

HAND BOOK

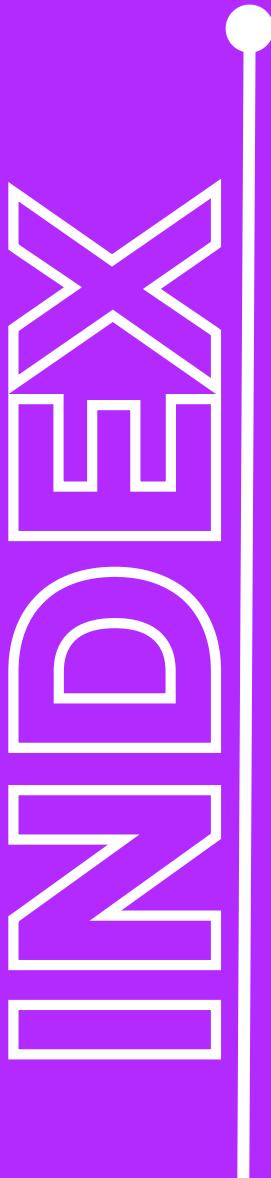


CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN **CEDAW**



EIGHTH EDITION: FOR DIVERSITY

THE SOUTHEAST MEXICAN
MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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GENERAL SECRETARY LETTER

Dear delegations:

It is an honor for us to welcome you to the eighth edition of the Mexican Southeastern Model of the United Nations. As the General Secretariat, we are proud and excited that you have decided to be part of this experience and join this committee that your chair has given so much love and commitment, who have made an effort in recent months to provide you with the most fruitful and enriching experience.

As part of the organizing committee, we know how overwhelming and intimidating it can be to be a part of these spaces, especially if it's your first time as delegations, but at the end of the day it's the dedication, perspective and intention to bring a change in our society that unites us and allows us to meet people with similar aspirations and ideals.

The Models of the United Nations are an example of solidarity, excellence, exuberance and strength. They are spaces in which real scenarios can be discussed and analyzed where the security of international society is included and addressed.

From this moment it is in your hands as delegations to raise your voice for the topics that your committee includes and to seek solutions to the problems that your Chair considered important to make visible and to address.

We are sure that the Dias that will be in charge of you will accompany you throughout the process and provide you with a safe, comfortable and adequate space to learn and put into practice all your public speaking, negotiation, leadership and management skills. We hope that this experience will allow you to have a broader and clearer picture of what the mission of the United Nations really is and what is our role as youth, children and adolescents in situations that require international negotiation.

GENERAL SECRETARY LETTER

We know that you will be able to overcome any obstacle that you might go through, we trust in you and we will be present to attend to all those needs that may arise to make this the best experience.

As delegations you will have the faculty and power to represent a nation, its perspective, its customs, its traditions and above all, its position regarding any of the topics, always respecting its interests, its needs and keeping in mind the Sustainable Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We know that together you will come up with a resolution that will allow you to broaden your perspective and spread your learning to the society in which we live. We wish you the best of success, enjoy, learn, have fun, we are very sure that you will have an incredible experience.

Sincerely,

Víctor López de Nava
General Secretariat

Nayeli Jiménez
General Attached Secretariat



ACADEMIC SECRETARY LETTER

Dear Delegations,

On behalf of the organizing committee, we welcome you to your committee, today you become an essential part of the eighth edition of the Southeast Mexican Model United Nations, SMMUN for Diversity.

The Academic Secretariat is convinced of the hard work that your table has done throughout these 8 months of preparation and sacrifice, making this edition one of the best experiences you will ever have.

We are pleased to count on your participation, since this type of spaces were created by and for young people like you and us, who recognize the importance of youth. Raise your voice in favor of the resolution of various international problems through negotiation, which day by day, impede the progress of a sustainable, progressive and pro-human rights society.

It is encouraging to know that every day more people are joining this project, new generations who have decided to be the change, but to achieve these objectives, not only locally or nationally, but also internationally and therefore it is necessary to bring a full dialogue about the problems that we face daily from different perspectives.

In this edition, with the addition of since thirteen years delegations, we want to encourage that no matter what school year you are in, your age or what you are studying, a Model United Nations is for everyone.

