintz, Arar,). Kelsey Norman, Lisel Hitz, and Rawan Arar state: “Like Lebanon, Turkey already struggles with perceived cleavages along ethnic, sectarian, and other identity lines. Similar to Lebanon’s situation with Palestinian refugees, Turkey also faced repeated demographic destabilizations in hosting refugees fleeing violence in neighboring countries such as Bulgaria and Iraq”. The problems faced by refugees and their host countries has led to a debate on the acceptance of refugees. This makes it important to discuss the topic.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

- The UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) has refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Gaza strip, and West Bank.
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) has also helped with infrastructure and educational & emotional support for refugee children.
- The UN refugee agency has worked on health and living care of refugees by providing them with shelter, food, and medical assistance.
- The Arab League can enforce conclusions on the countries who voted for it, and is a key player in resolving the refugee crisis.
- Syria and Palestine are the countries with conflicts that have created the largest number of refugee populations.
- Germany, Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon have hosted the largest number of refugees.

TIMELINE

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

- **May 1948** - The civil war between Israel and Palestine turned into the Arab-Israeli War as 5 Arab nations invaded Israel. This was the second stage of the Israeli-Palestinian war, and created even more refugees.
- **June 1967** - Israel started its occupation of land that has been historically Palestinian. The conflict has created mass numbers of Palestinian refugees.
- **March 2011** - The Syrian Civil War erupted between the Syrian government and various domestic and international parties. This war has created the largest refugee population than any prior event ever has.
- **May 2014** - The Libyan Civil War was fought between many armed groups present in the country. The conflict created tens of thousands of refugees that have fled across the world.
- **March 2015** - The Yemeni Civil War is fought between a Yemeni government and the Houthi armed movement, where both claim to be the official leaders of Yemen. Millions of Yemeni citizens have been displaced due to this conflict.
- **October 2022**- The large population of Syrian refugees in Lebanon who fled the aforementioned Syrian Civil War are offered voluntary repatriation.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

- How can the refugees' living conditions be improved?
- What can be done about the west's involvement in causing the refugee influx?
- How can the UN do better?
- Should Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon have more rights?
- What is UNRWA's role, and how can it do better?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 1: Repatriation of Arab Refugees

- Research the countries that the Arab Refugees hail from
- Research the countries that the Arab Refugees are to be repatriated from
- Research the policies and attitudes of countries the Arab refugees are currently staying in
- Research the conflicts that caused the people to become refugees in the first place
- Research the attitudes of different refugee populations toward repatriation

SUMMARY & HISTORY

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

Despite how easily Lebanon could be overlooked in size, at only 10,400 sq km (which is 704% less than the United Arab Emirates), the country has held a proportionately large attention of many a foreign state. Consequently, it has been the center stage for numerous international conflicts. A unified response is hindered as the citizenry itself is deeply divided by religious splits that have differing allies and goals. Having been the stage for proxy wars from countries across the world for decades, the country's current internal disarray has been deeply externally exacerbated. The issue at hand concerns the economic, social, and political ramifications that the people of Lebanon face after being witnesses - and victims - to global disputes that have long intensified existing domestic issues.

To understand the focal factor in Lebanon's internal and external crises, one must first look at the demographic medley in the country. While ethnically, Lebanon is largely homogenous in its Arab population, religiously, the country is extremely diverse. There are 18 religious parties formally recognized by Lebanon- four Muslim, twelve Christian, the Druze, and Judaism. The largest political parties are the Future Movement which represents Sunni Muslims, the Hezbollah and Amal which represent Shia Muslims, and the Kataeb and Lebanese Forces which represent Maronite Christians. Historically, these groups have consistently disputed domestic matters: each party's backing by powerful international allies further fuels domestic conflict.

Largely in part due to international interest in the country, Lebanon has a dense political history. As early as the 16th century, Lebanon was ruled by the Ottoman Empire until World War I brought about its collapse. Subsequently, the nation was colonized by the French under the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon. Then came World War II, which weakened France and led the country to establish its independence in 1943. The peace after independence was short-lived as the Lebanese Civil War erupted and persisted for 15 years from 1975 until 1990. During the instability due to this internal conflict, both Israel and Syria found an opportunity to occupy the country. Israel invaded on the pretense of Palestinian forces present in Lebanon, while Syria claimed that Lebanon's interests were its own. Domestic conflict is fuelled by the interference of numerous international actors.

