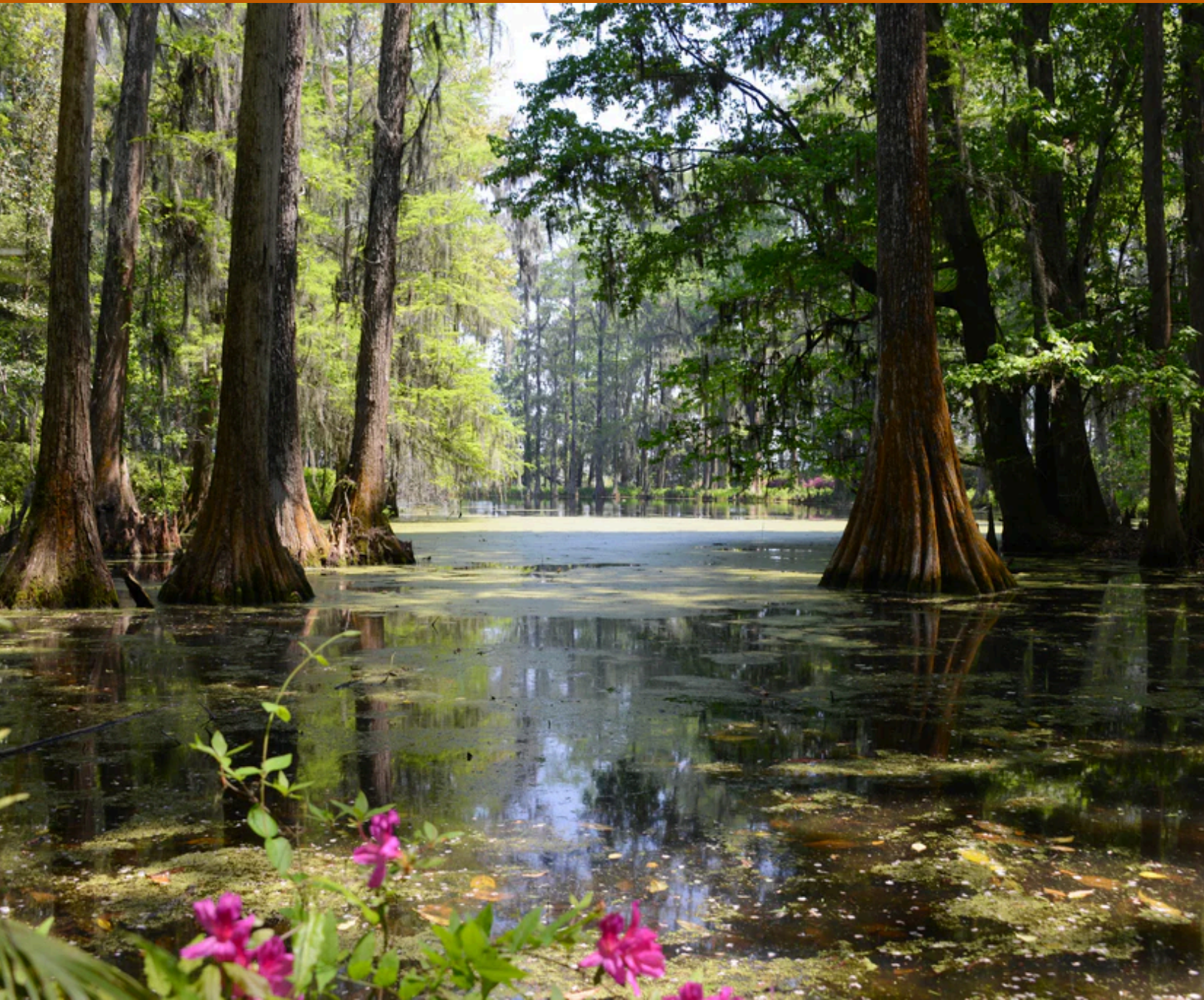




SWAMPMUN



United Nations Security Council

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the very first SwampMUN! My name is Valentina Thibault, and I am honored to serve as your Director of UNSC: the United Nations Security Council.

