



NewMUN: Chapter VI BACKGROUND GUIDE Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Contents

AGENDA 1: Protecting Humanitarian Rights of Indigenous People and Addressing Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest as well as Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequality.	3
INTRODUCTION	3
GENERAL OVERVIEW	3
POSSIBLE MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS	7
BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
AGENDA 2: Protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, addressing the root causes of displacement, and promoting safe and orderly migration.	9
INTRODUCTION	9
GENERAL OVERVIEW	9
MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED	11
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS	11
APPENDIX	11
SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS	11
BIBLIOGRAPHY	11

AGENDA 1:

Protecting Humanitarian Rights of Indigenous People and Addressing Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest as well as Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequality.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates, welcome to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) at the NEW Model United Nations! This guide will help you navigate the complex issues that have been given to you. Being a delegate at a MUN can seem like a difficult job, especially considering how much work goes into writing position papers, research papers, and other assignments. However, a delegate's responsibilities go beyond that. It entails exercising diplomacy, engaging in debate, and coming up with creative solutions, interacting with other delegates, accepting difficulties, and enjoying oneself all around. An overview of the two topics being discussed in this council is provided by this background guide. It will give you a quick overview of the problems at hand along with links to more resources, but don't stop your investigation at this information! A well-prepared delegate must take into account all relevant factors, including (but not limited to) the viewpoints of their own delegation, its friends, and the opponents perspective of the matter in hand.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Sub-topic 1: Protecting Humanitarian Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Background: Indigenous peoples, who constitute approximately 5% of the world's population, play a crucial role in preserving cultural diversity and ecological balance. However, they often face significant challenges related to human rights violations, including displacement, discrimination, and loss of traditional lands.

Historical Context: Indigenous communities have historically been marginalized and subjected to exploitation. Key historical events include colonization, forced assimilation, and the encroachment of their lands for resource extraction. Notable examples include the displacement of Native Americans in the United States and the impact of colonialism on Aboriginal Australians.

International Frameworks:

- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (2007):** This landmark declaration outlines the rights of indigenous peoples, including self-determination, land rights, and protection of cultural heritage. Despite its adoption, implementation remains inconsistent.
- **International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 (1989):** This convention addresses the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, emphasizing their right to participate in decision-making processes affecting their lives.

Current Issues:

- **Land Rights:** Indigenous communities frequently face encroachment on their lands due to development projects, mining, and logging.
- **Cultural Erosion:** Globalization and modernization threaten the preservation of indigenous languages, traditions, and cultural practices.
- **Discrimination and Marginalization:** Indigenous peoples often experience systemic discrimination and limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach, including stronger legal protections, recognition of indigenous land rights, and initiatives to support cultural preservation and economic empowerment.

Sub-topic 2: Addressing Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

Background: The Amazon Rainforest, often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth," is a critical component of the global climate system, biodiversity, and indigenous livelihoods. It spans several countries, including Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. Deforestation in the Amazon has significant implications for climate change, biodiversity, and local communities.

Historical Context: Deforestation rates have accelerated since the mid-20th century due to logging, agriculture, and infrastructure development. The expansion of cattle ranching and soy plantations has been a major driver of deforestation.

International Frameworks:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): Provides a global platform for addressing climate change, including deforestation as part of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Focuses on the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair sharing of benefits.

Current Issues:

- Environmental Impact: Deforestation contributes to loss of biodiversity, disruption of global climate patterns, and increased carbon emissions.
- Indigenous Rights: Many indigenous communities are directly affected by deforestation, which threatens their traditional ways of life and access to natural resources.
- Economic Pressures: Economic incentives for deforestation, such as agriculture and logging, often outweigh conservation efforts.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Efforts to combat deforestation must balance economic development with environmental protection. Solutions include promoting sustainable land use practices, strengthening legal frameworks, and supporting indigenous-led conservation initiatives.

Sub-topic 3: Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequality

Background: Social inclusion and reducing inequality are fundamental to achieving sustainable development and human rights. Inequality manifests in various forms, including economic disparities, gender inequality, and social exclusion.

Historical Context: Inequality has deep historical roots, including colonialism, systemic racism, and gender discrimination. Efforts to address inequality have evolved over time, with significant milestones such as the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the establishment of various international conventions and development goals.

International Frameworks:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 10 focuses on reducing inequality within and among countries, while Goal 5 addresses gender equality and women's empowerment.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): Emphasizes the right to work, education, and an adequate standard of living.

Current Issues:

- Economic Inequality: The gap between the wealthy and the poor continues to widen, exacerbating social and economic disparities.
- Gender Inequality: Women and marginalized groups often face systemic barriers to equality in education, employment, and political representation.
- Social Exclusion: Certain groups, including minorities and indigenous peoples, frequently experience exclusion from social and economic opportunities.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Addressing inequality requires comprehensive policies that promote equitable access to resources, opportunities, and social services. This includes implementing progressive taxation, enhancing educational and economic opportunities, and promoting social inclusion and representation.

Guidelines for Research

To effectively participate in the SOCHUM discussions, delegates should:

1. Understand the Topics Thoroughly: Research the history, current status, and key stakeholders involved in each topic.
2. Review Previous Resolutions: Examine past resolutions and international agreements related to each issue to understand previous efforts and outcomes.
3. Develop Country Positions: Investigate your assigned country's stance on these issues, including its policies, interests, and key allies or adversaries.
4. Draft Resolutions: Formulate resolutions that address the key issues, proposing feasible and innovative solutions to advance the protection of indigenous rights, combat deforestation, and promote social inclusion and equality.

