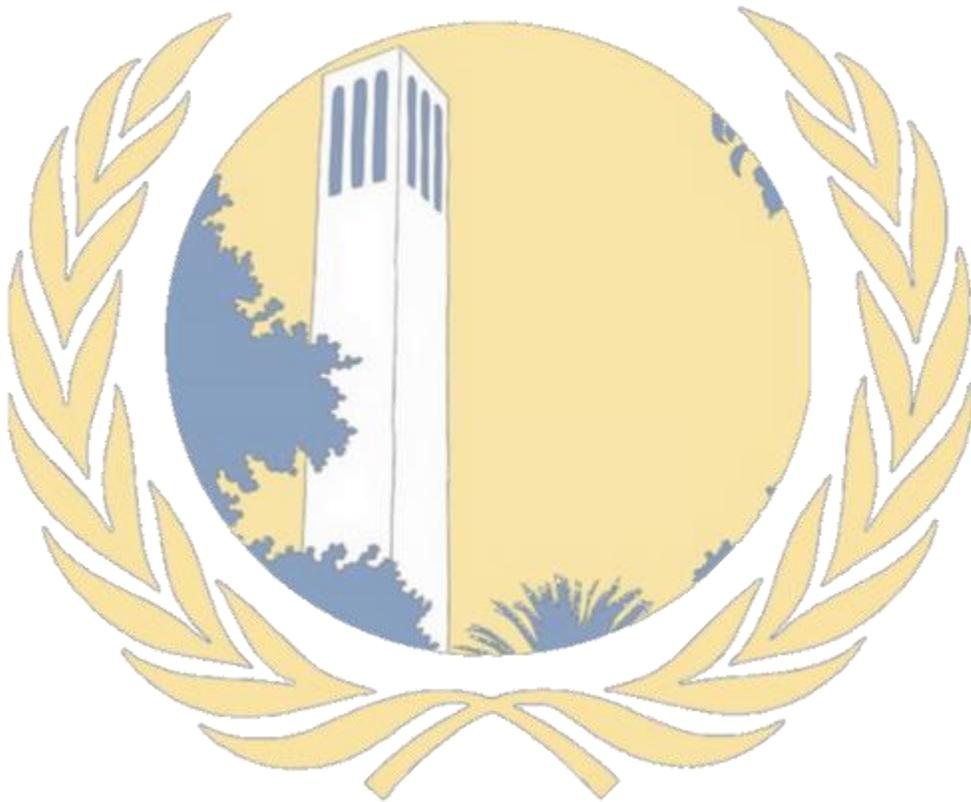Tenth Annual Session *of the*

Gaucho Model United Nations Conference

February 15–17, 2019

United Nations General Assembly, Third

Committee

Chair's Letter

Honorable delegates,

   I am delighted to be welcoming you all to the United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee, at the Gaucho Model United Nations Conference 2019. My name is Hallie Georguson, and I am a first-year English major at UC Santa Barbara. This will be my second experience as a chair this year, and I am always looking forward to the creativity that delegates bring to committee. Overall, I am beyond excited to meet all of you and see what ideas you bring to General Assembly, Third Committee!

   In committee, we will be examining and debating on a unique scope of topics. The elimination of human trafficking and the enhancement of coordination with humanitarian response to natural disasters have each seen increased efforts toward their achievement, but little success overall. As delegates, you will be tasked with providing new approaches to these issues through the lenses of your country's respective moral foundation. I am confident that with your individual perspectives as delegates in combination with some outside research, you will make great strides toward drafting resolutions for these topics. That being said, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and concerns you may have regarding committee.

Best of luck in debate!

Hallie Georguson

Chair, United Nations General Assembly, Sixth Committee

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Honorable delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to UN General Assembly 3rd or Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee! I am a first year here at UCSB majoring in Mathematics within the College of Creative Studies. I was introduced to MUN this fall, where coming into college I staffed a Star Wars crisis committee at our UCSB conference. While the topics in our committee will be quite different from that, I look forward to seeing the same enthusiasm and rigor on such a pertinent issue. This will be my first time co-chairing and I am so excited to be chairing this committee!

The issue at hand is extremely important as the number of humanitarian crises as well as those people impacted by them rise each year. I anticipate an invigorating debate around solutions, as the expansion of this problem has pushed more and more countries towards an staunch position. While this issue is rather simple at heart, the factors affecting it are complex and there are many directions in which the flow of action could take. With this study guide and some outside research I am sure you will be ready for an engaging discussion on the issue. If you have any questions please feel free to email Hallie or myself.

Looking forward to meeting you soon!

