

KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2020

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

To help facilitate broader understanding of international issues facing the UN, our KUNA Secretaries General and their Presiding Officer teams have published the Secretary General's Agenda.

The Secretary General's Agenda is a list of international issues organized using the 6 Main Committees* of the UN General Assembly (www.un.org/en/ga):

- **First Committee | Disarmament & International Security**
Concerned with disarmament and related international security questions
- **Second Committee | Economic & Financial**
Concerned with economic questions
- **Third Committee | Social, Humanitarian, & Cultural**
Deals with social and humanitarian issues
- **Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization**
Deals with a variety of political subjects
- **Fifth Committee | Administration & Budgetary**
Deals with the administration and budget of the UN
- **Sixth Committee | Legal**
Deals with international legal matters

There are 3-4 issues per committee on the agenda. Each issue includes a one-page briefing:

- **Background on Issue**
Summary and background information on the issue
- **Questions to Address in Resolutions**
Guiding questions/problems that any resolutions on the issue should look to answer/solve
- **Sources for Research**
Links to research, articles, and other resources for your delegations

HOW TO USE THE AGENDA

- The best way to use the Agenda is to review each issue and explore whether your countries have taken a position on any of them (or has a vested interest in addressing an issue).
- While multiple countries may address the same issue in their resolutions, each country will likely have a different answer or solution to the problems that must be addressed.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA FAQ

Do our countries have to write resolutions on these topics?

These topics are not mandatory (only recommended by your KUNA Presiding Officers), nor are they tied to awards, but these topics will be taken into account by each Secretary General when determining which resolutions they choose to endorse, and which resolution they choose as Secretary General's Choice for the final session of the General Assembly.

Does the Agenda take a position on an issue?

The agenda does not take positions on issues (or endorse any solutions), but provides "Questions to Address in Resolutions" so countries can research their own positions when drafting their resolutions.

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Prepared by your **2020 KUNA Presiding Officers**

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Secretary General	Colin Roark	Tristin Black	Dina Abdallah
Pres. of the UN GA	Esha Khan	Harrison Bratton	Jack Neel
Deputy Sec. General	Madison Blair	Minha Raza	Ellie Hummel
Sec. Council Pres.	Scotty Monteith	Andrew Hall	Aidan Sheridan-Rabideau
ICJ President	Anna Hearne	Abigail Rasmussen	Emma Fridy
ICJ President	Tristan Winstead	Joseph Drury	Meghan Pierce
Editor-in-Chief	Catherine Cox	Aya Samadi	Sarah Chung

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Regime Change Wars

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Abby Rasmussen, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Since the beginning of time there have continuously been changes in the governmental structure of different areas in the world. These changes can occur through a variety of different actions. One of these methods includes regime change wars, that being the replacement of one administration or government by another, especially by means of military force. These regime change wars often result in cultural disarray and displacement of peoples in the areas affected.

There are several issues that come with regime change wars. The cultural disarray that these wars result in often takes a plethora of years to settle and there is a high likelihood of another unjust government or administration taking over during this time due to the unstable social and political structure of the area.

Regime change wars often occur when a powerful country spots a humanitarian crisis and makes a decision to legally infiltrate the unjust regime and liberate the affected country. Several conditions must be met to legally declare and follow through on a regime change war. These conditions include that the intervening state does not intend to permanently maintain presence and influence in the area, that the change is feasible, that the change is efficient, and that the quality of life and order will likely be improved as a result of the regime change.

The controversy behind regime change wars is apparent and there are a lot of questions to be addressed in discussions of improved methods of regime change. Regime change often results in at least a small period of political and social disarray, and occasionally leads to a new regime taking over or the use of the affected state as a pawn for other states.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the UN improve the methods of regime change that states often utilize?
2. How can the UN improve the quality of life for citizens affected by regime change?
3. How can the UN ensure that the intervening state does not maintain a presence and influence in the area, so long as to avoid a potential case of imperialism?
4. Are there any steps the UN can take to avoid regimes in the first place?
5. What is an effective method to stabilize political and social disarray after a regime change to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the affected area?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

1. Michael Reisman, W. "Why Regime Change." Yale Law School, 2004.
2. Walt, Stephen M. "Regime Change for Dummies." *Foreign Policy*, Foreign Policy, 14 May 2018, foreignpolicy.com/2018/05/14/regime-change-for-dummies/.
3. "REGIME CHANGE: Definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *REGIME CHANGE* | Definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary, dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/regime-change.

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Nuclear Powers (Israel, Pakistan, India)

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Emma Fridy, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The largest nuclear power in the world are the United States and Russia, as both of these countries have large arsenals of nuclear warheads left over from the Cold War. France, Israel, Pakistan, India, the United Kingdom, China, and North Korea also have nuclear weapons. Together the United States and Russia control about 13,000 warheads and all the rest of the nuclear countries have about 1,000 combined.

There have been nonproliferation treaties signed by the United States and other countries, but the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the most substantial of the group, is not signed by India, Israel, or Pakistan. Many nations have conducted illegal nuclear development, but very few nuclear states have developed in recent history.