Since the civil war ended in 1990, Lebanon has been living through an era that is similar to the cold war. Israel maintains occupation of Shebaa farms, which is a disputed territory on the Lebanese-Syrian border. In 2001, the Arab League backed Lebanon's claim to the land (as opposed to Israel's claim that it was Syrian when they colonized it), calling for Israel to withdraw (which it has not). Tensions between them increased recently after the discovery of gas in their maritime borders. In September, war was predicted. Shielding the nation from further devastation, an agreement was signed between the two countries on October 28th, 2022. While the threat of war is staved, for now, the country remains at a dangerous precipice by virtue of existing civil unrest and the volatile whims of numerous countries from thousands of miles away.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

The various foreign influences involved in Lebanese affairs have an outsized impact on local political parties. The Beirut port explosion reflects the role of international actors in the country's crisis as they exert influence over the country's political parties. France and the United States insist on an international investigation of the port explosion which was proposed by the Maronite Christians, while Iran and the Shia Muslims object on that claim as they believe it to be an attack on their party's influence. It should be noted that the Sunni Muslims are historically backed by Saudi Arabia, a country that kept quiet in this particular instance. The ramifications of the explosion in terms of loss of human life cannot be understated; neither can the need for justice, which has been hindered by political disagreements. The Beirut port explosion is a recent and relevant example of foreign involvement in Lebanon.

In the thick of a tense political atmosphere, Lebanon faces serious humanitarian issues. These include a severe water crisis, educational issues, and the sexual exploitation of women. The religious parties in the country often arrange social services for their members, but the issues persist as those efforts do not suffice. The lack of coordination at a national level to protect and ensure the wellbeing of the population has caused widespread suffering. The water crisis has left families thirsty, the education crisis has left children out of schools, and the security crisis has left women vulnerable to sexual violence. These are just a few examples of the many pressing humanitarian issues present in Lebanon today.

The most urgent plight of Lebanon is its economic crisis, which has pushed 75% of the population into devastating poverty. Widespread corruption from the country's elite has led to acute mismanagement of the Central Bank after the Lebanese Civil War. The situation is further aggravated by sanctions imposed from the United States due to their disagreement with Hezbollah's involvement in the Lebanese government. Additionally, mass protests in 2019 against the political elite caused foreign exchange inflows to dry up and for US dollars to exit Lebanon; this in turn led the government to default on its foreign debt and banks to close as they had no liquid funds. With widespread poverty, the international community has been actively discussing solutions. Notably, on July 21, 2022, the United Nations called for faster finalization of a \$3 billion aid package that was in the works for several months prior.

There is no doubt that Lebanon faces many conflicts, and that the consequences are dealt to the population. While there have been previous attempts to resolve the situation, they have evidently proven ineffective. From a dire economic crisis to desperate humanitarian issues amidst rampant political corruption, the current situation in Lebanon warrants an urgent strengthening of current aid and serious considerations for international collaboration in supporting the innocent civilian citizenry against the turmoil their home has been drowning in.

INTL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS & LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

Following the explosions at the Beirut port, the Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Plan (3RF), which was introduced in 2020 by the World Bank, is still providing Lebanon with additional monetary aid. The 3RF presents a framework of prioritized actions required to support Lebanon's recovery and reconstruction. Its goal is to "build back better" by using an integrated strategy that prioritizes people-centered rehabilitation, lays the groundwork for medium-term reconstruction, and launches significant structural reforms founded on the values of openness, inclusiveness, and responsibility.

As well as this, on December 18, 2020, the Lebanon Financing Facility (LFF) was formally established by the World Bank in order to help vulnerable populations and businesses affected by the explosion. This allows them to begin their immediate socioeconomic recovery as well as to assist the Government of Lebanon in accelerating reforms and getting ready for medium-term recovery and reconstruction.

Launched in August 2021, the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) intends to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Lebanese, migrants, and Palestine refugees in Lebanon who are affected by the crisis. The Government of Lebanon and the UN are co-leading the multi-stakeholder Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2022, and a variety of organizations, including national and international NGOs, have also contributed to the plan. The response plan uses a combination of humanitarian and stabilization interventions, which focuses on the maintenance of service provision through public institutions at the local level. This addresses the needs of both the Syrian displaced and the Palestine refugees from Syria as well as the Lebanese host communities.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which the UN and the Government of Lebanon recently signed, aims to move toward a triple nexus approach, putting an end to humanitarian needs, enhancing the ability of Lebanese institutions to carry out their responsibilities, and ultimately promoting sustainable development.

The Arab League has aimed to solve this crisis and assess the situation further. In August of 2021, an Arab League delegation in Beirut began diplomatically resolving issues between Lebanon and the Gulf countries, in order to reduce the impacts of the economic collapse. The committee has thus far been in support of the Lebanese people, the reform of the Lebanese government, and the strengthening of the country's ties with neighboring nations.

