



Social, humanitarian, and cultural issues (Third Committee)

President: Karen Ximena Ocampo Banderas

Moderator: Fernanda Paloma Flores Sosa

Conference officer: Hector Segura Barroso



"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.
Education is the premise of progress."
- Kofi Annan

Esteemed delegates,

It is an honor and a privilege to extend the warmest welcome to TOLMUN 2023. On behalf of Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Organizing Committee, we greet you and express our gratitude for being a part of our Model United Nations 2023.

TOLMUN has always been a unique opportunity for you, the leaders of tomorrow, to explore and address the most important and compelling global challenges of our time. Over the next few days, you will have the chance to represent different nations and play a crucial role in seeking solutions to complex international problems, harnessing the power of research and debate.

There is no doubt that the most significant aspect of a model is all of you, the delegates. Your enthusiasm for participation fosters a diplomatic and competitive environment. The best delegates are those who are committed to their goals, who advocate for their positions, and, above all, those who drive forward the ideas that will contribute to building a better world. We understand that debating and defending a position can be demanding, but your effort and willingness to do so make a difference.

The primary objective is for you to enrich yourselves with an experience that broadens your perspective on the world we live in. As delegates, you will develop diplomatic skills, make connections, and foster that much-needed spirit of global awareness in today's world. This experience will shape you as individuals and contribute to your academic and, more importantly, personal development. Although the challenges, stress, and debates may be demanding, we assure you that in the end, it will all be rewarding.

Never cease to participate, debate, listen, and, above all, learn.

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, thank you very much for your valuable participation in TOLMUN 2023. Good luck, delegates, and we wish you great success.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Sánchez Saldívar
Secretario General

Valeria Tapia Morales
Subsecretaria General



Welcome letter to the participants

Dear delegates,

From the official committee of Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Issues we give you a warm welcome to the third committee of the United Nations General Assembly, TOLMUN 2023. In this debate, you'll be able to uncover and explore multiple skills you have within yourselves. Everyone regarding this project is thrilled to be working alongside you on this experience.

During this event you will find out; first and foremost, that this committee is a team effort where no delegate or country can decide for themselves, on an issue concerning present topics. Remember that you are here to represent a delegation that embodies the spirit of a country, its people, and its needs. Understanding that as our main goal, we must search for an outcome that considers the necessities and differences of each party involved.

Along with other delegates, you will discover that this committee presents multiple challenges that concern our modern society, our sense of humanity, and needless to say our culture. It is significant that you understand having a diplomatic posture is of huge importance in order to have this debate in a fluid and respectful way. You will find that dialogue and discussion can lead to real solutions. In the same way, we encourage proper research, the correct use of argumentation, and a commitment to inform yourself day by day.

We truly expect that you use this experience to grow and get a better understanding of how issues occurring around the world are solved in the United Nations assemblies. We certainly hope you enjoy this committee.

Most sincerely and the best of luck.

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly of the United Nations, established in the state of New York in 1945, currently operates as a central power; the main organ with the responsibility of leadership and policy-making of the international decision-making of the United Nations. The Assembly has 193 Member States, within them there are states It is divided into 6 committees.

The debate will take place in “The Third Committee”; also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs panel; created in the year 2011 by The General Assembly. Who holds annual reciprocal dialogues with more than fifty Special Procedure Mandate Holders (Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, Working Group Chairs) settled by the Human Rights Council. (Permanent Mission to the United Nations | Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee), s. f.)

The committee acts towards the following topics:

- The advancement of women and the protection of children
- Indigenous concerns
- The treatment of refugees
- The promotion of fundamental freedoms
- The elimination of racism and racial discrimination
- The right to self-determination.

(Key issues at the UNGA 77th session’s third committee, 2022)

Annually, the Third Committee adopts more than sixty resolutions, half of which revolve around specific issues related to human rights. As mentioned previously, these resolutions go as far as to help specific issues in a country (Argentinian Ministry of foreign affairs s.f).

This committee held events that were topics of main interest within the U.N. For instance, the Third Committee held the Fourth World Conference officiated in Beijing, where it discussed the advancement of women, as well as identifying the problems this resolution would have. (Admin, n. d.)

The committee is composed of the main member states of the United Nations, such as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, China, India, and many more. In total 193 states and counting.



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TOPIC A:

Increased demand for goods and services due to the aging of the population.

In current times the social and economic implications of an aging population have increased. This specific problem carries with it some ramifications impacting education, socio-cultural activities, family life, and mostly the labor market. A sustainable and steady economic development relies on a well-balanced workforce. Nonetheless, a problem the current world is facing is an incoming imbalance of the areas stated for adequate economic development, in addition to a stable growing population. As explained by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the fertility rate ought to be around 2.1 children per woman, regardless, other statistics show that on average, the global rate is in the range of 1.5 children.