India and Pakistan have notably tense relations as they are neighbors and have had serious conflict in the past. Both countries continue to escalate their nuclear arsenals and pursue detection, guidance, and delivery systems for missiles. Israel has never publicly admitted to having nuclear weapons, nor has it ever tested any, stating that it will not be the country to bring nuclear weapons to the Middle East. Despite this, the international community is convinced that Israel does have nuclear weapons. Iran and Israel are locked in a battle over each other's right to exist and Iran's attempts at nuclear proliferation are directly linked to Israel's nuclear program.

Across the world, nuclear states have treaties and agreements with other countries to come to their aid in the event of a crisis, which is extremely troubling. Beyond that, North Korea continues to make serious nuclear threats as the United States and Russian tensions heat up.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. Can agreements be made for current precarious nuclear powers to join the nonproliferation agreement?
2. How can your country help nonproliferation in your region?
3. Should further nuclear developments be allowed for any country?
4. Can your country commit to denuclearizing or reducing its number of nuclear warheads?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

Basic Facts

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

The State of Nonproliferation

<https://www.businessinsider.com/these-are-the-9-countries-with-nuclear-weapons-2018-10>

Non-Proliferation Treaty

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Artificial Intelligence

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Colin Roark, Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

With unprecedented and exponential growth in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we, as a global community, must take time to consider its implications. As societies grow increasingly dependent on technology, some forms of AI have become necessary in maintaining safety amid security. AI also offers great potential for developing countries as it can reduce the time and labor for many tasks and autonomously complete projects. Yet, even with the many benefits of AI, several risks must be addressed as it continues to grow.

One issue in particular is the pervasiveness of technology in everyday life. The Chinese government, for example, is manufacturing a social credit system that tracks citizens and rewards or punishes particular behavior. Chinese citizen's privacy is threatened by the invasive nature of such a system. If allowed to remain unchecked, AI could and already has begun to manipulate social behavior. AI is often intended to find patterns and trends in order to make devices and items more addictive. In any form AI takes, our increasing dependence and reliance on it is a cause for alarm.

Another concern arises from the steady growth of automated jobs and the consequential loss of human labor. While in several cases machines drastically improve efficiency and quality, that machine had to replace a person. Research done in the US and UK suggests anywhere from 35% to 45% of current jobs could be replaced by artificial intelligence. In this scenario, trillions of dollars in wages will be lost for the sake of saving time and money. Governments are already considering ways to prevent and mitigate this rising issue with a wide range of ideas. Some suggest retraining workers to fit the upcoming job market, and others advocate for certain restrictions on the expanse of AI.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. How can governments implement the use of artificial intelligence to improve the
2. standard of living in their respective countries?
3. What can be done to mitigate the upcoming impact that artificial intelligence will
4. have on the labor force?
5. How can the UN and individual countries prepare for artificial intelligence that
6. has potential to do harm?
7. How can governments and the UN ensure that citizens' rights are protected in an
8. age of increased technology and decreased privacy?
9. What will the future of artificial intelligence look like as it becomes more
10. advanced and humanized? Will technology ever have emotion or anything
11. similar?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

Future of Work:

www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2019/07/15/is-ai-going-to-be-a-jobs-killer-new-reports-about-the-future-of-work/#3cd988b1afb2

Benefits of AI:

futureoflife.org/background/benefits-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/?cn-reloaded=1

Political Consequences:

towardsdatascience.com/artificial-intelligence-and-society-42fd4ec40ce6

www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2018/04/18/will-robots-and-ai-take-your-job-the-economic-and-political-consequences-of-automation/

Social Credit System (China)

www.businessinsider.com/china-social-credit-system-punishments-and-rewards-explained-2018-4

Second Committee | Economic & Financial

Human Settlements

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:Tristin Black, Secretary General | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

When President John F. Kennedy delivered his infamous “Moon Speech” in September, 1962, he invoked one of humanity’s greatest assets: inquisition. Encouraged in part by the then-ongoing Cold War, Kennedy’s speech inspired millions of Americans to support his administration’s efforts to successfully put a man on the Moon.

While Kennedy may have said “We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do other such things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard,” in reference to the Moon, these words have since become a mantra for subsequent human ingenuity.

In recent years, several entities in both the private and public sector have begun research into various methods of human habitation. The efforts of Elon Musk’s SpaceX to organize a manned mission to Mars in the early 2020s are well documented, but other organizations and companies have shifted their focus to terrestrial matters. Specifically, as the repercussions of global climate change begins to intensify, so too has the need for improved habitation for those living near large bodies of water. Due to the increase in flooding and sea levels in coastal areas, many countries have begun the process of relocating those who live in areas at risk of sinking or otherwise being uninhabitable in the coming decades. These effects are particularly visible in Pacific Island Nations such as Nauru, Tuvalu, Fiji, et cetera, where entire islands have sunk due to rising sea levels.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What factors are contributing to the immense crowding and overpopulation seen in nations across the globe, therefore necessitating current resettlement efforts?
2. Does the country I’m representing possess any department similar to the United States’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is responsible for much of the existing research into possible oceanic habitation?
3. What steps could countries containing large coastal areas undertake in order to mitigate damage caused by rising sea levels? Which methods of relocation or resettlement would work best for these areas?
4. Is the economy of the country I’m representing capable of supporting new initiatives such as ocean habitation or Mars colonization?
5. Is there any possibility for partnerships to develop between nations seeking to establish colonies on Mars? How might these agreements arise and how might they help facilitate the process?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

