

# TOPICS

CCBMUN XXIII 2025

#### **COMMITTEES CCBMUN XXIII - 2025**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIXED SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8 (5-7) GRADES 6-12 (5-11) GRADES 9-12 (8-11)

UPPER SCHOOL

HRC

**UNEP** 

**UNHCR** 

UNICEF

**UNOOSA** 

AU

DISEC

**ECOSOC** 

**SOCHUM** 

**UNCSW** 

**UNODC** 

WHO

EP

GLS

SC



### MIDDLE SCHOOL



# HRC

United Nations Human Rights Council

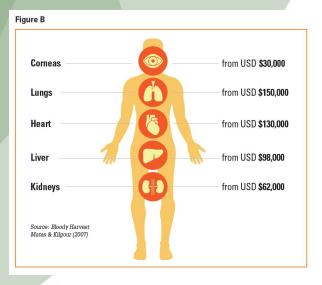
Valeria Risso & Gabriela Klinger



#### TOPIC 1:

Human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal

#### **UNHRC Topic 1 Context**



- According to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (n.d.), human trafficking for organ removal (HTOR) is a severe and growing transnational crime that involves the exploitation of vulnerable individuals through coercion, deception, or force to obtain their organs.
- This practice is driven by: a global shortage of legally available organs; high demand for organs from patients; profits that are generated by organ trafficking; and lack of international regulation.
- HTOR victims are often given false promises of employment, medical treatment, or financial gain. However, in many cases, they suffer long-term health consequences or even death due to inadequate care conditions.
- Human trafficking affects individuals across all cultures, genders and age groups. For instance, according to the UNODC (n.d.), nearly 20% of human trafficking victims are children.
- The organ trade annually generates between USD \$840 million to USD \$1.7 billion.
- There are approximately 12.000 illegal transplants every year in the world. (The Exodus Road, 2023)
- Please follow this link to read a case study: Organ trafficking Nigeria to UK

#### **UNHRC TOPIC 1 GUIDING QUESTIONS**



- **1.** Does your country have ethical and legal organ donation practices? If so, please describe them.
- **2.** What is your government's official position on human trafficking for organ transplants?
- **3.** Is there any recorded data or evidence of organ trafficking cases in your country? Are specific regions within your country vulnerable to this type of trafficking? If so, why?
- **4.** What legal frameworks or laws does your country have to combat organ trafficking?
- **5.** How does your government collaborate with other nations or international organizations to combat HTOR?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Ending blood feuds in Somalia

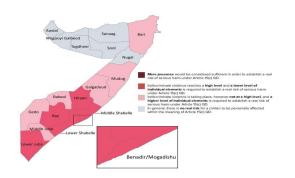
#### **UNHRC Topic 2 Context**





- Blood feuds in Somalia are long-standing cycles of retaliatory violence between clans or families, often sparked by issues such as murder, land disputes, or violations of honour.
- These feuds are deeply rooted in Somalia's traditional justice systems and are typically governed by customary law (laws derived from tradition), rather than formal state institutions.
- According to the BBC (2025), in some central regions of the country, up to 80% of clan killings remain unresolved.
- Blood feuds often lead to: prolonged violence; loss of life; and displacement of communities.
- Blood feuds make it difficult for the country to build a united national identity.
- In many regions, the absence of effective governmental authority allows these feuds to persist unchecked, which further weakens the rule of law and the legitimacy of the state.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Refugee Somali blood feuds</u>

#### **UNHRC TOPIC 2 GUIDING QUESTIONS**





- Does your country have problems with blood feuds, or has it had problems in its history? If so, what has been done to combat the problem?
- What is your government's official position regarding the conflict and instability in Somalia?
- **3.** Is your government involved in any humanitarian, development, or peacekeeping missions in Somalia?
- **4.** How does your country receive and/or support Somali citizens fleeing blood feuds?
- **5.** What lessons from your country's own experiences with civil conflict or peacebuilding could be applied in Somalia, if any?
- What role should the international community play in supporting peacebuilding and ending blood feuds in Somalia?

# UNEP

#### United Nations Environment Programme

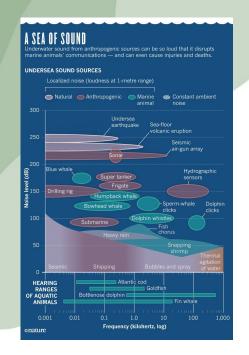
Isabella Rojas & Juan Felipe Arana



#### TOPIC 1:

#### Ocean Noise Pollution

#### **UNEP Topic 1 Context**



- Ocean noise pollution refers to the disruptive impact of human-made noise on marine life.
- Marine species use vocalisations to communicate, detect predators and navigation. Unnatural noise
  interferes with these processes, causing them to become disoriented, and this leads to altered
  migration and feeding patterns.
- Major sources of noise pollution are military sonar, seismic air guns, offshore drilling for oil and gas exploration, and shipping traffic.
- Global shipping traffic has increased, making it one of the largest contributors to underwater noise pollution, mainly along major international trade routes such as the North Atlantic and South China Sea.
- High noise levels have been identified in the Salish Sea, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Bay of Fundy where there is active gas and oil exploration.
- There are different initiatives from organizations that aim to mitigate ocean noise pollution such as, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), WWF, Ocean Conservancy, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- To monitor ocean noise levels and reduce underwater noise there have been advances in ship design, such as quieter propellers and hull modifications, and technologies like underwater microphones and autonomous vehicles are being made.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: Salish Sea

#### **UNEP Topic 1 Guiding Questions**



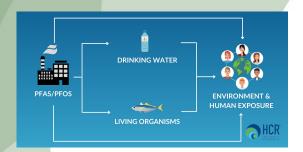


- **1.** What are the main sources of ocean noise pollution in your nation?
- **2.** Does your nation monitor ocean noise levels? If so, how?
- 3. Does your government believe it is more important to prioritize human activities over the well-being of marine ecosystems? Why or why not?
- **4.** What negative effects has ocean noise pollution had in your country?
- **5.** What initiatives has your government implemented to reduce noise pollution in marine ecosystems, if any?
- 6. Are current international initiatives on ocean noise pollution sufficient, or does your government think there is a need for stricter international regulations?
- How is your nation collaborating with neighbouring coastal states to address transboundary noise pollution?
- 8. How does your nation work with the IMO (International Maritime Organization) to monitor and regulate ocean noise levels?

#### TOPIC 2:

### PFAS in drinking water

#### **UNEP Topic 2 Context**





- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic chemicals that do not break down, thereby they can accumulate in human bodies and animal species over time.
- Products that contribute to PFAS are firefighting foam, consumer goods such as fabrics, cosmetics, cookware, etc.
- PFAS contamination has been identified mainly in the USA, Australia, Canada and European countries such as the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Germany.
- Accumulation of PFAs in organisms can lead to reproductive issues, growth delay, low reproductive success, immune and endocrine system disruption.
- Cleanup of PFAS-contaminated sites can be extremely expensive for governments and taxpayers.
- There are different initiatives to address PFAs contamination and implement stricter guidelines for drinking water standards such as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's testing and monitoring programs, the European Union's REACH regulation, and the PFAS Action Plan.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: PFAS in drinking water in Australia

#### **UNEP Topic 2 Guiding Questions**



Household Rems Food packaging
Aerosold fisher, Consider esistant
Pager
Cookware, Clothing, shoes
Clothing, shoes
Clothing, shoes
Clothing, shoes
Clothing, shoes
Cookware, Clo

- **1.** What are the primary sources of PFAS contamination in your nation's drinking water?
- **2.** Has your nation faced any environmental or public health crisis linked to PFAs in drinking water?
- 3. Does your government currently monitor and/or regulate PFAS in drinking water? If so, how?
- 4. What has been done in your country to diminish the amount of PFAS in the drinking water? If no action has been taken, what are the reasons for this?
- **5.** Who should be responsible for reducing contamination of PFAS in drinking water governments of companies that produce these chemicals?
- What proposals does the delegation have to establish global standards for PFAS in drinking water, and to ensure that companies adhere to them?

# UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Isabella Ordóñez & Andrés Camacho



#### TOPIC 1:

## Refugee Crisis Amidst Sudan's Civil War

#### **UNHCR Topic 1 Context**



- The Sudanese refugee crisis is the result of the humanitarian problems triggered by the ongoing Darfur conflict which has been developing since 2023. This conflict arose between the Sudanese armed forces and the paramilitary group *Rapid Support Forces* due to the political tensions caused by a military coup in 2021, which removed the authoritarian government at that time.
- The conflict has not only represented widespread human rights abuses, but has also led to soaring food prices, disease outbreaks and the collapse of food supplies, leaving the majority of the population experiencing extreme famine.
- Currently, more than 635.000 people are experiencing extreme famine, 8 million civilians been internally displaced and 1.5 million have left the nation; the UN has estimated that around 11.3 million people in total have been displaced from their native land.
- What worsens the magnitude of such crisis is the severe weather events that the already unstable government could not cope with effectively, leading to food insecurity and crop destruction.
- The refugees currently fleeing from Sudan include asylum seekers from places such as South Sudan and Syria who were already sheltering in the country, and who are being forced to leave the nation. The refugee system in Sudan lacks the resources to deal with previously sheltered migrants in addition to its own citizens.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Refugees arriving to Chad</u>



#### **UNHCR Topic 1 Guiding questions**





- L. Does your country have any legal obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention? If so, what are these obligations? If not, why not?
- 2. Does your country have any programmes to help refugees fleeing from conflict? What sort of support has your country offered to refugees in the past or at present?
- 3. How has your nation been involved in negotiations for a ceasefire agreement or peace intervention in the Sudan conflict, if at all?
- 4. How has your nation responded to the crisis so far in terms of humanitarian aid, diplomacy or resettlement programmes. If it has not responded so far, what kind of support is it willing to contribute?
- 5. What limitations does your nation face in terms of housing asylum seekers from Sudan?
- **6.** What ideas has your government proposed to end the refugee crisis in Sudan?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Safeguarding Climate Refugees in Pacific Island Nations

#### **UNHCR Topic 2 Context**



- Sea levels are rising faster in the Southwestern Pacific, putting low-lying countries like Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands at risk. This causes problems like less fresh water, eroding beaches, and more flooding, making life harder for the people living there.
- Right now, people who have to leave their homes because of climate change aren't officially considered refugees, so they don't have international protection.
- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) wants to change this by 2030, aiming to provide legal help, long-term solutions, and stronger buildings to keep people safe.
- In 2023, Pacific countries agreed on a plan to help people move safely due to climate change. Then in 2024, Australia and Tuvalu made a special agreement called the Falepili Union. This allows 280 people from Tuvalu to move to Australia each year and ensures Tuvalu remains a country even if its land is lost to the sea.
- Also in 2024, Commonwealth countries agreed that island nations should keep their sea borders, even if their land disappears. This helps protect their identity and independence.
- At the COP28 climate meeting, the UNHCR asked countries to take action and create laws to protect people forced to move because of climate change.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Tuvalu</u>

#### **UNHCR Topic 2 Guiding Questions**





- **1.** Has your country been directly affected by climate displacement or sea-level rise? If so, how has it responded?
- 2. Does your government currently consider climate-displaced individuals as refugees or give them any legal protection? What is your government's position on applying the 1951 Refugee Convention to those displaced due to environmental causes?
- Has your nation collaborated with other governments or regional organisations on climate mobility frameworks or agreements (e.g. relocation schemes or bilateral arrangements)?
- **4.** If your nation is affected by rising sea levels, what steps has it taken to tackle the problem?
- **5.** What intention does your nation have to accept climate refugees, if any?
- 6. How is your nation contributing (in terms of finance, diplomacy or logistics) to international efforts led by UNHCR or related agencies to tackle displacement caused by climate change.
- 7. What specific recommendations does your delegation have for the legal protection of climate refugees and resettlement mechanisms.
- **8.** What is your government's position on giving permanent statehood to disappearing island states?

## UNICEF

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

María Paula Mena and Samuel Vivas



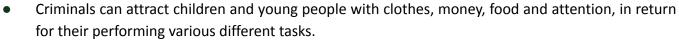
#### TOPIC 1:

# Children recruited into online gangs

#### **UNICEF Topic 1 Context**



- Nowadays, with the rise of digital connectivity, criminal groups have shifted their operations to the internet, using platforms like TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp, and online gaming apps to identify, contact, and manipulate vulnerable youth.
- Children and young people are recruited since they are not checked as much by the police, and children under the age of 15 cannot be punished in the same way as adults. Young people may also be easier to influence and exploit.
  - In countries like Canada and Australia, reports have highlighted a trend where children as young as 11 are being lured into criminal activity via encrypted apps and multiplayer gaming chats. In the United States, a growing number of school-aged children are being approached online by gang members, often under the guise of friendship or financial opportunity. Children as young as nine are being drawn into gangs, often to deliver or store drugs.



- The youngest gang members were most commonly said to be aged 12 to 14 (50%), while a third were said to be between nine and 11. A handful (7%) of gang members were thought to be under nine.
- It is also common for children who are recruited to feel under pressure and become worried and anxious. Some start to skip school, feel sick or experience physical pain.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>United Kingdom</u>



#### **UNICEF Topic 1 Guiding Questions:**





- What specific vulnerabilities make children targets for online gang recruitment in your country?
- 2. Does your country have laws addressing online criminal recruitment of minors? Are they effective?
- **3.** How is your country affected by online gang recruitment? Are children being recruited, or are gangs operating from your territory?
- **4.** How does your government collaborate with tech companies and social media platforms to combat this problem?
- **5.** Does your country have systems to rehabilitate and reintegrate children recruited into online gangs?
- 6. How does your country approach the challenge of protecting children online without violating digital privacy rights?
- **7.** How does your country define a "child" in digital protection laws (age, consent, criminal liability)?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Child trafficking in armed conflicts

#### **UNICEF Topic 2 Context:**





- The trafficking of children in armed conflicts is a serious violation of human rights that has affected children throughout history. Children in conflict zones may be captured, kidnapped or displaced from their homes and then exploited in different ways. They may become insurgent soldiers, sex slaves or they may be put to do heavy work.
- In many armed conflicts these children are used as combatants to perform dangerous tasks.
   These child soldiers suffer severe physical and psychological trauma due to everything they experience in these conflicts.
- When government agencies become unstable, they can't properly protect or watch over certain areas. This leaves children in danger. In some cases, harming or taking advantage of children is used as a weapon during war, or as a way to control people
- Children who are victims generally do not have access to education and lose contact with their family which affects their emotional development, and causes social exclusion.
- International organisations such as the UN have created legal frameworks and programmes to tackle the problem, but lack of funding or limited access to conflict zones generate difficulty for these projects to be done properly.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Mali</u>
- Please click here to gain more information about the topic: <u>UN Children and armed conflict</u>

#### **UNICEF Topic 2 Guiding Questions:**





- What is the current situation regarding child trafficking in your country?
- What legal measures has your country implemented to prevent and prosecute child trafficking in conflict zones? Has your country ratified international treaties related to child protection and anti-trafficking efforts? For instance, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Palermo Protocol.
- 3. What programmes or initiatives has your government implemented to prevent child trafficking in conflict zones, or to support victims of child trafficking?
- 4. How can international cooperation be strengthened to address cross-border child trafficking during conflicts?
- 5. How can international cooperation support developing countries in addressing this problem?

