

The Doon School Model United  
Nations Conference 2018

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL



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# ABOUT DSMUN

The Doon School Model United Nations Conference is one of India's biggest and well-reputed high school MUN conferences. Since its inauguration in 2007, The Doon School Model United Nations Society has hosted an engaging, entertaining and intellectually stimulating conference annually, with each leaving behind a unique legacy. DSMUN has grown to be one of the key entries in every school's MUNning calendar. DSMUN has a history of attracting the best of both—the Indian and the international delegates—from the Pan-Asiatic Region. With each passing year, DSMUN has evolved and developed its programme, introducing new committees, creating singular crises situations and setting unorthodox agendas to challenge the delegates.

The Doon School, one of India's most reputed and prestigious institutions, is a member of the G20 Group of Schools, The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, The International Boys' Schools Coalition and the Round Square Conference. With its motto, "Knowledge Our Light", the School aims to mould its students into gentlemen of service and leaders for the future. Model United Nations is one of the largest and most popular activities in School, with over 200 students involved in it. The beautiful and serene 72 acre Chandbagh Estate, in which the school campus is set, and its heritage buildings, provide a scenic venue for the conference, ensuring that it will be an experience unlike any other MUN.

The DSMUN Secretariat is proud to host The 12th Doon School Model United Nations Conference from the 17th to the 19th of August, 2018. Popularly referred to as DSMUN '18, this year's conference intends to engage the delegates in 12 diverse committees, each of which will generate discussion on various contemporary and thought-provoking issues. There is also the promise of an opportunity to make new friends and create lifelong memories. We look forward to seeing you in Dehra Dun in August!

Crises to keep you on your toes, unforgettable memories, interesting new people to meet and an experience worth a lifetime—DSMUN '18 will have it all!



**DSMUN'18**

**Ojas Kharabanda**

SECRETARY GENERAL

**Ritwik Saraf**

PRESIDENT

**Ratnaditya Chavda**

CHAIRPERSON

**Aarsh Ashdhir**

**Pradyut Narain**

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# THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

It is an absolute privilege and honour for me to welcome you all to the 12th edition of The Doon School Model United Nations. What was once a small regional event has evolved and grown into an international conference with a repute and prestige that extends across borders. This year, we aim to raise the bar higher, with an invigorating mix of structured GA committees like the DISEC and Security Council to dynamic crisis committees like The Third Reich.

I am a veteran of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and take a keen interest in geopolitical developments across the world. I am extremely passionate about photography, and am the Editor-in-Chief of The Yearbook, which is one of the premier publications of our school. I have been involved for a considerable time in the MUNning world, and apart from winning multiple accolades, was the Vice-President of last year's conference. In a world that is becoming increasingly divisive and polarized, it is vital that we realise the special importance diplomacy and the simple willingness to hear each other out holds. Each committee is uniquely placed at a time and place to make a difference, but only if we approach each negotiation with peace as the goal will our time here be fruitful. I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm Regards,

Ojas Kharabanda



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# THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Delegates,

I am extremely delighted to welcome you all to the 12th edition of the Doon School Model United Nations. Over the stretch of 12 years, DSMUN has earned itself a place among the most eagerly awaited MUNs in the whole of India; this year too, we have spared no effort in meeting these expectations.

With over 12 committees, including the GA committees of DISEC and SPECPOL as well as exciting crisis committees like Board of Control, East India Company, DSMUN promises to engage the delegates in a fierce tussle of rhetoric, negotiation and documentation- areas that have come to occupy an important place in an individual's holistic development. Further, DSMUN also provides an exciting opportunity for the delegates to meet and make unforgettable memories with people from all over the country!

I currently pursue the ISC curriculum., and after having served in the DSMUN secretariat for 3 years, I am privileged to be at its helm as the President in my last year in School. As the world continues to shrink to an even smaller place, the problems that torment humanity continue to expand. Time, therefore, warrants us to step up and collectively lead the human race to a better tomorrow. And to initiate this, we must begin from a young age itself.

