

MINNESOTA YMCA

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



2022 DELEGATE STUDY GUIDE

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Hello Delegates,

I am excited to share with you the study guide for this year. You will find topics across the spectrum that highlights many global issues across the globe. Throughout your research process, I hope you can look to this background knowledge as a guide to help you take a step further into digging into these issues. I want you to use these resources and really look at your nation's perspective on the issues at hand.

With this in mind, we have a goal to come to the conference prepared and ready to create phenomenal resolutions. Think about what question you can bring to the conference to discuss with other nations about. What aspects may your nation agree with or disagree with? The more questions you ask, the more you and other delegates will get out of this conference.

I hope that you all find this study guide to be very helpful in guiding you as you dive into your research on topics. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or help that you may need. We all want to see you succeed and enjoy the conference. I am very thrilled to be able to see you all in person this year. Good luck, as you all prepare for the 36th annual Minnesota Center for Youth Voice Model United Nations.

With Anticipation,

Sabrina Ali

2022 Secretary-General



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SECURITY COUNCIL



2022 TOPICS

**Iranian Nuclear Program
Global Boarder Disputes**



2022 TOPIC: IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Topic Summary and Background:

In the early 2000s, it emerged that Iran was enriching uranium and may be building nuclear weapons. After a successful attempt to halt the project by the international community, Iran began building a nuclear power plant which was finished in 2011. This was done with the assistance of Russia and raised significant concerns that Iran had revived its dormant nuclear weapons program. The Iranians, however, claimed the plant was solely for civilian energy production.

In 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (better known as the Iran Deal or Iran Nuclear Deal) was finalized and reduced the amount of uranium Iran could enrich by 97%. Further, it decommissioned two-thirds of Iran's centrifuges for the next ten years and committed the nation to nuclear power solely for civilian energy production. In a report released by the International Atomic Energy Association in 2019, Iran was certified as compliant to the terms of the deal. However, just months later, Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran deal, and claimed he could negotiate something better. He never did, and Iran was reported as possessing 12 times the legal amount of uranium mere months later.

Why This is Important:

Iran's nuclear program is a point of conflict. The Iranian government says that they are using nuclear research and equipment for power generation and other peaceful purposes. The United States- helped Iran begin their nuclear research program in the 1950s under a program that worked with universities, hospitals, and research facilities to work on specifically peaceful nuclear research (Atoms for Peace Program). When Iran signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970, they pledged to only use their nuclear program for peaceful purposes, and they agreed to allow inspectors to make sure that it was true. Currently, the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is reporting that it is unable to confirm that Iran's nuclear program is entirely peaceful. The uncertainty of Iran's actions and intentions could lead other countries to act (financially or militarily) to prevent development of nuclear weapons in Iran.

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. Is Iran building nuclear weapons?
2. Who would be most harmed by Iran's assembling of nuclear weapons?
3. Is the Iranian Nuclear Deal too strong? Is the Iranian Nuclear Deal too weak?
4. What are the impacts of the United States' withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal?
5. What can be done globally to halt the production of nuclear weapons?

Resources:

International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguard Agreement

<https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/qov2003-40.pdf>

National Intelligence Estimate: Iran: Nuclear Intentions & Capabilities

https://web.archive.org/web/20101122022043/http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20071203_release.pdf

VOA News Article

[IAEA: 'No Credible Indications' of Iran Nuclear Weapons Activity After 2009 \(voanews.com\)](http://www.voanews.com)

Nuclear Threat Initiative summary of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

(NPT) <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/>

Arms Control Association Timeline of Nuclear Diplomacy with Iran

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Timeline-of-Nuclear-Diplomacy-With-Iran>

BBC News Article

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>

News Article – Yahoo.com (2019)

[Iran still holding up its end of nuclear deal, IAEA report shows](http://www.yahoo.com)

2022 TOPIC: GLOBAL BORDER DISPUTES

Topic Summary and Background:

Border disputes have caused uncertain relationships and conflict- between governments and between armies- all through history, and they still take place today. Not only do these border arguments result in conflict, killing, and war, and not only do they happen more often than disagreements over money, culture, ethnicity, or water-use rights, but they are some of the hardest struggles to end. The more a piece of land has that's worth something to people or governments (natural resources, religious sites, meaningful history), the more violent the sides become.

When one country says that a territory of another country belongs to them, conflicts go beyond borders, and can cause existing tensions to rise into war. If countries can settle a border dispute, it often sets up a stronger, more cooperative future between them. Some examples of border disputes:

- The claim by Russia that areas of Ukraine are independent in 2022
- The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014
- The dispute over the East China Sea between Japan and China
- The territory of Jammu and Kashmir divided between India, Pakistan, and China since the British relinquished control of the subcontinent in the 1940s

Border disputes have been and continue to be a global issue, and a source of great conflict and suffering.

What is a border dispute?

A border dispute is a conflict involving two or more countries or governments disagreeing about which owns or controls an area of land, water, or a combination. These disagreements have no easy solution, can last for many generations, and can even play a defining role in a nation's identity.

Examples of Border Disputes:

The Kashmir Dispute (1947-)

East China Sea (1982-)

Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and West Bank (1967-)

Western Sahara (1976-)

Transnistria (1990-)

Why This is Important:

Disagreements over borders between lands or territories can lead to war. Many countries have been involved in border disputes in the past, and some are ongoing today. There is no way to predict which countries will face off over borders in the future. As of September of 2021, National Geographic reported that more than 150 of these disputes were taking place on five of the seven continents. Because there is no known way to settle these disputes, conflicts will continue, and while there are signs of arguments growing in some areas, there is no way to know when or where boarder disputes will arise.

