



EXPERIENCED BEGINNER UNHCR

Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations

Committee Chair: Muntadher AlZayer

- 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 UNHCR are:

- I. Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- II. Addressing the failure of the ratification of final peace agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the Colombian government
- III. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament



The role of the United Nations Security Council relates to the primary responsibility of international peace and security. Furthermore, this means that the delegations representing the 15 Members of the current Security Council are vital to international collaboration and policy on some of the most pressing issues facing the global platform. 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,

Muntadher AlZayer

Committee Chair

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Introduction

The UNHCR, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, was initially created to help the displaced Europeans that fled Eastern Europe during World War II. Establishing the UNHCR on December 14th, 1950, the United Nations created a three year mandate which would defund the Agency after their mission was completed. But, a year later on July 28th, 1951 it was accepted as a component of the United Nations creating the State of Refugees rules (“The 1951 Refugee Convention”). The State of Refugees rules was focused on Eastern European refugees, which was then amended by the 1967 Protocol to expand the scope of refugees to be worldwide and include the large range of people in need of safety. The UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) is made up of 85 member states that meet annually and determine the functions of the agency. It is only in the 21st century that the UNHCR has expanded their scope to include Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) whom have been removed from their homes due to the dangers of war or other bodily harms but remain in their own. The UNHCR is limited as under international law the consent of the

Mandate

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the United Nations agency for providing assistance and other short- and long-term services to refugees and similarly situated persons. The agency is responsible for camp administration, repatriation, resettlement, and fostering self-sufficiency among refugees. We will be acting as the executive board of the UNHCR in terms of composition and size; however, we are not limited by it as we have the ability to make programmatic and policy decision on issues within the mandate of UNHCR in line with the overall function of the organization. We will be focusing on the well being and safety of refugees across the world, any other solutions relating to safety are outside of this committee's mandate and will not be acknowledged in any resolutions produced by the house.

Function and Power

Currently the UNHCR spends most of its funding on protecting the refugee camps and providing imperative necessities. The UNHCR is also providing assistance to Asylum Seekers by helping to find a country

willing to take them in and protect them from any dangers they face. As of 2016, there are a total of 65.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, and only 16.1 million refugees are currently under UNHCR mandate (“Figures at a glance”).

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.

host country is needed in order to operate in a country and provide assistance to refugees and IDPs.

Sources

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Promoting Livelihoods and Education for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Introduction

On September 25th of 2015 a new agenda was set for all United Nations member states under the resolution A/RES/70/1. These are the 17 sustainable development goals set for the next fifteen years that apply to all member states, United Nations Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and private sector. The UNHCR is working on applying the fourth goal on that list, Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and

promote a lifelong learning. As refugee children are unable to travel outside of their camps, education programs have to be initiated inside these camps.

Programs

Between 2012 and 2016 the UNHCR has been applying their own Education Strategy which was aimed at providing “safe schools and learning environments for all young learners” and increasing “literacy rates among refugee adults by 50%.” Since there has been a shift in the global status of refugees since the start of this program and the Millennium Development Goals have expired and replaced with newer goals, the UNHCR is planning on renewing this plan.

The UNHCR Innovation department and UNHCR’s Division of International Protection have the program titled “Learn Lab.” The program was created to “ensure that every refugee and forcibly displaced person has access to relevant and high-quality learning opportunities that will enable them to serve as agents of change for their communities.” The Learn Lab is part of a group of virtual programs aimed at adapting to different situations by prototyping and “[testing] in UNHCR operations around the world, depending on operational needs and context.” Due to the changing reality of refugees, these labs are aiming to delegate adaptation of programs to the members of the labs. Although it is a strong step to virtualize this program and allow for better adaptation, it needs to be incorporated better to ensure participation of NGO’s and other forces in the area.

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Well-Being of Syrian Refugees and IDPs

Introduction

Over the whole year of 2015, a total of 1,000,573 refugees have reached Europe passing through the Mediterranean. But, tragically, over 3,735 people are believed to be dead. We are seeing the largest refugee crisis since World War II largely due to the lack of safety in war-torn regions of Syria. Although the surge of migration was happening last year, the year of 2016 has seen a larger amount of victims as a result of crossing the Mediterranean. A total of 3,740 refugees have lost their lives through the Mediterranean as of the 24th of October.

Threats to refugee lives

As the UNHCR is highly concerned with the safety and well-being of the refugees attempting to reach the southern countries of Europe, there is also a concern of aggressiveness of the countries on the refugees due to the large volume. Thus, the UNHCR is concerned with the effective methods of relocation from the State of arrival to other suitable and willing countries. This is tough as there are European Union laws prohibiting the movement of refugees from the State they arrive in by forcing them to declare their asylum seeking status. A solution is needed for relocation issues as the United Nations refugee chief has warned of an upcoming surge of refugees that are unable to enter the neighboring countries in the Middle East and have no home to return to. This will push them to risk their lives in an attempt to reach the safe lands in Europe, or stay in the risk of being inside Syria.

Internally Displaced Persons

There is a total of 6.5 million people who have been displaced within Syria, either living in UNHCR sponsored camps or living in danger of the civil war. Although removed from their homes and businesses, a plan to create self-reliance is needed in order to allow the IDPs to have the strength to return home and work. A need to educate and provide humanitarian assistance are the top priority.

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Exploring Alternatives to Refugee Camps

Introduction

Although there has been a large dependency on refugee camps since the creation of the UNHCR, there has been a large initiative to move away from them. This requires connections between the inhabitants and the refugee agency in order to protect against any dangers of physical harm. There are many requirements needed to be met in order to facilitate the safe space for refugees to live in, and a faster process is needed to convert the migrators from camps to settlements in the area.

Global alternatives

Across the globe, there are around 15.7 million with 72% living outside of camps in 2016. But, there are 28% that are living in camp settings that need to be relocated into a more free area. This will remove the dangers to any UNO and NGO staff that are operating in that area. But, this will change it to heavily depend on national authorities and depending on the strength and reliability of the security forces. Although there are many dangers in depending on alternatives to refugee camps, the invested resources will be more permanent as they will be invested in areas that will be inhabited afterwards. Also creating a community-based protection in which refugees will not feel removed from their current community.

Aim

The aim of the UNHCR is to facilitate the conversion of refugee camps into cities that will be helpful for them and encourage them to progress in life while the issues are being solved. The migrating refugees are those most in danger of finding themselves in refugee camps, and depending heavily on humanitarian aid from the refugee agency.

Sources

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