Nicole Gibson,

Vice-chair, General Assembly 3rd Committee

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Committee Introduction

The General Assembly, Third Committee (GA3), is one of six committees within the United Nations General Assembly. This committee sees items on the agenda related to social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, and is thus often referred to as SOCHUM (social-humanitarian). This includes providing official answers to questions of human rights, and drafting resolutions to protect these rights. In addition, the committee is responsible for considering the rights and equality of people of varying age, gender, race, and ethnicity.[1]

As is the case with all committees within the General Assembly, GA3 includes all United Nations Member States. Consequently, the committee is tasked with debating social and humanitarian issues in 193 countries. Seeing as human rights issues have a direct effect on all citizens, GA3 receives a plethora of topics per committee session, and is arguably the busiest of the General Assembly committees. It is typical for most topics to simply be carried over several committee sessions before it is up for debate.[2] In order to help manage the abundance of human rights issues worldwide, the General Assembly passed resolution 60/251 in 2006, establish the UN Human Rights Council.[3]

Topic 1- Eliminating Human Trafficking in Developing Nations

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[1] http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/
[2] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/ecosoc/un-ga-third-committee.html
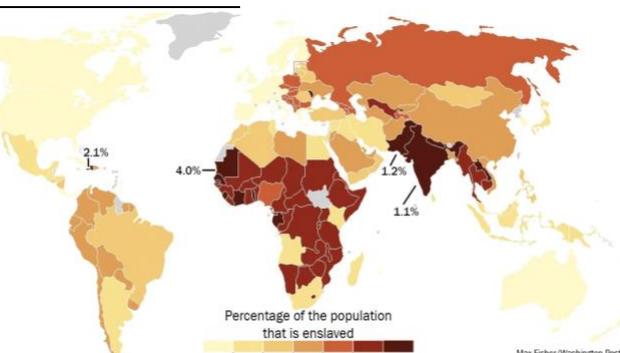[3] https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/aboutcouncil.aspx

Background

Article III, paragraph (a), of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol defines human trafficking as follows:

"…the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs." [4]

This definition perfectly summarizes the breadth of human trafficking. A common misunderstanding is that human trafficking involves only commercial sex. However, there are frequent cases of labor trafficking in addition to the more widely-known sex-trafficking.[5] Another misconception is that all cases of human trafficking involve physical force or kidnapping in order to gain control over trafficking victims.[6] This definition clarifies that a person can be coerced into giving consent to acts of human trafficking.

Human trafficking has an extensive history with instances occurring in several nations around the world. Beginning in early civilizations and continuing for many centuries, slavery was the most common form of human trafficking. Although many countries have come to abolish slavery, it has managed to continue in the form of human trafficking under the radar of citizens from freed countries. According to *The Washington Post,* there were approximately 30 million people living as slaves in one form or another as of 2013.[7]

[4] https://ww fickinginpersons.aspx
[5] https://pol
[6] https://hun -misconceptions
[7] https://ww 7/this-map-shows-where-the-worlds-
30-million-s utm_term=.8fbd7560dabb

Percentage of the population
that is enslaved

Max Fisher/Washington Post

As pictured above, the highest proportions of human trafficking occur in "developing nations." A developing nation is one such that the national income is relatively low in comparison to industrial nations. In these countries, there in not enough economic stability for citizens to have secure sources for their needs. This is a major reason for the high volume of human trafficking in these countries. Traffickers, desperate for a source of income, will resort to the force and coercion of others in order to provide security to themselves and their families. Unfortunately, many governments choose not to report human trafficking in their countries, and little action is taken to address the problem.[8]

Past United Nations Involvement

In November 2000, the UN General Assembly ratified resolution 55/25- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This resolution provided the first official definition for "trafficking in persons" by the UN, as well as steps toward its prevention. Article 9, for example, recommends research and education about human trafficking, and the implementation of measures which shall "alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity."[9]

Passed in August 2010 was resolution 64/293, United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which essentially reiterated the UN's continued stance against human trafficking. Additionally, it provided further support for the 2000 resolution, and continued to recommend the same steps toward research, education, and the prevention of human

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[8]http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html
[9] https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx

trafficking.[10] Public statements from the UN continue to emphasize its efforts against human trafficking, but little progress has been made to provide further steps toward its worldwide elimination.

Recent Events

A news article by *The Times of India* from October 2018 is proof of human trafficking's continued prevalence in developing countries. According to the article, police uncovered a system of human trafficking in Bhuj, comprised of the selling of minor girls for marriage. A total of eight people were arrested, admitting to have at least six girls. A girl who was rescued from the scheme explained that she was lied to in order to go with her captor, and that she was not taken through physical force.[11]

Not all instances of human trafficking occur in developing nations. In fact, there are an estimated 1.5 million human trafficking victims in the United States.[12] Samuel Marino, victim of a Connecticut sex trafficking ring, highlights the existence of human trafficking among boys and men in addition to women and girls.[13] Unfortunately, men and boys receive only a fraction of the support female victims do, as they account for a mere 10% of trafficking victims.[14] Because of this lack of support, men are generally less able to cope with the mental repercussions of being trafficking victims. This leads to many cases of boys and men similar to Marino, who was not learned to be a sex trafficking victim until years after his death.[15]