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. What role should the UN play with resolving border disputes between two governments, and how should they intervene in the conflict?
2. How can the UN successfully settle these border disputes peacefully? Should there be a sort of standard procedure?
3. How should sovereignty of a country/land be decided/officially claimed?
4. Given the recent developments with Russia and Ukraine, should anything be done about the annexation of Crimea?
5. How can the UN mitigate border disputes over cross-border resource management?

Resources:

News Article on Kashmir

[Kashmir: Why India and Pakistan fight over it - BBC News](#)

Six of the World's Most Worrisome Disputed Territories- National Geographic Society

[Six of the World's Most Worrisome Disputed Territories](#)

Global Conflict Tracker

[Tensions in the East China Sea | Global Conflict Tracker \(cfr.org\)](#)

News Article on Western Sahara

[Western Sahara profile - BBC News](#)

Transdniestria

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Transdniestria>

Territorial Disputes - Council on Foreign Relations

<https://www.cfr.org/defense-and-security/territorial-disputes>

What's So Important About Territorial Disputes in International Relations? - Center for Security Studies

<https://isnblog.ethz.ch/international-relations/whats-so-important-about-territorial-disputes-in-international-relations>

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL



2022 TOPICS

Cryptocurrency Regulation
Ethical Production and Consumption of Goods



2022 TOPIC: CRYPTOCURRENCY REGULATION

Topic Summary and Background:

According to Investopedia, "Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes the money nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend." Cryptocurrency is seen as a more secure medium of exchange because all the transactions are public and irreversible. And because of the large networks involved in the use of cryptocurrency, it is also extremely hard to for individuals to hack. In a report from Fortune Business Insights, it noted that in 2020 there was a growth of 10% in the global market of cryptocurrency. This is compared to 2017-2019 where the value was growing each year. Along with market growth, in September of 2021 El Salvador became the first country in the world to recognize Bitcoin as an official national currency. This means that people in the Central American country will be able to use cryptocurrency as legal tender in a variety of exchanges. Not only is Bitcoin having a financial impact, but it also has an environmental impact as well. The energy needed to power the Bitcoin network is more energy used by several counties.

Why This is Important:

We are currently at a new, unique crossroads where our society is in transition from an industrial economy to one of new technologies, and cryptocurrency is leading the way. Cryptocurrencies offer an easy-to-use, digital alternative to fiat currencies. Bitcoin is a prime example of a cryptocurrency. Since it is an online currency with no ties to a government or central bank, it has been able to become a medium for all kinds of black market activities online. The overall use of cryptocurrencies has been on the rise in popularity as it is resistant to tampering and fraud along with a trusted and transparent record of transactions. This aspect is particularly important in regions with weak institutions and high levels of corruption.

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. Should cryptocurrency be recognized as an official currency in the world?
2. How do we control cryptocurrencies in the global market with inflation?
3. How can cryptocurrency be used in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way?

Resources:

Blockchain and Sustainable Growth

[Blockchain and Sustainable Growth | United Nations](#)

UN Article on the Dangers and Promises of Cryptocurrency

[Sustainability solution or climate calamity? The dangers and promise of cryptocurrency technology | UN News](#)

What is Crypto Currency?

<https://www.coinbase.com/learn>

2022 TOPIC: ETHICAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF GOODS

Topic Summary and Background:

Both the ethical production of and consumption of goods is important to ensure better care for our environment and community. The ethical production of goods is a model in which the manufacturer puts an emphasis on the well-being of its staff, its customers, where it sources materials, and where the good is being produced. This also strives to ensure that the means of production are non-exploitive and represent the fair treatment of employees as well.

Consumption of goods can be seen as a political tool rooted in boycotts of goods. As production continues to move from the developed to the developing world and is no longer in the regulatory hands of Western nation-states, consumer activists are growing to see ethical consumerism to influence labor and environmental practices across the globe. The act of ethical consumerism is seen by some to potentially reshape the practice of global capitalism. The sustainable consumption and production of goods is about promoting resource and energy efficiency and providing access to basic services. The implementation of these helps to further achieve development plans, reduce future economic, environmental, and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness, and reduce poverty.

Why This is Important:

When goods are sourced and manufactured in an ethical way, the standard used to produce the good is sustainable. In turn, this has a positive impact on communities - both those producing the good and those consuming the good. Ethical consumerism is also important as it is the deliberate purchase of products for political, ethical, or environmental reasons, and inherently works to ensure that the products being consumed are produced ethically. Working to further ensure ethical production and consumption patterns of goods helps to improve our environment through sustainability as well as promoting this ethics/sustainability through economic competition of these goods.

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. What standards should be in place to ensure the ethical production and consumption of goods?
2. How can we ensure that goods are being produced ethically and sustainably?

Resources:

Sustainable Development Goal Tracker

[Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - SDG Tracker \(sdq-tracker.org\)](https://sdq-tracker.org)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

[Goal 12 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](https://un.org)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



2022 TOPICS

Uyghurs In China
Hijab Ban in Europe



2022 TOPIC: UYGHURS IN CHINA

Topic Summary and Background:

The Uyghurs, (alternatively known as the Uighurs, Uygurs or Uigurs) are a Turkic ethnic group native to the Xinjiang Province in northwest China. They are distinct from the Han Chinese, who are the predominant ethnic group in China. Uyghurs are the second-largest predominantly Muslim ethnicity in China with a population of 13 million. Islam is an important aspect of Uyghur identity. For this reason, the Chinese government has sought to minimize these cultural differences by assimilating them into the larger Chinese population.

Recent years have seen the Uyghur minority targets of surveillance and violence. It is estimated that upwards of one million Uyghurs have been relocated to camps in China to be “reeducated” and shed their ethnic identities. While the Chinese government has cited “separatist behaviors” and “extremism” as cause of these actions, numerous human rights groups have condemned these rationales and alleged that a genocide is underway.

