



# **UNHCR**

## **The UN Refugee Agency**

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

President: Naomi González Osorio

Moderator: Mayritt Alejandra Mejía Altamirano

Conference Officer: Luna Gabrielle Alderete Hernández



"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



“As you get older, remember you have another hand:  
The first is to help yourself, the second is to help others.”  
-Audrey Hepburn

Dear distinguished delegates:

Welcome to TOLMUN 2023, a project for young leaders who dream of raising their voices and leaving their mark in our world, which is facing many terrible things. We will be working hard to make this experience enrich you and to discover the power of your voice and ideas. Hoping that this model will not remain just as a simulation, but a start for future changes.

The Chair is aware that maybe you won't represent the country you wanted, but remember that this is not a limitation, since the best delegate is the one with the best arguments and an exceptional participation. However all the great things, need great effort and passion, and along this challenging, but transcendent road, you will be preparing, reading and investigating the topics and your country's position really in depth, since the more you know and understand, the more you will be able to identify the keys towards the problem resolution, but by also adapting to the real perspectives and initiatives that the governments are willing to take, making you be aware of the actual and international context, which we could improve someday, through this model, by developing skills such as critical thinking, negotiating, leadership, debate and persuasion.

This life experience may be tough, but we must do things that we cannot, to be something more. Besides, we are sure that with your dedication, there won't be limits, and that with all your work, enthusiasm and genius together, we will get the best reliable solutions that better suit all the delegations' positions. Remember that this is just a little step towards your preparation of achieving something important in the world, so enjoy and do it better than your best. You will feel an indescribable satisfaction, and you will see it is all worth it!

Sincerely,

The Chair  
President: Naomi González Osorio  
Moderator: Mayritt Alejandra Mejía Altamirano  
Conference Officer: Luna Gabrielle Alderete Hernández



## ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Its official name is the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR. It was created by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 after the Second World War, to help millions who had lost their homes. They were given three years to complete this task, and then the organization was disbanded.

Today the UNHCR is the United Nations body in charge of protecting the rights of the people that are forced to flee their countries due to conflict or persecution. Moreover, they support former refugees that return to their origin country; people who are displaced within a country; and people without a nationality.

The global organization works in 135 countries with 20,739 personnel. It has helped more than 50 million refugees to restart their lives. It's currently offering support to 108.4 million people, by providing shelter, food, water and medical care, as well as working long term with countries to improve and monitor their refugee and asylum laws. Moreover it leads international action and develops solutions to ensure people have a safe place to live and build a better future (which is the organization's vision).

Finally, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, are the documents by which UNHCR's work is based. They define the term "refugee", and determine their rights (housing, work and education), assistance and legal protection. Its core principle is non-refoulement, which means refugees should not be returned to their countries where their life and freedom are threatened. Furthermore, the organization helps countries to translate these documents into laws, which legal obligations are mandatory for the States that are party.

#### References:

- UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency. (n.d.). About UNHCR | UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr>



## TOPIC A:

### Ensuring the safety of the displaced in Myanmar.

To understand the necessity of ensuring the safety of the displaced in Myanmar, we need to have a clear idea of the roots of the problem involving the persecution of the Rohingya, which is a Sunni Muslim ethnic minority in Myanmar. There is an estimated number of 3.5 million of them worldwide and one million living in Myanmar, mostly on the Rakhine state. This ethnic group counts with their own culture and language. Since the late 1970s Myanmar's government has pressured discriminatory and violent measures, they have refused to recognize their ethnic group as part of the 135 official groups in the territory because they firmly believe them to be illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Consequently, the country has faced terrible communal violence acts. In June 2012, Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists rioted and displaced about 140,000 Rohingya Muslims, leaving 200 deaths. Ongoing conflicts arose between Muslims and Buddhists during the last decades, there have been alleged accusations of abuses from the security forces and community violence, which has forced the Rohingya Muslims to escape the country.

In August 2017, the country experienced the biggest exodus of Rohingyas to ever be recorded after deadly attacks and violence broke out in Rakhine, killing 6,700 Rohingya from which 730 were infants. About 288 villages were destroyed by humongous intentional fires. Civilians were forced to run away and seek shelter in Bangladesh, which is home to more than 960,000 Rohingya refugees. India, Thailand, Nepal and Indonesia are neighboring countries where a large number of refugees have arrived since the incident.

Up to day, the intern violence towards Rohingyas, has perdured in Myanmar and has triggered and forced displacement from the country, significantly increasing Myanmar's IDP (number of internally displaced people) to 1.8 million people since February of 2021.

Nevertheless, the attention and care to the refugees have been scaled up. The refugees are still living in poor conditions with a lack of service and assistance. Starting in June and until October, Bangladesh experiences the monsoon season, in which heavy winds and rains flood the country and the shelters made from bamboo do not stand the seasonal weather. In May 2023 one of the most severe cyclones, called Mocha, struck Myanmar and Bangladesh, which impacted around 2.3 people in Bangladesh and 930,000 of them were Rohingya refugees. The cyclone also left infrastructures, shelters and homes completely uninhabitable.



Regarding the global response to the crisis, UNHCR alongside governmental agencies have collaborated to provide emergency shelter to the victims, working to ensure access to health facilities. The Rohingyas are not recognized legally, which makes them entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. UNHCR actively works on providing legal assistance, decent shelter, protection against ethnic violence, sanitation and education to the victims. In regard to exposure to the weather hazards, the organization works on mitigation of the risk toward the danger. Even though, UNHCR is actively collaborating in order to provide safety, it is every delegation's individual responsibility to guarantee refugees' well-being. Given the fact that people are being deprived from their cultural and ideological liberty, every delegation must participate in dialogue to achieve a resolution towards the refugees.