# UNOOSA

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Antonella Ardila & Lucía Loaiza



#### TOPIC 1:

# Regulating nuclear power sources in space

#### **UNOOSA Topic 1 Context**



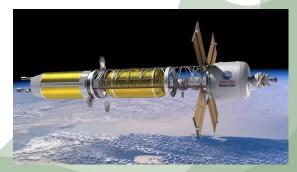


- Nuclear power sources are used in space missions to provide reliable and lasting energy.
- Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators are a type of nuclear battery used to obtain electricity; they are one of the main power sources in space, and are used in spacecrafts, space probes, satellites etc.
- There is great controversy regarding the use of nuclear power sources due to their potential risks, including accidents which could lead to the release of radioactive items into the atmosphere, affecting Earth's environment.
- The "United Nations Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space" (1992) adopted by the UN General Assembly establishes guidelines for appropriate use of these sources.
- Nuclear power sources in space have been mostly used and developed by Russia and the United States.
- As more countries advance in their space programmes, including plans to colonise the moon, the use of nuclear energy in space will become more widespread with the potential for more accidents or for an accumulation of nuclear weapons in space.
- Please follow this link to find out more about the topic: <u>Space and nuclear law</u>

#### **UNOOSA Topic 1 Guiding Questions**

- **1.** Has your country used nuclear power sources in any of its space missions? If so, how has it been used?
- 2. Has your country ratified any international treaties that regulate the use of nuclear power sources in outer space?
- **3.** Has your country ever experienced or contributed to any accidents involving nuclear power sources in space?
- **4.** What safety measures does your country follow to prevent risks associated with nuclear power sources in space missions?
- **5.** What proposals does your nation have for modifying or improving current regulations on nuclear power sources in outer space?
- **6.** What legal frameworks does your country have to manage the development or exportation of nuclear space technologies?
- **7.** Are there any safer alternatives to using nuclear energy in space missions?





#### TOPIC 2:

The use of private satellite networks in warfare

#### **UNOOSA Topic 2 Context**





- Companies, such as SpaceX, own private satellite networks which provide things like global internet and communication services.
- In some conflicts, such as the Ukraine conflict, these networks have been used for military purposes in order to have more secure communications, to gather information and to coordinate battlefields.
- Existing treaties don't specify international rules for how private companies should behave if their satellites are used in a conflict.
- Some countries' laws state that governments are responsible for space activities done by private companies under their national laws.
- Using private satellites during warfare could lead to vengeance, including different types of attacks on commercial systems.
- Wealthier countries benefit from having complex spatial structures and networks.
- Some proposals being made include transparency norms, codes of conduct, and international agreements regulating types satellite services.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Ukraine conflict</u>

#### **UNOOSA Topic 2 Guiding Questions**

- **1.** What is your country's position about the use of private satellite networks in military operations?
- **2.** Has your country's government directly cooperated with private satellite providing service during a conflict?
- **3.** If you are representing a private satellite company, how has it been involved in providing information to governments in conflict?
- **4.** What legal responsibilities does your country/company have related to international space law when using private satellites in conflicts?
- **5.** What position does your country/company take on considering private satellites as legitimate military targets during war?
- **6.** Has your country/company proposed or supported international agreements or regulations regarding the military use of private space infrastructures?
- **7.** What measures has your country/company taken to prevent the misuse of commercial satellite data or networks during warfare?
- **8.** How does your country assure that private space activities go accordingly with national security and international law?





### MIXED SCHOOL



# AU

#### African Union

Mariana Sofía Nuñez & Juan Diego Alomía



#### TOPIC 1:

The use of R2P in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya: assessing impact and future implications

#### **AU Topic 1 Context**

- After failing to respond to the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was created in 2001. It was first adopted in 2005 to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. The R2P is based on three main pillars: state responsibility to protect their population, international assistance, and international intervention when states fail to protect their populations.
- The concept of R2P was first applied in Côte d'Ivoire in 2011, after President Laurent Gbagbo refused to accept electoral defeat, causing extreme violence and threats to civilians. UN and French forces intervened under R2P, trying to protect civilians and restore the democratic order, leading to Gbagbo's arrest. The R2P intervention in Côte d'Ivoire is considered successful, as it helped restore constitutional order and protect the civilian population.
- This same concept was also applied in Libya after the leader Muammar al-Qaddafi threatened violent repression and mass killings, particularly in Benghazi. The intervention in Libya culminated in the assassination of Muammar Qaddafi after he was wounded by NATO bombing and then captured and killed by the National Transitional Council (NTC) of Libya. However, the use of R2P in Libya was not as successful as in Côte d'Ivoire, as leaving Libya without a stable government brought a lot of instability and violence to the country.
- To conclude with, the R2P has played an important role in preventing mass atrocities, as seen in Côte d'Ivoire. However, its use in Libya rose many concerns, as its use without clear limits caused severe problems to the country.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>R2P Libya</u>

#### **AU Topic 2 Guiding Questions**







- **1.** Has your country ever been directly involved in an R2P intervention? If so, in which case, and how was it involved?
- 2. Does your country support the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as it has been applied by the UN? Why or why not?
- 3. Has your country contributed with any resources or political support to any R2P missions in Africa?
- **4.** What is your nation's view on foreign military intervention in African conflicts under the R2P framework?
- **5.** Has your country experienced any positive or negative consequences from past R2P interventions in Africa?
- Is your government in favor of foreign intervention in internal conflicts when a state is unable to protect its own population?
- 7. Does your country believe that R2P has been used fairly and effectively in cases such as Côte d'Ivoire and Libya? Why or why not?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Unethical testing of new drugs in African countries

#### **AU Topic 2 Context**

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- Pharmaceutical companies need to test new drugs in clinical trials. These companies are usually based in the USA or Europe, but they prefer to do the trials on other continents, such as South America or Africa, rather than testing them on their own citizens.
- Unethical testing of new drugs in African countries is a serious human rights issue that involves
  the exploitation of vulnerable populations that often have limited access to health care and legal
  protection. These practices often occur due to weak regulatory frameworks, poverty, low levels
  of education and limited government oversight, which makes many populations a target for
  exploitation.
- Historical cases such as the Pfizer Trovan trial in Nigeria (1996) show us the consequences of unethical drug testing, where children were administered experimental treatments without any informed consent, resulting in deaths and life-threatening health complications.
- Unethical trials have led to health inequities, and erosion of trust in healthcare systems. This may affect entire populations, making them distrust pharmaceutical companies and question the benefits of their products.
- Unethical testing of new drugs in African countries reflects deep global inequalities that are in need of urgent resolution, along with a commitment to protect human rights in all medical research.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Pfizer Trovan trial</u>
- To read more about the topic, use the following link: <u>Dirty profits</u>

#### **AU Topic 2 Guiding Questions**

- 1. Has your country ever been involved in drug testing? If so, has the government carried out these clinical trials or have pharmaceutical companies conducted such trials? What did the pharmaceutical company pay to the country in order to carry out these trials?
- **2.** Has your country had any negative experiences concerning unethical drug trials?
- **3.** What laws, regulations or ethical boundaries exist in your country to oversee clinical drug trials and how they are enforced? Does your country ensure informed consent is properly obtained from clinical trial participants, especially in vulnerable populations?
- **4.** How does your country address the issue of post-trial participants? Are they guaranteed proper follow-up and treatment?
- **5.** What is the position that you country has taken in international forums regarding the regulation or protection of human rights in clinical trials?
- **6.** How has your country balanced the need for scientific innovation with the protection of vulnerable communities?
- **7.** What solutions, if any, has your country proposed to ensure greater accountability and transparency in drug testing practices?