Previous Steps Taken and Historical Background:

The Uyghurs have lived in the Xinjiang region for centuries, and even declared their independence from China. However, they were forcibly brought back under Chinese control in 1949. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought instability to the region. A recovering China launched the “Strike Hard” campaign which sought to quell rebellions against the government.

Since the start of this campaign, numerous Uyghurs have been murdered or otherwise detained. What has commenced since is an effort of surveillance, relocation to internment camps, and, as some would argue, genocide.

In March 2021, The United States, Canada, Britain, and the European Union announced sanctions against several officials in the Chinese government said to be involved in a campaign of repression against the Uyghur population. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, “The United States reiterates its calls on the PRC (People’s Republic of China) to bring an end to the repression of Uyghurs, who are predominantly Muslim, and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang, including by releasing all those arbitrarily held in internment camps and detention facilities.” (Toosi, 2021).

In December 2021, President Biden announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. The White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, stated a “U.S. diplomatic or official representation would treat these games as business as usual in the face of the PRC’s egregious human rights abuses and atrocities in Xinjiang. And we simply can’t do that.” (NPR, 2021).

Why This is Important:

The Human Rights Council of the United Nations addresses ongoing crises where individuals and groups are being persecuted or oppressed due to their ethnic background or race. In recent years, the Uyghur minority has been under increased harassment by the Chinese government, who see them as a threat to national identity. It is your job as representatives of your respective countries to a) understand the cultural identity of the Uyghurs and why they are a target of mistreatment b) what is going on in the Xinjiang Province c) is it genocide? and d) what can be done to overcome it?

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. Understand the cultural identity of the Uyghurs and why they are being targeted
2. Address what is going on in the Xinjiang Province
3. Is it Genocide?
4. Propose solutions to overcome it

The United Nations defines genocide as any of the following acts committed with the purpose of

destroying "in whole or in part," national, ethnic, religious, or racial groups:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Resource:

Background on the Uyghur people and their history:

[Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide? - BBC News](#)
[A Uighurs' History of China | History Today](#)

Actions being taken by the international community:

[U.S., allies announce sanctions on China over Uyghur 'genocide'- POLITICO](#)
[President Biden announces a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics : NPR](#)

Important definitions and terminology:

[United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect](#)

10 Steps of Genocide

[Genocide Watch- Ten Stages of Genocide](#)

2022 TOPIC: HIJAB BAN IN EUROPE

Topic Summary and Background:

In the past decade, conflict and poverty in the Middle East have caused a surge of refugees from Muslim majority countries to move to Europe. Although many European countries were known for their homogenous ethnic backgrounds, this standard is rapidly changing. In 2001, about 5% of the French population was non-white, non-European, which was considered diverse for European standards. In the past twenty years, that figure has risen to about 15%, with nearly 6% of the country identifying as Muslim.

Previous Steps Taken/Historical Background:

In 2011, France became the first country to ban the full-face Islamic veil in public places. Since then, many other European countries have followed suit, most commonly citing concerns to public safety, open communication, and oppression of women. Throughout the 2010s, numerous other countries followed suit. Currently, seven European countries have burqa bans as well as eleven non-European countries. Other countries such as Germany prohibit headscarves among teachers and civil servants, though these bans are occasionally enforced at a regional level and not nationwide.

Why This is Important:

Public wearing of the hijab and other traditional Muslim veils have been banned in many European countries. Recently, a top court in the European Union has upheld bans in the workplace for public-facing roles, citing a need to “present a neutral image towards customers.” At the heart of this policy is a debate over the extent to which groups are expected to assimilate into the new community they find themselves in. For centuries, countries in Europe have been aligned by ethnic boundaries, but as technology expands the global context, Europeans must face the important question of assimilation and integration.

Issues to be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. Do full body-coverings present a valid concern to public safety? If yes, in which ways? If not, are there still situations where full body coverings could create a sense of danger?
2. Should the government prioritize the concerns of native-born citizens over immigrants?

3. Are immigrants expected to fully adopt the cultural expectations of the country they migrate to? Are there some rules that should be prioritized over others?

Resources:

World Migration Report

[wmr_2020.pdf \(iom.int\)](#)

10 Key Findings About Religion in Western Europe

[Key findings about religion in Western Europe | Pew Research Center](#)

The Islamic Veil Across Europe

[The Islamic veil across Europe - BBC News](#)

GLOBAL FORUM



2022 TOPIC

Distributing Healthcare Equitably Around the World



2022 TOPIC: DISTRIBUTING HEALTHCARE EQUITABLY AROUND THE WORLD

MISSION OF THE GLOBAL FORUM

The Global Forum is an official body of the United Nations. Since its organization in 1999, the Global Forum has served as a sounding block for governments across the world to come together and take a deep dive into specific topic areas. Since the first Forum on “Reinventing Government”, other topics taken into consideration have been “Building trust in Government”, and “E-Government”. The Global Forum mainly tackles the workings of government and how they can do more for citizens in accordance with the values of the UN, but also on how to make the government more accessible to average citizens. The Global Forum is held on location throughout the world to bring together leaders in settings that provide context for the mission at hand. The Forum also looks through the lenses of committees, such as economics and education, to see solutions at different levels of the problem.

Global Forum is calling upon member nations to work through challenges to find permanent solutions to the topic, which will be looked at by the eyes of several committees: Economics, Education, Diplomacy, Human Condition, and Security. Each of these committees will look through their own, respective lenses to address the problem.