A couple of years ago we heard "anyone can be a delegation" and now we understand. Not everyone can become a "Best Delegation" but we have always believed that a "Best Delegation" can come from anyone.

ACADEMIC SECRETARY LETTER

If this is your first model, we want to send you all the encouragement and motivation, we have all been first timers at some point, and like you, we get the best out of this amazing experience, whether it be friendships, knowledge, relationships, or even making our voice heard.

If you made it this far, make the sessions a space for dialogue where you can contribute all your ideas, proposals and encourage the delegations to seek solutions.

If you are an experienced delegation, take advantage of these spaces to be the motivation for those first-time delegations, who will see in you an example to follow.

Let's continue making noise, disturbing and raising our voices, for a future where all young people are heard, because we may be diverse, but together, we are the change.

Much success Delegations,

Sincerely, Academic Secretariat.

Dayré Solís, Lupita Rosado Tello, Arkin Da Silva



CHAIR LETTER

Dear delegations,

The Chair of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women warmly welcomes you to the 8th Edition of the Model of United Nations of the Mexican Southeast SMMUN 2023: For diversity. We have been preparing this committee and the case we will be dealing with for a long time, so we hope that during the days of the model you, delegates, can see all the hard work and love we have put into this project. The Dias of this committee is formed by Lirio Araiza who will be functioning as our President, Sofía Quiñones who will be accompanying you as our Moderation and Valentina Moreno who will be performing as our Conference Official.

The objective of the CEDAW is to ensure a society free of gender violence and guarantee women all around the world the access to their human rights. As Chair, we wanted to represent this by giving you the opportunity to discuss an international problem with the focus on a case that is very dear to us, and that we hope you find interesting and instructional. By being part of this committee, our main goal is to give you the facilities to enjoy a great experience that allows you to continue the fight for gender equality, the legal protection of women's rights, and the empowerment of women and young girls. We intend for this to be a safe space where our final report can be filled with distinguished contributions from each and every one of you.

Whether this is your first or twentieth Model of United Nations, we are sure this committee will be able to bring you lots of delightful surprises, as it has for us. Even though these activities may just be simulations, the Chair, against all odds, has done its best to bring to you a very close look on how the actual CEDAW works. This means, we all have hard work ahead of us; however, we are sure you will know how to handle any challenge that comes your way in the best possible manner.

CHAIR LETTER

You have our immense gratitude and admiration for choosing to participate in this first edition of the CEDAW in the SMMUN, for taking a chance on our committee, and most of all for being willing to raise your voice and express your ideas in order to grow, learn, and create a better world for women. The Chair will guide you through every step of the way, from the moment you decide to be a part of this project, until our last session together. Once more, we are very happy and excited to have you with us, and we hope to see you all soon.

With Love,

The CEDAW Chair.



SMMUN 2023: FOR DIVERSITY

The Southeast Mexican Model United Nations (SMMUN) is a model of nations made by and for youth students with an interest in international law, international relations, human rights and all things UN related.

Its purpose is to give participants an opportunity to experience real-life working sessions at the United Nations, dealing with issues of international relevance, while allowing participants to develop skills in leadership, negotiation, diplomacy, teamwork, research, among others.



COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

On December 18, 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as a result of the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The convention's approach covers three dimensions: civil rights, the legal status of women, and human reproduction (the impact of cultural factors on gender relations is also included).

The Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is in charge of supervising the application of this Convention, which has become the most important human rights treaty for women. The objective of the committee is to, as said in its name, eliminate the discrimination against women in the public and private life, including what happens in the family context, as well as guaranteeing gender equality in social, economic, work, politic, and health spheres.

The CEDAW is composed of 19 expert members, 3 members of the Dias, and 1 rapporteur. For reasons of logistics and the well-functioning of this committee, in this edition of the SMMUN we will also be counting with the presence of a maximum of 11 State Members.