Optimizing Efficiency and Impact in the African Clinical Trials Ecosystem

Meeting Report | May 2023

## ECOSOC

**Economic and Social Council** 

Jacobo Gil & María Fernanda Daza

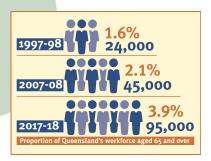


#### TOPIC 1:

# Policy Making for aging populations

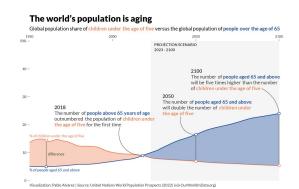
#### **ECOSOC Topic 1 Context**





- An aging population refers to the demographic transition where the number of people aged 60 years or above increases relative to the working-age population aged 15 years or above. This is often due to a decline in birth rate with rising life expectancy. Aging populations pose significant economic challenges because older people do not pay so much in tax, and they increase the demand for pensions and healthcare. The workforce pays into pension schemes, and these funds are used to pay current pensioners. If the workforce reduces considerably compared to the retired population, there will not be enough funds to pay future retirees.
- Governments have implemented certain policies to counteract this problem. For example, paying pro-natalist incentives so that people have larger families, making immigration reforms to relax visa policies for foreign workers, or raising the age of retirement so that people have to work for longer before receiving a pension. Countries such as Japan and South Korea, which traditionally had restrictive immigration policies, have been easing entry requirements for foreign workers. China, which once had the "One-Child Policy" which enforced strict birth control measures, is now implementing pro-natalist incentives.
- According to the United Nations, "by the late 2070s, the global population aged 65 and older is projected to reach 2.2 billion, surpassing the number of children under age 18." (United Nations). Countries with rapidly aging populations include Japan, Italy, Germany, and China, where over 23 percent of citizens are already 60 or older.
- International institutions like the UN have suggested sustainable guidelines, however nations' strategies vary widely due to the fact that some countries prioritise cultural preservation while others focus on expanding the labour workforce. These policies can determine a nation's future stability; if poorly managed, these policies may lead to a major crisis of economic stagnation and cause resource restraint.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Japan</u>

#### **ECOSOC Topic 1 Guiding Questions**



Employees aged over 50 years are the fastest growing demographic



By 2030:
55%
increase in employees aged over 50 years

Account for 40%
of the workforce

Productivity loss due to sickness absenteeism:

\$3.3 billion

Approximately 1% of GDP

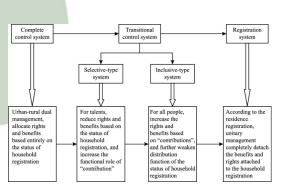
- 1. What percentage of your country's population is aged 65 years or older?
- 2. What percentage of your national healthcare budget is devoted to the elderly?
- **3.** What are the biggest challenges posed by aging demographics in your country, if any?
- **4.** What measures has your country taken to tackle the problems that come with an aging population and/or low birthrate?
- **5.** How effective have these policies been in addressing demographic aging?
- **6.** Which international frameworks on aging population management has your country endorsed, if any?
- What type of approaches is your country developing or implementing to address aging population challenges?
- **8.** Has your country benefited from aging populations in other nations, for example, through migration programmes to these countries?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Evaluating the impact of Household Registration Systems

#### **ECOSOC Topic 2 Context**





- Household registration systems are official government frameworks that register individuals based on their place of residence. They regulate internal migration and determine access to public services such as education, healthcare, and housing by linking people's legal status to a specific geographic location. Household registration systems are used to track and monitor populations. People are usually categorised as urban or rural, and this can affect their ability to access services. Changing one's registered location usually requires government approval.
- Examples of household registration systems include: China's Hukou, which classifies residents as
  rural or urban, and restricts access to services for rural migrants; Vietnam's ho khau, which registers
  households and limits movement, reinforcing urban-rural inequalities; and Taiwan household
  registration system, which records individuals for legal rights and citizenship without restricting
  movement.
- Household registration systems may pose significant challenges to human rights and social equality,
  as they legally restrict freedom of movement and access to essential services based on residency
  status. These systems may conflict with international principles of non-discrimination and equal
  citizenship, raising concerns about state sovereignty versus individual rights. For example, in China
  rural citizens have fewer rights than urban citizens.
- Household registration systems can be a convenient way to classify and monitor citizens in order to
  ensure that they receive the government support they need, that they pay their taxes and
  participate in voting processes. However, they can also be manipulated by governments to
  marginalise certain sectors of society, for example, religious minorities, or to restrict people's rights
  to move freely within the country.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Tibet</u>

#### **ECOSOC Topic 2 Guiding Questions**





- 1. Does your country have an existing household registration system? If so, how does it function in terms of categorising populations? If not, how does your government register and monitor its citizens?
- 2. Does your country have any system to monitor and control population movement? If so, how does it work?
- **3.** How does your country ensure that any form of population registration or identification system aligns with international human rights standards?
- **4.** How does your country view the ethical implications of restricting freedom of movement through household registration?
- 5. Does your government see the household registration system as a tool for social stability, or as a tool that deepens social exclusion? How does it justify this view?
- 6. How can your country propose reforms or international cooperation to address social inequalities caused by household registration systems?
- **7.** Has your country addressed international reforms or cooperation initiatives to tackle social inequalities arising from the household registration system? What alternative systems could be used in its place?

## DISEC

Disarmament and International Security Council

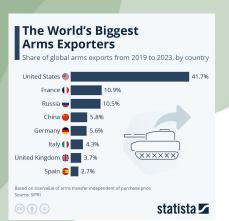
Andrés Quiroz & Samuel Miled Gómez

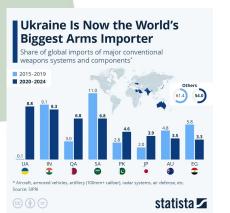


#### TOPIC 1:

Restrictions in the international trade of weapons with countries involved in ongoing belligerent conflicts

#### **DISEC Topic 1 Context**



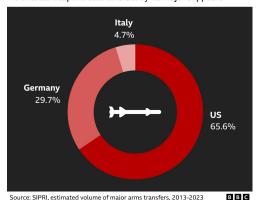


- Weapon trade restrictions are security measures imposed to prevent the flow of belligerent arms into a territory going through an active armed conflict. These restrictions and laws aim to reduce the intensity of an armed conflict, protecting civilians while avoiding further crises, as the conflict is no longer being supplied with weapons.
- The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is an international treaty adopted by the UN that regulates the international trade in conventional arms, and that seeks to prevent illicit trade and diversion of arms that could potentially be used for the purposes of genocide and/or war crimes.
- Belligerent conflicts involving developing countries, or those that do not possess competent military power, are often boosted by the flow of arms from international distributor governments, enlarging and exacerbating the conflict. These countries are often dependent on imports from distributors, making them vulnerable in the case of a cut in supplies during an armed conflict. Taking into consideration stricter arm-export regulations is crucial to relieve violence in belligerent conflicts fueled by external actors, however the repercussions of a cut in supply should also be taken into account.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the USA's arms exports account for 43% of the global supply. 35% of this trade goes to Europe and 33% to the Middle East. France supplies 9.6% of the world's arms, Russia 7.8%, China 5.9% and Germany 5.6%.
- Supplying arms to parties in a belligerent conflict can violate international humanitarian law, especially if the weapons are used against civilians or in war crimes. Exporting countries are expected to assess the end-use and end-users to prevent misuse. Examples of restricted transfers include bans on sales to Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, due to human rights concerns. However, even when there are international bans, some nations continue to supply weapons to countries in conflict, as is currently happening in Sudan.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Sudan</u>

#### **DISEC Topic 1 Guiding Questions**



Who supplies the most arms to Israel? % of total weapons sold to Israel by its major suppliers



- 1. Is your country a main exporter or importer of belligerent weapons?
- **2.** How does your country benefit from arms exports/imports?
- **3.** Has your country ever exported weapons to countries in ongoing belligerent conflicts?
- **4.** Has your country received a large supply of weapons from distributor governments whilst involved in an armed conflict?
- **5.** Has your country made any calls to regulate the weapons trade?
- **6.** Is your country currently in a belligerent conflict? If so, what has been the role of sponsor nations?
- 7. Is or has your country been militarily dependent on another nation? If not, has your country been dependent on another country's supply of weapons?
- **8.** What proposals does your delegation have to regulate the sale of belligerent weapons to countries in conflict?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Control of sonic weapons

#### **DISEC Topic 2 Context**



- Sonic or acoustic weapons are tools used to send high frequency and damaging sounds over long distances which have been developed since the 1990s. They may also be known as Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs). There are different types of sonic weapons such as sound cannons, hailing devices, sonic bullets and noise bazookas.
- LRADs have been mostly used by police forces in order to stop or control protests in countries such as Canada, Australia, the United States and China. In March 2025, during anti-corruption protests in Belgrade, Serbia, demonstrators reported experiencing a sudden, intense sound that caused panic, nausea, and disorientation. Witnesses described it as a "whiz" or "whooshing" noise, consistent with the effects of a sonic weapon. The USA also used sonic weapons in the Iraq conflict in 2004. Please follow the link for more information: <a href="Serbia protests">Serbia protests</a>



