



# EXPERIENCED BEGINNER ECOSOC

## Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations  
Committee Chair: Andrea Southard

- To maintain international peace and security
- To develop friendly relations among nations
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations

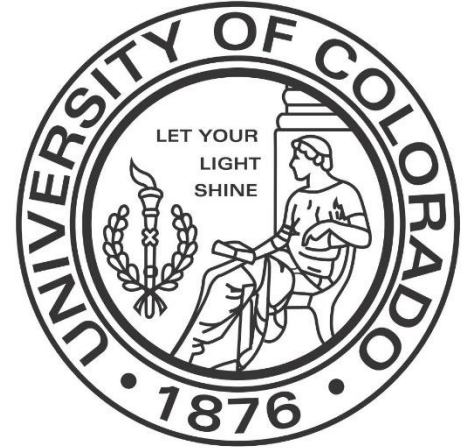


Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2016 University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations Conference.

The three topics that will be covered under Exp. Beginner ECOSOC are:

- I. Welfare and Safety of Refugee Camps in the Middle East and Africa
- II. The Risk of Cultural Cleansing/Genocide in the Middle East
- III. Sustaining Development in Unstable MENA States



In this guide, background information will be provided on the topics presented as well as other resources to reference while researching for your delegation. We fully hope that you will explore member states positions and policies further. Many items will be brought up in the guide that may be a valuable starting point for your research. Prior to the conference each delegation should submit a position paper representing the views of their delegation on the issues in the agenda. Please review the guidelines for Model United Nations before attending and be familiar with policies on conduct and guidelines.

We hope to see you soon,

Andrea Southard

Committee Chair

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## Introduction

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home>

ECOSOC is the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. They mainly focus on the three aspects of development; economic, social, and environmental. Established in 1945, ECOSOC has a rich history of promoting progression and sustainability around the world. Meeting annually, for four-week long sessions, ECOSOC will also have occasional surplus meeting with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The council serves as a platform for the UN to also communicate and work with (registered) non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals. In an attempt to maintain balance and representation, the president of ECOSOC is a singular delegation from a small to mid-sized power - Frederick Shava of Zimbabwe is currently serving his 2016-2017 presidential term. Sustainable Development, Civil Society, and Humanitarian Action will be the main themes of this ECOSOC council - especially in regards to turmoil going on in the Middle East (and Northern Africa). Made up of 54 members, the council will formally invite and recognize the following non-voting states: Sudan, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Mali, and Israel.

### Acronyms Used:

- MENA: Middle East and Northern Africa
- ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council
- WHS: World Heritage Sites

## Committee Basics

### **How to write your Position Paper**

The Position Paper is a short document that is essentially a summary of your knowledge of the topic and the position your country plans to take when it enters committee. It typically contains four sections: Background of Topic, Past International Actions, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions. Position Papers are usually due before the conference.

- **Background of topic:** Background guide of the topic provided by the conference, Google, the news, Wikipedia (to frame the topic)

- **Past international actions:** UN website, your committee's website, key treaties or resolutions mentioned in your background guide, UN or NGO reports
- **Country policy:** CIA World Fact book, your country's foreign ministry website, domestic programs within your country, and your country's voting record on key treaties or resolutions
- **Possible Solutions:** NGO or think tank policy recommendations, past UN resolutions that you'd like to change or expand on, and your own creativity!

### **How to write your Draft Resolutions (not applicable in Beginner Security Council)**

**Perambulatory Clause:** The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a **perambulatory** phrase) and ends with a comma.

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue;
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

**Operative Clause:** Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principals:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

## **Committee Structure**

1. Each committee is led by a Chairperson who facilitates the discussion for the committee. The committee will start with the Chairperson taking roll call. Afterward, the committee will vote on which of the

assigned topics to discuss first. After the topic is selected, the committee is ready to begin debate on the selected topic.

2a. There are three debate formats. The default debate format is called the [Speakers List](#). This where delegates take turns making speeches in front of the room by the order that they are listed on the Speakers List as selected by the Chair. Speeches are typically around 1 minute or 1 minute and 30 seconds, but the speaking time can be changed by a majority vote from the delegates.

