

# MVMUN '2024

## Human Rights Council



# Secretary General's Message

Dear Delegates, Diplomats and Draftsmen of the Future,

It is our rapturous honour and privilege to have you at the 1st Edition of Medikardia x Vinimaya Model United Nations Conference, 2024.

The fundamental constructs which constitute human nature often prompt us to approach all circumstances from a binary outlook, but the reality of the situation is that the complexity of our world cannot be encompassed by a simplistic binary: black or white. When we look in between the black and white, we see a bit of grey. This is when we realise that these seemingly antithetical notions are not mutually exclusive, but are instead the building blocks to attaining multilateral integration and global synergy. That is the beauty of the grey area - when you find just the right balance between black and white, you are able to create something new, something profound, and something that can change the world.

The first edition of MVMUN celebrates this very spirit of community and fraternity, quintessentially embodying the core values enshrined in the United Nations charter: Peace, Justice, Respect, Human Rights, Tolerance and Solidarity.

We eagerly look forward to the display of passion, proficiency and pragmatism from each and every one of you, on the last weekend of May, 2024, at this event of International Affairs.

Delegates, the time to act is now. The stage is set. The spotlight glimmers. Will you rise to the occasion?

Regards,

Rtr. Navya Rao and Rtr. Sujal Prakash  
Co-Secretary Generals, MVMUN '24



MVMUN '24



# Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Agenda: Developing an action plan for accessing  
humanitarian aid in crisis zones, with special  
emphasis on the Gaza Strip.

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# Letter from the EB

Dear Delegates,

It gives us great honor and immense pleasure to welcome you all to the United Nations Human Rights Council at MVMUN'24. As representatives of member nations of the UNHRC, you are tasked with debating, deliberating, and reaching a consensus on the agenda at hand.

This background guide has been designed to help you get started on your research. However, this document shouldn't be your only source of research. Building upon the outlook presented by this guide, you are expected to carry out your research through authentic sources and make sure to engage in comprehensive and pragmatic debate throughout the sessions.

The Executive Board will not interfere in the flow of debate unless required. Therefore, the onus to ensure that the committee does not stagnate lies on the delegates. We strongly believe that with good research, the delegates can steer the committee in the right direction.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Executive Board at any time before or during the conference in case you have any queries about the agenda or the rules of procedure. Further, we have added one addendum to this letter that talks about the nature of evidence entailed in this simulation.

We request the delegates not to view this conference as a zero-sum game. Model UN conferences are collaborative rather than competitive and we would like to keep this spirit alive during our committee. Our goal isn't to solve the world's problems in three days, but rather to educate ourselves about them, thereby ensuring that we go on to become a generation of sensitized leaders, equipped with the skills and will to make our world a better place.

With that being said, we wish you all good luck and eagerly look forward to the conference.

With warm regards,

Phani Sreevatsa HA- Chairperson ([phanisreevatsa@gmail.com](mailto:phanisreevatsa@gmail.com))

Chiraag Vamshiee - Vice Chairperson

Nidhi Reddy - Moderator

**Executive Board**  
**United Nations Human Rights Council**

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**Executive Board**  
**United Nations Human Rights Council**



## Addendum 1: Nature and Proof of Evidence

Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

- **Reuters:** Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.
- **UN Documents:** Documents by all UN agencies will be considered sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies including treaty-based bodies will also be accepted.
- **National Government Reports:** Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof. The documents stated above will hold a binding nature of the establishment.

Other sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, or newspapers like the Guardian, so on and so forth will not be accepted as credible proof; but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government or a delegate.



## Committee Overview

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is a UN subsidiary body established under the UN Charter. It is the main organ of the United Nations (UN) responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The HRC is mandated to respond to urgent human rights crises and make pertinent recommendations for the cessation of human rights violations prevalent around the world. It has a global scope and works to promote all human rights and uphold the integrity of International Conventions and Covenants on Human Rights.

As a part of the treaty-based mechanisms, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the General Assembly as a “common standard of achievement” for all peoples and countries to pursue the protection and promotion of human rights.