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[10] https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2000-2009/2009/General_Assembly/A-RES-64-293.pdf

[11] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/racket-of-trafficking-minor-girls-busted/articleshow/66125443.cms

[12] https://arkofhopeforchildren.org/child-trafficking/child-trafficking-statistics

[13] https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2018-11-15/case-reveals-shame-trauma-of-male-sex-trafficking-victims

[14] https://arkofhopeforchildren.org/child-trafficking/child-trafficking-statistics

[15] https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2018-11-15/case-reveals-shame-trauma-of-male-sex-trafficking-victims

Bloc Positions

North Americas

The United States has a series of programs in place, including the President's Interagency Task Force, comprised of Cabinet members with specialized efforts toward combating human trafficking problems. Alternatively, Canada has only recently directed its attention toward human trafficking. However, a majority of this focus is directed toward the illegal aspects trafficking, neglecting to address the needs of victims. In Mexico, there are few systems in place to prevent and prosecute human trafficking. Traffickers are typically charged with forcing prostitution on others, rather than trafficking specifically.[16]

Europe

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings emphasizes the violation of human rights involved in human trafficking, and strives to prevent and combat human trafficking in European countries. For the most part, its clauses reiterate those of the UN's resolution 55/25, even using the same definition for "trafficking in persons." It also expands on the definitions of other key terms related to human trafficking, and other methods for its prevention.[17]

Asia

Efforts in Southeast Asia have worked toward decreasing the number of trafficked child laborers and providing necessary services to trafficking victims. The organization "GoodWeave" has successfully decreased the number of trafficked children in the handmade rug-making industry by 75%. Areas of Asia also work to educate traffickers themselves on the crimes they are committing.[18]

Africa

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[16] http://gaatw.org/working_papers/N%20America/United%20States%20Report.pdf
[17] https://rm.coe.int/168008371d
[18] https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-fight-for-freedom-7-organizations-combatting-human-trafficking

Countries in Africa have some of the highest numbers of human trafficking victims in the World. In 2003, Nigeria founded the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking (NAPTIP) in Persons in order to lessen these numbers. This organization focuses primarily on schools and rural areas, as these locations have a large number of vulnerable citizens, and are more likely to be taken into human trafficking.[19]

South America

Several countries in South America have voiced their intent to combat human trafficking. 17 of these countries have signed a declaration expressing their commitment to dedicate more resources toward finding and prosecuting human traffickers.[20]

Questions to Consider

1. What more can the UN do to prevent human trafficking before it happens?

2. How can government bodies and NGOs cooperate to provide help to trafficking victims?

3. What methods can the UN use to decide which countries should qualify for more funding to combat human trafficking?

4. How can governments improve economics within the country in order to prevent citizens from becoming vulnerable to human trafficking?

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[19] https://www.voanews.com/a/nigeria-working-to-stop-human-trafficking/4151273.html
[20] https://www.voanews.com/a/nigeria-working-to-stop-human-trafficking/4151273.html

Topic 2 - Enhancing Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

Background

The rate of disasters grows annually, as staggering numbers of persons and nations are affected each year. With 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, the UN is now witnessing the highest recorded levels of displacement, as a rate of roughly 1 person forcibly displaced every 2 seconds[21]. A disaster, according to the UN, is "a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope with using its own resources[22]". Any disaster can set back development gains made over decades of hard work, and studies have shown that in the last 20 years over 90 per cent of all disasters were in fact floods, storms, droughts and other extreme weather events.[23] In 2017 alone, data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center revealed 18 million new weather-related displacements.[24] In addition to natural disasters, extraneous emergencies such as those due to conflict or food insecurity have been recognized with formal thresholds for emergency status. Often these natural disasters and emergency situations result in mass displacement which escalates the issues at hand. It is important that the UN can coordinate its efforts to aid affected nations to act effectively and swiftly, stunting the escalation of the disaster. The aid should come in two aspects, both to address the immediate sufferings of persons affected by disasters and additionally offering them a long term developmental solution to a more systematic problem. This aid can more concisely be called humanitarian assistance, which by definition is aid "intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards,

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[21] https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html
[22] http://www.un-spider.org/risks-and-disasters
[23] https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/10/1022722
[24] https://unchronicle.un.org/article/economic-losses-and-displacement-should-drive-disaster-risk-reduction-efforts

as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur[25]". Ensuring humanitarian assistance is complete, many facets of the aid must be considered, and specialists are designated within specified organs to address each issue.