2b. After a certain number of speeches, the delegates may vote to change up the debate format to either [Moderated Caucus](#) or [Unmoderated Caucus](#). Moderated Caucus is when the committee decides to focus on a sub-issue and get a back-and-forth debate going. Delegates will raise their placards to be called on to speak, and the Chairperson will call on speakers one-by-one until the Moderated Caucus time has expired.

2c. Unmoderated Caucus is when delegates are free to get up out of their seats and roam around the room to work with other countries with similar policies. The first one or two unmoderated caucuses will be spent finding allies, but afterward most of the unmoderated caucuses are spent writing [working papers](#), to be worked on with your caucus bloc (your group of allies). All delegates are encouraged to be a sponsor — an author — of a working paper. Committee will switch between Speakers List, Moderated Caucus, and Unmoderated Caucus until draft resolutions are complete, merged, and ready to be presented.

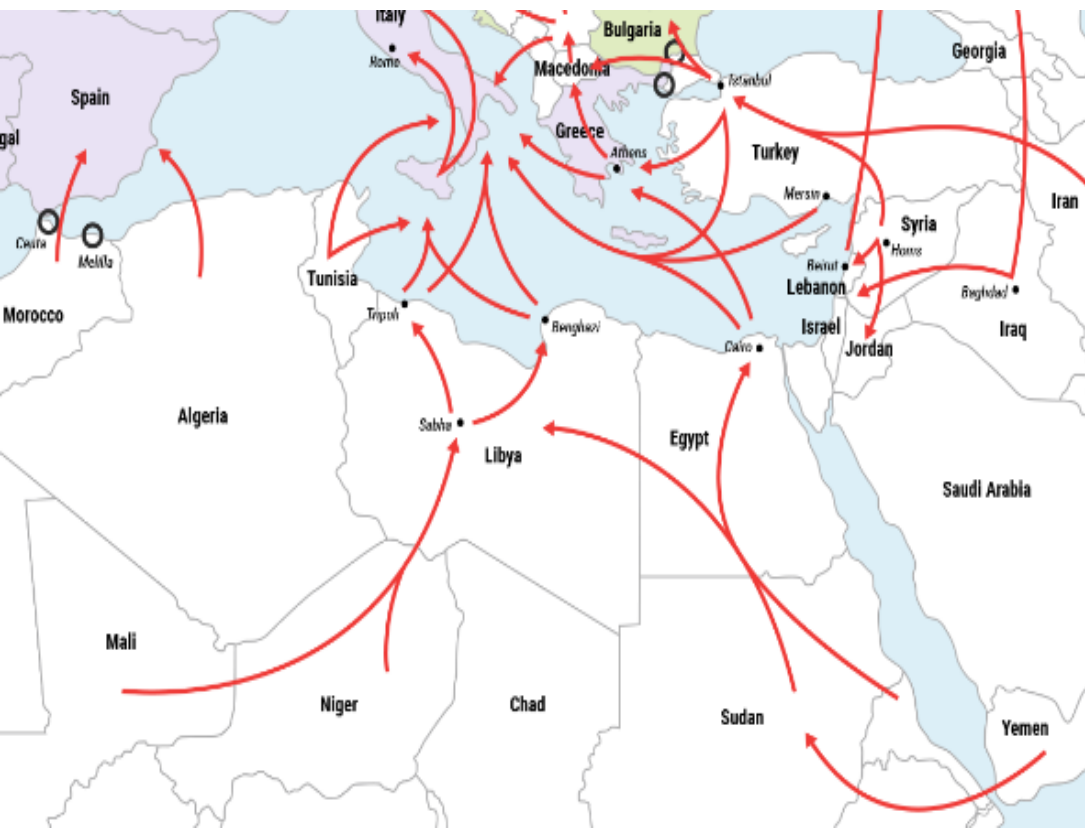
3. Resolutions will be presented either as they are ready or all at once near the end of the conference (sometimes this is called Formal Caucus). Some conferences allow a question-and-answer period after the presentations, and some conferences will also allow time to make mergers or amendments to the resolution.

4. Finally, all the countries in the committee will vote on whether or not they want a resolution to be passed. Afterward, committee will repeat the same process again for the second topic if one exists.