Looking forward to meeting you in August,

Ritwik Saraf



**DSMUN'18**

**Ojas Kharabanda**

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# THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Greetings Delegates,

It is an absolute privilege to welcome you to the 12th edition of the DSMUN. This year, I would be serving in the capacity of the Chairperson of the Human Rights Council. I am currently studying in the ISC humanities stream and, expectedly, my key interests lie in politics and history. I have taken part in a number of MUNs over the past years, such as MCGSMUN and PWSMUN.

As for the committee, The Human Rights Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on the 15th of March, 2006 by adopting resolution (A/RES/60/251). The council works closely with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and is solely responsible for the protection and promotion of all rights placed upon an individual by the Charter of the United Nations and other international human rights laws and treaties.

As the Chairperson, I expect a good amount of debate substantiated with well-grounded facts. Human Rights are derived from deep fundamental concepts, such as individual autonomy, and form an essential crux of our society. It is vital for all delegates to understand their importance, not only for committee, but as an indispensable learning for life. These rights are in a perilous state across the world, and I hope all delegates will understand the gravity of the situation.

Finally, I also expect the delegates to be well researched and have an in depth understanding of the different moral, political and ethical aspects surrounding the agenda. I look forward to the committee and hope to see you all at Chandbagh.

Warm Regards,  
Ratnadityasinh Chavda



## COMMITTEE HISTORY

The United Nations human rights council is an intergovernmental body, which is an integral organ of the United Nations, and its aim is the advancement and security of human rights all around the world. It works along with the office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. This body discusses all human rights related issues occurring anywhere in the world and makes suggestions regarding them. It is a body comprising 47 member nations and comes under the general assembly. On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2006, the United Nations general assembly passed the resolution 60/251, hence creating the Human Rights Council. The members of the



human rights council are elected by the general assembly by a majority vote for a three-year term. Their meetings are held regularly to discuss various topics related to human rights. Their sessions last for about ten weeks and they meet three months a year, namely in March, June and September. The human rights council aims to enforce human rights and also spread awareness about human rights. Make people from all over the world aware of human rights and to enforce these rights as well. It addresses all cases with respect to human rights violations and makes suggestions on them. The UNHRC forms partnerships with various National Human Rights Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations, etc. to step up its efforts to expand and facilitate its initiatives and programs.

## AGENDA 1: HUMAN RIGHTS IN DESTABILIZED STATES

### INTRODUCTION

Human rights are basic rights that are indiscriminately enjoyed by all human beings, irrespective of their race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status, making them universal in nature. These include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and illegal detention, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to education, and many more. International legislation dictates that all states have a duty to uphold these basic human rights.

However, what happens when a state is destabilized? The situation becomes infinitely

more complicated, because not only is the government unable to ensure peace but also we see the emergence of several non-state actors. This combined with mass corruption, violence and instability makes for the perfect setting for human rights violations. Furthermore, now the state itself has to take several drastic steps to ensure stability and security.

Several questions therefore arise: what does one choose: personal liberty or security? What does a government do when the country is infiltrated by terrorist and separatist organizations? How does one maintain human rights amidst societal destruction and near-anarchy?

As a committee, it is vital to address these critical issues that are highly relevant in current day society.

It is also necessary to provide a solution to the non-state actor problem. Whenever a government gets destabilized, non-state actors start being empowered. These may include militia, religious entities or even terrorist organizations. This is especially dangerous, as these non-state actors have neither law, regulation nor accountability. Often in destabilized states it is not the state itself which perpetrates the gravest human rights violation but rather the powerful, uncontrolled non-state actor. We see this with countries in the Middle East, where radical militant groups have been using their power to spread terror and subjugation.