IMPORTANT DATES

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

- October 17, 2019: Protests against corruption in Lebanon take place
- February 21, 2020: Covid-19 cases increase in Lebanon
- August 4, 2020: Beirut port explosion due to immense quantity of ammonium nitrate takes place, where 200 lives were taken, and 6,000 were injured.
- August 10, 2020: Days after the Beirut explosion, the prime minister of Lebanon declares the resignation of the government.
- February 24, 2021: The minimum wage in Lebanon is found to be one of the least in the world – around 2\$ a day.
- June 1, 2021: The World Bank states that Lebanon is experiencing a severe economic crisis.
- July 1, 2021: The UN estimates that 77% of households at this point do not have sufficient food, or money to purchase food.
- July 16, 2021: Health Ministry announces end to subsidies on many imported medicines; shortages nonetheless persist
- July 23, 2021: Water supply in Lebanon is on the brink of collapse. 71% of the population is at risk of losing access to water.
- August 15, 2021: Fuel explosion in Akkar occurs, killing 33 and injuring 79

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

- Was the Taif Agreement beneficial for Lebanon?
- How can it be insured that politicians get held accountable?
- Should Lebanon become a secular state?
- How did the Syrian Civil War affect Lebanon?
- Should Hezbollah take part in the Lebanese Government?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Topic 2: Lebanon: A Global Crisis

- Covid-19's role in the Lebanon crisis
- Impacts of the Lebanon crisis on refugees
- Impacts of the Lebanon crisis on healthcare
- Current solutions being implemented
- Reasons for economic collapse in Lebanon
- The role of politics in the Lebanon crisis
- Future plans/actions being taken to resolve this issue

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جامعة الدول العربية
مؤتمر نموذج الأمم المتحدة في الجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة

رسالة ترحيب جامعة الدول العربية

السادة المندوبين الأعزاء،

مرحبا بكم في جامعة الدول العربية! الشرق الأوسط موطن للثقافات الغنية والتاريخ الكثيف ، ولا يمكن التقليل من أهميته في الشؤون العالمية. في حين أن المنطقة غالبًا ما تكون متورطة في عدد لا يحصى من الصراعات المعقدة ، فقد كان هناك دائمًا دبلوماسيون حسنو النوايا يعملون بجد للتفاوض بشأن أمن ورفاهية المواطنين. نأمل أن تُظهر لنا أنك أحد هؤلاء المندوبين المتعاونين والمفكرين عندما نلتقي في غضون بضعة أشهر

خلال المؤتمر ، سنبحث في الأزمة المستمرة في لبنان والوضع غير المحدد فيما يتعلق باللاجئين العرب والألم الاقتصادي والعقلي والجسدي الذي يعاني منه اللبنانيون واللاجئون العرب بشكل كبير. إن وضع الحلول بين يدي الجميع من شأنه أن يرضي الأطراف المعنية ويخفف المعاناة طويلة الأمد للأبرياء المتضررين. بعد قراءة هذا التقرير ، سوف تفهم أن الوضع حرج ؛ لذا نأمل أن يقدر المندوبون في هذه اللجنة مدى تعقيدها وأن يعملوا بشكل تعاوني من أجل اتخاذ القرارات

نعلم أن الكثير منكم قد يشعر بالتوتر، إلا أنه لا داعي لذلك بتاتاً. قم بما يلزم من دراسة وبحث ، واحضر جلسات المؤتمر بإقبال ، وكن جاهزاً للمناقشة ومستعداً للتفاوض ، ولا شك لدينا بأنك ستبلي بلاءً حسناً

مع تمنياتنا لكم بالتوفيق والتفوق

رؤساء اللجنة،

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عن اللجنة جامعة الدول العربية

تأسست جامعة الدول العربية في 22 مارس 1945 في القاهرة ، مصر، من أجل مناقشة وتقديم وجهة نظر موحدة في الأمور التي تهم المنطقة. في البداية ، كان هناك سبعة أعضاء فقط ، وهناك الآن 22 دولة عضو. لكل عضو في الرابطة صوت واحد بعد المناقشة ، والقرارات ملزمة قانوناً فقط للدول الأعضاء التي صوتت لها. بدايةً ، ركزت الجامعة العربية بشكل أساسي على الاهتمامات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية ، إلا أنه سرعان ما أصبحت السياسة مصدر خلاف بالنسبة للمنظمة. تسببت الصراعات المختلفة ، بما في ذلك الوضع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني ، والثورة الليبية ، والغزو العراقي للكويت ، في توترات وفوضى. في الوقت الذي تسود فيه الخلافات كما هو الحال في أي مجموعة منظمة ، تظل المهمة التأسيسية لجامعة الدول العربية صادقة: العمل بشكل جماعي من أجل تعزيز مصالح المواطنين العرب.

