



## UNESCO

*Topic: “Protecting national cultural heritage and identity amid the rise of global immigration.”*



**Moderator:** Regina Belchez

**President:** Sofia Tapia

**Dear delegates,**

Welcome to the UNESCO Committee at NICMUN 2025. We are delighted to have you join us and encourage you to actively participate, share your ideas, and work together to find effective solutions to global challenges.

This committee is not only a space for debate, but also an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, creativity, and confidence as future leaders. We invite you to research using reliable sources such as the official UNESCO website and Model United Nations documents.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Chair or Moderator. Thank you for being part of this year's NICMUN — we hope you learn, grow, and make the most of this experience.



## Committee History

---



**UNESCO** was founded to help humanity decide what kind of society we wished to build together after the devastation of the two World Wars.

As early as 1942, global leaders began envisioning an organization that would promote lasting peace through education, culture, science, and information.

Over the years, UNESCO has launched initiatives that have profoundly improved lives around the world and shaped global action in its areas of expertise — from nationwide educational and scientific programmes to the creation of tsunami warning systems and the establishment of the World Heritage concept.

Today, they continue to advance this mission with the same spirit of collaboration and hope.



## Committee Faculties

---

Committee faculties refer to the powers and limitations of a committee. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aims to promote international collaboration through education, science, culture, and communication.

### 1. Nature of UNESCO's Authority

UNESCO is NOT a legislative body. It **cannot** force countries to do anything in the same way the UN Security Council can. It also cannot impose any laws, sanctions, or punishments. What it can do is recommend, coordinate, and promote actions between countries.

### 2. What UNESCO can do

- Recommend policies or ideas to the governments about education, science, culture, and communication.
- Create programs or international campaigns, such as the protection of world heritage or education for all.
- Promote cooperation between countries or with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Organize events, workshops, or research to share knowledge.
- Recognize important cultural places or traditions (such as World Heritage sites).
- Promote freedom of expression and access to information.

In short, UNESCO **does not impose, but rather proposes**. Its work is based on collaboration and dialogue.

### 3. What UNESCO cannot do

- It cannot force countries to follow a rule or pay any money.
- It cannot apply sanctions or use military force.
- It cannot intervene in a country's internal affairs without its permission.
- It cannot create binding laws; it can only suggest agreements that countries decide whether or not to accept.
- It cannot intervene in political or security matters, such as wars or conflicts.



## Introduction to the Topic

---

Global immigration refers to the movement of people from one country to another, often because of serious challenges such as wars, poverty, or because it is not safe. These difficulties are called **push** factors because they push people from their original homes. At the same time, people are drawn to other countries by **pull** factors, such as better jobs, opportunities, and even education, in general, to live a better life.

Today, more than 280 million people are living in countries different from where they were originally born, that's about 1 in every 30 people. Migration brings both benefits and challenges. On one side, it helps societies grow by bringing more culture, traditions, language, gastronomy etc. making societies richer and more diverse, but on the other side migrants can struggle adjusting to another culture or environment, because moving into a whole new place is hard, they face language barriers, discrimination, and adapting to other cultures while also trying to keep their own.

For example, in Nigeria, migration works in both ways; some people are looking to go abroad for better opportunities, like studying or working, while others from nearby countries move into Nigeria, avoiding conflicts and seeking safety. Because of this, it is important to support cultural identity preservation, protect immigrant traditions so that people can integrate into other cultural identities without losing their traditions or sense of belonging, making stronger communities, greater understanding among cultures, and a more peaceful world.

In this context, the challenge is finding ways to preserve cultural identities, especially for immigrants, refugees, and small communities. Maintaining one's language, customs, and traditions plays a fundamental role in mental well-being, dignity, and belonging. And at the same time, those societies that are welcoming these citizens need to balance this with inclusion and cohesion so that everyone, both arrivals and long-term citizens, feels respected and connected.

**“Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety, and a better future.”**

— United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



## Background Information of the Topic

---

Since ancient times, human societies have been defined by movement and adaptation. Migration has long been a response to both opportunity and necessity; individuals and families relocate in search of a more dignified lifestyle, education, and stability, while others are forced to flee due to armed conflict, persecution, terrorism, or systemic violations of human rights. In recent years, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and the accelerating impacts of climate change have further intensified these migratory flows.

Currently, international migration has reached record levels never before seen, reflecting how persistent inequalities drive displacement. According to data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in 2024, the number of people living outside their country of origin was estimated at nearly 304 million, almost double the figure recorded in 1990. This represents approximately 3.7% of the world's population. While many migrate voluntarily in search of opportunities, many others are forced to do so in conditions of instability or crisis.

This global phenomenon poses several serious problems that impact both the countries of origin and the countries of destination. The absence of global collaboration and well-established migration policies is one of the primary challenges, frequently leading to irregular migration and human rights abuses. After arriving in a new nation, many migrants experience limited access to healthcare and education, discrimination, and labor exploitation.

The social and economic pressure on host nations, which must strike a balance between their national interests and humanitarian obligations, is another significant obstacle. At the same time, many countries of origin experience a decline in development due to the "brain drain," or the loss of skilled workers. Additionally, migration flows have become more intense due to conflict, making them challenging to forecast and control.

Another major challenge to safeguarding national cultural heritage in the context of global migration is the disruption of cultural transmission between generations. As individuals and families move to new countries, the younger generation frequently grows up in environments where the predominant language, values, and customs are not aligned with those of their native country. This can gradually diminish their ties to their cultural heritage. Consequently, the knowledge, rituals, and heritage that were once integral to national identity can become diluted or lost.



This problem is particularly evident in Latin America and the Caribbean, where one of the biggest migration waves in modern history is presently taking place. By December 2023, 7.7 million people had fled Venezuela, making the migration crisis the second largest human displacement in history, according to the R4V Platform. At the same time, over 11 million Mexicans reside overseas, mostly in the United States, making Mexico the primary country of origin for migrants. Due to insecurity and a lack of opportunities, emigration rates are still high in other nations like Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Colombia.

At the same time, many nations, including Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Argentina, have emerged as significant destination nations, taking in millions of migrants and changing the demographics of the surrounding area.

Encompassing these challenges and migration dynamics, the following subtopics could be considered for a more in-depth analysis of the phenomenon:

- **Subtopic 1: The Impact of Immigration on Cultural Change**

Immigration facilitates not only the movement of individuals across borders but also the exchange of ideas, values, and customs. As people and families begin new lives in different settings, cultural practices inevitably merge, transform, and adjust. This cultural change can be both beneficial and challenging. On one side, migration encourages the development of multicultural communities where various traditions exist side by side and new identities form. Conversely, numerous immigrants experience pressure to conform to the cultural standards of their new country, leading younger generations to become increasingly disconnected from their heritage.

- **Subtopic 2: Migration Policies' Ethical Considerations**

Humanitarian ideals and political interests frequently clash in migration policies. Many governments impose restrictions in the name of economic dominance or security, but these same measures can lead to social exclusion and human rights abuses. The ethical aspect of managing migration brings up important issues, such as whether national sovereignty should take precedence over the right to pursue opportunities and safety.

Understanding this context is essential to analyze the challenges and opportunities that human mobility poses in the region and to addressing the topic of this debate in an informed manner.



## International Actions

---

Several international frameworks and agreements aim to address the challenges and opportunities of global immigration, mainly focusing on the protection of migrants' rights and the preservation of cultural identity while promoting social integration. Governments, United Nations bodies, and non-governmental organizations have implemented a wide range of initiatives to support refugees, migrants, and minority communities worldwide.

### 1. United Nations and Global Agreements

- Global compact for safe, orderly, and regular Migration (2018): Adopted by over 150 countries, this UN global agreement promotes responsible migration management, protects migrant's human rights, and encourages cultural inclusion in host societies.
- Global compact on refugees (2018): Focuses on improving international cooperation, ensuring access to education, cultural rights, and health care to displaced people.

### 2. Governmental Policies and Bilateral Agreements

- Canada's Multiculturalism Act (1988) guarantees the right of migrants to maintain their cultural heritage, while also participating fully in Canadian society.
- Germany's Integration Courses provide language learning and cultural education, while allowing immigrants to celebrate their own traditions through community centers and cultural events.
- Nigeria's National Migration Policy (2015) addresses both emigration ("Japa") and immigration, promoting diaspora engagement, reintegration support, and refugee protection.

### 3. Civil Society and NGO Initiatives

- Projects for IOM Cultural Resilience and Save the Children
- Provide migrant children with psychosocial support through storytelling, music, and art to help them adapt while maintaining their identity.



- Amnesty International Campaigns on Migrant Rights promote equal access to social services and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Programs for Cultural Mediation by the Red Cross
- Teach mediators with immigrant backgrounds to translate cultural norms and values between communities in addition to language.

#### **4. Community-Based and Educational Initiatives**

- The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) promotes empathy for migrants by encouraging educational institutions around the world to teach cultural diversity and global citizenship.
- The Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme assists cities in implementing coexistence-promoting laws, such as those pertaining to shared public areas, language exchanges, and multicultural festivals.
- Diaspora heritage festivals, such as the Somali Week Festival in Minneapolis and the Nigerian Carnival in London, give immigrant communities a stage on which to defend and publicly express who they are.



## Recommendations for further investigation

---

### Understanding the Issue

- What effects does migration have on the cultural identities of both the receiving communities and the migrants themselves?
- Which factors—such as conflict, the economy, or the environment—are the main causes of migration in your chosen nation?
- Does your nation mainly send migrants, receive migrants, or do both?

### Structures of Regulation and Policy

- Which international treaties—such as the UNESCO Conventions, the Global Compact on Migration, and the Refugee Protocols—about migration or cultural preservation has your country ratified?
- Are minority cultures, languages, or customs protected by national laws or policies in your country?

### Preserving Cultural Identity

- Which facets of culture—language, holidays, music, dress, art, and religion—are most at risk of disappearing due to influences from migration or assimilation?
- What existing strategies are in place in your country to protect migrant or minority cultures? Do they work well?

### Education and Inclusion in the Community

- How can public institutions, the media, and schools promote inclusivity without promoting cultural assimilation?
- Should host countries prioritize cultural preservation or integration, or find a middle ground between the two? In what way?

### UNESCO's role and international cooperation

- What specific actions should UNESCO take to protect cultural identity among migrant populations, such as funding projects, recording cultural heritage, educational initiatives, and public relations campaigns?
- How can countries cooperate to exchange cultural knowledge rather than let it disappear?



## Potential Solutions

- Which innovative technologies—like virtual reality museums, language learning apps, and digital archives—might help migrant and diasporic communities preserve their cultures?
- Should immigrants completely adapt to their new countries, or should the new countries adapt to the new ones as well? Where can the equilibrium be found?



## Recommendations to do Resolution Paper

Delegates can use websites to receive support to elaborate on a resolution paper. Some of the recommendations found are:

1. Find solutions that fit all the previous laws.
2. Use proper language and express your delegation's ideas in an extended way.
3. Use preambulatory and operative phrases.
4. Seek for sponsors to support your delegation's solutions.
5. Consider Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's) to support your solutions.
6. Always maintain your country's position and abstain from contradicting yourself.
7. Specify the worldwide planning committee reached and make it realistic.

### Sample Preambulatory Phrases

|                   |                             |                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Affirming         | Expecting                   | Having studied            |
| Alarmed by        | Expressing its appreciation | Keeping in mind           |
| Approving         | Expressing its satisfaction | Noting with regret        |
| Aware of          | Fulfilling                  | Noting with deep concern  |
| Bearing in mind   | Fully alarmed               | Noting with satisfaction  |
| Believing         | Fully aware                 | Noting further            |
| Confident         | Fully believing             | Noting with approval      |
| Contemplating     | Further deplored            | Observing                 |
| Convinced         | Further recalling           | Reaffirming               |
| Declaring         | Guided by                   | Realizing                 |
| Deeply concerned  | Having adopted              | Recalling                 |
| Deeply conscious  | Having considered           | Recognizing               |
| Deeply convinced  | Having considered further   | Referring                 |
| Deeply disturbed  | Having devoted attention    | Seeking                   |
| Deeply regretting | Having examined             | Taking into account       |
| Desiring          | Having heard                | Taking into consideration |
| Emphasizing       | Having received             | Taking note               |
|                   |                             | Viewing with appreciation |
|                   |                             | Welcoming                 |

### Sample Operative Phrases

|                      |                            |                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Accepts              | Encourages                 | Further recommends |
| Affirms              | Endorses                   | Further requests   |
| Approves             | Expresses its appreciation | Further resolves   |
| Authorizes           | Expresses its hope         | Has resolved       |
| Calls                | Further invites            | Notes              |
| Calls upon           | Deplores                   | Proclaims          |
| Condemns             | Designates                 | Reaffirms          |
| Confirms             | Draws the attention        | Recommends         |
| Congratulates        | Emphasizes                 | Regrets            |
| Considers            | Encourages                 | Reminds            |
| Declares accordingly | Endorses                   | Requests           |
| Deplores             | Expresses its appreciation | Solemnly affirms   |
| Designates           | Expresses its hope         | Strongly condemns  |
| Draws the attention  | Further invites            | Supports           |
| Emphasizes           | Further proclaims          | Takes note of      |
|                      | Further reminds            | Transmits          |
|                      |                            | Trusts             |



## Questions to consider while creating your resolution

---

1. How can your delegation express a solution that is fair for all the countries?
2. Where does your country stand while disputing the best quality of security systems?
3. How can you get a solution where all border countries win something?
4. Consider short and long term solutions. What can you do to improve your short and long term solutions so they can be successful?
5. Who should be involved in your solution?
6. Are there any monetary funds or NGO's considered for your solution?
7. How could you convince the delegations that they are against the solution?
8. Do you have any type of back up plan that will reinforce your plan?

## Research and preparation questions

---

- What's your country's position on the topic?
- How is your country affected by this problem?
- How is your country trying to solve this problem?
- Does your country have received help from other countries?
- Does your country have helped others?
- What partnerships can emerge to secure the legal commerce of health products?
- Which activities can be promoted by the citizens of your country to reach a solution?



## Bibliography

---

- United Nations. (2018). *Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.* <https://www.un.org/migration/>
- United Nations. (2018). *Global compact on refugees.* <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>
- UNESCO. (2003). *Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.* <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>
- UNHCR. (2022). *Integration programmes and community-based protection.* <https://www.unhcr.org/>
- Government of Canada. (1988). *Canadian Multiculturalism Act.* <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-18.7/>
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. (2020). *Integration courses in Germany.* <https://www.bamf.de/>
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2015). *National Migration Policy of Nigeria.* International Organization for Migration. <https://publications.iom.int/>
- International Organization for Migration. (2021). *Cultural orientation & resilience programs.* <https://www.iom.int/>
- Amnesty International. (2020). *Human rights of migrants and refugees.* <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2019). *Cultural mediation and community integration.* <https://www.ifrc.org/>
- UNESCO. (2020). *UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet): Global citizenship & cultural diversity programs.* <https://aspnet.unesco.org/>
- Council of Europe. (2021). *Intercultural cities programme.* <https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities>
- Afolayan, A., Ikwuyatum, G., & Abegunde, A. (2021). Cultural identity and economic innovation in African diaspora communities. *Journal of Migration Studies.*



- *Top 10 migration issues of 2024.* (2024, December 17). migrationpolicy.org.  
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-information-source/top-10-migration-issues-2024>
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Migración internacional | Naciones Unidas.*  
<https://www.un.org/es/global-issues/migration>
- World Bank Group. (2024). Module 9—Brain Drain. In *World Bank*.  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2023/brief/module-9-brain-drain>
- De Migración, U. (2024, August 20). *Migración Internacional: Países Emisores, Receptores y sus impactos.* La Maleta Abierta.  
<https://blogs.iadb.org/migracion/es/paises-receptores-de-migrantes-y-con-mayor-flujo-migratorio/>