Given the high rate of danger from the displacement of Rohingyas, the political engagement and dialogue with Myanmar continues to be present within UNHCR with the goal of reaching a voluntary repatriation and protecting the dignity of small ethnic groups to prevent the dangers of displacement among the countries. Financial stability and presence is fundamental to ensure citizens a safe life.

#### Key questions:

1. Is your country supporting in any shape the Rohingyas? If they are specify how?
2. How does your delegation protect the rights and well-being of the displaced inside your country?
3. What is your delegation doing to mitigate the discrimination against ethnic minorities?
4. Has your delegation taken action toward the Rohingyans and has your delegation established legal protection yet?
5. What are your delegations possible solutions to the issue?

#### References:

- BBC. (2020, January 23). Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>
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- Blakemore, E. (2021, May 3). The Rohingya people-facts and information. Culture. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/rohingya-people>
- Rohingya refugee crisis explained. USA for UNHCR. The Un Refugee Agency. (n.d.). <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/#:~:text=The%20Rohingya%20have%20suffered%20decades,to%20seek%20refuge%20in%20Bangladesh.>



## TOPIC B:

Economic and financial inclusion of refugees to participate in sustainable livelihoods.

Before the Ukraine-Russia Conflict there were around 89 million of refugees around the world, now the number of refugees has increased to almost four and a half million people. Syria has been in conflict since 2011, also is the country that has the most refugees in other countries followed by Ukraine, Afghanistan, Venezuela, South Sudan and Myanmar.

In 2022 people were forced to run away because of the Ukraine-Russia armed conflicts, but there are several more reasons for people to leave their country such as persecution, belic conflict or violence. In the last 2 years, the number of people that needed to flee their country increased notably, going since the Russian-Ukraine armed conflicts, until the Sudan conflict.

“By the end of 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. 35.3 million refugees, 62.5 million internally displaced, 5.4 million asylum seekers, 5.2 million in need of international protection (most of them from Venezuela)”. (The UNHCR, 2023)

Most of the refugees can't go to high-income countries since in the majority of them are geographically impossible to arrive, instead they go to neighboring countries like Türkiye, Germany, Pakistan, Uganda, Russia, Poland, Sudan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iran, countries that opened their borders for people to flee their country. Although those countries are willing to receive refugees, most of them don't count on a stable income to provide big quantities of refugees a safe shelter.

There are people that do not cross the border, they are known as Internal Displaced People (IDP's) . Seven million people were displaced by the Ukraine belic conflict. “By the end of 2022, 62 million people had fled conflict but stayed in their own country.” (UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, 2022, 2m54s).

The most common country that has of Internal Displaced People (IDP's) are Ukraine with an estimated of 5.1 million, Syria with 6.9 million, The Democratic Republic of the Congo with an estimated number of 6.17 million, Colombia 5.6 million, Yemen 4.5 million, Ethiopia 1.7 million, Afghanistan 900,000, Nigeria 2.7 million, Sudan 3 million and Burkina Faso 1.9 million. These countries have a lot of internally displaced people because most of them are in an armed conflict.

Refugees, being from another part of the world, don't usually have work rights. They don't have access to own a business, have financial services, or ownership. Also, refugees are not allowed to work in 50% of asylum countries.



Some of the consequences of the non-citizens are limited access to work and information, poverty in the host community, shocks and vulnerabilities, xenophobia, limited freedom of movement, not including all the bad treatment from all the workers and population.

Financial inclusion implies giving everyone, including non-citizens access to labor, job, finances and economic opportunities. Just the resilient and self reliant refugees are the ones that enjoy economic inclusion. Also it helps and contributes to the mechanism of the economy.

Giving the inclusion to non-citizen/refugees prepares them for the future to go back to their countries, integrate and establish in a third country. Everyone has the right to work, even the refugees but not all of the countries respect that right.

#### Key questions:

1. Has your delegation taken actions to promote economic and financial inclusion of refugees?
2. Does your delegation have any laws for refugees to be protected? Which are those laws?
3. What is the number of refugees and internally displaced people inside your country?
4. Does your country count with any organization (governmental or non governmental) that works to combat this problem?
5. What are your delegation's proposals to ensure the access to financial services, formal employment, and/or opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, for refugees?

#### References:

- Concern Worldwide. (2022, November 4). Which countries take in the most refugees? These were the 12 largest host communities at the beginning of 2022. Concern Worldwide. <https://www.concern.net/news/which-countries-take-in-the-most-refugees>
- Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID 2023): Internal displacement and food security - World | ReliefWeb. (2023, May 11). Reliefweb.int. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-report-internal-displacement-2023-grid-2023-internal-displacement-and-food-security#:~:text=Internal%20displacement%20is%20%20a%20global>
- Kathryn Reid. (2018, December 31). Forced to flee: Top Countries Refugees Are Coming from | World Vision. World Vision. <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/forced-to-flee-top-countries-refugees-coming-from>





- Refugee, U. (2022). UNHCR's Global Trends Report: 100 Million Displaced. In YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vl8gYm4nNDQ>
- UNHCR. (2022). Refugee Statistics | USA for UNHCR. Unrefugees.org. <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/>



## CONTACT

Contact to the chair

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NOTE: The position paper must be sent to this contact.  
Submission date for review: between September 26 and 29.

Submission date to meet the requirement: before the first session on October 5

Do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the Chair in case you have doubts  
about UNHCR or TOLMUN 2023