# The Welfare and Safety of Refugee Camps in the Middle East and Africa

## Core Questions:

- How can ECOSOC work to ensure safer places for families and individuals to live whilst displaced - especially for children?
- What preventative measures can be taken to ensure safety to aid being provided within the camps? The safety of doctors, providers, international aid, etc? The safety of the local communities nearby?



- How do we address the current dangers within these camps, such as: Forced recruitment into armed groups, Abduction/Sexual Assaults, and Theft/Violence

## Background: Understanding Where and Why

As it stands, there are nine civil wars raging in Islamic countries in both the Middle East and Northern Africa. Entire regions have become uninhabitable for the communities which founded them; resulting in mass exoduses. Roughly half of Syria's population fled the country, starting around 2011; 2.6 million Iraqi's did similar, so did the refugees of South Sudan. 21.3 million refugees are currently seeking refuge elsewhere, usually finding solace in other African-Middle Eastern nations (68%). What makes these civil wars especially volatile and dangerous are the various religious and demographic elements. The people fleeing are subject to great violence and discrimination, often times forced to leave their possessions as they escape the country. Escape, in and of itself, is a new danger which many refugees face; illegal smuggling, questionable trades, and



dangerous transportation. Once they finally reach a camp, a community, a place to settle for a while, they must remain alert and cautious - the camps themselves are full of obstacles.

### Dangerous Living: What Refugees Face While Displaced

Illicit trade, terror groups, theft, homicide, rape; all daily challenges which refugee's must be prepared for. The hectic chaotic life refugees seek asylum from stripped when they arrive instead, a life of idleness, and paranoia, begins. For groups, this is an ideal into the camps, recruit especially children - with change and prosperity. For ages, sexual assault is a



which is suddenly at camp; of waiting militant time to sweep people - promises of women of all fact of life.

Many women take up shifts, never sleeping at the same time and keeping a vigilant guard. For cultural reasons, many women are put in charge of the money as they travel (be it alone, with children, or with their husbands) which makes them vulnerable targets to assault and theft. This is tripled for the surplus of pregnant women in the camps - many of whom suffer with minimal or no prenatal care, dirty facilities for their babies, and constant urinary tract infections. The shared space of camps also lends itself to a breeding ground of human trafficking. Sex work is a form of trade which many refugee women are forced to consider (if they are not forced into it). Other means of gaining money and maintaining safety within a camp include questionable trades, selling of personal goods, theft, and violence. In most camps, be they large, like the Dadaab, or the smallest tent colony in Lebanon, surviving continues to be a struggle even once reaching the supposed haven.

### Children's' Plight: The Heightened Threats for Adolescents

Children are victims of sexual assault, militant violence, and coercion. Although these refugees are fleeing areas plagued with violence and persecution, camps are now the largest source of child recruits for militant and extremist groups in MENA. In places where the camps do not have schools or safe zones for children, the risk for involvement in these groups goes up. This is especially disconcerting as over 10 million of the refugees are under the age of 18. Abuse is also a common theme in children - especially female children. With heightened tensions and lives at risk, there is an increased pattern of family members beating women and children. The lack of resources and poor home situations result in children with poor health and, in some cases, a desire to run away - which is what militant groups pray upon.

#### Now: What is Currently Being Done

There are many programs, both international and domestic, working on supplying aid and resources to refugee camps. CARE, an organization which works to eliminate poverty and social injustice (with a focus on women and children) in high risk areas, has provided services to camps all across the region. Mercy Corps and UNHCR, among others, have created art based programs to empower refugees and give community projects, which boost moral and eradicate idleness. Many countries' governments, such as Turkey, create temporary living with more solid structure and foundation, keeping orderly regulations and "luxuries" such as streetlights and schools. UNICEF often times works with the national government to establish education programs in the camps, though they typically face difficulty in sustaining regularity and consistency with attendance. Things are being done by NGOs, NPOs, local government, and international organizations - however, the dangers persist.