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

العودة إلى الوطن هي الحل الأمثل للاجئين الذين اضطروا إلى الفرار من أوطانهم المبتلاة بالحرب والاضطرابات. ما يقرب من 40% من لاجئي العالم يأتون من العالم العربي ، بسبب الصراعات التي يعاني منها الشرق الأوسط. كشف حجم أزمة اللاجئين هذه عن أوجه القصور في المواثيق العالمية في حل القضايا الإنسانية التي تنتج جراء النزاعات المسلحة. علاوة على ذلك ، لم يكن الضغط على هؤلاء الأشخاص النازحين فحسب ، بل أيضًا على الدول المضيفة التي تستقبل هذه الأعداد الكبيرة من السكان. اندلعت الانتفاضات المؤيدة للديمقراطية في العديد من الدول العربية في عام 2011 ، بما في ذلك البحرين ومصر وليبيا والمغرب وتونس. كانت النتائج في ليبيا وسوريا مزرية ، مما أشعل فتيل حروب أهلية وسمحت للتنظيمات الإرهابية ، وعلى رأسها داعش ، بالسيطرة على بعض مناطق هذه الدول. اليمن أيضًا ، انحدر التنافس السياسي فيها بين جماعة الحوثيين والحكومة إلى حرب أهلية وحشية. كان لهذه المعارك آثار مدمرة ، حيث ماتت الآلاف من الناس وفرّ الملايين من ديارهم.

من الضروري تسليط الضوء على التحديات التي يواجهها اللاجئون في البلدان المضيفة لهم ، لا سيما فيما يتعلق بالعواقب الاجتماعية والاقتصادية المتعلقة بالتعليم والفقر وسوق العمل. لم يتم إحراز تقدم كبير في الوقت الحالي فيما يتعلق بالعودة المبكرة للاجئين الذين تركوا الحروب في الدول العربية مؤخرًا. ومع ذلك ، فقد بدأت المناقشات بشأن العودة إلى الوطن على المستويين الوطني والدولي ، وهناك أيضًا تدفق مستمر ، وإن كان متواضعًا ، للاجئين في البلدان المجاورة الذين يهاجرون عائدًا إلى ديارهم التي مزقتها الحرب. وجد اللاجئون أنفسهم في ظروف صعبة للغاية حيث أن الوضع الاجتماعي والاقتصادي والسياسي في بلدهم يتدهور ببطء. في حين أن إعادة الجماعة للاجئين لا تزال سابقة لأوانها بالنسبة لجميع الدول التي عانت ويلات الحرب ، فإن الوضع الحالي يتطلب أن نعترف ونستكشف قضية العودة إلى الوطن من جميع جوانبها حتى يتسنى اتخاذ قرارات مستنيرة عندما يحين الوقت لذلك.

تدعم مفوضية الأمم المتحدة السامية لشؤون اللاجئين العودة إلى الوطن كأحد الخيارات طويلة الأجل للاجئين ، شريطة أن يتم ذلك بحرية ودون إكراه. ولكن من الصعب تحديد نوع العودة إلى الوطن الذي تتم طواعية. على سبيل المثال ، وفقًا لمبدأ عدم الإعادة القسرية ، يحظر على الدول المضيفة إرسال اللاجئين عنوة إلى حدود بلادهم. على الرغم من ذلك ، لا يزال بإمكان هذه الدول المضيفة استخدام بعض القوى السياسية والاقتصادية التي يمكن أن تشير إلى أن العودة إلى الوطن هي الخيار العملي الوحيد أمام اللاجئين، في الوقت الذي لا يزال الوضع في أوطانهم خطيرًا. من خلال القيام بذلك ، لن يتعرض اللاجئين لخطر العنف فحسب ، بل ستبدأ أيضًا حلقة مفرغة من النزوح إذا كانت الظروف في البلد الأم لا تساعد في عودة آمنة. حتى في الوقت الذي لم يتم فيه حل أي من هذه النزاعات بشكل كامل ، فإن متطلبات إعادة الإعمار والعودة إلى الوطن تحظى باهتمام متزايد. على سبيل المثال ، يتطلب التوطين طويل الأمد للاجئين السوريين في تركيا ولبنان والأردن مساهمات مالية كبيرة من مجتمع المانحين الدوليين لأن دول مثل لبنان والأردن غير قادرة على دعم اللاجئين السوريين بسبب نقص الموارد. في ظل هذه الظروف ، يتم الضغط على اللاجئين للعودة إلى وطنهم ، على الرغم من انعدام الأمن والأمان في فيه.

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

أصبحت أزمة اللاجئين سمة مميزة في الشرق الأوسط ، حيث يشكل عدد اللاجئين من هذه المنطقة حوالي 60 مليون لاجئ حول العالم. (يحيى ، المعشري ، 2018). يوجد اللاجئون بشكل ملحوظ في العالم العربي منذ 76 عامًا مع بدء الاحتلال الإسرائيلي لفلسطين. كما ساهمت ثورات الربيع العربي عام 2011 بزيادة أعدادهم. على سبيل المثال أنتجت الحرب الأهلية السورية أكبر أزمة نزوح في التاريخ الحديث ، حيث نزح حوالي 6 ملايين سوري على مستوى العالم ونزح أكثر من 6 ملايين داخل سوريا. (غراندي ، 2021). في الآونة الأخيرة ، تأثر هؤلاء اللاجئين أكثر من غيرهم بالبوء ، حيث تركتهم ظروفهم المعيشية عرضة للفيروس.