POSSIBLE MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- 1: Indigenous Land Rights and Legal Frameworks Topic
- 2: The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Amazon Conservation Topic
- 3: Enhancing Access to Education and Healthcare for Marginalized Communities

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
 - UNDRIP Full Text ● "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations System: Participation, Influence, and the Future" by Claire Charters and Rodolfo Stavenhagen ○ ResearchGate Article
- "The Amazon Rainforest: Global Importance and Environmental Threats" by Francisco M. Rodríguez
 - SpringerLink Article ● "The Impact of Deforestation on Indigenous Communities in the Amazon" by Alberto Acosta

○ ResearchGate Article ● Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ○ UN SDGs Overview



AGENDA 2:

Protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, addressing the root causes of displacement, and promoting safe and orderly migration.

INTRODUCTION

Under international law, migrants have human rights, by virtue of their humanity. International customary law and international human rights instruments are of universal application and set States' duties and rights of migrants. Various international instruments address the protection of migrants and their rights. Recent attention has also been drawn to the obligations of States, under international human rights law, towards dead and missing migrants and their families. Evaluating migrants' access to rights involves measuring the rights granted to migrants in principle and in practice, which is limited by a lack of data and resources. Migrant rights encompass the rights of migrants established by international migration law, including international human rights and other public law instruments. Simply relying on a human rights-based approach does not fully cover the range of rights set by other instruments. Migrant rights are also granted by treaties from branches of international public law such as refugee law, transnational criminal law, humanitarian law, labor law, and the law of the sea. Although migrant rights stem from international customary law, this focus is on treaty law.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The global increase in armed conflicts has led to a doubling of forcibly displaced persons, with 114 million displaced in 2023. The EU saw over 1 million asylum applications in 2023, a 21.3% increase from 2022, mainly from major conflict zones. The geopolitical landscape plays a significant role in migration, with security concerns impacting entry refusals and cooperation between nations on migration issues. In the US, foreign aid approval is tied to a tightening of migration policies at the southern border. The securitization of migration is a growing concern with potential global security implications for 2024, as nations implement repatriation

policies due to security threats associated with certain immigrant groups. This approach is likely to result in increased levels of secondary migration towards the EU and a growing number of migrants in countries in crisis. Additionally, migration is expected to play a pivotal role in election campaigns, particularly in Europe and the run-up to the US presidential election in November, with a focus on the political right and populist parties. Given widespread dissatisfaction among electorates with high levels of irregular arrivals and asylum applications, ruling governments and parliamentary majorities will try to prove that they are capable of delivering on policies that sustainably address irregular migration and asylum and bring down the number of arrivals in their country. In 2023, much of the European debate focused on external processing of asylum, with initiatives centering around pre-arrival processing of asylum claims, state-led evacuation programs, and the establishment of processing centers outside destination countries. These efforts aim to deter spontaneous arrivals and reduce overall application numbers. Furthermore, there will be significant developments in the area of legal migration in 2024, including the facilitation of labor migration in Member States, higher quotas for non-EU workers, and the cooperation with countries to meet growing demands and navigate skills mismatch challenges. As of October 2023, 4.3 million Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection are registered in the EU, benefiting from direct access to labor markets. However, the high educational qualifications of Ukrainian refugees have not translated into sufficient employment opportunities, with many confined to low-skilled and low-paid jobs. With temporary protection reaching its maximum duration in 2025, debates on beneficiaries' future status and economic integration are likely to intensify. Expanded and targeted training programs are needed to secure in-demand skills for European labor markets. The EU's visa policy could be revamped to reduce irregular arrivals, with the European Commission proposing a renewed Visa Suspension Mechanism to address issues like instrumentalisation and hybrid threats. The EU is facing increasing volatility due to systemic rivalry, state fragility, violent conflicts, terrorism, energy weaponization, and food insecurity. Geopolitics plays a significant role in migration, with armed conflicts doubling over the last decade and forcibly displaced persons reaching 114 million in 2023. The EU received over 1 million asylum applications last year, a 21.2% increase from 2022. High numbers of irregular arrivals and asylum applications will dominate European debates and election campaigns in Member States. However, European labor migration policies will "come of age," professionalizing and applying lessons in new policies. The situation in the wider European region will be shaped by migration-related developments in the Near and Middle East, South Asia, African regions, and Eastern Europe, with major migration movements towards Europe linked to these regions.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, the media, and others.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Congress needs to dramatically increase resources so that the current system works more efficiently, and we also need to reduce pressures on the system—at the borders, in the immigration courts, and in local communities—by creating more secure, orderly pathways to enter other countries.

APPENDIX

The Global Compact, a non-binding agreement prepared under the UN's auspices, is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement on international migration. It covers all dimensions of migration holistically and comprehensively, respecting states' sovereign right to determine who enters and resides in their territory. The Global Compact is framed in a way consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to improve governance of migration, address challenges, and strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration towards sustainable development. It provides a comprehensive menu of options for states to address pressing issues and allows states to pursue implementation based on their migration realities and capacities.

SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

Topic 1: Addressing Climate Change as a Driver of Displacement

Topic 2: Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Migrants

Topic 3: Implementing and Funding Resettlement Programs for Refugees

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Global Compact for Migration

Migrant Rights – Migration Data Portal

World Migration Report