#### Potential Resources:

- <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html> - <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/refugee-crisis-where-are-all-these-people-coming-from-and-why-10490425.html> - <http://innovation.unhcr.org/7-art-initiatives-that-are-transforming-the-lives-of-refugees/>  
 - [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/sg\\_report-adv\\_strengthening\\_coordination\\_of\\_humanitarian\\_assistance.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/sg_report_adv_strengthening_coordination_of_humanitarian_assistance.pdf)  
 - [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/3](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/3)  
 - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-11307679>



[-http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/02/life-female-refugee-don-trust-160210092005932.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/02/life-female-refugee-don-trust-160210092005932.html)

[-http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/magazine/how-to-build-a-perfect-refugee-camp.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/magazine/how-to-build-a-perfect-refugee-camp.html?_r=0)

## The Risk of Cultural Cleansing/Genocide in the Middle East

### Core Questions:

- Is cultural preservation worth possible financial and physical loss? How does the council decide this criteria?
- How can ECOSOC and UNESCO work together to protect culturally important locations?
- When the location is in a war/violent-ridden zone? When the location is held by armed groups?
- Does preserving artifacts and locations possibly mean relocating them? Which countries hold these artifacts? How would you distribute and decide this?
- When countries have conflicting claims on a religious/cultural artifact? Does ECOSOC/UNESCO get involved?



### Background: Heritage Sites

The world is littered with WHSs (World Heritage Sites). These are landmarks which have been formally recognized by UNESCO as places of human importance and interest. Typically, these sites embody or display some sort of historical significance to previous humanity or culture. Often times major targets for acts of terrorism, countries are fiercely protective of their WHSs, especially during conflict with extremist groups or

civil disputes. Though they are supposed to be protected by specific zones, the current crisis in the middle east has left entire countries with destroyed and damaged sites. These sites are gained through bids, after meeting a rigorous criteria, however UNESCO is often times criticized for as lack of attention to potential sites outside of Europe. While this may appear as a solely UNESCO problem, the destruction of these sites falls into the realm of ECOSOC; WHSs are, generally, crucial tourist destinations or social apexis within a nation. In a region so perforated with war and unrest, any and all forms of protecting and sustaining development and infrastructure, they must be considered. Most prominent of the victims of this cultural violence are Syria and Iraq. UNESCO and ECOSOC have a codependent and collaborative relationship, which is used to address issues like this.

### The Aggressive Front: Why Attack a Statue?

Cultural cleansing is at the core of extremist groups; to wipe clean the identity that existed before and to instill their own in it's place. Sadly, part of this process (at least for ISIS and like minded groups) is the destruction of a people's identity, of their culture and community. The varied beliefs and interpretations of the Islamic "shirk" (sin of idolatry) lead some groups to vehemently protecting a shrine, and another group planting the bombs. Other groups, such as the Taliban, seek out statues and monuments to destroy in an attempt to remove the minorities and ethnicities which they deem a threat. The deterioration of heritage and identity is but a symptom, a precursor, to large violence and disarray. In majority of incidents in which WHOs have been damaged, they were followed by large civilian deaths and general violence. Looting is yet another result of these attacks, often time pitting people against one another and making the worst of a desperate situation. The illegal markets of MENA have been experiencing increases of historical artifacts and religious zeal.

### Working Around: Archeologists and More

As it stands, eccentric groups of determined scholars, archaeologists, historians, artists, and volunteers have been working vigorously to restore, transport, and protect the crumbling sites. In many places, damage seems impossible to repair; however, their economic and cultural importance is too large to disregard attempts - or so say the organizations and individuals who risk their lives at these sites. One of the most famous incidents has been the destruction of the Great Mosque of Aleppo in Syria (pictured earlier). Attempts have been made by

Western countries to gain access to and obtain artifacts which currently reside in at-risk areas, however, cultural clashing creates tension. There are currently no standards or set limits on how to handle this problem, and many of the groups currently in control of these WHSs and artifacts do not trust the Western World to return or protect these cultural treasures. And, at the same time, more and more are lost each day, another building shelled and another shrine looted.