1. Will We Ever Live in Underwater Cities? | BBC
<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130930-can-we-build-underwater-cities>
2. Futuristic Floating Cities | Inhabitat
<https://inhabitat.com/7-futuristic-floating-cities-that-could-save-humanity/>
3. Architectural Forms of the Future | TED <https://youtu.be/ieSV8-isy3M>

Second Committee | Economic & Financial Environmental Degradation

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Sarah Chung, Editor-in-Chief | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Environmental degradation has many differing names: climate change, global warming, drought, the greenhouse effect, etc. They all have the same meaning. Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through overexertion of the Earth's reserves such as air, water and arable-soil. This includes, but is not limited to, pollution, excessive greenhouse gas emissions, overfishing, deforestation, and fracking. In 2020, it is nearly impossible to continue the modern economy without some harm to the environment, however the damage caused to our planet is inexcusable and far above what should be acceptable. Without a decrease in environmental degradation, our home could suffer tremendous and permanent damage that could be irreversible. This damage could lead to the unsustainability of industries due to the overexhaustion of resources and inhospitability of the environment, which would ultimately cause the breakdown of sectors of the global economy.

Action is needed now. While measures have been taken to lessen the environmental degradation such as the Paris Climate Accord to lessen climate change and laws such as Brazilian Constitution's Chapter VI Environment. Law No. 12651 to regulate deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest, this has not been enough. Many scientists believe that by 2050, the years will contain at least 20 days with lethal heat, global crop yields will drop to ⅓ of current levels, and World Bank says that over 140 million people will be displaced from their homes. However, there is hope.

The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in 1972 following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. According to the UNEP website, the UNEP is "the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment" (UNEP). With the limited, estimated time-scale, we need to set the agenda for the future, or we may not have one. Measures must be taken to increase sustainability so that both industries and the planet will prosper, ensuring our own and our posterity's well-beings.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. What industries in my country face danger due to environmental factors?
2. Where can regulations be put in place to limit damage to the environment in my country?
3. What actions can my country take to increase its sustainability?
4. What environmental issues relate to my country and the international community?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

UN Environmental Policy and General Sustainability Research
<https://www.unenvironment.org/>

What Is Sustainability
<https://www.environmentalscience.org/sustainability>

Current Environmental Issues
<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/168/environmental-issues>

Sahara Desert Expansion
<https://www.livescience.com/62168-sahara-desert-expanding.html>

Destruction of Forests
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/>

Water Pollution from Slaughterhouses
<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/public-interest-groups-launch-legal-action-protect-waterways-slaughter-house-pollution-2019-07-02/>

Second Committee | Economic & Financial

Global Debts

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Ethnocide

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Meghan Pierce, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Ethnocide, also referred to as “cultural genocide”, is loosely defined as “the deliberate and systematic destruction of the culture of an ethnic group”. While lacking an exact definition by the United Nations, early drafts of the United Nations Genocide Convention indicate that the UN Secretariat more specifically defined cultural genocide as “any deliberate act committed with the intention of destroying the language, religion or culture... of a group”. This definition was dropped by the final draft of the Genocide Convention when met with opposition from large colonial powers, thereby meaning the act of ethnocide has not officially been recognized as an independent crime under international law.

Among the most threatened elements of culture for indigenous and minority groups is language. Of the world’s estimated 7,000 distinct languages, 41% can be listed as endangered and about a quarter have fewer than a thousand speakers. Much of the reasoning behind this can be attributed to pressures from larger powers to assimilate into a dominant culture. Within the western hemisphere, the governments of the North American powers are historically known for their policies of aboriginal assimilation, forcing the extinction of over 100 native languages. More recently, attempted linguicide (“language death”) can be seen in the example of the Kurdish persecution in Turkey, the state only having lifted a ban on the ethnic group’s language in 1991. Even still, the Turks have continued to put pressure on Kurds to assimilate linguistically by means of incredible fines for not using the Turkish language for official government business.

As minority languages continue to remain threatened by outsider forces, states have also sought to attack other elements of culture. Within the global power of China, an estimated 1 to 3 million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims have been placed in “re-education” facilities; those Muslims who have not yet been detained still suffer restrictions on religious and social practices including the ability to wear headscarves and beards. The Chinese state has also instituted a surveillance policy of sending CCP workers into the homes of Turkic Muslim families to instruct them on CCP ideology as they assess whether individuals should be detained.