- There is the debate over whether this weapons should be used for a variety of reasons: effectiveness and control infrasound and ultrasound weapons can be difficult to manage, often leading to unpredictable outcomes; health concerns being exposed to high-intensity sound can result in issues like vertigo, nausea, hearing loss and even psychological stress; ethical concerns these weapons are used in civilian situations, such as protests, which raises serious questions about the potential for excessive force and non-consensual experimentation, as well as the violation of human rights and threats to the democratic process. They target anyone in the vicinity indiscriminately, so that even bystanders and law enforcement officers may be affected.
- The long-term health effects of sonic weapons are not fully understood. In 2017, the USA accused Cuba of causing serious harm to its diplomats by employing sonic weapons, although this has not been proven and is denied by Cuba. Please follow the link to learn more about this situation: Cuba

#### **DISEC Topic 2 Guiding Questions**



- Does your country currently possess any kind of LRADs? If so, in which situations have they been used? If not, is the government considering investing in these types of weapons?
- 2. Does your country believe that the deployment of non-lethal sonic weapons for crowd control is a violation of human rights or a legitimate tool of law enforcement?
- **3.** Would your country support the implementation of acoustic weapons for belligerent causes?
- 4. Should the international community define and categorise acoustic and sonic weapons separately from conventional non-lethal arms, due to the potential health hazards they present?
- **5.** What distinguishes non-lethal sonic weapons from conventional weapons under international law?
- What proposals does your delegation have regarding the future regulation of sonic weapons? Should the international community restrict the development, transfer, or export of sonic weapons?



## SOCHUM

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Emilia Carranza and Juan Manuel Agudelo



#### TOPIC 1:

News media manipulation as a threat to democratic freedom

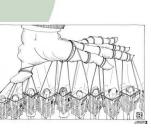
#### **SOCHUM Topic 1 Context**



- According to Freedom House's "Freedom in the World data", media freedom has been deteriorating around the world over the past decade, with new forms of repression taking hold in many nations, whether democratic or authoritarian in nature. 19 percent (16 countries) have endured a reduction in their press freedom scores over the past five years. The job of a journalist is to seek out information without following any particular agenda, but in reality many news outlets are under government control or are sponsored by large corporations which have control over the content of news programmes.
- Certain nations employ and justify censorship and disguise it as "combating fake news". Common tactics include government-backed ownership changes, regulatory and financial pressure, and public denunciations of honest journalists. Certain governments have also been prone to offer support to friendly outlets through measures such as lucrative state contracts, favorable regulatory decisions, and preferential access to state information. This consolidates media ownership into a select number of entities, which limits the diversity necessary for democratic freedoms, and which raises concerns, as democratic liberties are sacrificed on the pretext of "national security" or "public order". In the US, for example, although there are many media outlets, they often report exactly the same news word-for-word on their news programmes. A clampdown on press freedom is often the precursor to other attacks on civil liberties.

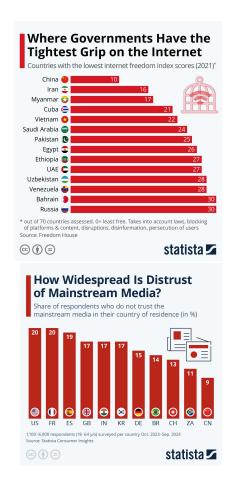


Society is starting to rely more and more on digital platforms for information and news: as this happens, the potential for misinformation and controlled narratives is significantly increased, posing a significant threat to democratic freedom. Social media platforms have had an impact on this issue, as their unlimited access to information enables, to some capacity, disinformation campaigns that could threaten freedom of speech and democratic process. Algorithms then continue to spread false or untrustworthy news. On the other hand, many people do not trust mainstream media outlets, and feel that citizen journalists or independent journalists on social media share local and national news more quickly and accurately than conventional media outlets. For example, in the UK. the BBC may report that a few hundred people turned up to a protest, whilst independent journalists are showing thousands of people at the protest.



• Recent scandals of media manipulation occurred in the 2024 US elections, during Aleksandar Vučić's administration in Serbia, in Israel when Netanyahu offered favours to media outlets if they would give him positive coverage, and in many other democratic countries. In countries with more authoritarian governments, journalists continue to be threatened or even killed, and at least 360 were imprisoned around the world in 2024. Please follow this link to read a case study: El Salvador

#### **SOCHUM Topic 1 Guiding Questions**



- **1.** To what extent does your government support independent journalism?
- 2. How is media ownership distributed throughout your country? Is it concentrated amongst select entities and individuals? How does it impact the amount of information available to the public?
- **3.** Are there any documented instances of censorship and media manipulation in your country?
- **4.** Has your nation experienced any foreign or domestic disinformation campaigns? If so, what measures were taken in response?
- Does your country have regulation for social media platforms operating in its borders? If so, how severe are these measures are they effective in combating misinformation, or have they overstepped on democratic freedoms?
- 6. Should independent and citizen journalists have the right to report whatever they want, even if it goes against the general narrative?

#### TOPIC 2:

# The impact of Artificial Intelligence on the right to privacy

#### **SOCHUM Topic 2 Context**





- Al technologies like facial recognition and surveillance systems can collect personal information without consent. Several countries are using this technology on their streets, and many citizens may not be aware that they are being tracked, raising human rights concerns. Citizens may be flagged as criminals and arrested on the streets through the use of Al algorithms.
- China is a well-known example of a country that uses AI to track and monitor its citizens, but many other countries are implementing similar systems, including the UK, India, Russia and Israel.
- Governments also use AI to monitor citizens' interactions on social media so that they can clamp down on political dissent and combat terrorism. However, this affects citizens' rights to freedom of expression creating a type of AI censorship, that doesn't let people express themselves freely, even for innocent topics such as <a href="https://doesn.com/hamster-enthusiasts">hamster enthusiasts</a>.
- Al watching over citizens' movements or online lives, can stifle freedom of expression. People start to censor themselves, fearing these non-transparent systems might falsely flag them as criminals, leading to unjust arrests and a deep breach of our basic rights. It feels like a constant invisible gaze, making citizens question whether they are truly free.
- Follow the link to read a case study: <u>Robert Williams</u>

#### **SOCHUM Topic 2 Guiding Questions**





- 1. To what level does your government use AI to monitor and track its citizens, and what are its plans for the future? For example, through facial recognition, social media posts or banking transactions.
- 2. What laws are there in place to protect citizens and foreign visitors from excessive government surveillance in your country, if any?
- **3.** Has AI be used in your country to combat crime and, if so, how effective has it been?
- 4. How does your country balance the benefits of AI for public security with the protection of fundamental human rights, such as privacy and freedom of expression?
- **5.** What are the concerns of citizens in your country about the use of AI by governments to track them?
- What non-government organisations are there in your country that are working on the issue of government use of AI surveillance vs human rights, and what is their position?
- Should there be international treaties to define limits of the use of AI by governments for surveillance? Should the UN strengthen existing human rights mechanisms to address privacy violations caused by AI technologies?