To that end, Global Forum functions differently than the Organs and Committees. Its work requires thinking and working together, like Organs and Committees, but Its outcomes are very different. This group will work using different processes to examine the year’s topic through 5 different lenses and will Issue a deep-dive report with Its recommendations on how the world can address the topic. The report will be presented to the conference at the closing session and published for everyone to read post-conference.

Topic Summary and Background:

The 2022 topic of the Model United Nations Global Forum is “Distributing Healthcare Equitably Around the World.” Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being. Many people across the world struggle to receive reliable and affordable healthcare - acquiring healthcare and health equity globally has been an ongoing issue for years. The right to health is essentially the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of the mind, body and spirit, and this right should be ensured through the equitable distribution of healthcare.

GLOBAL FORUM COMMITTEES

Economics

There has been a lasting class warfare in the world throughout much of history, resulting in a tale of the “haves” and the “have nots”. It is no secret that the 1% are richer now than they have ever been before, while the poor are still poor. With the number of Billionaires growing and the hoarding of wealth becoming a sign of economic success, millions are left throughout the world with basic daily needs being either forgone or only partially met.

Is there an economic avenue for distributing healthcare equitably? Is there a “business case” to be made for ensuring quality health care for all - In all parts of the world - for all classes of people? Are there economic “winners” and “losers” in such a system?

Education

Education is oft considered the most critical for the formation of a citizen and of a nation, yet for the same reasons has also been an item most frequently restricted. Education has been barred to many throughout history based on class, gender, race and ethnic group, as well as membership in powerful institutions like the clergy or the nobility. The UN considers education a fundamental right and critically important to all people everywhere.

Is there a way that education can be used as a tool to help people take charge of their health? Likewise, can education be used to help people hold their leaders accountable to providing equitable healthcare and to work with neighbors and partners to achieve it?

Diplomacy

Diplomacy is the most obvious way to bring nations together for common action. Many nations have set on a course of diplomacy in the 21st Century with commitments to having positive working relations with the rest of the world. However, not all nations are UN members, nor are there any nations that have ambassadors in all other nations of the world. Without a complete network of diplomats around the world, how can any nation expect to work with everyone?

How can member nations use diplomatic action to achieve stronger, global healthcare systems? How can nations make sure that they work together to achieve this goal?

Human Condition

Many throughout the world, especially within areas affected by diplomatic breakdowns and lasting conflict, experience a decline in human condition. Food insecurity, poverty, disease and lack of health care all affect the lives of many around the globe. People's living conditions are often made worse by discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice based on sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, or disability, among other factors. Discriminatory practices are often embedded in institutional and systems processes, leading to groups being under-represented in decision-making at all levels or underserved.

How do increasing changes to the human condition for those around the world lead to changes in the standards of health in the global community as a whole? Why is it important for healthcare to be distributed equitably? How do differences in the human condition around the world help or hinder processes to strengthen healthcare?

Security

Security is too often linked with offense rather than defense. Seldom are nations truly concerned with being "secure." In a "big picture" or wholistic sense. Security brings thoughts of military strength or management of national borders. This committee will need to expand the definition of "security" to determine all ways that cause nations to be stable, safe and secure - not just managing armed conflict when it marches to the front door. Violations or lack of attention to humanitarian rights can have serious health consequences which can lead to security concerns.

How can nations use their governments and security systems to promote healthcare? Can nations come together to build worldwide standards and systems for healthcare distribution that promote peace and stability?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



MONDALE GA COMMITTEES

(Grades 9 – 12)

Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Legal
Special Political

ANDERSON GA COMMITTEES

(Grades 7 – 8)

Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural



POLITICAL & SECURITY COMMITTEE



2022 TOPICS

**Black Markets and Illegal Trade
Deportation Limits and Guidelines**

2022 TOPIC: BLACK MARKETS AND ILLEGAL TRADE

Topic Summary and Background:

The black market is a place where illegal trading of goods occurs. The black market was a response to rationing that was introduced during World War II. German U-boats made the shipping of goods across the Atlantic Ocean very difficult. Because of the shipping difficulties, governments had to start introducing rations to make sure that all the citizens received a share of the goods. Food was the good rationed the most. Between the rationing of goods and a not enough supply of other goods such as alcohol, and cigarettes, it created a shortage in the market. More people wanted the products than were available to them. The black market was created to get the goods that were in short supply and high demand to the people who wanted them. Over the years, more issues have become prevalent in the black market such as: drug trade, prostitution (where prohibited), illegal currency transactions, animal poaching and human trafficking.

There is no single black market; there are many and they are found all over the world. Black market economies are present everywhere, in every type of economy and in both developing and developed nations. The people who are part of the black market and sell goods that do not follow government standards, regulations, and rules. The people who are part of the black market are not held to the same penalties for producing goods that could be harmful to the user of the good.

Why This is Important:

Black markets and illegal trade have been ongoing for many years. Although underground markets such as the black market provide income and make goods such as medicine accessible to people who would not be able to get it, it is still illegal throughout the world. The black market can have many effects, depending on the goods and services. For example, the poaching of wildlife may push a species of animal towards extinction. Another example is that the people on the black market who make the goods are in hiding and the quality may be harmful to buyers.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. Should black markets be illegal, or should they be regulated in a legal way?
2. Are black markets and illegal trade ethical forms of trade?
3. How are black markets and illegal trade affecting the economy?