استقبلت البلدان القريبة من فلسطين وسوريا أكبر عدد من اللاجئين، وقد استقبل لبنان والأردن أكبر عدد من اللاجئين في المنطقة ، مع اقتصادهما المتعثر ، وقد بلغت نسبة اللاجئين في البلدين حوالي 20% من مجموع السكان (غراندي ، 2021). يعاني الناس هناك من مشاكل اقتصادية عميقة حيث ألقى السياسيون باللوم على اللاجئين بدلاً من إخفاقاتهم السياسية.

كما تأثرت الدول غير العربية في المنطقة. فقد استقبلت تركيا أكبر عدد من اللاجئين السوريين البالغ 3 ملايين لاجئ. (نورمان ، هنتز ، عرار). ولاية كيليس نورمان وليزل هيتز وروان عرار: "مثل لبنان ، تعاني تركيا بالفعل من الانقسامات الاجتماعية على أساس الهوية العرقية والطائفية وغيرها. وعلى غرار الوضع في لبنان مع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين ، واجهت تركيا أيضًا اضطرابات ديموغرافية متكررة في استضافة اللاجئين الفارين من العنف في البلدان المجاورة مثل بلغاريا والعراق." أدت المشاكل التي يواجهها اللاجئون والدول المضيفة لهم إلى نقاش حول قبول اللاجئين ، مما يزيد من أهمية مناقشة الموضوع.

إجراءات المنظمة الدولية وأحدث التطورات الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

لدى الأونروا (وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل لاجئي فلسطين في الشرق الأدنى) مخيمات للاجئين في لبنان والأردن وسوريا وقطاع غزة والضفة الغربية.

كما ساعدت المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين في البنية التحتية والدعم التعليمي والعاطفي للأطفال اللاجئين.

عملت وكالة اللاجئين التابعة للأمم المتحدة على الرعاية الصحية و المعيشية للاجئين من خلال تزويدهم بالمأوى والغذاء والمساعدة الطبية.

يمكن لجامعة الدول العربية فرض استنتاجات على الدول التي صوتت لها ، وهي لاعب رئيسي في حل أزمة اللاجئين.

سوريا وفلسطين هما الدولتان اللتان تشهدان صراعات خلقت أكبر عدد من اللاجئين.

استضافت ألمانيا وتركيا والأردن ولبنان أكبر عدد من اللاجئين.

الجدول الزمني

الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

مايو 1948 - تحولت الحرب الأهلية بين إسرائيل وفلسطين إلى حرب عربية إسرائيلية عندما ساهمت 5 دول عربية في وقف العدوان الإسرائيلي. كانت هذه هي المرحلة الثانية من الحرب الإسرائيلية الفلسطينية ، وقد خلقت المزيد من اللاجئين.

حزيران / يونيو 1967 - بدأت إسرائيل احتلالها لأراض فلسطينية تاريخية. أدى هذا الصراع إلى ظهور أعداد كبيرة من اللاجئين الفلسطينيين أيضًا.

مارس 2011 - اندلعت الحرب الأهلية السورية بين الحكومة السورية وأطراف محلية ودولية مختلفة. لقد أوجدت هذه الحرب أكبر عدد من اللاجئين أكثر من أي حدث سابق على الإطلاق.

مايو 2014 - اندلعت الحرب الأهلية الليبية بين العديد من الجماعات المسلحة الموجودة في البلاد. أدى الصراع إلى فرار عشرات الآلاف من اللاجئين في جميع أنحاء العالم.

مارس 2015 - اندلعت الحرب الأهلية اليمنية بين حكومة يمنية وجماعة الحوثيين المسلحة ، حيث يدعي كلاهما أنهما القادة الرسميون لليمن. نزح الملايين من المواطنين اليمنيين بسبب هذا الصراع.

تشرين الأول (أكتوبر) 2022 - عرضت على العدد الكبير من اللاجئين السوريين في لبنان الذين فروا من الحرب الأهلية السورية المذكورة أعلاه العودة الطوعية إلى الوطن.