After decades of standing alone as the only landmark document on human rights, it was joined by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its two Optional Protocols to comprise the International Bill of Rights. It is composed of 47 seats, which UN members occupy for a 3-year term; the distribution of members is as follows:

- 13 members from Africa
- 13 members from Asia
- 6 members from Eastern Europe
- 8 members from Latin America and the Caribbean
- 7 members from Western Europe and Other Groups



The HRC continues to spearhead global efforts in upholding human rights by forging partnerships and providing assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of member nations, and other civil society actors playing a role in safeguarding and promoting human rights. These partnerships facilitate many of the HRC's major initiatives, including providing humanitarian assistance and aid through programs or frameworks targeting groups deprived of their access to fundamental human rights and freedoms. NGOs that have received Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status and NHRIs can directly address HRC during discussions and debates and inform it of situations occurring in their home states. Groups and NGOs that have not achieved ECOSOC consultative status can also provide written documents on a Member State as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States.



## Mandate and Mechanisms

Its mechanisms include the universal periodic review, which serves to assess the situations of human rights in all States Members of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee serves as the Council's "think tank", providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues. The complaint procedure allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

The Human Rights Council also works with its special procedures, a mechanism originally established by the Commission on Human Rights. The special procedures are independent experts appointed by the Council – to mandates as special rapporteurs, independent experts, special representatives or members of working groups – to monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or situations of human rights in specific countries.



When it established the Human Rights Council in March 2006, the General Assembly decided that it would review the Council's work and functioning after its first five years. More information about the review and its 2011 outcome are [available here](#). In June 2016, the Human Rights Council marked its tenth anniversary through [several events](#).

The Human Rights Council recorded one of its busiest years in 2021. The Council continued to introduce innovations, break boundaries and set new human rights standards. It did this against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to disrupt countless lives and livelihoods around the world. In a landmark decision, the Human Rights Council adopted [a resolution in which it recognized the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#).



For the first time in its 15-year history, the Council decided to allow delegates to vote remotely, hosted the largest number of dignitaries ever to speak at its sessions, supported the participation of 19 delegates from least developed countries and small island developing states through its SIDS/LDCs Trust Fund. Throughout the year, the Council allowed some 260 civil society organizations to deliver more than 900 statements.

The annual interactive debate of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities is made accessible by providing English captioning and simultaneous sign language interpretation in international sign. In addition, another panel among those held by the Human Rights Council is made accessible at each session, through funds that are raised or identified on an ad-hoc basis.



## Rules Of Procedure (ROP)

**Roll Call:** Similar to taking attendance, the executive board will call out countries, and delegates should respond with "present and voting" or "present."

**Present and Voting:** If a delegate chooses to be "present and voting," they cannot abstain from voting on the final document.

**Present:** If a delegate chooses to be "present," they have the option to abstain from voting on the final document.

**General Speaker's List (GSL):** The General Speaker's List (GSL) is an inexhaustible speaker's list. Speakers are granted the floor for 90 seconds and are expected to discuss their stance or any relevant topic related to the agenda.



## Points

*Point of Personal Privilege:* A Point of Personal Privilege must pertain to matters of personal comfort, safety, and/or well-being of committee members. A point of privilege may interrupt a speaker's speech.

*Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:* A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry is used to request clarification on the rules of parliamentary procedure or the procedural status of a discussion. It may only be raised after a speech concludes and should not interrupt a speaker.

*Points of Order:* Points of order come in two types:

- Factual Inaccuracy: If a speaker presents incorrect facts, delegates can raise a point of order for factual inaccuracy.  
Format: "Point of Order Factual inaccuracy, the delegate of XYZ stated 'incorrect statement,' and the correct statement is 'mention the correct fact.'"



- Point of Order Logical Fallacy: If a speaker presents a logically unsound point, delegates can raise a point of order for a logical fallacy. Format: “Point of order logical fallacy: the delegate of XYZ stated a 'logically incorrect statement,' and the correct statement is 'mention the correct fact.'”

*Point of Information:* These are questions raised on a speaker's speech.



## Motions to Suspend Formal Debate

**Moderated Caucus:** A moderated caucus divides the main agenda into different subtopics that the committee can discuss.

Format: “The [country name, e.g., Republic of India] moves to suspend formal debate for a [total time, e.g., ten-minute] moderated caucus to discuss [topic], allowing each speaker [time allotted].”

