



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

President: Daniela Martínez Latisnere

Moderator: Regina Miren Peralta España

Conference Officer: Valeria Elizabeth Pérez Rodríguez





Toluca, State of Mexico, 2022

Change will not happen if we wait for someone else or wait for the right moment. We are what we have been waiting for; We are the change we crave.
(Barack Obama)

Dear delegates,

On behalf of the Tecnológico de Monterrey, as well as the Organizing Committee, we give you the warmest welcome to our Model United Nations Campus Toluca, TOLMUN 2022.

We are incredibly excited to see you again after facing a whole stage full of changes and adaptations that have arisen from the epidemiological crisis that has shaken us for 2 years now. Without a doubt, receiving them again in our facilities fills us with joy and happiness. And we are sure that each of you will make this model a unique, memorable, and incomparable experience after so long without seeing each other.

During these three days, we hope not only to enrich your knowledge regarding issues of relevance to the international community; but also, to develop an immense number of new skills such as participation, diplomacy, critical thinking, teamwork, and global vision.

It is generally believed that the best delegate is the one with the most powerful delegation, the most influential, or the most developed; we have to confess that this is a hoax. Well, the best is who puts their full effort inside and outside the forum, who questions and questions themselves but above all, who dares to be a leader and provides a guide for others. Well, a leader is not one who only focuses on his own success, but one who knows the path walks it, and shares it.

Debate and argue, but above all listen and analyze. Keep this in mind during each of your discussion sessions, and we assure you that by the end of the model, you will have collected great lessons that will translate into enormous personal satisfaction. We are sure that this will be possible thanks to the incredible team of tables that we have formed this year. Without every chair, moderator, and conference officer it would not be possible to bring this sublime experience to you.

Finally, we want to express our pride in each delegate who is willing to participate. We are eager to hear from you and your proposals. Much success!

Sincerely,

Secretaria General
Natalia Alcántara Millán

Subsecretaria General
Valeria Vizcaino Sánchez



WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear delegates,

First and foremost, we greet and send you our gratitude for accompanying us in this committee; on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, we welcome you to TOLMUN 2022.

It is a pleasure for us to know that we have delegates like you, people who seek to make a change by expressing their ideas and are open to listening to those of others. The United Nations Models are an opportunity that will allow you to develop investigative, oratorical, argumentative, and social skills. You will learn how to use your differences, abilities, and powers to solve problems on a global scale, for the well-being of all.

During these days we expect that you can see how much the world is changing on a global scale by representing other delegations and for this, you need to have some skill level, since not always one as a person agrees with the decisions that the delegation makes. However, it's crucial to defend these ideas or decisions in order to have better solutions.

The committee depends on the cooperation and goodwill of all its Member States. Since each state has unique interests and concerns, resolutions are difficult to draft, negotiate and approve, so we hope to create a safe space to voice all the solutions. Each step of the process requires creativity and diplomacy on your part to find a main resolution. Therefore, we look for the delegations to act in the best interests of their group with respect, responsibility, and effectiveness.

We would like to express our acknowledgment to you for taking the time to be part of this year's model and especially the UN Refugee Agency, where we hope you can have the opportunity to open your perspective and your way of thinking about these global problems that we are currently going through. We hope that this experience will encourage all of you to take the initiative to be part of the solutions to global problems and voice all these creative ideas outside this United Nations Model.

We are honored to have all of you being part of this model and we hope you can encourage young people to follow and improve your steps, starting by being part of the United Nations models. We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas for solving international problems.

Sincerely,

President: Daniela Martínez Latisnere
Moderator: Regina Miren Peralta
Conference officer: Valeria Pérez Rodríguez



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an agency part of the United Nations. This is a global organization that is in charge of saving, protecting and guaranteeing the right of asylum for people who were forcibly displaced from their country, state, community or home. Either from violence, persecution, war or disasters. They include refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum-seekers. As well, the organization provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.

The UNHCR was created in 1950 during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol were the legal documents that helped in the creation of the agency. They define the term 'refugee' and outlines their rights, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them, it also asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

From the start the UNHCR has faced many crises; the Hungarian revolution in 1956 where more than 200,000 people fled to Austria, and the decolonization of Africa in the 60s. These were two of the major crises back then. However, nowadays there are 102.6 million people of concern in 133 countries, mainly from Africa and Asia.