“By 2030, 1 in 6 people in the world will be aged 60 years or over. At this time the share of the population aged 60 years and over will increase from 1 billion in 2020 to 1.4 billion”.(World Health Organization: WHO, 2020)

Despite this, many citizens of developed countries decide not to have kids due to the belief that they can become an economic drain, because of housing, education, and so forth. This is a cause as to why birth rates are starting to cease (Nargund, 2009b).

The Government can't sustain the employment rate, the labor productivity, or this economic imbalance. Concentrating money and resources on social programs was an alternative, however, several countries can't rely on this for long.

Within the alternatives that many countries had approached, the debate about expanding the age of retirement rises, lowering state-funded pension programs, or increasing demands for working-aged people to save for retirement. Nonetheless, there have also been discussions about increasing the social security fund state made by the Republicans Study Committee, to help the new retirees in the near future. (Romig, 2023).

A study made by the United States Census Bureau talks about how it is expected that “by the year 2035 there will be more elderly than kids in the U.S.” (Nasser, 2021). In contrast to Europe which has more elderly people, this infers that in the West countries such as Germany, Italy, France, and Spain are projected to follow the same path at an even fastest speed. This affects the population “In 2050, 80% of older people will be living in low- and middle-income countries”(World Health Organization: WHO, 2022)



From an economic perspective, as developed countries' population gets older, GDP growth slows, support costs rise, and government budgets suffer. Yet this lack of workforce may raise the amount of capital per worker, which would increase the budget salary, productivity and reduce interest rates as higher wages lower the return on capital. (Cost of Aging -- Finance & Development, March 2017, 2017)

Key Questions:

- 1.- How does your country take care of its elderly in the economic and social sphere?
- 2.- What is the birth and mortality rate of your delegation compared to the quality of life statistics of your country?
- 3.- What is your country's preventive measure to stop this problem from increasing within its own population?
- 4.- How can this problem be solved collectively within this committee?

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TOPIC B:

Support for refugee migrants with artistic, academic, and scientific potential.

The United Nations defines refugees to be people “Who live outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection.” (Definitions, 2016)

In recent times there has been a spike in the influx of refugees that leave their countries due to violent reasons; more specifically political conflict reasons that attempt against human rights. The number of refugees worldwide increased to 35.3 million at the end of 2022, the largest yearly increase ever recorded, according to UNHCR’s statistics on forced displacement. To complement this there has been remarkable solidarity shown towards refugees around the world. Still, this shouldn’t be taken for granted. It can be achieved on a bigger picture by easing the pressure on host countries and expanding access to third-country solutions (UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, s. f.)

In September 2020, the European Commission reformed a new pact on migration and asylum in the EU (CEAS). Following the agreement in the Council in June 2023, they add the following: Recommendation on cooperation on search and rescue and guidance on non-criminalisation of search and rescue, Recommendation on an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration among others (New pact on migration and asylum, s. f.-c)

Basic human rights are the first priority and under the discussion, the topic of academic potential is the most important. Representation and opportunities should be granted whenever possible to refugees, asylum seekers, or migrants, this includes job opportunities, financial aid in the form of scholarships, or help in proper documentation for legal entry and professional practices.

Some Ivy League Universities have scholarships, as well as financial aid for refugees/displacement students. One of these colleges is Columbia University located in New York, which launches full scholarships every year for refugees and other displaced students. For illustration, Nevfel Akkasoglu was imprisoned because of an association with a university the Turkish government had shut down, during the attempted Turkish military coup d’état in 2016. Who would later make his way to New York where he was granted an opportunity to study without worrying about the financial debt the school would put him through. (Joung, 2021)



Organizations such as the Model International Mobility Convention (MIMC) and the (UNHCR) need to play a key role and offer stateless and undocumented individuals a “passport” that certifies their credentials, working or educational skills, and preferences for resettlement. (Ethics & International Affairs, s. f.)

When given the right opportunity and resources, many refugees can express their emotions and true talent through their passions. An example of this would be the famous photojournalist Robert Capa, who after fleeing Germany, became, along with his wife, well-known for covering the Spanish Civil War.

Key Questions:

- 1.-What is the number of refugees received by the country?
- 2.-How does your country treat refugees?
- 3.- What academic programs/ financial aids does your country give to refugees?
- 4.- How accessible is the process for entry and working into a country as a refugee?

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CONTACT

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NOTE: You shall send your position page to this contact.
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