This will be my first conference as a Director, and I am delighted to take on this role! Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to train and grow alongside the UF Model United Nations team, most recently serving as a backroom staffer for our annual GatorMUN conference. I hope to continue my commitment to fostering meaningful Model UN events through my growing passion for committee dynamics and solving international problems. Outside of Model UN, I can be found cooking, studying, taking a hike, or shopping. I am currently a second year Marketing Student within the Warrington College of Business at the University of Florida. I'm incredibly excited to be a part of your Model UN journey and look forward to helping you strengthen your skills in diplomacy, debate, and public speaking.

While typically seven topics are available for delegates to review, we will only cover two. The selected ones for the position papers will be Topic II: Refugees and the Global Migrant Crisis and Topic V: Children and Armed Conflict – South Sudan Position. Papers must be one page in length per topic. Additional guidelines on position papers can be found on the SwampMUN website. I strongly urge delegates to make use of the background guide and additional outside resources for preparation, and please remember to stay on policy throughout writing, debating, and drafting resolutions.

I can't wait to meet each of you and make this committee an unforgettable experience.

Best regards,

Valentina Thibault - she/her

Committee Director, United Nations Security Council

Rules of Procedure

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as “Present” or “Present and Voting.”

Motion to Open Debate

This opens the floor for debate, allowing other points or motions.

Motion to Set the Agenda

This motion determines the order in which the topics of a committee will be debated. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.

Motion to Open the Speaker's List

Opening the Speaker's List requires a simple majority to pass. A delegate may only be present on the Speaker's List once, but may re-enter after he/she has spoken. If the Speaker's List expires, debate then closes.

Motion to Set Speaking Time

Speaking Time must be indicated by this motion from the floor before any members of the body may speak on the Speaker's List. This motion must also accompany any motion for a Moderated Caucus. In a Motion to Set Speaking Time for the formal Speaker's List, a delegate may also specify a number of questions or comments to automatically affix to the Speaking Time. These designated questions or comments may also have Speaking Time or Response Time (in the case of a question) limits, but these are not required. The Director may rule any Motion to Set Speaking Time dilatory. This motion requires a simple majority. Any delegate may make this motion between formal speakers in an effort to change the Speaking Time.

Motion to Close the Speaker's List

The Speaker's List may be closed upon a motion from the floor. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass. Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications:

- a. Length of the Caucus
- b. Speaking time, and
- c. Reason for the Caucus.

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus should never exceed twenty minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

Motion to Table the Topic

If a delegate believes that the flow of debate has become stagnant, he/she may make this motion. To Table the Topic is to halt debate on the present Topic, save the speakers' list and all draft resolutions, and move on to the next Topic on the Agenda. The delegate making this motion may also choose to specify a previously tabled Topic. This motion requires a two-thirds vote to pass. The Topic may be returned to at any time by tabling the present Topic and adding the phrase "for the purpose of returning to Tabled Topic _____," to this motion. If no Topics have been previously tabled, debate must follow the established Agenda. This motion is to be used sparingly.

Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- a) To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
- b) To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
- c) To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time. The question must conform to the following format:

Delegate from Country A raises placard to be recognized by the Committee Director.

Committee Director: "To what point do you rise?"

Country A: "Point of Inquiry."

Committee Director: "State your Point."

Country A: "Will the delegate from Country B (who must have just spoke) yield to a question?"

Committee Director: "Will the Delegate Yield?"

Country B: “I will” or “I will not” (if not, return to the next business item)

Country A asks their question (it must not be a rhetorical question.)

Country B may choose to respond or to decline.

If the Delegate from Country B does not yield to or chooses not to answer a question from Country A, then he/she yields all remaining questioning time to the Committee Director.

Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Rights of Reply

At the Committee Director’s discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the **ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY** to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision **IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL**. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

Working Papers and Draft Resolutions

Once a Working Paper has been submitted, approved, distributed, and formally introduced to the body, it can and will be referred to as a “Draft Resolution.” In order for a Working Paper to be submitted to the Committee Director, it must be in correct format and bear the names of a combination of a number of Sponsors and Signatories necessary to introduce, as determined by the Committee Director. Sponsors are the writers of the Working Paper, and agree with it in its entirety. They should be able to vote ‘yes’ for the paper during voting procedure. Signatories are those delegates interested in bringing the Working Paper to the floor for debate, but do not necessarily agree with its contents. A delegate can motion to discuss the working paper during a moderated caucus or unmoderated caucus. A delegate can also motion for an author’s panel, which is essentially a moderated caucus moderated by the authors. It is the chair’s discretion on the maximum amount of authors allowed on the author’s panel.

Friendly Amendments

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that all Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor’s agreement both verbally and in writing.

Unfriendly Amendments

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must have the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories.

The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and nonsubstantive Unfriendly amendment proposals. Plagiarism SwampMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the SwampMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

Motion to Close Debate and Voting Procedures

A motion to close debate may only pass with a two-thirds majority. Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

Once moving into voting procedures chair can only accept these motions:

- A point of order to correct an error in procedure
- An appeal of the decision of the chair
- A motion for division
- A motion for roll call vote
- A motion for adoption by acclamation

No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures. Each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Draft Resolution as a whole is put to a vote. The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures. Unless otherwise specified by the Secretariat, each Committee may pass as many resolutions as it agrees are necessary to efficiently address the Topic. Delegates who requested to be noted as “Present and Voting” are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.

Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: “For,” “Against,” “Abstain,” or “Pass.” During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, “Pass,” reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to “Passing” Delegates, they must vote: “For” or “Against.”

Voting with Rights

During a Roll Call vote delegates may vote “For with Rights” or “Against with Rights.” Delegates will be granted 30 seconds to explain their reasons for voting for or against a draft resolution. This time will come after the tabulation of votes. Delegates should use this option sparingly. It is meant for delegates who feel that their vote may seem off policy, despite it being correct. The acceptance of rights is up to the director’s discretion. If a speaker goes off topic during their allotted time the director will rule their speech dilatory and move to the next motion in order.

Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

Committee Background

History of the United Nations Security Council

On October 24, 1945, the victors of World War II ratified the UN Charter, which created the Security Council and established themselves as its five permanent members. In 1965, the number of temporary members was increased to ten. Of these ten temporary members five must come from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from Western Europe. The Charter established the purpose of the UNSC and outlined its powers. The UNSC met for the first time in London on January 17th, 1946. The first UN peacekeeping mission was deployed to the Middle East in 1948.³ Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Security Council decisions. As per Article 29 of the Charter, the UNSC may establish subsidiary bodies, committees, adhoc, and international courts and tribunals. The UNSC has various subsidiary organs underneath it.

Overarching Themes

- Trends in past and present conflicts
- Corruption
- Economic hardships
- Poor infrastructure
- Healthcare problems
- Global education problems

Means of Action

Overview

While resolutions are legally binding, the United Nations has always struggled with means of enforcement to its resolutions. The following are means of actions the UNSC can take in order to solve a crisis and enforce a resolution. While these means of action can be helpful to solve a variety of situations, they cannot simply be implemented for every crisis. Each crisis requires a specific- situation approach.

Sanctions

The UNSC can impose economic, military, financial, and diplomatic sanctions in order to change the actions of a country and enforce a resolution. Sanctions are also a way to limit the opportunity for adverse behavior. Sanctions include:

- Arms Embargo
- Embargo on the import and export of goods and technology
- Restrictions on loans and credit for certain people/companies
- Freezing the assets of certain people/companies
- Travel and visa restrictions

1 “Security Council, SC, UNSC, Security, Peace, Sanctions, Veto, Resolution, President, United Nations,

UN, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Prevention.” UN News Center. UN, n.d.