Resources:

Black Markets

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blackmarket.asp>

Illegal Wildlife Trade

<https://www.fws.gov/international/travel-and-trade/illegal-wildlife-trade.html#:~:text=Illegal%20wildlife%20trade%20runs%20the,supply%20the%20demand%20for%20ivory.>

World Wildlife Report

[World Wildlife Report 2020 9July.pdf \(unodc.org\)](#)

2022 TOPIC: DEPORTATION LIMITS AND GUIDELINES

Topic Summary and Background:

Each nation has different rules in place about deportation. Deportation is when a person who an alien, a person who is not a citizen of the country, is forced to leave the country. When looking at the United States, the first deportation law was the Alien Act of 1798. Under this law, the president could deport any alien, a person who is not a citizen of United States, who was deemed dangerous. Within that set of laws was The Naturalization Act of 1795 which raised the time an immigrant had to live in the United States before the person was eligible to become a citizen from five (5) to fourteen (14) years.

Each nation has different rules around deportation. Many times, people are deported from a country because the person violated the conditions of their visa (legal papers allowing them to visit or live and work in a country), committed a serious crime, or came into the country illegally. All countries have the right to deport any person who does not have the right to abode. When a person has the right to abode it means a person is free of immigration control in a country. Sometimes people who do not have the right to abode have been living in a country for many years. In extreme cases some countries have deported their own citizens. This has been seen in with the migrant workers in many Persian Gulf countries.

Why This is Important:

Immigration laws play significant roles in the status of people and is impacting more countries today than it did in the past. One reason for deportations is that people enter a country illegally. There are many reasons an immigrant may enter a country illegally. The most common reason is to escape a worse situation. When a person is caught violating the immigration law of entering a country illegally, they are deported and sent back to their home country. This can be dangerous for the people being deported as they head back to a country where there is fighting, or where they were being oppressed.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that people have the right to leave a country, including, their own, and return to it, but does not set up the process of letting people into a country. Instead, it is up to each individual country to decide who they let in and what that the process looks like to immigrate to the country or for who is deported from a country.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. What limits should be placed on deportation?
2. What are the major guidelines for deportation?

3. Who can and cannot be deported? Und what circumstances?

Resources

History of Deportation In United States

[History of Deportation in the United States – Immigration \(uslegal.com\)](#)

UN News Articles

[deportation | UN News](#)

Gulf States: Ease Immigration Detention in Pandemic

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/07/gulf-states-ease-immigration-detention-pandemic#>

Washington Post Article

[DHS issues new arrest and deportation guidelines to immigration agents - The Washington Post](#)

ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL COMMITTEE



2022 TOPICS

**Climate Refugees
Economic Pandemic Plan**

2022 TOPIC: CLIMATE REFUGEES

Topic Summary and Background:

The climate of the Earth is changing each day. Because of the changing climate, natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, tornados, and droughts have become more common and more intense. When a large natural disaster occurs, it causes damage to an area and forces large numbers of people to leave the area. Those people who leave because of the damage done from natural disaster are called a climate refugee. According to a report created by the European Parliamentary Research Service, the number of climate refugees has increased greatly over the past two decades. This report said that in 2017 there were 258 million climate refugees. To compare, there were 220 million climate refugees in 2010. In April of 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that along with displacing people, "...climate change is a complex cause of food and water shortages, as well as difficulties in accessing natural resources."

Most of the time, the people who were displaced because of a natural disaster will stay in own country. The problem occurs if a climate refugee is forced to leave their country and enter a new one. Currently, if a person is to leave their home because of a climate related crisis, the person does not qualify for protection under international law. These people are not considered a refugee by international law. According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is, "a person who crosses international borders due to well-grounded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group of political opinion."

Why This is Important:

Climate change is a crisis that happening now, with effects that are felt both now and will be felt in the future. Many people around the world are wholly dependent on the land and natural resources for their livelihood. The increasing number of droughts, floods, wildfires put the livelihood of these people at risk and will force them to move if crops are destroyed or natural resources such as water are not available. Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and the stateless are on the front lines of the climate emergency. Many are living in climate "hotspots". A climate "hotspot" is an area where the effects of climate change can be easily seen. If a person lacks resources and lives in a climate "hot spot" it might be hard for the person to adapt their livelihood to meet the changing environment.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. How can countries prepare to handle climate refugees as the climate crisis accelerates their displacement?

2. What should other countries be doing to combat both the climate crisis and help guide these refugees?
3. How can these people claim valid refugee status and what standard should be set in place for these climate refugees?

Resources:

Climate Refugees- the World's Forgotten Victims

[Climate refugees – the world's forgotten victims | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

National Geographic Climate Refugee Lesson

[Climate Refugees | National Geographic Society](#)

Concept of "Climate Refugee"

[The concept of 'climate refugee' \(europa.eu\)se.com/learn](#)

Climate Refugees

[The Problem — Climate Refugees \(climate-refugees.org\)](#)

Article from The UN Refugee Agency

[UNHCR - Climate change is an emergency for everyone, everywhere](#)

[How climate change impacts refugees and displaced communities \(unrefugees.org\)](#)

Climate Change and Disaster Displacement

[UNHCR - Climate change and disaster displacement](#)

NY Times Article

[Climate Change Is Accelerating, Bringing World 'Dangerously Close' to Irreversible Change - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

2022 TOPIC: ECONOMIC PANDEMIC PLAN

Topic Summary and Background:

Pandemics are more than just a health crisis, they are essentially an economic crisis as well, which COVID-19 highlighted in our modern world. One of the tools an economist uses to measure the health of a country's economy is the gross domestic product, or GDP. When GDP of a country goes down, it usually means jobs are being cut and people are not out spending money. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that the median GDP which creates the line dividing GDP, dropped by 3.9% from 2019 to 2022. A drop like that in GDP has not been seen since the Great Depression. The recovery of the global economy has been uneven and there is still uncertainty facing economic recovery in many countries.