As dominant powers subject minorities to ethnocide, experts warn that the death of a culture could be the precursor to specific human rights violations. While not a direct forerunner of genocide, examples such as the Holocaust and current Uyghur ethnocide-turned-ethnic cleansing may suggest otherwise.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How do we address ethnocide when forces such as globalization already further the deaths of minority cultures?
2. How should the United Nations address cultural genocide as it continues to occur in Big Five states?
3. How should “ethnocide” be defined by the United Nations?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

“Ethnocide”

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/mass-violence-war-massacre-resistance/en/document/ethnocide>

“Ethnocide in Xinjiang, China’s ‘Open Air Prison’”

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/ethnocide-in-xinjiang-chinas-open-air-prison/84710>

“Kurdish Repression in Turkey”

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/kurdish-repression-turkey>

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian Public Health

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Madison Blair, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Vaccinations were considered a miracle to humanity at the dawn of their creation. Hoards of people clamored to get the polio and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines that allowed them and their families a chance at a longer life span. This especially assisted in the growth of a younger population- more vaccines meant more children were not dying as a result of preventable diseases that medical technology could not combat effectively. Their rise eventually led to the eradication of diseases such as smallpox and rinderpest and nearly eradicated malaria and polio. Vaccines have also spread in use, as yearly immunizations such as the flu shot have become more popular, along with more advanced vaccines such as the Gardasil vaccine that is a preventative measure for uterine cancer in girls and women. Such advancements allow the human race to combat more diseases in a proactive manner than ever before, leading to an increased elderly population in developed nations that have accessible vaccinations.

In the current day, vaccines are estimated to prevent 2 million children from dying of preventable diseases every year. These vaccines are heavily concentrated in highly developed countries, such as the United States and developed European nations, resulting in nearly 2.5 million children dying annually from such diseases in African and Asian countries. In these areas, mothers and families are still uneducated about the positive impacts of vaccinations, resulting in a population afraid of giving their children vaccines because they are not fully educated and only want to keep their children from harm.

Such an attitude towards vaccines was mostly concentrated in underdeveloped nations until recent years, when an anti-vaccination movement has begun to take hold in the United States. Modern media has largely perpetuated this movement by giving their unproven claims, such as that vaccines cause autism, a platform to be heard by the public. Such misinformation has caused a growing fear of vaccination that can only be compared to the fear churches spread at the onset of vaccines being introduced to the public due to their belief of a connection to the Devil.

The concerns as presented by the so-called "anti-vaxxers" are not only unfounded, but the World Health Organization asserts that vaccines are the second best method of promoting individual and societal health, second only to drinking clean water. The battle against preventable diseases is especially key to society with the onset of bacterial strains that are resistant to antibiotics due to the overprescription of antibiotics for common diseases, such as a cold, that do not require such strong medication to resolve the illness. With an increase in the number of resistant bacteria, it is more important than ever to vaccinate against preventable diseases in order to prevent another outbreak of disease on the scale of polio or smallpox before their eradication from modern society.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. How can vaccination accessibility be increased in my nation?
2. How can people be educated on the safety and positive influence of vaccines?
3. Can international organizations assist in the growth of vaccination programs?
4. What vaccinations are most necessary in my region and how can they become accessible?
5. How can overprescription of antibiotics be combatted?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/2/07-040089/en/>

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/6/07-047159/en/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6122668/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/about/fast-facts.html>

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Human Trafficking

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Esha Khan, President of the UN General Assembly | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

According to the Human Trafficking Hotline, “Human Trafficking” is defined as the “business of stealing freedom for profit. In some cases, traffickers trick, defraud or physically force victims into providing commercial sex. In others, victims are lied to, assaulted, threatened or manipulated into working under inhumane, illegal or otherwise unacceptable conditions.” Human Trafficking has plagued nations for years now, and it has gradually gotten worse. Countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, and China have one of the highest rates of human trafficking globally! This is one of the greatest problems our society faces today, because as a result, these victims are deprived of basic human rights and experience extreme psychological damage. Most of these victims are hidden in plain sight. There is no “singular” type of trafficking. One of the most underrepresented types of trafficking is “family trafficking” where a family member is the one that is involving the child in minor sex trafficking. In countries such as India and Pakistan, the purpose of trafficking may be because of money, but in areas such as America and other developed countries, the motive is very different. In America, the purpose of trafficking is to gain power and control. “Children who are victims of familial trafficking often grow up in a home or family that is very well respected in the community” but at the same time they still have ties to gangs and pimps which helps them sustain their business. Many of the victims of familial human trafficking are sexually assaulted, and violence becomes a normal part of their every day life. This form of trafficking is extremely hard to detect because the child may still be very active in school, thus making it nearly impossible to detect since they’re constantly manipulated; many of them don’t even understand that the situations that they undergo are not normal! It is stated that family members are involved in nearly half of all human trafficking cases (CTDC). On the other hand, in developing countries most families justify selling their children out of necessity.

In general, according to the Polaris Project, “Traffickers employ a variety of control tactics, including physical and emotional abuse, sexual assault, confiscation of identification and money, isolation from friends and family, and even renaming victims”. They lure victims through manipulation and by exploiting their vulnerabilities. As a result, victims are unable to speak out against such atrocities, because they are afraid of the myriad of consequences that they may face—shame, trauma, abuse, and physical threats to their families or to them. Anyone can be a trafficker, but often, traffickers are either lone individuals or those that work with a group of people. “Pimps, gangs, family members, labor brokers, employers of domestic servants, small business owners, and large factory owners have all been found guilty of human trafficking” (Polaris Project).