2 Tomuschat, Christian. “Uniting for Peace.” AudioVisual Library for International Law. N.p., n.d.

3 “The UN Security Council.” United Nations Foundation. N.p., n.d.

A common criticism against sanctions is the length of time it takes for sanctions to create an effect. Another negative effect of sanctions is the collateral damage they often cause to innocent citizens and third parties.

Invoking Peacekeepers

The United Nations Security Council holds the primary responsibility for invoking peacekeepers into a situation. There are three principles to guide peacekeeping missions. These principles are consent of the parties, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. The main principle at play in invoking peacekeepers into a country is gaining the consent of the main parties to the conflict.⁴

⁴ “Principles of UN Peacekeeping. United Nations Peacekeeping.” UN News Center. UN, n.d.

Topic I: Refugees and the Global Migrant Crisis

Introduction

Approximately 60 million people are displaced worldwide and every day thousands more flee their homes. More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, sparking an international crisis. In the first six weeks of 2016, another 80,000 refugees arrived in Europe. Migration has been a part of history and a fact of life. People migrate for a variety of reasons. Some people move to improve their economic situation, to pursue education, to escape human rights violations, extreme poverty, and even death. Migrants and refugees face detention when they arrive, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. Migrant workers often face abuse- including sexual violence and forced labor. Qatar has come under criticism for its treatment of migrant workers ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

Definitions

Migrant – Any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country. A migrant worker is defined as any person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national. Another broader definition of a migrant covers all cases where the decision to migrate is taken freely by the individual concerned, for reasons of personal convenience and without intervention of an external compelling factor.⁵

Refugee – A refugee is a person fleeing conflict or persecution. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.⁶ Refugees are defined and protected in international law under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Countries deal with migrants under their own immigration laws, while countries deal with refugees through the norms of refugee protection and asylum that are defined in their national legislation as well as international law. UNHCR helps countries deal with their asylum and refugee protection responsibilities.⁷

Asylum – Asylum is granted to people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their home country and are in need of international protection. Asylum is a fundamental right and is an international obligation under the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees.

Where are the Migrants and Refugees Coming From?

Political upheaval in the Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa have caused drastic shifts in migration trends in Europe. The number of illegal border- crossings have been surging since 2011. Thousands of Tunisians began arriving on the Italian island of Lampedusa after the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2011. Sub-Saharan Africans followed in 2011-2012, escaping strife in the post-Qaddafi period. The most recent surge along EU's maritime borders, has been attributed to an

⁵ "Migrant | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." Migrant | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. N.p., n.d.

⁶ "Refugees." UNHCR News. N.p., n.d.

⁷ Edwards, Adrian. "UNHCR Viewpoint: 'Refugee' or 'migrant' - Which Is Right?" UNHCR News. N.p., 27 Aug. 2015.

increase in Syrian, Afghan, and Eritrean migrants and refugees. In 2015, Syrian refugees made up almost 40% of the incoming migrants. Afghans made up approximately 11% of migrants and Eritreans, who were fleeing forced labor, made up around 7% of migrants

Region-by-Region

Balkans

Masses of migrants and refugees, many from Syria, Afghanistan and Kosovo, have been overwhelming the borders in several Balkan countries as they try to reach Western Europe. Hungary, Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia are all major stops on the Western Balkan Migration Route.

Middle East

Violence in Syria and Iraq have caused a huge flux of displaced people into the surrounding countries. Implications on the local economy include a rise in the unemployment rate. The unemployment has doubled since 2011 in Jordan. Syrian refugees now make up over 20% of Lebanon's population. Turkey closed its border gates with Syria in March 2015, forcing huge crowds to sleep outside near the border city of Aleppo, Syria. The violence and instability in the region begs the question of the capabilities of these countries to accept refugees.