Why This is Important:

As seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic pandemic plan is necessary in order to protect the world economy and keep the global economy running smoothly. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, it was discovered that many countries were not prepared to fight disease outbreaks. The United Nations needs to work on creating a better economic pandemic plan to prepare for any future pandemics. A pandemic plan will help make the financial effects (for both a country and individual person) and social consequences such as discrimination, exclusion, etc. of a pandemic smaller.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. How can we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic to better prepare ourselves economically for the future?
2. What could economic pandemic relief efforts look like in the future?
3. What role should developing and first world countries play in these economic pandemic plans/relief plans?

Resources:

Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism Industry

[Global economy could lose over \\$4 trillion due to COVID-19 impact on tourism | UNCTAD](#)

World Bank Articles

[Pandemics Overview \(worldbank.org\)](#)

[Global Economic Prospects: The Global Economy: on Track for Strong but Uneven Growth as COVID-19 Still Weighs \(worldbank.org\)](#)

Impact of COVID-19 on PREPFAR Countries

[Economic Impact of COVID-19 on PEPFAR Countries | KFF](#)

United Nations Article

[In Post-Pandemic World, Developing States Will Continue to Feel Effects of Crisis, Speaker Tells Second Committee, Economic and Social Council Joint Meeting | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#)

Social Impact of COVID-19

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/everyone-included-covid-19.html#:~:text=If%20not%20properly%20addressed%20through,the%20medium%20and%20long%20term.>

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, & CULTURAL COMMITTEE



2022 TOPICS

**Immigration Barriers
State of Mental Health**

2022 TOPIC: IMMIGRATION BARRIERS

Topic Summary and Background:

Immigrants face many issues when attempting to travel to a new area. There are many types of barriers for migration such as human barriers and physical barriers. Physical barriers are barriers such as a river, sea, desert, or mountain. A human barrier can be something like the legal paperwork needed to enter a country or the long application process for a visa or permit.

Just entering a country may not be the largest challenge. Once in a country, immigrants face barriers such as language, transportation issues, access to healthcare, or not being able to find a job along with the cultural differences found in the new country.

It is in the best interest of the country to control who can go in and out of their country to maintain safety and security. Many measures have been taken by countries to strengthen border security and to crack down on the hiring of illegal immigrants. Over the years, the barriers put up towards immigrants have affected many families. With increasing raids to crack down on the hiring of illegal immigrants, families may lose an income providing member of the family. This can drop a family's income level by 45%. Children also suffer increase amounts of anxiety and PTSD surrounding the raids. Often the children of immigrants pick up English faster than their parents and are quickly "Americanized" creating a new dynamic in a family involving language and culture clashes.

Why This is Important:

Immigration is an ongoing topic with many factors including the barriers that prevent a person from either entering the country or the barriers they face once inside the country. Preventing a person from migrating to a new country may have global implications. For example, if a person is not able to migrate into a new country with better economic and education possibilities, the person would not be able to develop their human capital (skills and knowledge a person has). If that person did not develop their human capital, their new innovate idea or discovery that would have an impact on a community could not happen.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. What is the purpose of having immigration barriers?
2. Are barriers effective in keeping illegal immigrants out of a country?
3. What alternatives could be put into place?
4. What impact do immigration barriers have on the global community and the people experiencing them?

Resources:

Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers of Race and Immigration

[Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers of Race and Immigration \(2012\) | UU Office at the United Nations | International Justice and Action | UUA.org](#)

7 Biggest Challenges Immigrants and Refugees Face in the US

[7 of the Biggest Challenges Immigrants and Refugees Face in the US \(globalcitizen.org\)](#)

Journalist's Resource Immigration Barriers

[What the research says about border walls and barriers \(journalistsresource.org\)](#)

Immigration Barriers

[Barriers to migration - Migration - CCEA - GCSE Geography Revision - CCEA - BBC Bitesize](#)

Global Impact of US Immigration Barriers on Science

[Why U.S. Immigration Barriers Matter for the Global Advancement of Science | Cato Institute](#)

2022 TOPIC: THE STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Topic Summary and Background:

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health “includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It determines how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.” Mental health and mental disease impact people in every country around the globe. Worldwide, 25% of the global population has a mental illness. According to a paper published by the National Institute of Health entitled *Challenges and Opportunities in Global Mental Health: A Research to Practice Perspective*, more than 70% of the people who need mental health services do not have access to them.

The World Health Organization recognized the growing need for access to mental health services and resources around the globe. In response, the World Health Organization created the *Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030*. This action plan outlines four core areas for member states to focus on to improve the state of mental health worldwide.

A report from *the Atlas for Mental Health 2020* indicated that many of the targets in the *Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030* were not met by the member states. The report also highlighted that how many mental health resources are available and how the resources are distributed are not equal between high- and low-income countries.

Why This is Important:

Mental health is one of the leading causes of disability worldwide. World health systems, though, have not responded fully to the need for mental health care. Because of this, 75% of people with mental health disorders who live in low- and middle-income countries do not get any treatment for their disorder.

Mental health is a valued source of human capital. Human capital are the skills or knowledge and experience that a person has which they can use at their job. When a person’s mental health is taken care of, the person can take care of themselves and others and do things like their job well. Financially, the global community would benefit from increasing mental health resources. Anxiety and depression which are two of the most common mental health disorders around the world cost the global economy \$1 trillion USD each year.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. How can we lessen the gap to make mental health services and resources more accessible to citizens around the globe?

2. Is the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030 achievable based on the findings in the Mental Health Atlas 2020? If yes, how can we make sure the goals are achieved by 2030? If no, what needs to be done to make the goals achievable by 2030?
3. How can untreated mental disease and poor mental health put a strain on a country's economy?
4. How does untreated mental disease and poor mental health impact an individual person or their family?