## UNCSW

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Ana Sofía Castro & Catalina Cadavid



#### TOPIC 1:

The Caste System as a threat to Dalit women's rights and well-being

#### **UNCSW Topic 1 Context**





- The Caste system is a form of social stratification which originated in India about 3,000 years ago and adheres to the principles of a social hierarchical structure with the Brahmins at the top of the social pyramid, and the Dalits (sometimes called "the untouchables") at the bottom. India's constitution abolished untouchability in 1950, and these people were named "Scheduled Castes" in the constitution in order to give them special help with their situation.
- Despite this, the caste system is still followed in some parts of the country, and the Dalits continue to be discriminated against, especially in rural areas. For example, Dalit women are often affected by GBV (Gender Based Violence), sexual GBV, exploitation, forced prostitution and traffic, by "dominant castes". This happens because of state impunity and lack of accountability. According to IDSN (International Dalit Solidarity Network) "Dalit women are subjected to a triple burden of caste, class and gender discrimination" (IDSN, 2020, p. 37). Public Interest rose after a 19-year-old Dalit woman lost her life and was sexually assaulted by a brutal caste-based gang.
- This structure is also present in countries like Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan and Yemen. Around 250 million people experience discrimination coming from social structures that adapt or are based on inherited status (IDSN, 2020, p.113) Among these, women are disproportionately affected. When people emigrate to other countries, they often take the Caste System with them which leads to social exclusion. Seattle was one of the first cities in the USA to outlaw caste discrimination, which causes bias and miss treatment in the workplace especially against Dalit Women.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>UK Caste System</u>

#### **UNCSW Topic 1 Guiding Questions**

- 1. Does your country practice, or host communities that practice, inherited social structures such as the Caste System? If so, how does your government perceive these structures?
- **2.** How does caste-based discrimination affect women in your country? Are there any specific case studies you could reference?
- **3.** What legislations or national policies does your country apply to address caste-based discrimination against women within the nation, if any?
- **4.** Has your country signed, supported, or contributed any UN resolution that prevents these types of descent-based discrimination and/or gender-based discrimination?
- **5.** According to your country's position, what solutions does your delegation propose in order to counter discrimination and violence against marginalised castes, and to ensure women's rights and well-being are upheld?

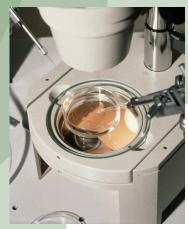




#### TOPIC 2:

Psychological and legal implications of human egg harvesting

#### **UNCSW Topic 2 Context**



# Thotlon

#### **Egg Harvesting (Legitimate Procedure):**

• Egg harvesting is a medical procedure used in assisted reproductive technologies or for fertility preservation (e.g., egg freezing). Mature eggs are collected from a fertile female, and various eggs will later be mixed with sperm to create human embryos that can be embedded in the mother or in a surrogate mother. The procedure involves ovarian stimulation with hormones and a minor surgical procedure to retrieve eggs through the vagina. In this process complete awareness and consent from the women is given.

#### **Forced Egg Harvesting (Exploitative Practice):**

- This is a deeply exploitative practice that transforms legitimate medical procedures into a mechanism of coercion and exploitation that primarily targets vulnerable women with limited resources. Victims may be deceived with false promises of good jobs and then forced to undergo surgery to remove their eggs, often in unsanitary conditions.
- Chinese criminal gangs involved in human trafficking enticed Thai women to move abroad, telling them that they have the ability to earn high wages as surrogate mothers. However, once there, the women were kept in prison-like conditions and were forced to undergo egg-harvesting surgery every month. Other cases of exploitation have been reported in India, Nigeria and Greece.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Greece</u>

#### **UNCSW Topic 2 Guiding Questions**

- What national laws and regulations exist in your country regarding egg donation and assisted reproductive technologies? If there are no laws, explain why.
- 2. Does your country's laws explicitly address or implicitly cover issues of consent, coercion, and human trafficking in the context of reproductive procedures?
- **3.** How effectively are these laws enforced?
- **4.** Is there any documented evidence that suggest the occurrence of forced egg harvesting or related exploitative practices in your country or involving your citizens abroad?
- **5.** How does your country monitor and regulate fertility clinics and agencies involved in egg donation?
- 6. What needs to be done to protect women and girls from such practices? Should there be a set of international regulations to cover this industry?





## UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Coral Montaño & Juan David Durán



#### TOPIC 1:

## Sex Tourism

#### **UNODC Topic 1 Context**





- Sex tourism has become a global industry, with people often traveling internationally
  with the purpose of sexually exploiting locals, especially minors. Even when
  prostitution is legal in a country, sex tourism often involves violations of human
  rights.
- According to Brooks and Heaslip (2019) this industry regularly involves human trafficking, as well as child exploitation and organised crime, typically taking advantage of legal loopholes in the destination countries.
- In many countries, law enforcement turns a blind eye to the industry as tourism is one of the main, if not the only source of economic stability. Law enforcement agents may also be subject to bribery and extortion at the hands of criminal groups that get some of their income from the sex tourism industry.
- Sex tourism frequently involves travelers from developed countries going to countries that are still developing and that have inadequate laws to protect workers in the sex tourism industry.
- Addressing sex tourism requires stronger international and local laws, some countries have been able to partially tackle the issue by addressing it from a legal standpoint, still, international cooperation is key to this process.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Bali</u>

#### **UNODC Topic 1 Guiding Questions**

- **1.** How is your country being affected by sex tourism? (The social, cultural, and economical impact.)
- **2.** Is your country a destination for sex tourism and/or a source of international sex tourists?
- **3.** What is the legal framework to regulate sex tourism in your country?
- **4.** How have international conventions or regulations affected sex tourism in you country, if at all?
- **5.** How can governments and NGOs collaborate to raise awareness and prevent the recruitment of vulnerable populations into the sex tourism industry?
- **6.** How can countries improve enforcement of extraterritorial laws that allow prosecution of nationals committing sex crimes abroad?





#### TOPIC 2:

# Tackling illegal logging in rainforests

#### **UNODC Topic 2 Context**

- Illegal logging and deforestation are two of the most common drivers of forest degradation, habitat loss and destruction. These practices negatively affect many species, and contribute to climate change by affecting rainfall patterns. In 2024, the tropics experienced a record loss of 6.7 million hectares of primary rainforest, much if it due to illegal logging.
- Illegal logging is very lucrative, accounting for around 15% 30% of all wood traded globally, with an estimated annual revenue of USD 152 billion. It is often linked to organised crime, corruption, and other illegal activities related to drugs and money laundering.
- Illegal logging and deforestation mainly occurs in tropical forests, which hold the majority of the globe's ecological diversity and are vital for climate regulation and the carbon cycle. The effects of these practices transcend even the environment, as logging and deforestation directly impact the quality of life of forest-bound communities, fuel political and territorial conflicts, and strip countries of a valuable source of environmental and economic stability. Up to 90% of logging activities in some regions is illegal. Illegal logging strips communities of resources, land rights, security, and sustainable futures.
- Despite various international conventions of the decades to tackle this crime, illegal logging and deforestation continues to be a cause for grave concern. Government lack of regulation or corruption, combined with the activity of criminal groups in both exporting and importing countries, means that an area the size of Iceland is lost to deforestation every year.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Bolivia</u>







#### **UNODC Topic 2 Guiding Questions**

- **1.** What laws does your country have to protect its forests?
- 2. What are the effects of deforestation of your country's native forests, if any, and what has been done to control the problem?
- 3. Is your country a major importer or exporter of tropical hardwood? How much tropical hardwood is exported/imported, and what regulations are in place to ensure that this wood is legally produced?
- **4.** What has your country done to tackle the problem of illegal logging and deforestation in tropical rainforests?
- **5.** How can UNODC assist governments in creating safer environments for reporting forest crimes?
- 6. What recommendations does your delegation have to combat illegal logging in tropical rainforests at an international level? Should illegal logging be treated as a form of transnational organized crime under the UNTOC (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)?

AUTHORITIES SEIZE TEAK WOOD LADEN MINI
TRUCK AT KATHALTALI

SILCHAR



A MINI LORRY LOADED WITH SPLIT TEAK WOOD WAS INTERCEPTED BY POLICE NEAR ASSAM TRIPURA BORDER. THE JOINT OPERATION OF KATHALTALI AND KUKITAL POLICE LED TO THE SEIZURE OF THIRTY-SIX PIECES OF TEAK WOOD. THE DRIVER ATTEMPTED TO FLEE BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

I/C OF KATHALTALI POLICE OUTPOST, HANDED OVER THE CONFISCATED GOODS TO CHURAIBARI FOREST OFFICE.