Southeast Asia

Although the international focus of this crisis has centered upon the Middle East and Europe, refugees are fleeing from other parts of the globe. Thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, an ethnic minority from Myanmar, are fleeing from poverty and persecution. Indonesia and Malaysia are taking refugees from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Mediterranean Sea

In the first half of 2015, 137,000 people migrated here and 1,800 of these migrants died at sea. The civil war in Libya has made human trafficking easier in this region. Poverty and war in Libya, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Nigeria is driving migrants to make the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Italy and Greece are main landing points for the migrants. In May 2015, European leaders said they would form a naval force based in Italy to combat people-smuggling. European navies could then return migrants to nearby African ports or take them for asylum review in Europe. The Security Council authorized member states to intercept vessels off the Libyan Coast that are suspected of migrant smuggling in Resolution 2240 (2015).

Eastern Europe

The fighting between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian separatists have caused over 1.3 million displaced people inside Ukraine. Over 800,000 Ukrainians have left the country. European countries, like Germany, Poland, and Italy are top destinations for asylum seekers. These countries have rejected most applications from Ukrainians. Less than a third of the United Nations humanitarian response to this crisis has been raised so far.⁸

⁸ Boehler, Patrick, and Sergio Peçanha. "The Global Refugee Crisis, Region by Region." The New York Times. The New York Times, 08 June 2015.

poverty that has been incredibly difficult to break. Many of the citizens in these areas have lived in their small towns for hundreds of years, unable to leave because of language barriers, and perhaps a lack of desire to as well. Rural communities are those least affected by the ROC's westernized philosophy, and most still cling to Confucian ideals of education and gender.

Northeastern

Mobility in the Northeast region of China is fairly easy, as the majority of this region speaks one of two dialects: Mongolian or Mandarin. As the home of the new capital of the People's Republic of China and the old capital of the Qing Dynasty (Beijing), it is fairly easy for the wealthy in each area to send their children to Beijing for schooling, and for educated teachers to travel to rural regions to educate the population.

Southeastern

The southeast of the People's Republic of China is the most ethnically and linguistically diverse region, with over thirteen linguistic subgroups present. Mobility is very difficult in these areas with no lingua franca to communicate with, and it is very difficult to send educated teachers there. The people of this region are very proud of their long history and ethnic diversity, despite the educational difficulties it may entail.

Western

The Western regions are made up almost solely of distinct minorities, many of whom do not consider themselves Chinese at all and do not wish to be Sinocized. Many of these minorities cannot read written Chinese and have their own forms of writing and spoken languages. It is very difficult for these regions to communicate with each other and the rest of the People's Republic, especially with such large physical barriers.

Where are the Migrants and Refugees Going?

It is important to know that many countries have seen steady rises in asylum applications since 2008, long before the crisis in 2015. Migrants and refugees have been fleeing by the thousands for years now, despite the fact that the issue only recently gained international traction.

Greece

By 2012, over 50% of the migrants illegally entering the EU did so through Greece. Greece enhanced border controls through Operation Aspida, which helped shift the trend of illegal entries into the country. This operation included the construction of a barbed-wire fence at the border with Turkey. In 2015, Greece became a hotspot for migrants entering the EU. Syrians and Afghans made up a significant portion of the migrants illegally entering Greece. This migrant crisis aligned with the debt and banking crisis, worsening the capabilities of the country to support the amount of refugees and migrants they were receiving.⁹

Human smuggling and trafficking are transnational activities on the rise. It involves the recruitment,

9 Boehler, Patrick, and Sergio PeÇanha. "The Global Refugee Crisis, Region by Region." The New York Times. The New York Times, 08 June 2015.

movement, and delivery of migrants from a sending region to a destination. The primary transit routes are across the Mediterranean, through the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Turkey.¹⁰

European Union Policy

Since 1999, the EU has been working to create a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The EU has established legislative measures to create common minimum standards for asylum. These included the revised Asylum Procedures Directive that aimed to create a fairer, quicker, and better quality asylum decisions. The Reception Conditions Directive ensures the humane material reception conditions for asylum seekers across the EU. The revised Qualification Directive clarifies the grounds for granting international protection. The Dublin Regulation enhances the protection of asylum seekers during the period in which States are reviewing the application. It clarifies the rules of governing the relations between states. The EURODAC Regulation allows law enforcement to access the EU database of the fingerprints of asylum seekers in limited circumstances.¹¹

Articles 79 and 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) are relevant to the EU's immigration policy. Legal migration: Member States still retain the right to determine admission rates for people coming to seek work from third countries.