In America, states such as California, New York, and Texas are the hubs of human trafficking. These states are all profoundly large and have urban landscapes which makes it harder for law enforcement to detect. It is no coincidence that these states are also among the highest for its homeless population. According to Forbes, “Half of all people experiencing homelessness are in one of five states – California (129,972 people), New York (91,897), Florida (31,030), Texas (25,310) and Washington (22,304)”. It has also been reported that “One in five homeless youth is a human trafficking victim”. “The report further notes that homeless youth have higher rates of primary risk factors for trafficking such as poverty, unemployment, and a history of sexual abuse or mental health issues, and that those aging out of the foster care system faced high rates of sex (18 percent) and labor (10 percent) trafficking.”

So, why is this important? Because people who are trafficked are stigmatized in society. They are often criminalized and this exacerbates the emotional trauma that they face. It has been reported that “90 percent of victims have been arrested—42% were arrested more than 10 times”. As a result of this constant struggle, they’re unable to rebuild their lives and free themselves of their trafficker which causes them to undergo a cycle of constant stress and trauma.

Victims experience the effects of trafficking throughout their lives, due to costs of treating the physical and mental health consequences of victimization, diminished employment opportunity due to a lack of legal work histories, and the criminalization of sex trafficking victims. A 2016 survey of sex trafficking survivors by the National Survivor Network found that 90 percent of victims had been arrested—42 percent were arrested more than 10 times. Criminal records prevented 81.5 percent of respondents from obtaining employment and 55.6 percent from getting housing.

Thus, trafficking can’t be completely defined, and each type of human trafficking has its own category and its own set of motives and statistics. The overall theme of traffickers is that they dismiss innocent human beings of their basic human rights through power, submission, and manipulation in an attempt to gain money or control. With the rise in human trafficking globally—more than 25 million people are victims of forced labor—it is more important now more than ever, to stay aware and look for subtle signs of human trafficking—poor mental health, physical health, lack of control, has no sense of time or location, and shares inconsistent stories.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. Are these source countries working to monitor the problem sufficiently?
2. Will Human Trafficking ever end?
3. What is the socioeconomic difference between the perpetrator and the victim of human trafficking?
4. How can law enforcement improve to better identify human trafficking rings and victims?
5. Should the current sentence for human trafficking (5-8 years in most cases) be increased?
6. What more should be done to reduce human trafficking cases annually?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

<https://www.bustle.com/p/11-human-trafficking-statistics-that-show-the-true-scope-of-the-problem-15942915>
<https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs>
<https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/one-in-five-homeless-youth-is-a-human-trafficking-victim-studies-find>
<https://humantraffickingsearch.org/impact/>
<https://polarisproject.org/victims-traffickers>
https://www.google.com/amp/s/blog.theexodusroad.com/causes-effects-of-human-trafficking%3fhs_amp=true
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/victims>

Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Political Autonomy (Kurdistan, Hong Kong)

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Catherine Cox, Editor-In-Chief | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Political autonomy is achieved when a state is self governed without external influences. This means a state has complete jurisdiction over its population and property. In addition to that criteria, an autonomous state is supposed to be equal to all other states with the same sovereignty status. In recent history, regions have become independent from a country due to political and cultural conflicts. In even more recent history, regions are continuously attempting to become independent from already established countries.

For example, Hong Kong is currently one of China's largest cities and is currently trying to secure sovereignty from China. According to many of Hong Kong's democratic youth, who are protesting against the Chinese government, China is a threat to their democratic rights, the Chinese economy is regressing, and they don't want to be included in Chinese war efforts. According to BBC, 40% of Hong Kong's youth, an independent Hong Kong government will benefit their hopeful state. However, the Chinese and even some Hong Kong citizens disagree and thus conflict is arising.

Contrastingly, Kurdistan, a region located within Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, is already governed by an autonomous government. Despite their technical status, the Kurdish people still endure conflicts when maintaining their autonomy. According to the United Nations in The Situation Concerning Iraq, there are "outstanding issues between the central Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, including revenue-sharing and budget allocation as well as the security arrangements in the disputed areas." This leads to the presence of inequity among states who have an autonomous status: different states can have large economic, security, and influential gaps.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Why is it important for your country to support political autonomy of a certain region? What benefits would result in this action?
2. What negative consequences would arise by supporting a region's political autonomy?
3. How will surrounding countries be impacted in terms of economy, politics, and security if a region in your country gained sovereignty?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

The Situation Concerning Iraq

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Political Stability

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Aya Samadi, Editor-In-Chief | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Over the past 12 millennia, the world population has grown from four million people to approximately 7.53 billion people: 1,860 times greater. For example, the world population was about one billion people in 1800 and has increased sevenfold. This is due to uneven birth and death rates where the total birth rate for the world is far greater than its death rate, resulting in a net positive increase. Furthermore, there is a large difference between the growth rates in developed and less developed countries; the latter being significantly larger than the former.

There are several consequences associated with overpopulation in less developed nations, including poverty, high mortality rates, insanitation, and poor standards of living. On the contrary, consequences of slow population growth in developed nations include strains on the health care system and a decreased workforce.