According to Article 20 of the Convention, the Committee will be reunited every year for two weeks, nevertheless, the length of this period of time has varied according to different reforms over time. As reported by Article 18, every State Member compromises to deliver informs at least every four years on general measures they have applied to follow the Convention, on any discriminatory problem they may present.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

During its public sessions, the Committee examines these reports and submits its concerns and recommendations in the form of concluding observations to the State Member. Likewise, the committee may receive communications from individuals who present complaints of violations of the rights protected by the Convention and it can initiate consultations in situations of serious or systematic violations of women's rights (this only when the state approves the procedures).

These investigations are led by their expert members, in order to ensure that the recommendations made to the State Member are objective and bearing in mind at all times the Articles stated in the Convention.



THE CASE

Influence of surrogacy legislation on the exploitation of women in Greece.

Surrogate motherhood is defined as an agreement between the surrogate mother and the intended parents who are favored by the expectant mother's agreement to give birth to the baby with no intention of raising it, with the subsequent abandonment of any parental rights that may correspond to her.

Since 2002, Greek Medical Assistance in Human Reproduction and the provisions of Articles 1458 and 1464 of the Greek Civil Code rule and regulate the guidelines of surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy is legal in Greece, however, so is compensated surrogacy, in which the expectant woman may receive money in exchange for this reproductive service. It is clear from global trends that commercial surrogacy targets the poorest women to exploit.

Since the economic depression of 2008 criminal gangs have turned to women as a resource in Greece. In 2014, the possibility of being an adequate expectant or intended familiar candidate was expanded from Greek citizens to foreigners as well. Even so, authorities and the very same Articles were poorly reasoned and hence, weren't correctly regulated.

The consequence of the many lagoons in this legislation was found on September 23rd, 2019, when Greek law enforcement authorities, supported by Europol, dismantled an organized crime group, involved in illegal adoptions, oocyte-selling (usually known as egg-selling) and commercial surrogacy. This network involved other crimes such as sexual, reproductive exploitation and human trafficking.

THE CASE



After eight months of investigation the case led to the arrest of 22 people suspected of engaging in this criminal network. More than 30 victims and 60 implicated people were discovered in various clinics in Greece. This represented a violation to the integrity and body of the expecting mothers

Operating since 2016, it was confirmed that the victims were pregnant Bulgarian women recruited by this criminal group, who were transported to Thessaloniki, Greece, and were placed under medical observation until their due date. They weren't allowed to have any contact with the intended parents until after birth. After delivery, the newborns were illegally adopted for approximately €25,000 and the women were left to their own luck.

The average socio-cultural profile of these women was that they were foreign young people, from dysfunctional families and quite often, with domestic violence records.

This meant, they were women with little to no knowledge on the correct functioning of these procedures, which, in addition to their economic needs, made them the perfect targets.

It was also discovered that most of the forced donors of ova were recruited from Bulgaria, Georgia and Russia. They were also transferred to Thessaloniki to undergo fertility and hormonal procedures. Almost no one in Greece had expected these crimes to take place, nonetheless, this country has been considered to have the most permissive legislation in matters of surrogacy legislation for 18 years

THE CASE

Greek authorities have mentioned that this is “a very well hidden crime” which is why the legislation hasn’t been modified and there is still no way of knowing the exact number of victims, or if there are more networks. Wanting to be part of a surrogate agreement is a decision that any woman is entitled to have, which is why it should be legalized. However, these legislations and regulations to protect women are an imperative factor when it comes to safeguarding their human and maternal health rights.

We chose this case to highlight gender violence in emerging countries and to raise awareness on how the poor execution of the surrogacy legislation violates the rights of women in the sphere of health. Therefore, the focus we want our delegates to follow is how economic and educational inequalities, and lack of access to sexual health resources may be reasons as to why women are forced in a social context to need this type of remuneration, as small as it may be, covered by these networks. Keeping other factors in mind, such as human rights, our Convention, and the different types of surrogacy, we also expect the delegates to look after women in view of their respective Expert or State Members.

Another goal we have is that the delegations will be able to reach agreements and make a general recommendation to eradicate exploitation, traffic and poor administration and legislation of subrogations in Greece, through all of the faculties that this committee has, and formulate suggestions to the legislation of surrogacy and the protection of pregnant women by health centers, as well as ways to guarantee compliance with their sexual and reproductive rights by eliminating ovule and human trafficking networks.