Integration: The EU can provide incentives and support for measures taken by Member States to promote the integration of legally resident third-country nationals. Illegal migration: the EU is required to prevent and reduce irregular immigration, by means of an effective return policy, with respect to their fundamental rights. An irregular migrant is a person who comes to the EU without a proper visa or permit or who overstays their visa.¹²

The EU plans to relocate migrants who reach the EU from countries at the external entrances, like Italy, Greece, and Hungary- to countries with a smaller amount of arrivals. Currently, they plan to relocate 160,000 people over the next two years. The EU has also pledged one billion euros to food programs to help reduce the flow of arriving refugees. The European Commission has launched inquiries against Member States that have not complied with the common rules for providing decent conditions to asylum seekers. The Commission proposed an initial quota system for asylum seekers who already arrived, with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania voting against the measure. Hungary built a barbed-wire fence along their border with Serbia and introduced a law that made crossing the fence a criminal offense.

Questions to Consider

What protections should the international community and the UNSC be providing to migrants and refugees?

Should the UNSC address the root cause of people in need of refugee?

11 "Common European Asylum System." DGs- Migration and Home Affairs. Common European Asylum System, n.d.

12 "Immigration Policy | EU Fact Sheets | European Parliament." Immigration Policy | EU Fact Sheets | European Parliament. N.p., n.d.

Topic II: Children and Armed Conflict-South Sudan

Introduction

Children are affected by armed conflict in a variety of ways. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Armed Conflict serves as the leading United Nations advocate for children in armed conflict. This office was created by the General Assembly, Resolution A/RES/51/77) and works to strengthen the protection of children in armed conflict, raise awareness, and yield international cooperation. The United Nations Security Council has placed the situation of children in armed conflict as a pressing issue affecting international peace and security.

The UNSC has adopted resolutions to request the Secretary General to:

- Gather and verify information detailing where and how children are affected;
- Use this information in the annual report to the UNSC;
- Name parties to conflict who commit violations;
- Engage in dialogue with listed Governments and armed groups to create Action Plans to avert violations.

An Action Plan is a written, signed commitment between the UN and parties to conflict. The plan outlines a time-bound measure to end violations and to prevent future violations.

In order to progress the goal of protecting children during armed conflict, the United Nations Security Council identified six categories of violations – the so-called six grave violations. These violations include:

- Killing and maiming of children;
- Recruitment or use of children as soldiers;
- Sexual violence against children;
- Attacks against schools or hospitals;
- Denial of humanitarian access for children;
- Abduction of children.¹³

History of the Conflict

South Sudan broke away from Sudan in 2011 and has been in turmoil and thousands of people in South Sudan have been killed, because of ethnicity or political alliances, in the ongoing conflict in the country. Over 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes. Clinics, hospitals, homes, and schools have been destroyed. Thousands of people are still sheltering in United Nations compounds. Military and political leaders have failed to be held accountable and stop the crisis. In August 2015, South Sudan President Salva Kiir signed a peace deal with the rebels after threats of

13 "Our Work | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict." United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. N.p., n.d.

sanctions from the UN. Leaders of Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia helped facilitate the negotiations. Key provisions of the agreement include:

- Immediate stop to the fighting- soldiers to be confined to barracks in thirty days, foreign forces to leave in forty five days, and the freeing of child soldiers;
- Military forces in the capital, Juba, to be replaced by guard forces and Joint Integrated Police;
- Rebels get post of first vice-president;
- Transitional government to take office in ninety days;
- Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing to investigate human rights violations.