Less developed nations tend to have the highest population growth due, in part, to a lack of education regarding birth control methods. Because less developed nations are often the poorest, it is difficult for families to support their children and find access to food, water, health care, and other basic human needs. As a result, population growth in these countries is associated with high mortality rates in children and poor standards of living.

While rapid population growth is seen negatively, slow population growth in more developed nations poses a threat to the healthcare system because the nation is becoming more aged. With older people in a population, health needs increase to accommodate them; this creates a greater demand for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and medical equipment. Furthermore, an older population creates a decreased youth and, therefore, a smaller workforce, which means there are less people to supply demand.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can developed/more advanced countries work to increase population growth?
2. How can less developed nations work to decrease population growth?
3. Are there any steps international organizations can take to remediate these issues?
4. How can the healthcare system change to accommodate the decreased population growth in more developed nations?
5. What is an effective way to educate people in less developed nation to understand contraceptives in order to avoid rapid population growth?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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Sakir, Salman. "How Low Population Growth Is Posing Challenges to Advanced Countries." *HuffPost Canada*, HuffPost Canada, 11 Aug. 2016,

www.huffingtonpost.ca/salman-sakir/oecd-population-growth_b_7958124.html.

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Political Instability

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Aidan Sheridan-Rabideau, President of Security Council | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Population instability has been a long-standing issue, however, it has received increased attention in recent years as its effects have become more prevalent. Thomas Malthus in the late 18th Century expressed his concern for the world's exponential population growth. He stated that one day Earth will reach its carrying capacity and will be unable to support its population. This once pessimistic viewpoint is now widely regarded as a realistic outcome for today's society. The demographer's simple thesis outlines that Earth requires balance that our population is skewing.

Since Malthus's initial statement, the world population has grown 700% and resource consumption has expanded twenty-five fold. Due to these massive growth rates, countries are experiencing water and food shortages on a major scale. According to the World Water Organization, in 2018 there were more than a dozen violent outbursts due to lack of water or access to clean water. The organization sites that "Water Wars" are not a new issue, however, they are being exacerbated by Earth's record high populations. Nafis Sadik, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, asserts that population pressure is one of the three greatest factors that determines the nourishment of a nation's people. Sadik further states that arable land is key to feeding a growing population; however, countries with high levels of people per square mile oftentimes find themselves without sufficient farmland. This creates a complex to attempt to sustain earth's growing population on its shrinking resources.

Population instability in large metropolitan areas has manifested itself in the form of urban slums. Residence of these slums live in extreme poverty and are more susceptible to death due to lack of access to sanitation, high crime rates and decreased protection from natural disasters. Despite the unsafe living conditions for members of this community, slum populations are continually on the rise as the birth rate in these areas are extraordinarily high. As this population continues to grow, there is an increasing fear for the future of slum residents as humanitarian aid is already spread thin due to the sheer numbers of those impoverished in the slums.

Finally, population instability as a result of violence has led to the displacement of large groups of people. As demonstrated by the 6.7 million people fleeing in the Syrian refugee crisis, the reactions of every nation in regards to accepting refugees can be seen on a global stage. Additionally, the 6.2 million Syrians who were displaced within their own country lead to further instability within this region. Every form of human migration contributes to the changing populations and in some cases population instability.

When focusing the world's diverse and increasing population it is essential to continually generate innovative solutions to foster a sustainable population. Each nation faces its own unique challenges but through international cooperation we have the ability to create new solutions to change the global narrative of population instability.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. What form of population instability does my country face?
2. How can the Security Council mitigate the effects of population instability in your nation?
3. What other countries face a similar type of population instability?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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<http://www.worldwater.org/conflict/list/>

<https://www.who.int/sustainable-development/cities/health-risks/slums/en/>

<https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts>

<http://www.fao.org/3/U3550t/u3550t02.htm>

Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Religious Autonomy

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Anna Hearne, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

According to Oxford Scholarship, religious autonomy is when a person dictates their own religious lifestyle. This is a global issue because many countries vary in their definition of autonomy and don't allow their people to have basic religious rights. It came to be globally recognized after the the case Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (academic.oup.com) which states that "neutral laws of general applicability trump claims to free religion" which essentially means that religion is not, in fact, self dictated. Government officials make the decisions of what general applicability is & if that is what trumps religious autonomy, then they are in control of how religious someone can be. In a country like Israel that has a general sense of freedom of religion compared to a country like North Korea which is a country completely dictated by its government. Many countries also face religious persecution, China persecutes its people who could be considered religious minorities to get rid of influence that is considered to be an outsiders view. Religion is one of the most sacred things people have & if a government is able to dictate that, it strips away any sense of humanity a person may have. This is an issue that demands to be solved. In a world where we have so little control, our system of belief should be a no-brainer as to what we can dictate ourselves.