“The [country name, e.g., Republic of India] moves to extend the previously moderated caucus for [total time not exceeding one-half of the original time].”

**Unmoderated Caucus:** An unmoderated caucus is not overseen by the executive board. Delegates can freely move around and interact with each other. No points are considered during an unmoderated caucus.

Format: “The [country name, e.g., Republic of India] moves to suspend formal debate for a [total time, e.g., ten-minute] unmoderated caucus.”



# Introduction to the agenda

Millions of civilians across the globe are in dire need of emergency assistance for survival during an armed conflict however, fighting parties, whether state or non-state actors have prevented these civilians from accessing this vital aid. “In many countries across the globe, parties withhold their consent for humanitarian relief operations or impose onerous bureaucratic restrictions on assistance. While fighting parties have clear legal obligations, the reality is that humanitarian access is a matter of negotiation between parties to an armed conflict and those seeking to deliver relief,” said Stephen O’Brien, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.<sup>4</sup>

The General Assembly in Resolution 46/182 and many subsequent resolutions armed that any humanitarian assistance being provided should be in consonance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, and compliance with these principles increases the trust in frameworks providing this assistance.



Such confidence in these systems is required as it helps civilians negotiate with actors in the conflict to reach people in need. When an organization providing aid does not comply, a State or non-state entity may not allow these organizations to carry out their function. When neutrality is not followed, there might be a perception that they are aligned with any political and military objective, this can put aid workers' lives at risk and further restrict their access.

There are often multiple constraints to humanitarian access, including:

1. Bureaucratic measures that delay, stall, or interfere with humanitarian operations
2. Misinformation and disinformation discrediting humanitarian actors.
3. Sanctions and counter-terrorism measures that impede payments of fees, purchases of commodities, or supplies of goods.
4. Intensity of hostilities and explosive ordnance that impede humanitarians' movement.
5. Attacks on humanitarian personnel and facilities, and theft of assets.



Primarily due to armed conflicts across the globe, more than 141 million people across 37 countries need humanitarian assistance. Each State is responsible for meeting people's needs within its borders or territory under its control. In a state of armed conflict, the responsibility to ensure access to humanitarian aid is provided is not limited to just state actors. Non-state actors like armed groups also share this responsibility. There are times, however, when the relevant parties fail to meet these needs. In such circumstances, humanitarian organizations can play a key role in the provision of assistance to persons in need. States may expressly seek outside help or impartial humanitarian organizations may offer to carry out assistance activities.



## 2. International Laws

International Laws (IL's), are a set of rules, regulations, norms, and principles for a state accepted internationally as a guideline for a state to interact with another state in various sectors such as war, diplomacy, human rights, trade, and other matters. In other words it is a system that governs the relationship between nations which considers individuals and international organisations. Some international laws are Sea law, Treaties among the countries, international laws for criminals, and many other laws.

### 2.1 Branches of International Law

There are two branches of International Law:

Jus Gentium: It is a body or organisation that makes the law applicable to all the nations of the world.

Jus Inter Gentes: It is related to the agreements between two nations that do not apply to other nations.



## 2.2 Acceptance of International Law

When it comes to acceptance of International Law, countries are categorized into 2 types :-

- 1) Dualism
- 2) Monism

### 2.2(a) Dualism

Dualism is a theory that considers domestic or state law and international law as two different branches of law. According to this theory, as per their sources, principles, and subjects, these two laws must act independently. It stresses the rules that international and state law exists in two different scenarios, and therefore they do not overrule each other.

According to the dualism theory, any international law cannot affect an individual from the state until it has been transformed into a state or domestic law. The transformation of such laws is the crucial doctrine of dualist theory.



If a state accepts a treaty but does not adapt its national law in order to conform to the treaty or does not create a national law explicitly incorporating the treaty, then it violates international law.

From a human rights point of view, if a human rights treaty is accepted for purely political reasons, and states do not intend to fully translate it into national law or to take a monist view on international law, then the implementation of the treaty is very uncertain



## 2.2(b) Monism

As the name suggests, the monist approach considers laws as a single entity, and they are against the idea of separating these two branches as international and domestic laws. It says that the laws are derived from one single source, and any local or domestic law contradictory to international law is invalid. It does not believe in the claim of dualism that there is a need to transform international law into domestic law. This theory always considers international law superior to municipal laws, and if any conflict arises between these two laws, international law will prevail.