أسئلة يجب البحث عنها

الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

- كيف يمكن تحسين الظروف المعيشية للاجئين؟
- ما الذي يمكن فعله بشأن تورط الغرب في التسبب في تدفق اللاجئين؟
- كيف يمكن للأمم المتحدة أن تعمل بشكل أفضل لدعم اللاجئين؟
- هل يجب أن يتمتع اللاجئون الفلسطينيون في لبنان بحقوق أكثر؟
- ما هو دور الأونروا وكيف يمكن أن تعمل بكفاءة أعلى لتحسين معيشة اللاجئين؟

بحث مقترح

الموضوع الأول: عودة اللاجئين العرب

ابحث في البلدان التي ينحدر منها اللاجئين العرب

ابحث في البلدان التي سيتم إعادة اللاجئين العرب إليها

ابحث في سياسات ومواقف الدول التي يقيم فيها اللاجئون العرب حاليًا

ابحث عن النزاعات التي تسببت في تحول الناس إلى لاجئين في المقام الأول

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

على الرغم من صغر مساحة دولة لبنان، والتي تقدر بـ 10.400 كيلومتر مربع فقط (أي أقل بنسبة 704٪ من الإمارات العربية المتحدة)، فقد حظيت الدولة باهتمام كبير نسبيًا من العديد من الدول الأجنبية. وبالتالي، فقد كانت مركز الصدارة للعديد من النزاعات الدولية. يتم إعاقة الاستجابة الموحدة لأزمات لبنان لأن المواطنين اللبنانيين أنفسهم منقسمون بشدة بانقسامات دينية وطائفية، ولكل حلفاء وأهداف مختلفة. بعد أن كانت لعقود من الزمن مسرحًا للحروب بالوكالة بمشاركة دول في جميع أنحاء العالم، تفاقمت الفوضى الداخلية الحالية في البلاد بشكل كبير. تتعلق القضية المطروحة بالتداعيات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والسياسية التي يواجهها الشعب اللبناني بعد أن كان شاهدًا - وضحية - على خلافات عالمية أدت إلى تكثيف القضايا المحلية القائمة منذ فترة طويلة.

لفهم العامل المحوري في أزمات لبنان الداخلية والخارجية، يجب على المرء أن ينظر أولاً إلى المزيج الديموغرافي في البلاد. في حين أن لبنان متجانسة عرقيًا إلى حد كبير بسكانها العرب، إلا أن البلد متنوع للغاية من الناحية الدينية. هناك 18 حزبًا دينيًا معترفًا به رسميًا في لبنان - أربعة مسلمين واثنى عشر مسيحيًا ودرزيًا وبهوديًا. أكبر الأحزاب السياسية هي تيار المستقبل الذي يمثل المسلمين السنة، وحزب الله وحركة أمل التي تمثل الشيعة، والكتائب والقوات اللبنانية التي تمثل المسيحيين الموارنة. تاريخياً، عرقلت هذه الجماعات باستمرار الشؤون المحلية، ذلك لأن دعم كل طرف من قبل حلفاء دوليين أقوى يزيد من تأجيج الصراع الداخلي. لذلك يعود سبب الصراع الداخلي جزئيًا إلى الاهتمام الدولي بالبلد.

إن لبنان تاريخيًا سياسيًا كثيفًا. منذ وقت مبكر من القرن السادس عشر، كانت الدولة العثمانية تحكم لبنان، واستمر حكمها حتى تسببت الحرب العالمية الأولى في انهيارها. بعد ذلك، رزحت البلاد تحت الانتداب الفرنسي إلى جانت سوريا. ثم جاءت الحرب العالمية الثانية، التي أضعفت فرنسا وقادت البلاد إلى تحقيق استقلالها عام 1943. ولم يدم السلام بعد الاستقلال طويلًا حيث اندلعت الحرب الأهلية اللبنانية واستمرت لمدة 15 عامًا من عام 1975 حتى عام 1990. خلال فترة عدم الاستقرار هذه، وجدت كل من إسرائيل وسوريا فرصة لاحتلال البلاد. وبالفعل، غزت إسرائيل لبنان بحجة وجود قوى فلسطينية في لبنان، بينما زعمت سوريا أن مصالح لبنان هي مصالحها. من الملاحظ أن ما يغذي الصراع الداخلي هو تدخل العديد من الفاعلين الدوليين.

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

منذ انتهاء الحرب الأهلية عام 1990 ، يعيش لبنان حقبة شبيهة بالحرب الباردة. فقد استمرت إسرائيل باحتلال مزارع شبعاء المتنازع عليها على الحدود اللبنانية السورية. في عام 2001 ، دعمت جامعة الدول العربية مطالبة لبنان بالأرض (على عكس ادعاء إسرائيل أنها سورية عندما احتلتها) ، ودعت إسرائيل إلى الانسحاب (وهو ما لم تفعله). وزادت التوترات بينهما في الآونة الأخيرة بعد اكتشاف الغاز في حدودهما البحرية. في سبتمبر 2022 ، تفاقمت حدة التوتر بين لبنان وإسرائيل. إلا أنه ولحماية الأمة من المزيد من الدمار ، تم توقيع اتفاقية بين البلدين في 28 أكتوبر 2022. في حين أن تهديد الحرب ما زال قائماً ، تقف البلاد على حافة الهاوية بسبب الاضطرابات المدنية القائمة والأهواء السياسية المتقلبة.