The organization strives to ensure the right to seek asylum, to safeguard the lives of people who were forced to leave their country, and gives the option to return, integrate and resettle in their original country after the situation subsides. During times of displacement, we provide critical emergency assistance in the form of clean water, sanitation and healthcare, as well as shelter, blankets, household goods and sometimes food. The UNHCR also arranges transport and assistance packages for people who return home, and income-generating projects for those who resettle.

Today, millions of people around the world are denied a nationality, they are called stateless, as a result, they are denied tons of access to basic rights, for example, education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Gaps in nationality laws are a major cause of statelessness. Every country has laws which establish under what circumstances someone acquires nationality or can have it withdrawn. UNHCR, are determined to end statelessness by 2024.

Another point they cover is migration, although migrants travel because they have either been forced to leave their homes by an armed conflict, or they are on the move searching for a better life. They can't be referred to or mistaken as refugees. The definition of refugees is; a specifically defined and protected group in international law, because the situation in their country of origin makes it impossible for them to go home. Calling them by another name as migrants can put their lives and safety in jeopardy.

Some of the members part of the UNHCR:

- United States of America
- United Mexican States
- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Republic of Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Republic of Ecuador
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- French Republic
- Russian Federation
- The Swiss Confederation
- The Arab Republic of Egypt
- Republic of Turkey



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- Hellenic Republic of Greece
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Republic of Chile
- Republic of India
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic of Yemen
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Republic of the Sudan

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TOPIC A: Vulnerability of refugees and migrants to human trafficking

Historically, migrants and refugees have always existed. It has already been established that migrants are those who move from their place of residence to another without much importance for the reason they are doing it. On the other hand, refugees are those who are forced to move due to the situation in which they live. Since in both cases they have to move, they become vulnerable groups for human trafficking, best known as modern slavery, which consists of transferring the person illegally to be exploited, it can be sexual, labor, among others.

It is estimated that 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking, however, this sum is only for the cases that were identified, being women and children the most vulnerable.

Human trafficking is driven by gender inequality, lack of opportunities, economic inequalities within the place of residence, corruption, the lack of effectiveness of judicial institutions, the application of the law, and that the State is not capable of protecting their civilians. No country is left out of being involved, since all are affected or participate in it. Some countries serve as the origin, transit, or destination point for the victim, because of this, those responsible for the countries and institutions, together with its representative body of "The United Nations" have been taking steps to make visible and fight against this type of crime.

This started in 1993 at the Vienna Human Rights Conference where for the first time it was recognized that human trafficking constitutes a violation of fundamental rights, which then in the year 2000 in Palermo, Italy, 147 countries created two complementary protocols. The first against human trafficking, specializing in women and children and the second against smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air. Both protocols entered into force in 2003. They have helped to suppress and punish trafficking, they have also had great influence in helping the already victims of this, establishing that there must be assistance and protection for them, it has raised the forms of prevention within society, through education, cultural and social activities. In the same way, it has established the effort that must be put into research activities and campaigns, as well as the promotion of social and economic initiatives with a view to preventing and combating trafficking, establishing the mitigation of factors such as poverty, underdevelopment, and lack of opportunities.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), created after World War II and due to the Holocaust consequences, is not far behind within its regulations to face the problem, their principal role has to be with protecting the right of asylum. Thanks to it millions of people have received protection to save their lives as refugees or migrants, they have been able to rebuild their lives and been able to return to their homes, all this under the protection of article 14, developed in turn in the Convention on the Status of the Refugees of 1951. In 2016, member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in order to protect those forced to flee and support the countries that host them. During the early 21st century, UNHCR has helped with major refugee crises in Africa, such as the crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

Besides, COVID-19, has also greatly affected policies and practices in this area, and no one has been able to escape its negative socioeconomic effects. Refugees, migrants and countries around



the world hosting large refugee populations have been particularly hard hit. But not only that, the amplified impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations has important implications for individuals at risk of or exploited in human trafficking, since there were great economic losses within the countries; increasing the needs of the families and thus forcing them to leave their place of residence, putting them at a greater risk of being victims of human trafficking.

Taking into account that the current situation that we are facing as humanity has caused more and more groups of people to be forced to leave, making them more likely to be victims of human trafficking, measures must be renewed so it could be done safely, policies such as better border management from a humanitarian approach should be applied, in the same way as punishing those involved in carrying out this crime and deprivation of human rights.

Key questions:

- What is the position of your delegation regarding the need to eradicate human trafficking, and how has your delegation contributed to combat it, or try to avoid it?
- Are migrants and refugees granted asylum in your delegation, and how is the quality of the asylum?
- What is the position of your delegation regarding the dangers migrants go through to arrive at their destination and what actions does it take to help them arrive safely?
- Does your delegation count with any specific or recommended routes for migrants?
- Does your Delegation's index towards the vulnerability of migrants and refugees has increased?

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TOPIC B: Illegal migrants cross the Darién jungle

The Darién Gap is a roadless (the landscape is too hostile for infrastructure), lawless stretch of mountainous rainforest straddling Colombia and Panama. It is the only break in the Pan-American Highway, a 30,000-mile system of highways that runs all the way from Argentina to Alaska. It is the home of the Darién National Park (575,000 hectares), which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a jungle that is thought to be as diverse in its flora and fauna as the Amazon with many endemic plants and animals found only in the Darién.

This only overland path connecting Central and South America is residence for some of the world's most deadly creatures, armed guerillas, and drug and human traffickers. The jungle has held a reputation for being one of the most inhospitable and uncrossable places on the planet. Yet, over the years, it has become a leading transit point for migrants coming from everywhere. Many hail from territories in South America like Cuba, Haiti, Chile, Brazil and Venezuela, along with dozens of countries in Asia and Africa, including Bangladesh, Senegal, Ghana, Uzbekistan, India and Nepal. All in search of a better life in Mexico, Canada, or the United States. "Deep in the jungle [of the Darién Gap], robbery, rape, and human trafficking are as dangerous as wild animals, insects and a lack of clean water," Jean Gough, UNICEF director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Darien Gap is an imposing obstacle on one of the world's most dangerous migration routes. The region is crawling with paramilitary groups and criminal gangs. They are ready to pick off migrants along the way. Violence, extortion, and rape are common threats for the migrants. So is death from snake bites, exposure, and drowning due to rising rivers in the rainy season (May and July). But for the migrants who have passed the Darién Gap, over and around aren't options because of Panama's closed border policy. For desperate migrants, the only way to get from one side to the other is to go through.

In the early months of 2022, at least 19,000 people risked their lives to navigate the Darién Gap by foot in view of the fact that planes or boats are more perilous, with them being stopped cold at docks or airports. Moreover, most migrants trying to cross are desperately poor. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has driven thousands to risk their lives in the jungle. In 2021 alone, more than 133,000 migrants made the crossing, many of them accompanied by children born during their migratory journey. With this, the number of children making the crossing shot up, with at least 5,000 coming out of the jungle between January and June 2022. It is estimated that all these numbers will continue to increase.

As the number of migrants grows, so does the impact on Indigenous communities whose lands they often traverse. The Embera community of Bajo Chiquito (Province of Darien), accessible only on foot or by boat, is the first point of contact on the Panamanian side of the jungle. It is a small community of wooden houses nestled in a forest clearing by the Tuquesa River. 460 indigenous peoples live here, but more than 600 migrants from as many as 50 different nationalities temporarily live here in tents, while they wait for a space on a boat to continue their journey.

Unfortunately, the community of Bajo Chiquito does not have access to basic services in great quantities yet, so access to clean water and bathrooms remains limited, and resources are rapidly



being depleted. Although Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes assures that the government lacks the money needed to provide long-term humanitarian support to migrants, government officials and international organizations like Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF have sought to manage the crisis by setting up temporary housing and providing medical care and mental health services to those arriving. There, they are registered as migrants and biometrically screened by authorities for the first time on their journey. Most then quickly resume their mission to get to the north.

Key questions:

- Does your delegation have a similar problem to this?
- In a regional approach, how has your delegation helped a situation similar to this, if not the same? If they have a protocol, how can you adapt it to this issue?
- Does your delegation count with any sponsorship programs that deal with topics of illegal migration? What actions have they taken? Are government authorities and officials being involved in giving a solution to this as much as international organizations? What actions have they taken?
- Does your delegation take part in the illegal migration in the Darién jungle problem? If so, how?
- How does your country aid this issue? If not, does it indirectly help the issue?
- Does your delegation count with politics or laws that benefit or disadvantage migrants? If so, indicate and explain them.

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NOTE: The delegate's position paper should be delivered to this email.