## WHO

### World Health Organisation

Mariana Guerra & Juliana Gómez



#### TOPIC 1:

Substandard and falsified antibiotics as a threat to global health

#### **WHO Topic 1 Context**





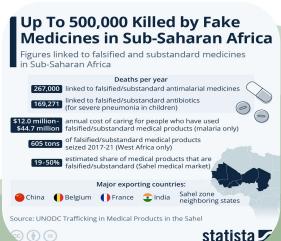


- Substandard antibiotics are a serious global health concern, specifically in low-middle income countries. They may be authorised medical products that fail to meet requirements such as quality, standards, and specifications, often due to poor transport and manufacturing. This can lead to treatment failure, prolonged illness, increased mortality, and contribute to the rise of antimicrobial resistance.
- Falsified antibiotics are products that are counterfeited. They may include products without active ingredients, with insufficient active ingredients, with the wrong active ingredient and/or containing other toxic chemicals, impurities or bacteria.
- According to a World Health Organization report, about 10% of medicines on the global market are counterfeit (Md Hasanuzzaman Shohag et al., 2023). Two hundred and sixty-five studies that estimated the prevalence of poor-quality essential medicines in low- and middle-income countries were identified. Among 96 studies that tested 50 samples or more (67 839 total drug samples), overall prevalence of poor-quality medicines was 13.6% (Ozawa et al., 2018). Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim was found to have the highest failure frequency, followed by ampicillin, amoxicillin, ciprofloxacin and tetracycline. Highest failure frequency was recorded in Africa and Asia.
  - At least 1 in 10 medicines in low- and middle-income countries are substandard or falsified, a large portion of which are antibiotics. Countries spend an estimated US\$ 30.5 billion per year on substandard and falsified medical products. Reasons for this include the high price or scarcity of genuine antibiotics, coupled with lax regulatory agencies and the ease of buying medicines online.
- Substandard antibiotics are thought to lead to the deaths of up to 170,000 children under five every year in the
  world. The use of these products leads to antimicrobial resistance due to inadequate treatment of the illness.
   These medicines may be bought directly by the patient or administered in hospitals.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>India</u>

#### **WHO Topic 1 Guiding Questions**

- **1.** Has your country experienced issues with substandard or falsified antibiotics? If so, what has been the government's response to these challenges?
- **2.** What impact has the circulation of poor-quality antibiotics had on your country's public health system and its ability to treat infectious diseases?
- **3.** What national laws or policies regulate the manufacturing, import, and sale of antibiotics, and how strictly are they enforced?
- **4.** How does your country ensure that antibiotics available to the public meet international safety and quality standards?
- **5.** What role does your country's healthcare system play in detecting and reporting cases of substandard or falsified antibiotics?
- **6.** How does your country educate the public and healthcare workers about the dangers of using fake or low-quality antibiotics?
- **7.** Has your country participated in any international initiatives or partnerships aimed at reducing the spread of falsified medicines? If so, how effective have these been?
- **8.** How does your country balance the need for affordable medicines with the need to ensure those medicines are safe and effective?





#### TOPIC 2:

# Tackling obesity as a global health concern

#### **WHO Topic 2 Context**



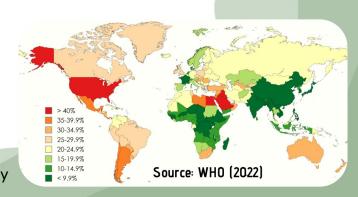


- Obesity is a chronic complex disease defined by excessive fat deposits that can impair health. Obesity can lead to increased risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease, it can affect bone health and reproduction, and it increases the risk of certain cancers. Obesity influences many aspects of the quality of living, such as sleeping or moving. More than half of adults and a third of children and young people worldwide will be overweight or obese by 2050, posing an "unparalleled threat" of early death, disease and enormous strain on healthcare systems, a report warns.
- The economic impacts of the obesity epidemic are also important. If nothing is done, the global costs of overweight and obesity are predicted to reach 3 trillion USD per year by 2030 and more than 18 trillion USD by 2060.
- Pacific island nations have the highest rates of obesity. The rates of obesity tripled in the USA over the past 50 years. As of 2023, approximately 60% of adults in some countries in the eastern Mediterranean region were overweight or obese. Chile has one of the highest levels of childhood obesity in the world. The USA, Mexico, UK and Australia have the highest rates of severe (Type III obesity)
- Many regions are suffering increases in obesity levels due to diet and lifestyle changes, including eating more
  processed food and having a sedentary lifestyle. It is better to prevent obesity than to try to treat it, as it is
  difficult for overweight people to lose weight and then keep to a healthy level. For example, concerns have
  arisen due to diabetes medication, such as Ozempic, being used for weight loss instead of for their original
  purpose.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Chile</u>

#### **WHO Topic 2 Guiding Questions**

- 1. Has your country suffered an increase in obesity rates over the last decade? If so, what extra costs has this brought to the health care system?
- **2.** What percentage of adults and children are considered to be obese or overweight in your country?
- **3.** What is the link between multinational food companies and rising obesity in your country, if any?
- **4.** How do cultural practices affect the rates of obesity in your country?
- **5.** Does your country have any guidelines or education programmes to combat rising obesity rates?
- **6.** How does your government regulate the sale and/or consumption of processed and unhealthy food?
- **7.** Has your country focused on medical treatments for obesity in the primary healthcare system?
- 8. How much should governments be responsible for regulating the obesity levels of their citizens? What international agreements could be made concerning the control of levels of obesity, if any?





## **UPPER SCHOOL**



## EP

#### European Parliament

Daniel Cano & Juan Sebastián Uribe



#### TOPIC 1:

Admitting new nations into the European Union

#### **EP Topic 1 Context**





- There are currently 9 countries being considered as candidates for joining the European Union: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- There are certain requirements for a country to be able to join the EU, such as a functioning market economy, stable institutions and the ability to implement and follow policies within the EU. Currently, there is an expansion plan to include 6 western Balkan countries.
- Even though Turkey has been pushing to join the EU for many years, the accession process has never gone through. Turkey has been denied entry due to its alleged Human Rights violations and deficits in rule of law. Other nations, such as Croatia, started their accession process after Turkey, but still managed to join the EU before Turkey.
  - A country gains a variety of socioeconomic benefits from being a part of the EU, which is the main driving force behind many countries attempting to join. These include: freedom to move and work in the region; access to a single market for their products; funding to help improve the environment; and greater security.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: Georgia

### **EP Topic 1 Guiding Questions**



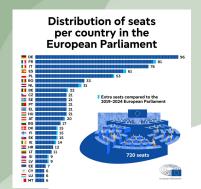
ENLARGEMENT PACKAGE 2023

- What level of influence does your MEP hold within the European Parliament? Do they hold any special roles with the EP?
- 2. What is the position of the country your MEP represents regarding the accession process of other countries to the European Union?
- 3. What is the position of your MEP regarding the accession process of other countries to the European Union? Is it aligned with that of their country's government?
- Does your MEP come from a country which has recently had an accession process such as Croatia or Bulgaria? If so, how has integration into the EU affected the country?
- What mechanisms can ensure that candidate countries meet democratic, economic, and human rights standards before accession?
- 6. Should Turkey's stalled accession process be revived, terminated, or renegotiated under new terms?
- **7.** Should the EU introduce stricter or more flexible criteria for membership in light of recent global challenges?
- Should restrictions be put on newly integrated countries for a set period of time after they enter the EU? If so, what sort of restrictions should there be?