From a human rights point of view, for example, this has some advantages. For example, a country has accepted a human rights treaty, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but some of its national laws limit the freedom of the press. A citizen of that country, who is being prosecuted by his state for violating this national law, can invoke the human rights treaty in a national courtroom and can ask the judge to apply this treaty and to decide that the national law is invalid.



## 2.2(c) Key Differentiation

FEATURE	Monism	Dualism
Relationship between International & Domestic Law	Single legal system	Separate legal systems
Incorporation of International Law	Automatic	Requires domestic legislation
Supremacy of International Law	Can be superior to domestic law	Subordinate to domestic law
Conflict Resolution	International law prevails in conflicts	Domestic law prevails in conflicts
Example	Austria	United States



## 2.3 Major International Laws

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, this document sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, it is an international treaty that aims to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure gender equality.
3. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) - Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965, it aims to eliminate racial discrimination and promote understanding among all races.



## 2.4(a) *Basic rules of the IHL*

The fundamental rule of international humanitarian law in conflict is that all parties must distinguish, at all times, between combatants and civilians. Civilians and civilian objects must never be the target of attack; parties may only target combatants and military objectives. Under IHL, anyone taken into custody, such as prisoners of war, must be treated humanely. Taking hostages and using people as “human shields” are prohibited. In the case of an attack that may affect the civilian population, the laws of war require the parties to give “effective advance warning”, unless the situation does not permit it. However, giving warning does not absolve parties from the requirement to protect civilians. Civilians who do not evacuate following a warning continue to be protected. They still must not be targeted, and attackers must take all feasible measures to protect them.



Airstrikes and rocket attacks by Israel, Hamas and other armed groups that target civilians or are indiscriminate violate the laws of war, and, when committed with criminal intent, are war crimes. Israeli forces have used white phosphorus, a chemical that ignites when in contact with oxygen, causing horrific and severe burns, on densely populated neighborhoods.

Israel has also engaged in the collective punishment of Gaza's population through cutting off food, water, electricity, and fuel. This is a war crime, as is willfully blocking humanitarian relief from reaching civilians in need.

Israel has been occupying the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, which collectively constitute the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), since 1967. Contrary to what the Israeli government claims, Israel's withdrawal of its ground forces from Gaza in 2005 did not end its occupation of Gaza.

Ever since, Israel has maintained effective control over Gaza, including its territorial waters and airspace, the movement of people and goods, except at Gaza's border with Egypt, and the infrastructure upon which Gaza relies, rendering the Strip an open-air prison.



Under IHL, Israel is required, as the occupying power, to make sure that the basic needs of the population of Gaza, such as food and water, are met.



## 2.4(b) *Relevance of International Law*

In the aftermath of Hamas's attack on Israel, and Israel's ensuing bombardment campaign of the Gaza Strip, there is much discussion, by both experts and non-experts, about international humanitarian law (IHL), the law governing armed conflict and military occupation, and its application in the current hostilities involving Israel and Palestinian armed groups.

IHL, or the laws of war, has existed in some form for thousands of years, but the modern version is set out in the Geneva Conventions of 1949, alongside other treaties, and customary international law. It binds states, including Israel, as well as non-state armed groups that are involved in conflict, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, even though they cannot formally ratify the treaties.

The laws of war only apply in specific situations, notably during an armed conflict or an occupation. Other laws, particularly international human rights law, apply at all times, governing the duties of all states to protect the rights of the people in the territory where they have jurisdiction or a degree of control.



International humanitarian law governs the conduct of hostilities and is distinct from the law that governs the decision to use force. Whatever the legality of a decision to use force, all parties must comply with IHL.

This body of law also governs occupation when a state has effective control, without consent, of a territory over which it has no sovereign title, such as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory



### 3. Roadblocks to humanitarian aid/assistance

IHL - International Humanitarian Law

IAC - International Armed Conflict

NIAC - Non-International Armed Conflict

Armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, always bring disruptions to the lives of civilians. When, due to the devastation and deprivation caused by war, the civilian population is deprived of essential goods and services, IHL envisages that humanitarian assistance will be needed and regulates its provision.