But most importantly, we hope that the delegations can learn how to discern from the right of any woman to choose and have the option of surrogacy as something legal, and the abuse of power that can come with this legislation by institutions that seek to exploit them.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

For Expert Members:

1. What is the expert's focus within the CEDAW?
2. Which actions have they taken throughout their career to help eradicate discrimination against women?
3. Has the expert had any experience with surrogation cases? What was their experience?
4. What is their opinion based on their countries outlooks on surrogation and the measures they have taken to manage it?
5. Regarding the case, how could the expert contribute with their knowledge and experience to the discussion?

For State Members:

1. Which national protocols exist to cope with discrimination against women?
2. What legal measures are applied in your country that protect women in the sphere of health? How many women are affected in health areas on a yearly average?
3. Does your country allow transnational surrogacy contracts? Is this process meant only for citizens? What are the specific requirements?
4. Is there any background of women trafficking networks? How have they worked? How has the government reacted to it?
5. Does your country have any valid international treaties in matters of women's human rights that involve Greece? If so, which ones and what are their main goals? If not, what are the obstacles towards achieving this treaties?

GLOSSARY

1. **Altruistic surrogacy:** Altruistic surrogacy refers to surrogacy arrangements where the surrogate does not receive compensation for her services.
2. **Compensated surrogacy:** Compensated surrogacy is where the surrogate mother receives compensation beyond reimbursement for her medical expenses and other costs related to the surrogacy journey
3. **Egg trafficking:** Young women, some of them minors, are paid a handful of euros to have their eggs harvested; the eggs are then sold at a high price to couples whose desperation to have a child leads them into the hands of traffickers and unscrupulous doctors.
4. **Human trafficking:** Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.
5. **Organised Crime:** continuing criminal enterprise that rationally works to profit from illicit activities that are often in great public demand. Its continuing existence is maintained through corruption of public officials and the use of intimidation, threats or force to protect its operations.
6. **Ova:** (plural of ovum) A mature female reproductive cell, especially of a human or other animal, which can divide to give rise to an embryo usually only after fertilisation by a male cell.
7. **Surrogacy:** Surrogacy is an arrangement where a person carries and gives birth to a baby for another person.
8. **Surrogate motherhood (in Greece):** Method of artificial reproduction, allowed after prior judicial authorization, pursuant to which a woman residing in Greece bears and gives birth to a child following in Vitro fertilisation (IVF) and implantation of fertilised eggs using another woman's egg cells on account of the intended mother, who wishes to have a child but is not able to gestate due to medical reasons

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL

- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women's Seventy-Eighth session
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2f78%2f1&Lang=es

- How in vitro fertilization (IVS) works
<https://youtu.be/P27waC05Hdk>

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>

- Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer
<https://www.ohchr.org/es/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/default-title>

- Consideration of reports submitted by states parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Descrimination against Women
<https://www.refworld.org/docid/514b03ad2.html>

- National Action plan for Substantive Gender Equality 2016-2020
<https://isotita.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/National-Action-Plan-for-Gender-E quality-2016-2020.pdf>

- The Regulation of Surrogate Motherhood in Greece
<http://users.uoa.gr/~ahatzis/Surrogacy.pdf>

- A Human Rights Response to Commercial surrogacy
<https://youtu.be/lIVRHwZICr0>

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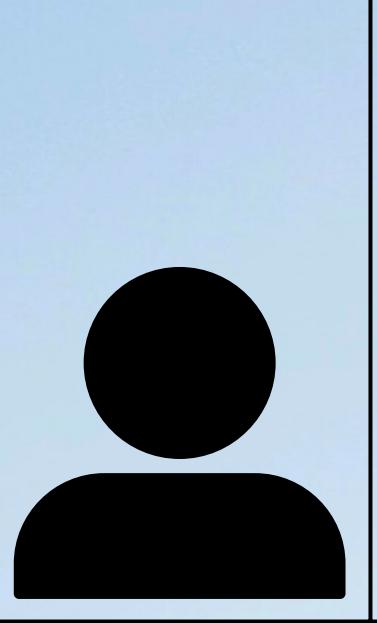
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