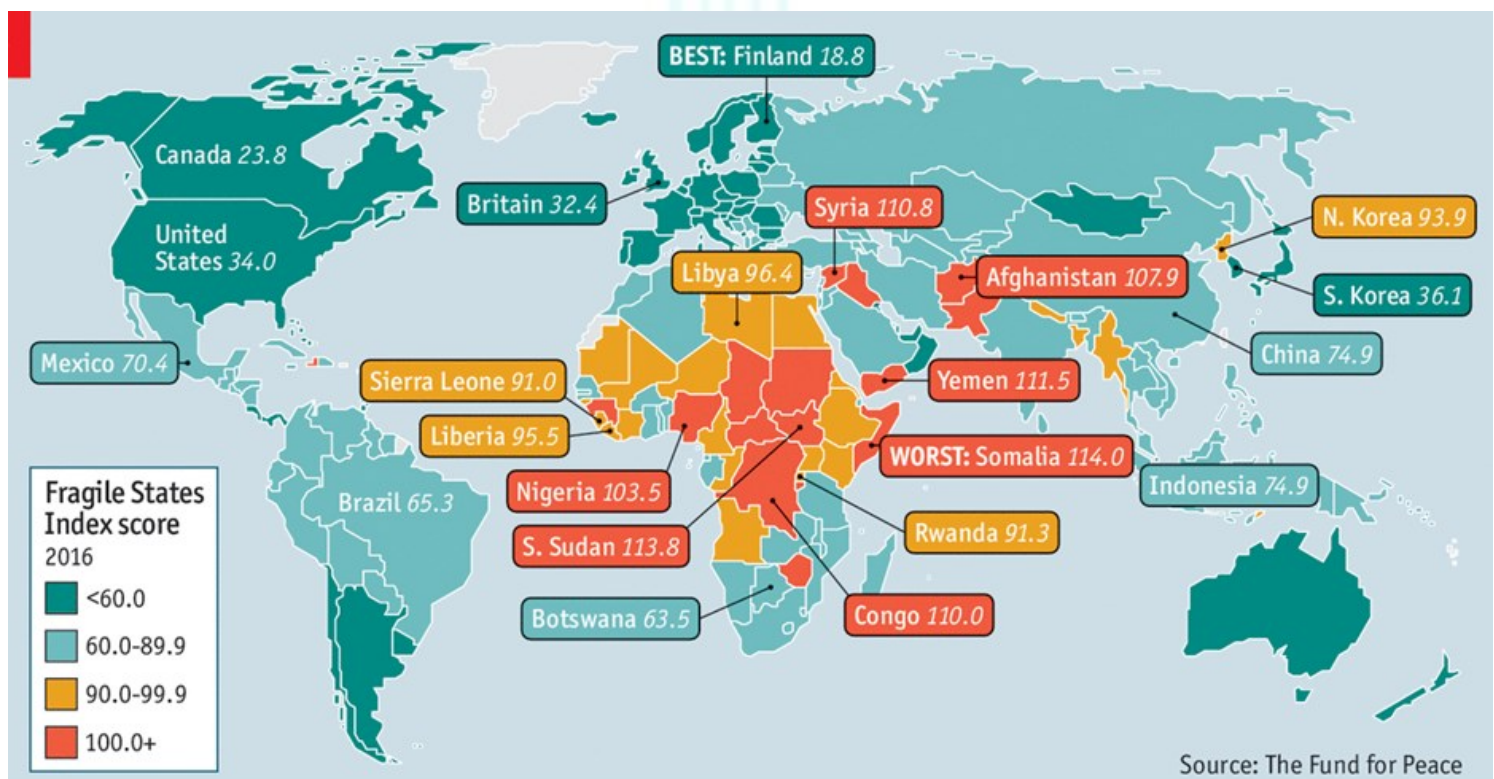
The committee is expected to discuss a variety of destabilized states including but not limited to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kashmir, Syria, Iran, Maldives and Afghanistan. The necessity, effectiveness and legitimacy of each proposal

must be carefully weighed. In conclusion, the committee must come up with both universal and country specific solutions to this complex problem.

## WHAT IS A DESTABILIZED STATE?

Political instability is the condition in which a state is unable to function with durability and effectiveness. An unstable government is not able to ensure any basic rights or security for its people. There are several causes for political instability, chief of which are **revolution**, **terrorism** and **war**.

**Revolution**, in the political context, is usually a mass movement aimed at bringing about a radical change, usually in the form of a new government or ruler. This has to be a grassroots movement to be categorised as a revolution. Examples are the French Revolution and the Russian revolution. More often than not these revolutions are violent in nature, with severe repercussions on the state and economy.