In practice, apart from measures that the belligerents may take to help the population under their control, humanitarian action by impartial humanitarian organizations, including the ICRC, remains essential in order to reduce vulnerabilities and alleviate the needs of persons affected by an armed conflict. The effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action will, however, depend on the possibility of rapid and unimpeded access to persons in need.



Access remains a significant challenge for many humanitarian organizations. The difficulties may be due to a lack of acceptance or an outright denial of access, security risks, logistical problems, and cumbersome administrative requirements, among others.

These principles go on to be rearmed by ECOSOC and UNSC resolutions. The SC in Resolution 1296 verbatim reiterated these principles. While on paper these principles are clear, have there been any practical actions being taken? The answer is yes.

The United Nations Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA] has been active in its efforts to ensure humanitarian aid reaches the right people. In its 9250th Meeting, the Security Council sought the help of the OCHA to coordinate the relief projects in the Gaza Strip. They have been active in not only gathering funding for relief projects as well in negotiating with relevant stakeholders to provide aid to vulnerable populations.



A US\$1.2 billion Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory was launched to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people – 2.2 million in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from October and through 31 December 2023.

It outlines the minimum to prevent further loss of life considering the ongoing siege and bombardment of Gaza and the escalating situation in the West Bank. The requirements of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East are included in the appeal. .

Similar actions have been undertaken in Yemen with the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan. An excerpt from the OCHA page on Yemen is given below: “To build on the existing opportunities and mitigate mounting risks, the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan reflects a strengthened, more targeted, further prioritized, risk-informed, and bottom-up approach to programming in Yemen. In 2024, humanitarians plan to provide humanitarian assistance and protection services to 11.2 million people, requiring US\$2.7 billion. Humanitarians aim to enhance local prioritization and accountability.



Integrated, multi-sectoral responses will comprehensively address needs and strengthen protection mechanisms against risks, including climate change and explosive remnants of war.

The Humanitarian Response Plan further emphasizes collaboration with development partners to support livelihoods, essential services, and economic conditions for long-term solutions.

This guide provides you with an example of the various humanitarian frameworks that are available. As a delegate, you must find out more about these frameworks and initiatives and understand the roadblocks faced by them. The goal of this committee is to ensure that we can provide nuanced solutions to these roadblocks.



In addition, as evidenced by some recent armed conflicts, the issue of humanitarian aid is becoming more and more politicized at the international level, raising doubts among some belligerents about whether neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian action is in fact possible. IHL treaties and customary rules provide a fairly detailed framework for regulating access to persons in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in situations of armed conflict.

While IHL grants impartial humanitarian organizations the right to offer their humanitarian services, this should not be interpreted as constituting an unfettered right of humanitarian access (i.e. a right to be able to undertake the proposed humanitarian activities in practice). Whether impartial humanitarian organizations will be able to effectively provide their services in areas of armed conflict will depend on them receiving the “consent” of the parties concerned. The notion of “consent” for the purpose of humanitarian access has been at the forefront of legal debates related to recent armed conflict situations.



The question of whether a party to an armed conflict can lawfully turn down an order of humanitarian services is intrinsically linked to its ability to fulfill its primary obligation to meet the basic needs of the population under its control. Recently, the expression “arbitrary denial/withholding of consent to relief operations” has been used to describe a situation in which a party to an armed conflict unlawfully rejects a valid offer of humanitarian services. The expression “arbitrary denial/withholding of consent” is not found in any IHL treaty.

Common Article 3 is silent on who should consent to humanitarian relief operations in NIACs. It has been argued – in relation to some recent NIACs – that humanitarian action undertaken in areas controlled by non-state armed groups requires only their consent, and not that of the government of the State in whose territory that action is to take place. IHL governing NIACs does not expressly contain a similar obligation for third States.



## 4. Past International Action

The United Nations has been at the forefront of ensuring humanitarian aid access to vulnerable populations. Resolution 46/182 is a key resolution in this regard is a key document as it lays down the principles for any future humanitarian aid framework. These principles include:

1. Humanitarian assistance is of cardinal importance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies.
2. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of Humanity, neutrality, and impartiality.
3. The sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country.