There have been seven failed ceasefires since the conflict broke out in 2013. The rebel chief Riek Machar was sworn in as vice-president in April 2016¹⁴. The peace agreement has been delayed in implementation with the international community pressuring South Sudan to fulfill its promises to end the conflict.

Security Council Resolutions

In 2014, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1539. This resolution condemned the recruitment and use of child soldiers and provided country-specific resolutions against the practice. It asked the Secretary-General to devise an action plan. It used the inclusion of provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of UN peacekeeping operations¹⁵. In 2005, the Security Council established monitoring, reporting mechanisms on the use of child soldiers in resolution 1612. It passed unanimously. In 2015, the UNSC adopted Resolution 2206 laid the groundwork for targeted sanctions should the peace deal fail. The UNSC Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan stated that while there was progress in the release of some children in the conflict, hundreds more were being abducted and forced into recruitment. It stated that the violations included killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools, and the denial of humanitarian access. The Working Group presented these findings in May 2015.¹⁶

Effects

As the clashes between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People's Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition) continue, a total of 1,051 incidents affecting 28,788 children have been documented since the peace treaty signing. The UN verified 159 incidents of recruitment and use, affecting 2,596 children. 70% of the incidents were connected to the SPLA, other government security forces and allied forces. The UN verified 131 incidents of killing and 59 incidents of maiming, which is an increase from 2014. Several children were killed on United Nations sites. 130 incidents of sexual violence affecting 430 children have been verified

14 "South Sudan President Salva Kiir Signs Peace Deal." BBC News. N.p., 26 Aug. 2015.

15 "SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RECRUITMENT OF CHILD SOLDIERS, ASKS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO DEVISE MONITORING MECHANISM | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." UN News Center. UN, n.d.

16 "UN Documents for Children and Armed Conflict." UN Documents for Children and Armed Conflict. N.p., n.d.

and attributed to the SPLA and further government forces. 10 attacks on schools have been verified and 25 schools were being used for military purposes by the SPLA. Schools are being closed down and children are not receiving the proper education due to this conflict. Girls are being exposed to sexual violence. Other effects of this conflict include:

- Hunger;
- Disease;
- The breakdown of the family;
- Child marriage and forced prostitution;
- Internal displacement;
- Sexually transmitted diseases; and,
- Exposure to landmines after conflicts.¹⁷

Education System

More than half a million children have fled their homes since the conflict first broke out, and most children have stopped attending schools. Some humanitarian agencies are attempting to run emergency education centers in places of high concentrations of displaced children. Unfortunately, these places have a limited capacity and are frequently unable to serve all the children. The lack of funding is a large part of the problem for bringing emergency education to children. Only 33% of the South Sudan 2014 Crisis Response Plan was funded as of 2014.¹⁸ The education structure of South Sudan was a 8-4 formal education structure. Under this, children entered primary school at age six and for eight grades. Secondary school consisted of grades nine- twelve. In practice, schools follow different curricula and different grade levels. Basic education school is free and compulsory, but this has not proven to be true in practice.¹⁹

Health

The conflict has placed a strain on the health system with the outbreak of diseases and sexually transmitted diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 4.4 million people are in need of health assistance. The South Sudan Health Cluster targets reaching 2.5 million people with services. WHO has received less than one-quarter of the \$110 million needed for 2016. Instability, decreasing resources, ongoing fighting, and infrastructure problems are keeping the healthcare situation in South Sudan problematic.²⁰

17 "South Sudan | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict." United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. N.p., 20 Apr. 2016.

18 "South Sudan: An Education System in Crisis." OCHA. N.p., 10 June 2014.

19 "South Sudan." Education Policy Data Center. N.p., n.d.

20 "Challenges and Hope in Delivering Health in South Sudan." World Health Organization. N.p., May 2016.

Questions to Consider

How can the cycle of poverty be broken in a country where the education system is virtually nonexistent?

How can the UN overcome the lack of funding for projects traditionally in Africa?

How can the UNSC hold the South Sudanese government accountable?

How does this conflict affect regional security?

How can regional countries affect the outcome of this crisis?

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