**War** is an obvious cause of political instability. Countries with major armed conflicts are said to be in a state of war. Domestic skirmishes however do not fall within the preview of war. Armed conflicts is the use of armed force between two or more organised armed groups, governmental or non-governmental included. A minimum of 10,000 militant death in the present or past year need to occur for the country to be in war. As of now, 11 countries are declared to be at war- states. The major ones are South Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, etc.

**Terrorism** is another cause of political instability. Hence, states with powerful governments but heavy internal terrorist activity would be classified as destabilised. Iran, North Korea, Sudan would be classified as destabilized states under this category.

Thus, stable government is not only just one with powerful armies but also one which can ensure healthy development conditions for its people.

Britain's King John is forced by his lords to sign the Magna Carta, acknowledging the freedom of men and that even a King is not above the law.

**1776**

US Declaration of Independence proclaims that 'all men are created equal' and endowed with certain undeniable rights.

**1789**

In France the National Assembly adopts the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens.

**1833**

The British Parliament passes the Slavery Abolition Act.

**1945**

The United Nations is created 'to affirm the dignity and worth of every human person

**1948**

The United Nations adopts the "Universal declaration of human rights"

**1966**

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) are adopted .

**1984**

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is signed.

**2001**

War Against Terror

NATO, United States, United Kingdom against Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIL, etc.

**2003**

Iraq War

USA, UK against Iraq

**2004**

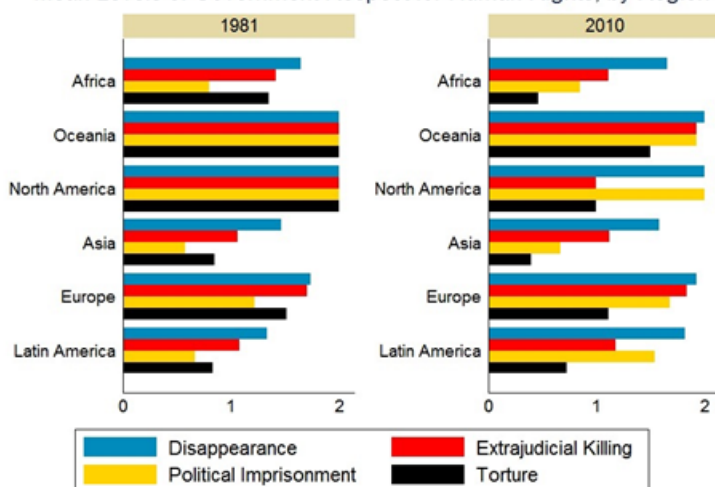
War in North West Pakistan (Part of the War Against Terror)

USA, Pakistan against Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIL

**2008,**

Russia–Georgia war

Mean Levels of Government Respect for Human Rights, by Region



## TIMELINE OF THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**1215**

Georgia against Russia, South Ossetia

**2008,**

Gaza War (Arab-Israeli Conflict)

Gaza Strip against Israel

**2009**

War in Somalia ((Somalian Civil War)

Somalia, Ethiopia against Al-Qaida, Mujahedeen

**2009**

War against Boko Haram

Nigeria is under threat from terrorist group Boko Haram

**2010**

Tunisian Revolution (Part of the Arab Spring)

Ben Ali government

**2011**

Egyptian Revolution (Part of the Arab Spring)

Hosni Mubarak government

**2011**

Yemeni Revolution (Part of the Arab Spring)

Saleh government struggle with Popular protests, demonstrations, strikes, self-immolation

**2011**

Libyan Civil War (Part of the Arab Spring)

Pro-Gaddafi Forces wage war against National Liberation Army of Qatar and NATO.

**2011**

Syrian Civil War

Bashar al-Assad government fight against Rebel forces including the ISIS.

**2012**

Gaza War (Arab-Israeli Conflict)

Gaza Strip against Israel.

**2014**

War in Ukraine or the Donbass War

Ukraine against Russia, Donetsk and Luhansk

**2015**

Yemeni Civil War.

Various factions seek to take control of government in Yemen.

