



Research Guide for the General Assembly Committee **@OBSMUN 2022**

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General Assembly

The General Assembly is one of the main six organs of the United Nations. It was first founded in 1945, New York City, in New York, USA. It is the only organ in which all member States have equal representation and voting rights. All 193 Member States of the United Nations are represented in this forum to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues.

During the OBSMUN 2022 conference, the General Assembly – comprised of delegates from the HRC and ECOSOC committees – will be addressing the implementation of measures to eliminate international terrorism and the adoption and strengthening of enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

Purpose of this guide

This research guide was compiled by the Secretariat and Chairs of the OBSMUN. OBSMUN aims to provide delegates with the opportunity to further develop their research skills that will help them in their academics. Thus, these research guides do not cover the whole breadth of the issues at hand. Instead, they are designed to provide a basis from which delegates can undertake their own research into the topics, with the aim of developing clauses from their independent research.

1 - Implementing measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Introduction

Terrorism refers to criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes which are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them. International terrorism refers to terrorism that goes beyond national boundaries in terms of the methods used, the people that are targeted or the places from which the terrorists operate. International cooperation is crucial to solving this threat to peace, development and security. The United Nations is uniquely placed to assist Member States to effectively prevent terrorist acts within their borders and across regions.

Delegates should not associate terrorism with any specific religion, culture, ethnicity, race, nationality or civilization, and should distinguish international terrorism from the legitimate self-determination and national liberation struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, recalling in that respect the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Charter of the United Nations

Different approaches to counterterrorism from which delegates can develop clauses

Terrorism constitutes a serious breach of international law and an assault on humanity, thus, there is no excuse to commit an act of terrorism. Nevertheless to properly tackle terrorism, delegates must

consider the root causes of terrorism including poverty, exclusion, lack of access to resources and social marginalization. Delegates should consider the role of inclusiveness, poverty eradication, respect for diversity, education and social justice in solving the root causes of terrorism. The first pillar of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) provides a framework from which delegates can develop clauses to address the root causes of terrorism.

International terrorism can be looked at from the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Terrorism has been a major hinderance to achieving the goals. At the same time, not achieving the goals exacerbates the conditions that create terrorism.

Delegates can also consider capacity-building as core element of the global counter-terrorism effort, and establish measures to develop State capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and enhance coordination and coherence within the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation in countering terrorism. When considering international terrorism it is of pertinence to develop capacity-building programmes in the areas of port, maritime and civil aviation security and border security. Capacity-building programmes in the field of international cooperation in military action against international terrorist organizations can also be something that delegates focus on.

Delegates can also look at the work of The Global Coalition against Daesh to develop clauses. The Global Coalition is tackling Daesh's financing and economic infrastructure, preventing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters across borders, supporting stabilisation and the restoration of essential public services to areas liberated from Daesh,

and countering the group's propaganda. It is an excellent example of international cooperation tackling an international terrorist organization that threatens international peace, security and development.

Useful Organisations and Terms

Daesh - terrorist Sunni Islamist group and former unrecognized quasi-state that follows a Salafi jihadist doctrine

Jihad - a holy war waged on behalf of Islam as a religious duty

Global Coalition against Daesh - The Global Coalition against Daesh was formed in September 2014 to degrade and ultimately defeat Daesh on all fronts

Past Resolutions

General Assembly Resolution 60/288. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

<https://undocs.org/A/RES/60/288>

General Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal) - 75th session - Measures to eliminate international terrorism (Agenda item 114)

https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/int_terrorism.shtml

2 - The issue of adoption and Strengthening of Enforceable Legislation for the Promotion of Gender Equality

Currently, gender inequality is a great problem in our society, and unless there is a significant effort to ensure all genders are treated in a fair manner, this problem will never be truly solved. Since World War II, gender equality has been a major talking point, and since then we have gone a long way. However, some imbalance is still persistent in today's world, and it is the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals #5 - Gender Equality. Still, 42% of all women experience gender

discrimination at work, and women are 25-46% more likely to be hired with blind applications or auditions, showing how gender is an influence when applying for a job.

Although most laws now ensure everyone is seen equally, gender bias still persists, either in job applications, wage gap and how marital status is seen by employers. Laws which apply to a specific gender are less common, but still prevalent in less economically developed countries, or those very centered around religion. In many countries, freedom of marriage and access to education to women are still heavily contested.

Therefore, it is critical for bigger pressure, both legal and social, to be exerted on countries, companies and individuals so everyone receives equal benefits and consequences. Moreover, heavier sanctions should be applied to those who do not comply to these regulations and legislations.

Delegates should be familiar with the following terms:

- **Gender Equality** - the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender
- **Feminism** - range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes
- **Patriarchy** - a social system in which men hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property

Useful Treaties and Organisations

- **UN Women** - the UN agency dedicated to gender equality
- **Association for Women's Rights in Development** - an international organization working to achieve gender equality and women's human rights across the world
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** - an international treaty adopted in 1979, which has been ratified by 189 states

Past Resolutions

CEDAW - <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/cedaw.pdf>

A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN>

Possible Perspectives From Which to Formulate Solutions

If the delegate is from a non-religious, liberal country, it is strongly suggested that the delegate desires further rights and protection to women. This is the easiest way to ensure there is little to no discrimination between genders

However, from a more conservative, religious point of view, it should be argued that women should have as little rights as possible, and changing that would be disastrous for society. Different countries will have different views, so here it is very important to put personal opinions aside, as that would compromise the integrity of the debate