Resources:

World Health Organization Special Initiative for Mental Health
[WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health](#)

WHO Mental Health Fact Sheet
[MNH FactSheet ENG.pdf \(who.int\)](#)

World Misses Most 2020 Targets
[World misses most 2020 mental health targets: WHO || UN News](#)

Flyer for WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030
[MHAP Member States \(who.int\)](#)

Mental Health ATLAS 2020
[Mental Health ATLAS 2020 \(who.int\)](#)

UN News Article

[New WHO guidance aims to stamp out rights violations in mental health services || UN News](#)

LEGAL COMMITTEE



2022 TOPICS

**International Adoption
Regulating Natural Resources**



2022 TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

Topic Summary and Background:

Around the world, thousands of children are growing up in orphanages, group homes, and foster homes with no foreseeable plan to go home to an adoptive family. International adoption is a kind of adoption in which an individual or couple becomes the legal and permanent parents of a child that is a national of a foreign country. In such adoption, the prospective adoptive parents must meet the legal adoption requirements of their country of residence and of the country whose nationality the child holds.

Over the last few decades, most western societies have seen a drop in fertility rates and current reproductive trends indicate that many women are having their first baby after 35 years of age. This has led to an increased in voluntary infertility, and as more parents find themselves unable to build a biological family later in their lives, adoption has become increasingly important.

Inherently, controversy arises surrounding the removal of these children from their birth culture and kin, as well as the risks of increase baby trafficking through the dangers of a market-driven economy. Internationally adopted children face numerous risks and vulnerabilities, including the loss of their family, country, language and culture. Critics argue that international adoption helps a relatively small number of children who find adoptive parents but may impede countries from developing social programs that would benefit most children who are suffering due to poverty or social and political problems. Furthermore, there are many challenges facing international adopters, often because of the high degree of uncertainty within the adoption process itself and the considerably high costs associated with it.

Overall, throughout the debate surrounding international adoption we must strive to remember and maintain a realistic perspective of what may be in “the best interests of the child” within these discussions.

Why This is Important:

Children benefit from growing up in a stable environment which will allow them to explore the world knowing they have a support system to back them up. When it is not possible for a child to stay within their family or community group, international adoption has allowed children with an unstable environment to gain a family or individual who can provide a stable environment. International adoption is estimated to involve over 40,000 children a year moving between more than 100 countries. Globally, there are more children abandoned/orphaned and in need of a home than domestically, but the process of International Adoption still presents various risks and controversy.

Ideas for Discussion That Could be Addressed in a Resolution:

1. How can international adoption be more accessible and equitable across the globe?
2. What role should these third-party adoption agencies play in the process, and should there be a standardized process followed by these agencies?
3. Should international adoption guarantee citizenship/can these adopted children have dual citizenship with their birth country and new home?

Resources:

Why Adoption?

[Why Adoption \(state.gov\)](#)

International Adoption: Benefits, Risks, and Vulnerabilities

[9.9 \(waimh.org\)](#)

Definition of International Adoption

[International Adoption Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.](#)

2022 TOPIC: REGULATING NATURAL RESOURCES

Topic Summary and Background:

There are many challenges in regulating natural resources on a global level. Trends such as the increasing consumption of goods, climate change, and changing demographics of nations are causing large amounts of pressure on our available natural resources. These natural resources include land, water, and the ecosystems. When political, economic, cultural, or social dynamics are added into the equation, the arguments over the natural resources can quickly become destructive and potentially violent.

It is important to establish whether there is a dependence on natural resources. In general, the higher the dependence on natural resources, the greater the vulnerability to conflict. High-value natural resources such as oil, minerals and gas have been cited as a large factor in a violent conflict. Not to mention that there is more competition now for renewable resources such as water and land.

The governments of developing countries and those of emerging economies are under more pressure to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner while resolving the conflicts about who owns, manages, controls, and divides up the natural resource. As demands for natural resources increase because of economic and population growth, so will competition for even scarcer resources, which places enormous stress on the environment.

The 2009 United Nations Environment Programm (UNEP) report entitled *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*, discusses the clear need to prevent, manage, and resolve natural resource. This report illustrates how, over the past sixty years, 40% of civil wars can be associated with natural resources and since 1990 there have been at least eighteen violent conflicts fueled by the exploitation of natural resources. Furthermore, the environment suffers tremendous harm from these conflicts and the natural resources plays an even more crucial role in supporting the economic recovery when rebuilding war-torn societies. Inevitably, natural resources embody the potential for sustainable cooperation, so we must work to ensure that these natural resources are governed in both an equitable and sustainable manner.

Why this is important?

The management of natural resources plays an important role in both domestic and international conflicts. With the growing amount of the consumption of goods on a global scale, many countries are seeing a growing shortage of vital renewable resources. These vital resources are freshwater, cropland, rangeland, forests, fishers, and other wildlife.

When these renewable natural resources become smaller in number along with the impact of climate change and the impact humans have on the environment poses a threat to humankind. Inherently, the regulation and management of natural resources across the globe is important to reduce potential resource-induced conflicts and maintain global peace and security in the 21st century

Ideas for discussion that could be addressed in a resolution:

1. How can we equitably distribute natural resources globally?
2. Who are the key actors that influence and regulate natural resource governance?
3. How can we regulate resources to prevent conflicts – both domestically and nationally?