#### Potential Resources:

[-http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/middle-east/articles/Destruction-of-Middle-Easts-heritage-is-cultural-genocide/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/middle-east/articles/Destruction-of-Middle-Easts-heritage-is-cultural-genocide/)



[-http://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/culture-wars-tracking-the-destruction-of-middle-east-monuments-9693006.html](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/culture-wars-tracking-the-destruction-of-middle-east-monuments-9693006.html)

[-http://journal-neo.org/2015/07/18/the-agenda-behind-isis-cultural-genocide/](http://journal-neo.org/2015/07/18/the-agenda-behind-isis-cultural-genocide/)

[-http://www.voanews.com/a/unesco-chief-warns-of-cultural-cleansing-in-war-zones-/2847642.html](http://www.voanews.com/a/unesco-chief-warns-of-cultural-cleansing-in-war-zones-/2847642.html)

[-https://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/fiona-rosegreenland-fatma-m%C3%BCge-g%C3%B6%C3%A7ek/cultural-](https://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/fiona-rosegreenland-fatma-m%C3%BCge-g%C3%B6%C3%A7ek/cultural-heritage-and-violence-in-middle-east)

[-http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/)

[-http://gizmodo.com/syrias-monuments-men-are-trying-to-save-history-amids-1630187673](http://gizmodo.com/syrias-monuments-men-are-trying-to-save-history-amids-1630187673)

[-http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34193762](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34193762)



## Sustaining Development in Unstable MENA States

### Core Questions:

- What steps can be taken to preserve the level of development in states which are currently war-ridden?  
To prevent backtracking or lapsing? Preservation of Schools and Hospitals?
- Should the re-building of a nation be a domestic matter or of international concern- Infrastructure especially?
- Do quick-fixes work or should finances be held for larger projects? Quick Fixes such as: Pop up hospitals, camps, etc.

### Where It Stands: Economic Growth?

Not typically a place known for economic growth and sustainability, the World Bank projects the GDP of the region to remain below 3% for the third year in a row. While the rest of the global economy is slowing, MENA is being hit especially hard with the added weight of conflict, unrest, and destruction. This is especially hard on Arabic nations, with a 2% drop in most countries, and a 5% drop in Syria (leaving their current GDP growth rate at 0). Without a stable economy, the middle east is effectively flat lining. This stagnant state is inhibiting the rebuilding and infrastructure that is so desperately needed in the wake of years of war and bombing.

When over half of your population had fled in a narrow window of time, as is the case for Syria, you are left with too much (too many buildings, too much rubble) with too little (not enough manpower to fix and maintain). While one answer is to send in volunteers and workers, without an economic foundation to maintain and fund these efforts, and without the skilled workers to run them - especially in the case of hospitals and schools - we sit at an impasse. and unemployment is at worse than that of pre-Arab Spring.

### Oil: A Double-Sided Knife

Once thought to be a force, a revenue cash cow, for east, fiscal spending and oil prices are clashing. They are breeding microeconomic imbalances which gain momentum, where foreign capital is lessening but a desire for investment growing rapidly. The only MENA nations truly staying above the water are Egypt and Morocco (with a slight GDP growth seen in Palestine as well). Perhaps this is because they are not as deeply entrenched in conflict and also where the economies lie; agriculture and tourism.



Poverty levels saving the

### Potential Resources:

[-https://www.csis.org/programs/middle-east-program/governance-economics-and-development-middle-east](https://www.csis.org/programs/middle-east-program/governance-economics-and-development-middle-east)

[-https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/05/why-infrastructure-is-key-to-a-stable-middle-east/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/05/why-infrastructure-is-key-to-a-stable-middle-east/)

[-http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/brief/economic-outlook-middle-east-and-north-africa-october-2015](http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/brief/economic-outlook-middle-east-and-north-africa-october-2015)

[-https://www.brookings.edu/research/human-development-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/](https://www.brookings.edu/research/human-development-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/)

[-http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adeel-malik/conflict-and-development-middle-east\\_b\\_5752622.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adeel-malik/conflict-and-development-middle-east_b_5752622.html)

[-http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2016/car042516c.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2016/car042516c.htm)

[-https://www.ufrgs.br/ufrgsmun/2013/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Infrastructure-investments-in-the-Middle-East-North-Africa.pdf](https://www.ufrgs.br/ufrgsmun/2013/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Infrastructure-investments-in-the-Middle-East-North-Africa.pdf)