## CASE STUDIES

### SYRIA

The Syrian conflict has been under the international radar for quite some time now and the state continues to be plagued by human right violations. The Syrian government and its allies, which include Russia, Iran and Hezbollah, have managed to secure territories using prohibited chemical weapons, whilst indiscriminately attacking civilians and holding back humanitarian aid.

According to UN agencies, more than 400,000 have died because of the Syrian conflict since 2011, while 11 million more have been displaced. By June 2017, it was also estimated that 540,000 civilians were still living in besieged areas.

Furthermore, despite international pressure, Syria continues to subjugate opposition through torture and illegal detention. Backed by their allies the Syrian government has deliberately attacked civilians and their property, displaced millions of Syrians and even used mass starvation as a war tactic. What is even more problematic is that various non-state actors have also started gaining political power and have been perpetrating crimes against humanity without any accountability. They are the ones committing one of the most severe human rights violation, yet the international community is unable to interfere or impose any sanction or restriction on them. ISIS influence makes the situation in Syria even more dangerous and volatile. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution in 2016 creating the "International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism" to gather and analyse potential evidence of serious

crimes in Syria for use in courts that may have a mandate over the abuses now or in the future. However, Syria continues to defy UN sanctions until date.

Key non-state actors:

ISIS

Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham

Syrian Democratic forces

Key International Actors:

USA

Russia

Hezbollah

Iran

European Union

## KASHMIR

Born in the cradle of imperial negligence, state-sponsored propaganda and militarism, the Kashmir conflict remains the longstanding failure of modern diplomacy. There have been repeated cases of violation of the Geneva Convention in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian army has consistently violated humanitarian law. Rape, murder, political disappearances, etc. are an everyday reality in the valley. The AFSPA gives unrestricted power to the military to deny the people of the valley their basic rights. On the

other hand, India argues that such restrictive legislation and measures are needed to protect the valley from various militant groups in the valley and to maintain peace. Meanwhile, India's neighbour continues to challenge its claim to Kashmir. The violent protests within Kashmir are another serious deterrent to stability and human rights in the valley.

Today the problem in Kashmir is no longer just about the territorial greed of India and Pakistan (not to mention China) but it has more to do with the lost sense of veracity faced by the Kashmiris. The Indian government which has so adamantly been fighting for its 'Crown' has never tried to incorporate Kashmir into the nation. On the other hand, Pakistan has returned Kashmiris hope for political representation and integration with terrorism-induced instability and militarism. Meanwhile, regular strikes, armed revolts and excessive censorship has alienated and radicalised the valley.

"The [Indian] government's disregard for human rights in Jammu and Kashmir means in practice that some 200 people reportedly died in custody in Jammu and Kashmir last year and that the whereabouts of some 500 to 600 "disappeared" persons continue to be unknown. The arbitrary arrests of people suspected to sympathize with armed opposition groups also continue to be reported."

-Amnesty International press release

"According to the Kashmiri-Canadian Council, 6,300 Kashmiri women have been raped. By raping these women, the security forces are aiming to punish and humiliate the entire community."

-Human Rights Watch





Given these atrocities, it is imperative that repressive legislation like the Kashmir Disturbed Areas Act and the Armed Forces Special Provision Act is kept a check on whilst also keeping in mind the security of the state.

#### Key International Actors:

India  
Pakistan  
China

#### Key Non-state Actors:

Lashkar-e-Tayiba  
Jaish-e-Mohammed  
Harkat-ul-Mujahideen  
Hizb-ul Mujahideen  
Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)

## IRAN

The Human rights in Iran are in a deteriorating condition as of now. Women are not allowed to do most normal activities that men are already allowed to do such as travel outside of the country. A virgin woman needs her male guardian's approval for marriage regardless of her age and even their worth is shown as half of a man, e.g. A man and woman are killed in an accident, the woman's family would only receive half of the compensation of what the male individual would receive.

Under their law, same-sex conduct is punishable by flogging and, in the case of two men, can be punishable by the death penalty. Although Iran permits and subsidises sex reassignment surgery for transgender people, no law prohibits discrimination against them. Also, judges can use their discretion not to sentence children to death, however, some people who have committed crimes as children have been sentenced to death anyway and acts consider



acts such as "insulting the prophet, apostasy, same-sex relations, adultery and certain drug-related offences" punishable by death as per Iranian law. Iranian courts regularly fell short of providing fair trials and used confessions obtained under torture as evidence in court, and authorities routinely restrict detainees' access to legal counsels, particularly during the investigation period. Several individuals charged with national security crimes suffered from a lack of adequate access to medical care as well.

Human Rights Watch documented that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps had recruited Afghan children residing in Iran to fight as combatants in Syria in its Fatemiyoun division.

#### Key State Actors:

America  
Iraq  
Israel  
India  
Pakistan

#### Key non-state actors:

Islamic revolutionary guard corps  
Hamas  
Hezbollah  
Islamic Jihad (PIJ)  
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine



## CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

The agenda is an extremely broad one and intentionally chosen to be so. The committee is expected to cover through their discussion as many destabilized states as possible. The committee should also cover different types of instabilities. Each solution should be weighed carefully and keeping in mind each stakeholder. In the end the committee is expected to make a resolution which-

1. Offers broad solution to instability in general.
2. Empowers UN to intervene in case of a dysfunctional government
3. Enhances the power of states economically and militarily in order to fight instability
4. Provide country specific solutions to major destabilized states.
5. Ensure universal human rights

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## AGENDA 2: THE VENEZUALAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

### INTRODUCTION

Venezuela is facing a severe humanitarian crisis that is affecting a large portion of its population. A huge shortage of medical supplies, food and other necessities is endangering the survival of the people. The Venezuelan Government has further added to the crisis by failing to implement effective policies and controls to curb these shortages. The government is also not ready to concede that a humanitarian crisis exists, and it has violently suppressed any form of protest against it.

In 2016, an unofficial survey conducted by more than two hundred doctors found that seventy-six percent of public hospitals did not have basic medical supplies. This is an increase from an unofficial survey conducted in 2014, which found that fifty-five percent of hospitals lacked basic medical supplies. Therefore, not only is there a failure to provide basic necessities but also there is a lack of accurate information about

the situation which makes it difficult for NGO's and other agencies to help. Maduro's government did not post any data on the situation of healthcare in the country for almost two years and recently posted data for 2016 shows that there was a 30.1% increase in child mortality in that year. The figures have jumped from 8812 to 11,466 with the primary causes for these deaths being pneumonia, premature birth and sepsis.

The food crisis in Venezuela has especially affected the low and middle-income households. This is because long lines form outside supermarkets where goods are scarce, in high demand, and subject to government-set prices. A survey conducted in 2015 showed that eighty-seven percent of Venezuelans have difficulty buying food. Several doctors and community leaders have said that signs of malnutrition are becoming evident among Venezuelans. Caritas Venezuela, a humanitarian organization reported that about 27.6% of the children

studied were at risk of malnutrition whereas 15.7% already were suffering from mild to acute malnutrition. The Government has elevated the crisis by using its power to suppress the people who protest against it. Maduro's government has labelled protesters as a threat to national security and has used the police and other paramilitary forces to keep them in check. Since the protests began more than 125 people have died





due to clashes with the police. Unjust and unduly excessive force both lethal and non-lethal has been used by the police and other military forces against demonstrators and this included using tear gas at bodies, using rubber bullets on areas on the body where it can cause lethal damage and using beatings as a go-to method for crowd control. Multiple illegal raids have been carried out by the government which are characterized by excessive force, threats and arbitrary arrests. In addition to the arbitrary arrests, reports have come up with physical and mental torture. Even though the Supreme Court has ordered the release of many of these protestors and given the sentence of house arrest for a few, they remain behind bars. The torture, which is dealt out by state officials, includes kicking, beating and sexual violence.

In 1978, Venezuela formed the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to protect its citizens' right to adequate food, health, liberty, and freedom of expression.

The United Nations High Commissioner also called for an investigation into the Venezuelan government to extract all the information for possible crimes against humanity. Having formed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on June 7, 2000, the Venezuelan government is officially bound by Article 7 to not commit any offences that lead to crimes against humanity. Moreover, it is subject to the jurisdiction of the ICC.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

To begin alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, there needs to be widespread public pressure on the Venezuelan government to implement and enforce effective policies that address the shortage of medical supplies, food and other basic amenities.