4. Each state has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory. Hence the affected state has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory, etc.



## 5. Relevant International stakeholders

### 5.1 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The UNOCHA as previously pointed out plays a rather crucial role in ensuring access to humanitarian aid. They are instrumental in framing the humanitarian policy agenda and formulating recommendations for the consideration of principal UN organs such as the Security Council, the General Assembly (GA), and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In addition, they provide policy support to regional organizations, such as the African Union and the European Union, as well as guidance on specific Member State initiatives relating to humanitarian assistance.

Every year, UN Member States negotiate a number of humanitarian resolutions (as is mentioned in the previous sections) on issues such as the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance which add to the international normative framework for humanitarian assistance and coordination.



Representing the UN Secretariat, the UNOCHA provides support for these negotiations, by providing technical and substantive expertise to Member States' delegations on humanitarian issues. They also provide leadership and coordination for global humanitarian affairs, supporting offices worldwide, and managing funding initiatives.

## 5.2 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.<sup>22</sup> Established in 1863, the ICRC is the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



### 5.3 International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The IFRC acts before, during, and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. They are an international membership organization that unites 191 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and supports them through a global secretariat and are present in virtually every community on earth.

The IFRC reaches 160 million people every year through long-term services, development programs and disaster response and also works to improve global humanitarian standards and persuade leaders to act in the interests of vulnerable people. IFRC's strength lies in its volunteer network, its community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. The IFRC is guided by Strategy 2030—our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade.



## 5.4 Specialized Agencies under the United Nations System

Such as WHO, FAO, and UNICEF These specialized agencies contribute domain-specific expertise tailored towards particular aspects of humanitarian intervention, i.e., healthcare, agriculture, nutrition, etc..

## 5.5 Other Humanitarian Actors

- i) Action Against Hunger: works to prevent child mortality due to starvation and provides access to potable water.
- ii) CARE: focuses on eradicating extreme poverty and advancing gender equity. iii) Doctors without Borders (MSF): offers medical assistance to distressed populations regardless of race, religion, creed, or politics.
- iii) International Medical Corps: assists those facing crisis situations with immediate life-saving health care.
- iv) Refugees International: champions refugee rights and seeks durable resolutions to forced migration problems.



- v) World Vision: supports impoverished communities around the world through religious charity.
- vi) INTERSOS: INTERSOS is an international humanitarian organization, based in Italy, which intervenes in emergencies and crises to bring immediate aid to people whose lives are threatened by conflict, violence, extreme poverty, and natural or artificial disasters.
- vii) Islamic Relief: Islamic Relief is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to providing aid and assistance to communities in need regardless of race, religion, or gender. Islamic Relief is guided by Islamic principles of compassion, solidarity, and social justice, and it collaborates with local communities, governments, and partner organizations to deliver effective and culturally sensitive assistance.

Additionally, regional powers, bilateral partnerships, and coalitions often participate actively in negotiating arrangements for enhanced humanitarian access. For instance, the U.S. plays a significant part in brokering deals relevant to Gaza, given its influence in the region.



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## 6. UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), is a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees. UNRWA's mandate encompasses Palestinians who fled or were expelled during the Nakba (The Catastrophe), the 1948 Palestine War, and subsequent conflicts, as well as their descendants, including legally adopted children. More than 6 million Palestinians are registered with UNRWA as refugees.

UNRWA was established in 1949 by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to provide relief to all refugees resulting from the 1948 conflict. It also provided relief to Jewish and Arab Palestine refugees inside the State of Israel following the 1948 conflict until the Israeli government took over responsibility for them in 1952.

UNRWA operates in five areas: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



While aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas is provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNRWA has developed its own working definition of "refugee" to allow it to provide humanitarian assistance. Its definition does not cover final status. Palestine refugees are persons whose regular place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including adopted children, are also eligible for registration as refugees.

### 6.1 Funding of the UNRWA

UNRWA's budget is set by the UN General Assembly and derives almost entirely from voluntary contributions by UN member states. In addition to its regular budget, UNRWA receives funding for emergency activities such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



In 2019 close to around 60% of the total donations came from EU Countries, with Germany being the largest individual donor followed by the UK and Sweden. UNRWA also receives funds from various non-governmental organisations and non-profit committees.