The denial of governments allowing their people to have religious autonomy is not an issue that will go away on its own. Countries blatant refusal to let people have their beliefs is something that can be solved by the help of the UN and it is up to us to take steps forward for religious freedom and safety.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. Should religion be a governmental priority or left to the people themselves?
2. What needs to happen to free the people bound by their countries religious standards?
3. Should people holding back others due to a differing opinion be held accountable for denying them a human right?
4. Is religious autonomy a human right and if not what can happen to make it be considered as such?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

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<https://www.google.com/amp/s/bigthink.com/the-10-countries-in-2017-with-the-least-religion-freedom-2604511270.amp.html>

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Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Cyber Security

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Joseph Drury, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The technological advances society has made in the past century has been extremely vast and rapid. These leaps forward have accelerated our society and have drastically changed our day to day lives, but they have also introduced new dangers to national security that have never existed before today. In January 2019 alone there were 10 significant cybersecurity threats that caused over a loss of one million dollars in the world, have been exponentially more since then.

Cyber attacks can have extremely adverse impacts in numerous ways. One significant action that can be taken is illegal transfer of funds. In November 2018 North Korean hackers used malware to steal tens of millions of dollars from African and Asian ATM's. This can cause numerous negative effects on the countries economy, leaving citizens with less money to spend, and banks losing significant amounts of business.

These attacks can also tear apart government systems from the inside out. In 2016 the US democratic party had a major leak of confidential emails, as well as the names and address of significant donors. This action forced several significant figures to resign as well as endangered citizens lives.

Another extremely large problem is cyber terrorism. Several terrorist groups have been known to use the internet to massively spread their influence. Isis has used social media to recruit new members as well as to create mass fear in countries. This is a large issue because it allows terrorists to be an even more significant threat, without endangering themselves.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What can the UN do to protect individuals from cyber attacks?
2. What actions can countries in the UN take to effectively protect each other from cyber attacks?
3. What can the UN do to keep political elections safe from cyber attacks?
4. How can the UN assist in recovery from previous cyber attacks?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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Sword, Alexander. "Cybergate: 5 Major Political Cyber Attacks." *Computer Business Review*, <https://www.cbronline.com>, 8 Aug. 2016, www.cbronline.com/business/cybergate-5-major-political-cyber-attacks-4973433/.

"Increasing International Cooperation in Cybersecurity and Adapting Cyber Norms." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/report/increasing-international-cooperation-cybersecurity-and-adapting-cyber-norms.

Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Infrastructure

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Ellie Hummel, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Whether it be the services that provide electricity and water, bridges and roads that allow for the rapid movement of vehicles and supplies, or telecommunications networks that connect a more intertwined world, infrastructure drives societies. Not only does it play an essential role in connecting people to resources, services, and others, it also creates positive social, environmental, and economic effects. For instance, there is a direct correlation between growth in infrastructure and decreases in poverty and unemployment; as roads grow, it is easier to commute to regional urban centers and to jobs, allowing for people from rural areas to access more opportunities. This improves the quality of life while benefiting the economy. Moreover, advances in water and energy systems can also help to connect people in rural areas with electricity, healthcare, and water when resources are scarce.

However, a lack of sustainable infrastructure worldwide still inhibits basic needs from being met. In fact, the United Nations estimates that 2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation systems, 2.6 billion lack access to constant sources of electricity, and 4 billion lack access to the internet. If people invested in infrastructure, these issues could be remedied effectively. Indeed, because infrastructure has an intrinsic relationship with so many issues, a 2019 independent analysis determined that all of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs are either implicitly or explicitly related to the regulation and use of infrastructure, including 72% of its targets.

Thus, to achieve sustainable growth and a healthy, stable, and productive world, it is important for politicians, global leaders, companies, and everyday citizens to think about how they can improve infrastructure in their communities. Standards and regulations need to be established and promoted to ensure initiatives and projects are managed efficiently. Moreover, NGOs and the public sector need to invest in projects that will create strong systems and networks within developing countries. When this happens, economies will grow, people will have access to basic resources, and the quality of life worldwide will improve.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What role, if any, should the United Nations play in supporting and developing the infrastructure of individual countries?
2. What impact does weak infrastructure have on the quality of life in the country I'm representing?
3. How can improvements in infrastructure lead to growth in other areas of development such as healthcare and food accessibility?
4. How can understanding the connections between sustainability and infrastructure improve our climate and inform our investments?
5. Do richer countries have an obligation to improve infrastructure globally?
6. What role, if any, does infrastructure have in shaping culture, and how does that impact indigenous cultures and/or societal interactions?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

[Infrastructure for Sustainable Development | Nature Research Journal](#)

[Why Infrastructure is Key to the Success of the SDGs | International Institute for Sustainable Development](#)

[Driving Sustainable Development through Better Infrastructure: Key Elements of a Transformative Program | Brookings Institute](#)

Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Election Integrity

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Dina Abdalla, Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE:

Elections are used in many countries around the world in order to determine the future government leaders. As a way to voice the public's opinion in governmental issues, it is an essential tool for democracies. Many countries have turned to elections after freedom from dictatorship or colonization. However, soon after, some countries find themselves in another dictatorship under the label of "democracy."

After reaching a democratic status, sometimes presidents will start to become dictators by controlling the outcome of "democratic" elections. In Venezuela, current president Nicolás Maduro has jailed those who run against him in every presidential election. Maduro suppresses all resistance by detaining those who act or even speak against the government. As a result, Venezuela has evolved into a dictatorship. Under the presidency of Maduro, hospitals have become overcrowded, and the people are running out of food. An economic crisis has been plaguing the country for years, and nothing has improved.