It is unlikely the Venezuelan government will reach out to the international community for aid, so international aid organizations should make public offerings of food and medical aid. In addition to this, since there is an increasing

number of Venezuelans seeking asylum in countries like Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, USA and Spain, these countries need to apply pressure on Maduro's government to take legitimate action within the boundaries of the law. This is because these refugees will add additional pressure on



## EFFECT ON NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The situation in Venezuela is so serious and alarming that it has led to a mass exodus. This exodus is on a scale so huge that it is being compared to the flow of Syrians into Western Europe, however, barely any attention is given to the crisis. The people are seeking both temporary and permanent asylum in neighbouring countries. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has declared that approximately 133,000 Venezuelans have sought asylum in neighbouring countries, while 363,000 others have pursued other legal alternatives to temporarily resettle abroad.

**Colombia:** It is flooded with the highest number of Venezuelans. As of December 2017, immigration officials in Colombia declared that there were 550,000 people from Venezuela currently living in Colombia. The BBC has reported that 126,000 Venezuelan immigrants already have legal permission to live in Colombia and this number includes 69,000 people who benefitted from a new humanitarian visa introduced in July 2017.

**Ecuador:** The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declared that more than 236,000 Venezuelans fled to Ecuador between September 2016 and September 2017. According to UNHCR, Ecuador is not only a destination country but also a transit country for the Venezuelans wanting to settle in Chile and Peru. Human Rights Watch announced that more than 1,500 Venezuelans had applied for asylum in Ecuador by September 2017. Furthermore, it stated that Venezuelans who would like to live in Ecuador temporarily can apply for several different visas, including a special visa for citizens of UNASUR member states mandated by the 2017 Human Mobility Law that allows

Venezuelans to live and work in Ecuador with minimal requirements.

**Peru:** In 2017, more than 100,000 Venezuelans entered Peru through the northern entry point in Tumbes. In response to this, the President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has created a temporary visa for the Venezuelans that will permit them to work in Peru.

**Brazil:** The government of Roraima state has declared that since 2016, 30,000 refugees have entered Brazil. In February 2018, the Brazilian president Michel Temer announced that he would not stop the influx of refugees from Venezuela. The President has also declared that he will try to organize the flow of Venezuelans in Brazil, possibly by distributing some refugees among other Brazilian states, where they can work and re-settle and leave their trauma and pain behind.

## PAST LEADERS

### HUGO CHAVEZ

It is said that today's crisis in Venezuela was initiated by Hugo Chavez's revolutionary plan. He came to power by winning the election by a convincing margin in 1998. Spreading the idea of giving power to the people and ending the corruption of political parties helped him become the President. Initially, he had a lot of support from the public. But in 2012 a member of the President's inner circle went public and exposed the details of a plan he did not want to be part of. Gueaipauro Lameda, a former general under President Hugo Chávez, exposed the details of how Chavez and his supporters wanted to initiate the Bolivarian Revolution. This meant a rejection of imperialism that sought to establish democratic socialism for the 21st century.



Moreover, the plan included taking over of all the branches of the power-the executive, legislative, judicial and military.

## NICOLAS MADURO

Nicolás Maduro was also a devout and unconditional follower of Chávez.

Maduro has tried to make Chávez an immortal figure after his death, promoting rituals and making his burial place a centre for worship. He has spent lavishly at a time when the country needs this money to feed its citizens and keep basic amenities running.

Unfortunately for Maduro, neither does he have the charisma nor the political instincts of his predecessor. An example of this is the price of a barrel of oil, which is now \$40 instead of \$100 and rampant and the very public corruption has beleaguered the public sector and armed forces. The private sector cannot come to the aid of the people, as there is no opportunity for them because it was destroyed by nationalization.

Thanks to Chávez's legacy, Maduro still holds control over the Supreme Court and the Armed Forces. In addition to these, his followers have organized civilian groups called the "collectivos" to mobilize against opposition and he also has the support of the Militia, a large group of paramilitaries, well-trained and uninformed and unconditional followers of the "eternal commander," Chávez.