للتأثيرات الأجنبية المتنوعة تأثيراً هائلاً في الشأن اللبناني. يعكس انفجار مرفأ بيروت دور الفاعلين الدوليين في أزمة البلاد وهم يمارسون نفوذهم على الأحزاب السياسية فيها. حيث تصر فرنسا والولايات المتحدة على إجراء تحقيق دولي في انفجار الميناء ، الأمر الذي اقترحه المسيحيون الموارنة ، بينما تعترض إيران والأحزاب الشيعية على هذا الاقتراح لاعتقادهم أنه تعد على نفوذهم. وتجدر الإشارة إلى أن المسلمين السنة مدعومون تاريخياً من المملكة العربية السعودية ، وهي دولة التزمت الصمت في هذه الحالة بالذات. لا يمكن التقليل من تداعيات الانفجار من حيث الخسائر في الأرواح البشرية ؛ ولا كذلك الحاجة إلى العدالة التي اعاققتها الخلافات السياسية. إن انفجار ميناء بيروت هو مثال حديث مناسب على التدخل الأجنبي في لبنان.

في خضم هذه الأجواء السياسية المتوترة ، يواجه لبنان قضايا إنسانية خطيرة منها: أزمة المياه الحادة ، والقضايا التعليمية ، والاستغلال الجنسي للمرأة. عادة ما تقوم الأحزاب الدينية في البلاد بتوفير الخدمات الاجتماعية لأعضائها ، لكن المشكلات مستمرة لأن هذه الجهود لا تكفي. تسبب الافتقار إلى التنسيق على المستوى الوطني لحماية وضمان رفاهية السكان في معاناة واسعة النطاق. فقد تسببت أزمة المياه في إصابة الأسر بالعطش ، وتركت أزمة التعليم الأطفال خارج المدارس ، وتركت الأزمة الأمنية النساء عرضة للعنف الجنسي. هذه مجرد أمثلة قليلة على العديد من القضايا الإنسانية الملحة الموجودة في لبنان اليوم.

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

إن محنة لبنان الأكثر إلحاحًا هي أزمته الاقتصادية ، التي دفعت 75٪ من السكان إلى فقر مدقع. أدى انتشار الفساد من جانب النخبة في البلاد إلى سوء إدارة حاد للبنك المركزي بعد الحرب الأهلية اللبنانية. وتفاقم الوضع أكثر بفعل العقوبات التي فرضتها الولايات المتحدة بسبب عدم موافقتها على إشراك حزب الله اللبناني في الحكومة اللبنانية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، تسببت الاحتجاجات الشعبية في عام 2019 ضد النخبة السياسية في نضوب تدفقات النقد الأجنبي وخروج الدولار الأمريكي من لبنان ؛ وقد أدى هذا بدوره إلى تخلف الحكومة عن سداد ديونها الخارجية وإغلاق البنوك لعدم توافر السيولة. مع انتشار الفقر ، كان المجتمع الدولي يناقش بنشاط الحلول الممكنة. والجدير بالذكر ، أنه في 21 يوليو 2022 ، دعت الأمم المتحدة إلى الإسراع بتحرير حزمة مساعدات إنسانية بقيمة 3 مليارات دولار كانت قيد الإعداد لعدة أشهر قبل ذلك.

لا شك في أن لبنان يواجه صراعات كثيرة وأن عواقبها تقع على كاهل سكانه. وقد أثبتت المحاولات سابقة لحل هذه الأزمات أنها لم تكن محاولات فعالة. من أزمة اقتصادية حادة إلى قضايا إنسانية يائسة وسط الفساد السياسي المستشري ، يستدعي الوضع الحالي في لبنان تعزيزًا عاجلاً للمساعدات واعتبارات جادة للتعاون الدولي في دعم المواطنين الأبرياء ضد الاضطرابات التي يغرق فيها وطنهم.

في أعقاب التفجيرات التي حدثت في مرفأ بيروت ، لا تزال خطة الإصلاح والإنعاش وإعادة الإعمار (3RF) ، التي قدمها البنك الدولي في عام 2020 ، تزود لبنان بمساعدات نقدية إضافية. يقدم الإطار 3RF إطارًا للإجراءات ذات الأولوية المطلوبة لدعم تعافي لبنان وإعادة إعمارها. هدفها هو "إعادة البناء بشكل أفضل" من خلال استخدام استراتيجية متكاملة تعطي الأولوية لإعادة التأهيل المرتكزة على الشعب ، وتضع الأساس لإعادة الإعمار على المدى المتوسط ، وتطلق إصلاحات هيكلية مهمة تقوم على قيم الانفتاح والشمولية والمسؤولية.

بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، في 18 كانون الأول (ديسمبر) 2020 ، أنشأ البنك الدولي رسميًا صندوق التمويل اللبناني من أجل مساعدة الفئات الضعيفة من السكان والشركات المتضررة من الانفجار. وهذا يسمح لهذه الجهات بالبدء في التعافي الاجتماعي والاقتصادي الفوري وكذلك مساعدة الحكومة اللبنانية في تسريع الإصلاحات والاستعداد للتعافي وإعادة الإعمار على المدى المتوسط.

الملخص والتاريخ

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

تم إطلاق خطة الاستجابة للطوارئ (ERP) في أغسطس 2021 ، وهي تهدف إلى تلبية احتياجات اللبنانيين والمهاجرين واللاجئين الفلسطينيين الأكثر ضعفاً في لبنان المتأثرين بالأزمة. وتشارك الحكومة اللبنانية والأمم المتحدة في قيادة خطة الاستجابة لأزمة لبنان 2022 لأصحاب المصلحة المتعددين ، كما ساهمت مجموعة متنوعة من المنظمات بما في ذلك المنظمات غير الحكومية الوطنية والدولية في هذه الخطة. تستخدم خطة الاستجابة هذه مجموعة من التدخلات الإنسانية لتحقيق الاستقرار ، والتي تركز على الحفاظ على تقديم الخدمات من خلال المؤسسات العامة على المستوى المحلي. وهذا يلبي احتياجات كل من النازحين السوريين واللاجئين الفلسطينيين من سوريا وكذلك المجتمعات اللبنانية المضيفة.

يهدف إطار التعاون الإنمائي المستدام للأمم المتحدة ، الذي وقعته الأمم المتحدة والحكومة اللبنانية مؤخراً ، إلى التحرك نحو نهج ثلاثي الأوجه ، وضع حد للاحتياجات الإنسانية ، وتعزيز قدرة المؤسسات اللبنانية على الاضطلاع بمسؤولياتها ، وفي نهاية المطاف تعزيز الاستدامة.

تهدف جامعة الدول العربية إلى حل هذه الأزمة وتقييم الوضع بشكل أكبر. ففي آب / أغسطس 2021 ، بدأ وفد من جامعة الدول العربية في بيروت بالبحث عن حل دبلوماسي للقضايا العالقة بين لبنان ودول الخليج ، للمساهمة في الحد من آثار الانهيار الاقتصادي اللبناني. وقد عملت اللجنة حتى الآن على دعم الشعب اللبناني وإصلاح الحكومة اللبنانية وتقوية أواصر التعاون مع دول الجوار.

تواريخ مهمة

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

أكتوبر 2019: اندلاع احتجاجات ضد الفساد في لبنان.

فبراير 2020: زيادة حالات الإصابة بفيروس كورونا في لبنان.

آب 2020: انفجار في مرفأ بيروت بسبب كمية هائلة من تترات الأمونيوم راح ضحيته 200 شخص وجرح 6000.

آب / أغسطس 2020: بعد أيام من انفجار بيروت ، أعلن رئيس وزراء لبنان استقالة الحكومة.

فبراير 2021: وُجد أن الحد الأدنى للأجور في لبنان هو الأقل في العالم - حوالي 2 دولار في اليوم.

يونيو 2021: أعلن البنك الدولي أن لبنان يمر بأزمة اقتصادية حادة.

يوليو 2021: تقدر الأمم المتحدة أن 77% من الأسر في هذه المرحلة ليس لديها ما يكفي من الغذاء أو المال لشراء الطعام.

يوليو 2021: وزارة الصحة تعلن إنهاء دعم العديد من الأدوية المستوردة. ومع ذلك ، لا يزال النقص قائماً.

يوليو 2021: إمدادات المياه في لبنان على شفا الانهيار. 71% من السكان معرضون لخطر فقدان إمكانية الحصول على المياه.

آب 2021: انفجار وقود في عكار أسفر عن مقتل 33 وجرح 79.

أسئلة يجب البحث عنها

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

- هل كانت اتفاقية الطائف مفيدة للبنان؟
- كيف يمكن ضمان محاسبة السياسيين الفاسدين في لبنان؟
- هل يجب أن يصبح لبنان دولة علمانية للحد من الانقسامات الدينية فيه؟
- كيف أثرت الحرب الأهلية السورية على لبنان؟

بحث مقترح

الموضوع الثاني: لبنان: أزمة عالمية.

دور كوفيد-19 في أزمة لبنان

آثار أزمة لبنان على اللاجئين

آثار الأزمة اللبنانية على الرعاية الصحية

الحلول الحالية قيد التنفيذ

أسباب الانهيار الاقتصادي في لبنان

دور السياسة في أزمة لبنان

الإجراءات المستقبلية لحل هذه المشكلة.

المراجع

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