Similarly, in Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was elected in 2014 after the military overthrew former president Mohammad Morsi after mass protests against him. Al-Sisi was praised for throwing out an unwanted leader as a senior military officer. However, in the 2018 election Al-Sisi jailed all of his opponents and will jail anyone who speaks ill of the government. Ever since, people are claiming that the state of the country has fallen worse than it had been under the thirty year control of former dictator Hosni Mubarak. Rampant inflation has caused the value of the Egyptian Pound to plummet within the past two years.

Although the United Nations does not have the right to interfere in any matter within one state, there are other ways the United Nations can have an impact in this matter. The United Nations can recommend that countries change their election process. Additionally, the United Nations can provide an incentive for countries to change their election processes or address human rights issues in their respective countries.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. How can the UN address issues of election integrity?
2. Which countries are affected by the lack of election integrity?
3. How have election integrity issues affected people around the world?
4. Why is this problem important to the United Nations?
5. Will action by the UN adequately address the problems raised by election integrity issues?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

Election Integrity Project

<https://www.electionintegrityproject.com/>

Collapse of Venezuelan Economy

<https://money.cnn.com/2017/07/26/news/economy/venezuela-economic-crisis/index.html>

Venezuelan Crisis

<https://www.history.com/news/venezuela-chavez-maduro-crisis>

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/venezuela>

2018 Egyptian Elections

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-election-result/egypts-sisi-wins-97-percent-in-election-with-no-real-opposition-idUSKCN1H916A>

Sixth Committee | Legal

Marginalized Rights

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Jack Neel, President of the UN General Assembly| HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Marginalization is the process of pushing a particular group or groups of people to the edge of society by not allowing them an active voice, identity, or place in it. Through both direct and indirect processes, marginalized groups may be relegated to a secondary position or made to feel as if they are less important than those who hold more power or privilege in society. The list of marginalized groups include but are not limited to: persons with disabilities, youth, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, members of minority groups, indigenous people, internally displaced persons, and non-national, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers...

The list of marginalized groups 'most at risk' is long and the challenges they face worldwide in exercising, or seeking to exercise, their assembly and association rights are gargantuan. The inequalities experienced by minorities manifest themselves not only in terms of income or wealth, but also in terms of lack of opportunity and poor access to public services such as education. The Human Development Report 2016, entitled 'Human Development for Everyone', find that although average human development improved significantly across all regions from 1990 to 2015, one in three people worldwide continue to live in low levels of human development, as measured by the Human Development Index.

Action is needed now. Measures have been taken to lessen the marginalization of women on a global scale through resolutions like the Spotlight Initiative, which was launched by the European Union and the UN in September of 2017, with an initial investment of EUR 500 million. Its goal is to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls around the world. However, this is only a first step to solving the vast world of marginalization.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. What are the policies in our community to address issues faced by any of the groups identified as "marginalized"?
2. What impact do these policies have on the marginalized groups and on the community?
3. What community groups and programs exist to address these issues?
4. What forums/avenues exist to interact with "officials" to assess the treatment of people in these groups and to provide public funding to act compassionately?
5. Do we have programs to educate the public about the issues confronting marginalized groups and discuss what can be done to alleviate suffering?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

United Nations Development Programme

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/03/21/world-s-most-marginalized-still-left-behind.html>

Global Marginalization

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13439009808719964>

Policy Recommendations from the UN

https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Columbia-Youth-Report-FINAL_26-July-2014.pdf

Marginalization by Groups

<https://charterforcompassion.org/charter-tool-box-a-framework-for-getting-started/marginalized-populations-treatment-of-people>

Sixth Committee | Legal

Marriage Equality

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Tristan Winstead, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

As of June 21, 2019, thirty one nations allow same sex marriage. Except for Sweden and Italy, Western Europe is the most dense region globally for marriage equality. The nations that make up Asia and Africa have little to no tolerance for same sex marriage in the eyes of their governments. Taiwan and South Africa are the only nations on these continents that have legalized same sex marriage. According to the ILGA, seventy UN member states criminalize same sex consensual relations. In eight countries (Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, parts of Somalia and northern Nigeria, and under religious/ non-state actors in Syria and Iraq), identifying as a member of the LGBTQIA community is punishable by death. Theoretically, the death penalty could be enforced under Sharia law in Mauritania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, however, it doesn't appear to be implemented in these states at this time. In almost all of the nations where same sex marriage is criminalized, the reasoning is mainly because of religious doctrines and beliefs. Additionally, many states have built their case against marriage equality on the basis that LGBTQIA persons suffer from mental illness and disability. However, in 2019, the World Health Organization updated its catalog which formerly described LGBTQIA persons as having a mental illness now files the community under "conditions related to sexual health."

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What is the role (if any) of government in prohibiting same sex marriage on any basis?
2. What impact do social groups, movements, or religious extremists have on the tolerance of same sex marriage?
3. What is the role of the United Nations in ruling on discrimination on the basis of sexuality?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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<https://www.britannica.com/topic/same-sex-marriage/Same-sex-marriage-and-the-law>

<https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>

Sixth Committee | Legal Intellectual Property

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH