

## **United Nations General Assembly**

Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to the 8th Edition of TJMUN Queretaro. As your chairs we are sure you will enjoy a great experience and we thank you for being part of General Assembly committee. We are so glad that you have decided to join TJMUN and be part of this amazing experience. We have both been a part of it for many years and can tell you that you won't regret it. Throughout the debate you will have the opportunity to develop several abilities that are vital for your life, like leadership, teamwork, and public speaking.

The General Assembly is a vital committee in the United Nations. As the main body, it's duty, and that of all its participants, is to deliberate upon international affairs such as policymaking, while being an open forum for the representatives for all member states. As part of this committee you will not only discuss the topics here presented, but you will also take a vital part in the solutions offered by other committees.

We are sure that you will enjoy the TJMUN experience and you won't regret being part of this committee. We are certain all delegates will have the best attitude and the confidence necessary to have a great debate, while working to find solutions for all issues here presented. We can only thank you and hope you enjoy this great experience in this year's TJMUN.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Lomelín and Daria Pelayo

General Assembly Chairs

## **Topic A: Fighting trade of arms in Central and South America**

### *Introduction*

Gun violence presents one of the biggest threats to the safety of millions of people in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to World Health Organization, guns are the leading cause of death for citizens between ages 15 and 44 in Latin America, “After decades of uncontrolled proliferation, at least 45 million to 80 million small arms and light weapons—that is, weapons operated by an individual or small group, including handguns, assault rifles, grenades, grenade launchers, and even portable surface to air missiles—are circulating throughout the region.” (NACLA). This means gun control and gun acquisition prevention are vague, and that has result in an amount of guns moving around the region.

### *Topic Outline*

Gun trafficking problems originated during the Cold War. The United States and the Soviet Union were immersed in a fierce competition to spread their influence and political principles amongst Latin American countries, which set the bases for a mass flow of weapons. Thus allowing armed groups to rise and jeopardize the political stability of many countries, originating armed conflicts such as civil wars. More importantly, thousands of firearms ended up being illegally bought and sold around Latin America.

“The United States mainly supplied El Salvador. “U.S. official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives estimated that half the weapons available in El Salvador's vibrant black market were made in the United States.” (LA Times). “Russia has also become a primary weapons suppliers to the region, particularly for regimes opposed to the United States. Between 2001 and 2013, Russia sold \$14.5 billion of

weapons to the region, of which \$11 billion were paid by Venezuela, with significant quantities also going to Peru and Brazil.” (Strategic Studies Institute)

“These U.S. and Russian exports continue, but now dozens of countries, led by Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Italy, Spain and Turkey export weapons to Latin America. Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela are between the main purchasers”. (LA Times).

Countries with the high rates of gun trafficking as well as those countries buying most of these illegal arms are also amongst those with the highest rates of homicides in the world. For instance, Brazil, a country with movement of firearms and trade has 19 of the world's 50 more dangerous cities and a great part of that problem is due by the traffic of firearms. “Latin American statistics on gun violence are breathtaking. Its residents account for just 8.5% of the world's population, but 27% of its homicides. According to a recent survey, 34 of 50 of the most violent cities in the world are in the Americas. 75% of murders in the region are a result of gunshots.” (LA Times).

### *Essence of the Debate*

The main points that must be discussed in this committee surrounding the topic are: countries' interest in money before their citizens' safety, gun control in countries with significant rates of gun smuggling and murder, which has consequently turn the use of guns into a direct threat to safety. All delegations should also focus on where these guns are going and who is using them, while revising the position each delegation has on the matter. At the same time making room for possible solutions that are economically available for all countries.

### *Questions to Consider*

How is your delegation involved in the topic?

How does gun trafficking affect the country you represent?

What actions is your delegation implementing towards this issue? is your delegation currently trafficking arms or finding a solution?

How has gun trade affected public safety in your delegation?

How high are rates of gun related murders in your delegation?

### *References and Suggested Websites*

Muggah, R. & Dudley, S.. (2015). The Latin American gun leak. 13 of October, 2016, de LA Times Sitio web: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-muggah-arming-latin-america-20150118-story.html>

Stohl R. & Tuttle D.. The Small Arms Trade in Latin America. 2 of September, 2016, de NACLA web site: <https://nacla.org/article/small-arms-trade-latin-america>

Ellis, E.. (2015). Russian Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Return to the "Strategic Game" in a Complex-Interdependent Post-Cold War World?. 13 of October, 2016, from Strategic Studies Institute web site: <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/index.cfm/articles/Russian-Engagement-in-Latin-America/2015/04/24>

## **Topic B: Transforming Refugee Camps into Sustainable Settlements.**

### *Introduction:*

Nowadays we are all facing issues around the world. These challenges threaten the world's integrity, while sabotaging the welfare of millions in many aspects. As a consequence of unstable governments mostly situated in the Middle East are under armed conflicts, leaving millions of people without a place to live. Sadly, they are forced to run away from these terrible and ongoing events. The conflict in too many countries forces families to abandon their homes, the population has no choice other than living in miserable camps.

### *Topic Outline:*

"The concept of protracted displacement situations is built on assumptions of largely sedentary populations waiting for durable (ie permanent and sustainable) solutions, and a regulated and documented existence within defined and accepted boundaries (of state, of official status and of expected behaviour)." FMR

A lot of temporary camps are maintained for years and are avoided by most of the refugees, since they do not offer any alternatives other than stagnation by violence and despair. Some refugees suffer from sexual abuse, health issues due to the lack of hygiene, while others have no shelter to spend the night.

The transformation of these refugee camps into sustainable settlements could greatly benefit all people pursuing the opportunity to live in a safe environment. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has pointed out that this situation, which in July 2014 released an ambitious and much welcomed policy of alternatives to camps, calling for the transformation of existing camps into sustainable settlements in host countries. There are several reasons why foreign countries that provide refugee camps endure. It is often a situation of rapidly increasing displaced

population compounded by poor camp planning and logistical decisions. The systematic deterioration of the surrounding environment produces major impacts on refugees and local populations. Furthermore, the absence of mitigating measures for the economic, social, and public welfare of refugees can be devastating.

Many countries around the world reject refugees because of terrorist assumptions, while trying to reach higher levels of insecurity. Regarding other aspects, refugees take part in the consumption of resources already in short supply (e.g. money, housing, etc.), which is used by possible host countries to reject them. The lack of refugee camps and the low quality of living standards these people undergo after arriving at a host country, are just part of the many challenges they face, which in many cases they get treated like terrorists.

#### *Essence of the debate:*

There are 16.1 million refugees registered under UNHCR's mandate. The countries with the highest rates of refugee immigration are: The Syrian Arab Republic with a total refugee population of 4.9 million at the end 2015, Afghanistan (2.7 million), Sub-Saharan Africa and South Sudan. On the other hand, the countries hosting the largest number of refugees are: Turkey with 2.5 million people, Pakistan with 1.6 million people, Lebanon with 1.1 million people, Islamic Republic of Iran with 979,400 people, Ethiopia with 736,100 people, and Jordan with 664,100 people.

In the western hemisphere, United States of America is the second largest host for asylum seekers coming from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, a figure which reflects another ongoing problem which is violence generated by organized crime, gang activity, and the trafficking of drugs by Cartels in Latin America. In Europe, Germany and Sweden are the largest backlog registered asylum application within the EU.

The UNHCR has certain expectations in regards to sleeping accommodations, administrative headquarters, gardens attached to the family plot, hygiene facilities (washing areas, toilets, etc.) places for water collection, food distribution, communication equipment, security, schools and centers, concluding in the following seventeen sustainable development goals:

1. No poverty
2. No Hunger
3. Good Health
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Renewable Energy
8. Good Jobs and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10.Reduced Inequalities
- 11.Sustainable cities and communities
- 12.Responsible Consumption
- 13.Climate Action
- 14.Life below water
- 15.Life on land
- 16.Peace and Justice
- 17.Partnerships for the goals

*Questions to Consider:*

- Considering the existing refugee camps, what could your country do to improve them?
- What is your country's involvement in this issue?
- How could you get protracted displacement in case of insecurity problems?
- What are your country's actions towards the topic?
- How could your country contribute to the 17 sustainable goals mentioned above?

– What can your country contribute to the already existing policies?

URL:<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/09/08/this-map-helps-explain-why-some-european-countries-reject-refugees-and-others-love-them/>

[https://feedthehungry.org/give-twice-many-refugee-families-hope-full-life/?gclid=CKWFquCriM8CFZKGaQodq7wC\\_w](https://feedthehungry.org/give-twice-many-refugee-families-hope-full-life/?gclid=CKWFquCriM8CFZKGaQodq7wC_w)

<http://www.unhcr.ie/about-unhcr/facts-and-figures-about-refugee>