While other organs of the UN work on disaster risk reduction, coordinating their actions proves to be a lengthy process as data and information must be transferred from organ to organ. The effectiveness and coordination of responses is a topic revisited annually within SOCHUM as its many faucets are ever present and ever changing.

Past United Nations Involvement

Resolution 44/236 of the General Assembly declared the 1990s the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction[26], paving the way for resolution 46/182 which provides the most current outline of humanitarian assistance. Passed on December 19, 1991 by the General Assembly Resolution 46/182, it preserves sovereignty of nations by permitting only efforts which are organized by those states in need of humanitarian assistance. It establishes that impartial humanitarian aid should be given by all capable nations, because the impact of these events are often too great for the affected country to address. The resolution declares any assistance should be presented as a step towards long-term development, to ensure not only an immediate but a lasting solution. It requests technologies on the mitigation of disasters be shared globally, and provides necessary organs of the UN with sufficient funds and resources.[27] Perhaps the most notable outcome is the partnership of SOCHUM with other organizations and organs of the UN to better address global humanitarian crises.

This resolution has been influential since its conceivement and is still a keystone informant of humanitarian intervention policy today.

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[25] http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/data-guides/defining-humanitarian-aid.
[26] http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/44/a44r236.htm
[27] http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm

Recent Events

Sudan sustained heavy rains and flash floods in 2018 displacing 24,000 people this year and affecting 222,275 individuals. These heavy rains have also sparked the outbreak of many water borne diseases, the most pertinent of which is Chikungunya, for which there is no cure and as of November 2018 has affected 20,110 individuals. Despite the 368,000 citizens who have returned to their area of origin since 2015, there are still roughly 5.5 million people in need of assistance in Sudan, the majority of which are classified as Internally Displaced Persons or Vulnerable Residents[28].

Additionally acute malnutrition levels in children have been measured, the issue affecting over 15 percent of the population, placing the issue well above emergency thresholds. Actions have been taken to improve agricultural production, however much of the population still faces food insecurity due to natural hazards and disasters[29]. This humanitarian crisis sparked by conflict has multi faucets and continues to struggle in finding a solution which promotes sustainable development.

A similar situation has been encountered by the pastoral communities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. These communities, while physically remote and universally poor are often economic hubs that substantiate livestock trade to local markets across many borders. Located in the Horn of Africa, a region historically riveted by conflict, they have sustained heavy flooding after the worst drought experienced since the El Nido induced drought in 2016. This has driven food insecurity immensely and increased malnutrition rates because of the substantial livestock deaths. The floods occurred in April 2018, displacing more than 700,000 people a number which grew when Cyclone Sagar struck Somalia in May.

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28 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sudan_Humanitarian_Snapshot_A4_1_Dec_2018.pdf

29 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sudan_2018_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf

In addition to recent natural disasters, these pastoral communities face larger issues which systematically must be addressed. They have long been poverty traps, as more and more land becomes privatized, especially surrounding major resources such as water. Their resilience comes at the cost of education, and presents a relatively gloomy outlook for women raised as repeated violations of their human rights are common but have no way out[30].

Bloc Positions

European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid

The European Bloc, along with other member states, recognizes humanitarian crises as a worthy cause to donate such time and effort too, and plan to continue their aid. However they also intend to take precautionary measures in hopes of preventing the outbreak of some humanitarian crises. While they express fears for the safety of those individuals who give humanitarian aid, they staunchly support international humanitarian law and are dedicated to upholding these principles[31].

United States of America

The USA established a foreign aid program after World War II, separate from the UN however developing around the same timeline. In 1961 President Kennedy established the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has since become a formal partner of the UN Development Program. They privately fund development in those regions listed[32].

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China is in staunch support of international humanitarian aid. Proof of this is the established grant programs to fund health operations globally, with

[30] https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pathways-resilience-pastoralist-areas-synthesis-research-horn-africa
[31] https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/55529/eu-statement-–-united-nations-general-assembly-strengthening-un-coordination-humanitarian-and_en
[32] https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore

particular emphasis towards Africa, despite its limited long-term sustainability[33]. To address this criticism a new agency was established in April 2018 which shall oversee all future foreign aid projects[34].

South Africa

Works alongside the US and other donors to implement humanitarian aid in the larger Africa region. They have many fragmented efforts which are fast-growing to aid nations politically and medically[35].

Questions to Consider

1. Are there any practices within your government which would be beneficial for the UN to model?

2. What are the early signs of permanent dependency?

3. What value is in the disaster prevention measures? Should they receive increased funding? Decreased?

4. Are those countries affected by these disasters responding adequately? Any suggestions for how they might act differently?

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[33] Shajalal M, Xu J, Jing J. et al.
China's engagement with development assistance for health in Africa.
Glob Health Res Policy. 2017; 2: 24
[34] https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31496-X/fulltext
[35] https://www.loc.gov/law/help/foreign-aid/southafrica.php