Resources

Toolkit for Managing Land and Natural Resource Conflict

[EU-UN Introduction and overview.pdf](#)

UN News Article

[Sharing Benefits of Natural Resources Helps Conflict Prevention, Sustainable Development, Secretary-General Tells Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#)

Natural Resource Management in Transition Settings

[UNDG-ECHA NRM guidance Jan2013.pdf](#)

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE



2022 TOPICS

Health of the Ocean
Reconsidering the Moon Treaty

2022 TOPIC: HEALTH OF THE OCEAN

Topic Summary and Background:

Peaceful, cooperative, and legal uses of the ocean have been goal that the United Nations is working towards. In 1982, the Law of the Sea Convention extended international law to the ocean. In many developing countries, the people of those countries rely on the ocean for their livelihood. Globally, though, humans are damaging the ocean with pollution of plastic waste, agricultural runoff, and manufactured chemicals. The pollution is transferred to people through eating contaminated marine life found in the oceanic food web.

Overfishing is causing almost \$90 billion in net benefits to be lost. This creates a negative impact on small scale fisheries. Ocean water temperature levels are also increasing due to carbon emissions, which has destroyed the biodiversity in the ocean and the sea levels have continue to rise. Ensuring the ocean's health is vital to the health of humans as well. The biodiversity found in the Earth's Oceans are critical to the health of the people on Earth. Effective management of marine protected areas needs to occur along with regulations being put into place to help reduce overfishing, marine pollution, and ocean acidification.

Why this is important?

The ocean covers 140 million square miles and covers approximately 72% of the Earth's surface. The oceans have always been an important source of food for the life it helped generate, and from the earliest recorded history it has also served trade and commerce, adventure and discovery and have inherently separated and brought people together. The oceans had long been subject to the freedom-of-the-seas doctrine, a principle put forth in the 17th century that essentially limited national rights and jurisdiction over the oceans to be a narrow strip of sea surrounding a nation's coastline. Currently, the oceans are being degraded by human activities that harm marine life, undermine coastal communities, and negatively affect human health.

Ideas for discussion that could be addressed in a resolution:

1. How can we ensure that marine shipping is cleaner for the environment?
2. What efforts can be made to minimize pollution and work to clean our oceans?
3. How can we conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources?

Resources

Oceans and the Law of the Sea

[Oceans and the Law of the Sea | United Nations](#)

What is Ocean Health?

[What is Ocean Health? – Oceans, Coasts & Seashores \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

What do Oceans have to do with Human Health?

[What does the ocean have to do with human health? \(noaa.gov\)](#)

2022 TOPIC: RECONSIDERING THE MOON TREATY

Topic Summary and Background:

The Moon Treaty is the fifth of the United Nations space law treaties. It is generally considered to be a failed treaty as it has, to date, only 18 parties (compared to the UN's Outer Space Treaty's 109 parties). None of the 18 parties who signed the treaty are major "space faring" states. A large part of the failure of this treaty is because of article 11. Article 11 declares that the moon and other celestial bodies This failure is largely attributed to Article 11 which declares the Moon and other celestial bodies to be the Common Heritage of Mankind (CHM). The CHM is a principle requires that a governing group is formed to oversee the usage of the natural resources found on the Moon. By using the phrase, "The common heritage of all mankind" makes it so no one nation can lay claim to the Moon to either colonize or use its resources. Instead, all the resources belong to all of the nations. Both the United States and the Soviet Union/Russia did not sign the treaty because of disputes of how it is interpreted.

The treaty also forbids establishing any military bases, installations, and fortifications on the Moon nor can a country test any type of weapon on the Moon. The military can, though, send personnel to the Moon for the purpose of scientific or otherwise peaceful purposes.



Previous Steps/Historical Background:

Negotiated in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Moon Treaty is the last of five international treaties regarding space activities. To date, 18 countries have ratified the Moon Treaty. Of these 18 countries, none of them have completed a mission to the moon. The countries who are most active in space (Russia, the United States, China, Japan, and Germany) have not signed the treaty. India and France have both signed the treaty, but have not ratified it.

Why this is important?

Space is a new territory. Space technology has advanced dramatically, and humans will eventually have access to the resources in our solar system and we will need a way to regulate the activities in space. The Moon Treaty was the proposed solution for the regulating of resources and activities in space. While The Moon Treaty does not prohibit the exploitation of the resources on the Moon, it does make sure that those resources do not all belong to one country and instead allows for all countries to benefit. It also creates a neutral zone not allowing any one country to set up military weapons on the Moon. This treaty was the culmination of the time when the world's underdeveloped nations were attempting to use international forums to assert their rights as sovereign nations and to obtain their share of the worlds and space's resources.

Ideas for discussion that could be addressed in a resolution:

1. When reconsidering the Moon Treaty, do we keep it as is or pose any new changes?
2. Is the Moon Treaty necessary for peace on Earth?
3. Should the Moon still be considered Common Heritage of Humankind in the Moon Treaty?

Resources

Is it Time to Rethink the Moon Treaty?

[Is it time to rethink the Moon Agreement? \(spacefaringcivilization.space\)](https://spacefaringcivilization.space)

The Moon Treaty

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/the-arctic-shipping-route-no-one-s-talking-about>

Moon Agreement

[Moon Agreement - The Nuclear Threat Initiative \(nti.org\)](https://www.nti.org)

Ice on the Moon: Staking a Claim: Moon Treaty

[Science \(nasa.gov\)](https://www.nasa.gov)

Sulfur in Marine Fuels

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Sulphur-2020.aspx>

Outer space Treaty of 1967

[Outer Space Treaty of 1967 \(nasa.gov\)](http://www.nasa.gov)

RESEARCHING FOR THE MODEL UN SESSION

One of the best ways to get the most recent information on the country that will be represented at the Model United Nations is by researching your topics through the UN website. The United Nations maintains a host of links to member nations as well as many other sources of helpful information.

www.un.org

There are also resources on the [YIG website](#). Find our "[Model UN Resources](#)" webpage.

www.mnyiq.org