#### TOPIC 2:

# Tackling corruption in the European Union

#### **EP Topic 2 Context**







- MEPs are Members of the European Parliament, elected every 5 years to represent either their European Nation of origin or the European Nation in which they reside. There are currently 720 MEPs for the 2024-2029 legislative term.
- During 2022, a political scandal known as "Qatargate" involving 7 MEPs came to light; they were accused of receiving bribes from the governments of Qatar, Morocco, and Mauritania in exchange for favorable policymaking.
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has faced allegations of corruption and misconduct, particularly concerning the EU's COVID-19 vaccine procurement process.
- In recent years, new scandals involve tech companies such as Huawei and multiple MEPs suspected
  of being involved in a cash-to-influence network.
- According to the European Commission, corruption is estimated to cost the EU around 179-990 billion euros per year, amounting to 6% of the EU's GDP.
- Regarding recent corruption scandals, the EP has passed multiple ethics reforms for the
  organization, nonetheless, many experts and MEPs believe these measures to be greatly ineffective.
  Authorities in Belgium, Italy, and Greece have found evidence of influence trafficking, but many of
  the involved MEPs are protected by political immunity which prevents them from being properly
  processed.
- Please follow this link to read a case study: <u>Huawei</u>

#### **EP Topic 2 Guiding Questions**





- **1.** Has your MEP been involved in any corruption scandals such as Qatargate? In what way have they been involved?
- 2. What nation does your MEP represent? What anti-corruption policies have been applied in your nation that could be useful for the European Parliament?
- **3.** What does your MEP personally believe regarding the corruption scandals in the European Union?
- **4.** Which political group does your MEP belong to? And what are the perspectives and proposed solutions of this party?
- What concrete measures has your MEP proposed or supported to enhance transparency and reduce corruption within the European Parliament?
- In light of the Qatargate and Huawei lobbying scandals, what safeguards does your MEP support to prevent undue foreign influence in EU policy making?
- Would your MEP support suspending or expelling members under investigation before a conviction? Or do they prioritise due process?

## GLS

#### Global Leaders Summit

Stefanía Jaramillo & Luciana Lozada



#### TOPIC 1:

Jus Ad Bellum:

Evaluating the legitimacy of military intervention in the South Sudan conflict

#### **GLS Topic 1 Context**

- Jus ad Bellum: Refers to the set of legal and ethical principles to determine whether a state has a legitimate justification for engaging in war. These include having just cause, being authorised by a legitimate authority, having a reasonable chance of success and ensuring force is only used as a last resort and that the scale of the force is proportional to the harm it seeks to address.
- The Sudanese Civil War began in December 2013 as a result of political power struggles between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar. This tension quickly escalated into a brutal conflict, primarily involving the Dinka and Nuer ethnic communities.
- Due to ongoing violence, mass atrocity crimes and humanitarian crises, there have been calls for an international military intervention to protect civilians and stabilize the country.
- This topic aims to evaluate the legitimacy of military intervention in the South Sudan conflict through the lens of Jus ad Bellum, as it may be considered illegitimate if it lacks proper authorization, does not have a genuine humanitarian cause or has a low chance of success.
- To learn more about the situation in South Sudan, follow the link: <u>Sudan</u>

#### lus ad Bellum

- 1. War must be in a just cause
- 2. War must be declared by a competent authority
- · 3. There must be just intention
- 4. There must be compassion of justice on both sides
- · 5. War must be a last resort
- 6. There should be a reasonable likelihood of success
- 7. Proportionality



### **GLS Topic 1 Guiding Questions**





- Does your leader consider that Jus ad Bellum provides an adequate framework for determining the legitimacy of military intervention in modern conflicts? Why or why not?
- 2. If the answer is yes, how does your leader interpret and prioritise the principles of Jus ad Bellum?
- **3.** Does your leader consider the current humanitarian crisis in South Sudan sufficient grounds for military intervention? Could it lead to long-term stability or could it risk exacerbating the conflict?
- **4.** What other conditions would your leader require to be met before supporting military intervention in South Sudan?
- **5.** What other alternatives to military intervention does your leader support to resolve the South Sudan conflict?
- Does your leader consider frameworks beyond Jus ad Bellum, such as Responsibility to Protect (R2P) when assessing the legitimacy of military intervention in South Sudan?
- **7.** How should the upholding of South Sudan's sovereignty be weighted against the international community's duty to protect vulnerable populations?

#### TOPIC 2:

Are human rights universal or culturally relative?

#### **GLS Topic 2 Context**

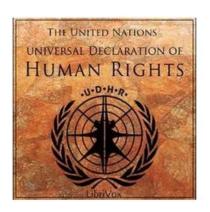
- Cultural relativism: The belief that values, beliefs and human rights are shaped by cultural context and should be understood within the traditions and norms of a specific society rather than judged by external standards.
- The concept of Universal Human Rights suggests that every person is entitled to certain fundamental rights regardless of their national, cultural or religious identity. These are not given up for interpretation.
- Certain practices like arranged marriages or female genital mutilation are seen as rightful practice in some cultures, but are seen as human rights violations from the point of view of other societies. This raises the question of whose standards should prevail.
- The UN encourages regional human rights associations like the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights to adapt these universal principles to their cultural contexts. However, it is difficult to determine if this is a violation of each country's sovereignty or a necessary measure to protect human rights globally.
- For a case study, follow the link: <u>Arab charter of human rights</u>



#### What is Cultural Relativism?

- Def.: is in essence an approach to the questions of the nature and role of values in culture. It represents a scientific inductive attack on an age old philosophical problem.
- The principle of cultural relativism is:
  - Judgments are based on experience, and experience is interpreted by each individual in terms of his own enculturation.

### **GLS Topic 2 Guiding Questions**





- 1. Is the UDHR truly universal, considering it was developed within a post-World War II context dominated mainly by Western powers?
- 2. If cultural relativism were widely accepted as a principle, how might this affect the global response to human rights violations in authoritarian nations?
- 3. Does your leader view cultural relativism as a genuine argument for justifying rights-violating practices, or as an excuse?
- **4.** Does your leader believe that it is or should be possible to achieve a globally accepted framework for human rights that accommodates cultural diversity?
- **5.** How does your leader view the responsibility of states under the Responsibility to Protect doctrine when cultural practices result in mass human rights abuses?
- **6.** Is it necessary to redefine human rights so to make them more inclusive of non-Western values?

## SC

#### United Nations Security Council

María José Morales & Gabriela Tascón

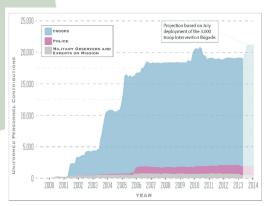


#### TOPIC 1:

Increasing the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping missions in post-conflict zones such as the Democratic Republic of Congo

#### **UNSC Topic 1 Context**





- United Nations peacekeeping missions are activities that seek to help states transition from war to peace, and they are generally composed of military, police, and civilian components.
- In afflicted countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the missions seek to protect civilians, uphold political processes, and support disarmament and ex-combatant reintegration. Efforts at UN peacekeeping in the DRC have been halted by sustained violence, logistical setbacks, and coordination problems with the national and local government.
- The "Action for Peacekeeping" (A4P) initiative, which was put forward by the UN Department of Peace Operations, calls for stronger mandates, performance tracking, and increased partnerships to strengthen delivery. Regional coordination and intelligence sharing is key in the management of fresh threats by armed groups and political unrest in post-conflict zones. Having more women in the peacekeeping forces is thought to help with the effectiveness of missions and community trust.
- The Kigali Principles for the Protection of Civilians and UN Security Council Resolution 2098 (2013) are an incentive towards the strengthening of the organisation and agility of peacekeeping missions. For example, they allow for more force to be used by peacekeeping troops in order to protect citizens.
- Follow the link for a case study: <u>Liberia</u>

MONUC/MONUSCO uniformed peacekeeping deployments, 2000-2014. Source: IPI 2013 Peacekeeping Database, available at http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/ contributions/

#### **UNSC Topic 1 Guiding Questions**







- **1.** Has your country ever been involved with UN peacekeeping operations? If so, what was its role in these operations?
- 2. What are the resources (military personnel, funding, logistics, training, etc.) that your country contributes or is willing to contribute towards the support of UN peacekeeping missions?
- **3.** Has your nation proposed or supported reform in the UN for the purpose of strengthening peacekeeping? If so, what are they?
- **4.** What is the position of your country on the work of peacekeeping missions within countries such as the DRC today?
- **5.** How can peacekeepers balance the need for robust action with respect for sovereignty and human rights?
- What is your nation's view regarding local societies' roles in the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations?
- 7. What proposals does your delegation make to improve peacekeeping efficiency, coordination, and long-term stability in the DRC or other similar conflict areas?

#### TOPIC 2:

## Open Agenda

Please keep up to date with current affairs