## POLICIES

Maduro engaged in an indirect coercion and bribery strategy to gather votes for the national election that were held in May 2018. A few months before the election, he started the CLAPs program, which involved his party handing out a free box of food at extremely subsidized rates. For a country in which its people have lost an average of 11 kgs over the past year, this box of food comes as a modest but essential relief. One citizen was quoted as saying, "When you earn minimum wage, which doesn't cover exorbitant prices, the box helps."



This acts as a bribe because people fear that if they don't vote for Maduro they would end up losing out on the box which helps them at least a little bit. A 30-year old cook in the country said, "I and other women I know are going to vote for Maduro because he's promising to keep giving CLAPs, which at least help fix some problems." This strategy causes the citizens to become dependent on the government which in this situation offers only a short term relief. The erratic supply and huge demand has also led to the black market offering of CLAPs and only 7 out of 10 Venezuelans receive the box. Another complaint by the populace is that often the box is only half full and people cannot fully just depend on the box for their survival. This is especially true outside the country's capital of Caracas. The Maduro government, namely Freddy Bernal has also termed the box as "an instrument of the revolution."

## FOREIGN ACTION

The United States of America and the EU have placed sanctions on Venezuela and called for its diplomatic isolation citing President Maduro as the reason. The EU said that the elections held in Venezuela lacked credibility since the proper measures were not taken by the government to ensure a fair election. It also blocked the assets of seven Venezuelan officials and introduced a travel ban. Venezuela on the other hand, has backed itself into a corner with sanction from the US and reduction in oil production, which is causing the OPEC countries to look at it in an unfavorable light.

The previous Secretary of State of the USA, Rex Tillerson, has also said that the US could prohibit

the import of oil from Venezuela and further restrict the export of oil and other US refined products. This gives the US considerable power since it is Venezuela's largest crude customer. Washington could also apply sanctions banning U.S. exports of the light oil PDVSA needs to mix as diluent into its super-heavy crude. Restrictions on sales of gasoline and diesel to Venezuela are under consideration, too. OPEC has also changed its position and started pondering if action needed to be taken against the country for its fall of oil production. This is when President Maduro is asking the OPEC to stand against the US and its demand for increase in oil production, which adds to the pressure on the country's head.





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## POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

## SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution GA/3/1.1

### General Assembly Third Committee

Authors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

*Reminding* all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate perambulatory clauses]**

*Reaffirming* its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

*Noting* with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

*Stressing* the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. *Encourages* all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**
2. *Urges* member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. *Requests* that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. *Calls* for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
6. *Calls* upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance;
7. *Requests* the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through

## PERAMBULATORY AND OPERATIVE CLAUSES

### Perambulatory Clauses

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a perambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Perambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

Affirming  
 Alarmed by  
 Approving  
 Bearing in mind  
 Believing  
 Confident  
 Contemplating  
 Convinced  
 Declaring  
 Deeply concerned  
 Deeply conscious  
 Deeply convinced  
 Deeply Disturbed  
 Deeply Regretting  
 Desiring  
 Emphasizing

Expecting  
 Emphasizing  
 Expecting  
 Expressing it's appreciation  
 Fulfilling  
 Fully aware  
 Emphasizing  
 Expecting  
 Expressing it's appreciation  
 Fulfilling  
 Fully aware  
 Further deploring  
 Further recalling  
 Guided by  
 Having adopted  
 Having considered

Having examined  
 Having received  
 Keeping in min  
 Noting with deep concern  
 Nothing with satisfaction  
 Noting further  
 Observing  
 Reaffirming  
 Realizing  
 Recalling  
 Recognizing  
 Referring  
 Seeking  
 Taking into consideration  
 Taking note  
 Viewing with appreciation

## Operative Clauses

Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principals:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

### Sample Operative Phrases

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

### Bibliography

Sample Draft Resolution: <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions/sample-resolution#sthash.15LEikZY.dpuf>  
 Preambulatory and Operative Clauses: <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions/preambulatory-and-operative->

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