## 6.2 *Operations of the UNRWA*

The UNRWA has diversified it's operations since 1949 from providing immediate relief, and support to providing education and health care, in fact education has now become the UNRWA's major area of operation. It has been the main provider of basic education to Palestinian refugee children since 1950. Free basic education is available to all registered refugee children, currently numbering 526,000. Half the Palestine refugee population is under 25.

In terms of healthcare UNRWA has been the primary provider of healthcare amenities for the Palestinian refugees. Basic health needs are met through a network of primary care clinics, providing access to secondary treatment in hospitals, and environmental health in refugee camps.



UNRWA provides refugees with assistance in meeting the costs of hospitalisation either by partially reimbursing them, or by negotiating contracts with government, NGOs, and private hospitals. It also provides environmental health services program like controlling the quality of drinking water, providing sanitation, and carrying out vector and rodent control in refugee camps, thus reducing the risk of epidemics.

It has also been running a micro-finance department in order to eradicate poverty, support economic development and improvise the purchasing power of the refugees, by providing investments and loans at subsidized rates.



### 6.3 Assessment

In 2011 a independent study conducted by Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), in which MOPAN commended UNRWA for continuing to increase the efficiency of its programmes, recognizing the agency as competent, resilient and resolute.

Recently, Israel made a series of allegations against the UNRWA, including that a number of its Gaza Strip staff had participated in the 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel, and that hundreds of them were members of militant groups.

These allegations led to many aid cuts from multiple countries. According to Israel's allegations 12 UNRWA employees participated in the attacks in various capacities, later expanding this claim to 19, alongside 400 personnel. Israel also alleged that around ten percent of the UNRWA's 13,000 employees in the Gaza Strip have connections to Islamist militant groups, primarily Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and that 190 UNRWA employees were militants.



Israel further stated that there is a structural relation between UNRWA and Hamas, they claim that these 12 employees are just the "tip of the iceberg". Israel has also alleged that UNRWA facilities and vehicles were used in the 7 October attacks. Israel said it has compiled a case "incriminating several UNRWA employees for their alleged involvement in the massacre, along with evidence pointing to the use of UNRWA facilities for terrorist purposes"



## 7. Situation In Gaza

The situation in Gaza has been deteriorating and the latest reports coming from the WFP are problematic and should be part of the discussion in the committee. Given below is the reproduction of the press release issued by the WFP:

“The decision to pause deliveries to the north of the Gaza Strip has not been taken lightly, as we know it means the situation there will deteriorate further and more people risk dying of hunger. WFP is deeply committed to urgently reaching desperate people across Gaza but the safety and security to deliver critical food aid - and for the people receiving it - must be ensured.

Deliveries resumed on Sunday after a three-week suspension following the strike on a UNRWA truck and due to the absence of a functioning humanitarian notification system. The plan was to send 10 trucks of food for seven straight days, to help stem the tide of hunger and desperation and to begin building trust in communities that there would be enough food for all.



On Sunday, as WFP started the route towards Gaza City, the convoy was surrounded by crowds of hungry people close to the Wadi Gaza checkpoint. First fending off multiple attempts by people trying to climb aboard our trucks, then facing gunfire once we entered Gaza City, our team was able to distribute a small quantity of the food along the way. On Monday, the second convoy's journey north faced complete chaos and violence due to the collapse of civil order. Several trucks were looted between Khan Younes and Deir al Balah and a truck driver was beaten. The remaining flour was spontaneously distributed off the trucks in Gaza city, amidst high tension and explosive anger.

In December, the Integrated Phase Classification report compiled by 15 agencies including WFP warned of the risk of famine in northern Gaza by May unless conditions there improved decisively.

At the end of January, after delivering food to the north, we reported on the rapid deterioration of conditions. In these past two days, our teams witnessed unprecedented levels of desperation.



The latest reports confirm Gaza's precipitous slide into hunger and disease. Food and safe water have become incredibly scarce and diseases are rife, compromising women and children's nutrition and immunity and resulting in a surge of acute malnutrition. People are already dying from hunger-related causes.

A report issued Monday by UNICEF and WFP, based on recent data, finds that the situation is particularly extreme in the Northern Gaza Strip. Nutrition screenings conducted at shelters.”



## Case Study 1

### *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Complex History and Uncertain Future*

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most enduring and intractable disputes in the modern world. Understanding its roots and complexities is crucial for navigating discussions about peace and stability in the region. This article delves into the historical background, key events, current situation, and potential paths forward.

Often misunderstood as rooted in ancient religious animosities, actually it has its origins in the early 20th century. Prior to World War I, the region was under Ottoman rule and inhabited by a diverse population, including Muslims, Christians, and a small Jewish community. However, the rise of Zionism, a movement advocating for a Jewish homeland (Zionism), and the emergence of Palestinian national identity set the stage for conflict.



Israel, located east of the Mediterranean Sea, is the world's only Jewish state. Palestinians, the Arab population with historical ties to the land, aspire to establish an independent state of Palestine in all or part of the same territory. The crux of the conflict lies in competing claims to the land and its control.

While both Jews and Arabs trace their connection to the land back millennia, the current political conflict ignited in the early 20th century. European persecution spurred Jewish immigration to Palestine, then an Arab-majority territory under Ottoman and later British rule. The Arabs resisted, viewing the land as their own.

A proposed United Nations partition plan in 1947 aimed to create separate Jewish and Arab states. While accepted by the Jewish community, it was rejected by Arab states, leading to war in 1948. The outcome established the state of Israel and displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.



The 1967 war marked a significant turning point. Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories with significant Palestinian populations. Today, the situation remains tense:

- West Bank: Nominally controlled by the Palestinian Authority, it exists under Israeli occupation. This manifests through Israeli military presence enforcing security restrictions and the expansion of Israeli settlements, effectively limiting Palestinian land use.
- Gaza Strip: Controlled by Hamas, an Islamist group, Gaza has been under a strict Israeli blockade since 2007. Human rights groups liken the situation to an "open-air prison" due to severe restrictions on movement and essential goods.

The recent conflict in October 2023, sparked by Palestinian militant attacks, further intensified tensions. Israel responded with airstrikes and a ground incursion in Gaza, leading to substantial casualties on both sides.



The internationally favored solution to the conflict is the "two-state solution." This envisions an independent Palestinian state encompassing Gaza and most of the West Bank, with remaining land constituting Israel. Despite its clear outline, significant obstacles impede its implementation:

- Deep divisions exist on how to manage issues like Jerusalem, borders, refugees, and security.
- Hardliners on both sides actively oppose the two-state solution

The alternative, a "one-state solution," presents its own challenges. Whether a unified Israel, Palestine, or a shared state, the path to achieving a stable and equitable one-state reality seems even more remote at present.



The future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains uncertain. The recent war and ongoing occupation highlight the unsustainability of the status quo. Exploring alternative approaches is crucial:

- **Renewed Peace Negotiations:** A return to serious and sustained dialogue, addressing core issues with international mediation, could offer a path forward.
- **Addressing Underlying Grievances:** The Israeli occupation, settlement expansion, and the blockade of Gaza must be addressed alongside Palestinian concerns about security and recognition.
- **Confronting Extremism:** Both sides need to marginalize hardliners who impede progress towards peace.
- **International Engagement:** The international community has a crucial role to play in supporting peace efforts and holding both sides accountable.



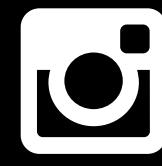
The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex web of history, religion, politics, and competing narratives. While the path to a lasting resolution seems daunting, fostering empathy, recognizing legitimate grievances, and pursuing innovative solutions are essential for achieving peace and stability in the region.

## 8. QUARMA

1. What roadblocks can be identified in existing frameworks and what measures can be taken to address this adequately?
2. How can parties to a conflict be incentivized to allow access to humanitarian aid?
3. How can the issue of lack of funding for humanitarian operations be addressed?
4. What measures can be taken to ensure effective coordination between the various actors in the Gaza Strip?
5. What measures can be taken to ensure the safety of humanitarian aid personnel in contact regions?
6. What can be done to ensure the resumption of services of WFP and other humanitarian organizations in the regions?



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