

BITMUN'19

Respected delegates,

I welcome you to the simulation of UN General Assembly at BITMUN 2019. As most of you would know, the agenda which has been planned for the committee to discuss is - The discontent regarding occupation of International Waters under Neocolonialism. The more you research upon the agenda the more you'll get to know about the violations around the world and it'll be easier for you to decide your moderated caucus topics. To ease your work; this background guide has been divided into 6 parts; namely:

1. How to prepare for the committee ?
2. Valid source of proof in the committee
3. Agenda Description
4. Analysis of the agenda
5. Questions to be answered
6. Additional Links for research and understanding

For the better understanding of the guide and the committee, it'll be better if you go through them part wise and understand the importance of each part. We can assure you that each part will help you in some way or the other regarding the committee. Also, please keep in mind that this background is nothing but a mere interpretation of the agenda by the executive board in order to help you start with your research, hence this document can't be used as source of proof in the committee. Lastly, in case of any queries related to the committee or rules of procedure you may contact us via email and we'll respond to you as soon as possible.

Wishing you best of luck,

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How to prepare for the committee :-

One of the major misconceptions about the concept of MUN's are that you just research from the internet and speak in the committee. However, that's not the only thing you do, you are required to research for the committee AND ANALYSE whatever you've studied. When it comes to the term analysis, a lot of people don't know what it means so for example:

You see someone's marksheet and see that person has scored 90+ out of 100 in 4 out 5 subjects however in the 5th subject, the person has scored just 53 out of 100. The part till here is called your research, this is something you've found out by searching somewhere.

When it comes to analysis, analysis means interpretation, now for example in the above example a good analysis would be finding out that the person if gives more time to the 5th subject rather spending so much time on other subjects, his/her marks in the individual subjects might fall a bit but he/she would improve overall because now that person would be scoring well in 5th subject as well. On a MUN level; analysis is a very important aspect when it comes to you playing the role of a delegate in a committee. Mostly delegates get confused by the term analysis and are not able improve the quality of their analysis overtime. In very simple words, "Analysis means interpreting the research you have from your perspective". The reason analysis is an important aspect of a MUN is because, without analyzing the current research you can't progress towards development but can only dwell upon the already existing research. Before that, let's understand what does your analysis include? When you start analysis, you need to keep the following things in mind:

- Context– What is the context of your analysis? Basically, what are you analyzing? What is it related to?
- Stakeholders– Who/What are driving your research and playing a major role? Who are the relevant members to your research?
- Impact– What impact will your research have on the agenda? What role will it play on the stakeholders of the research you have regarding the agenda
- Scope of Solution Space– What all solutions can be formulated to tackle the problem?
- Constraints within solution– The solutions formulated in the solution space would have a few constraints, what are those? And can they be tackled or is there any way around?
- Key Insights– What is the final conclusion or key takeaways you have from the analysis you've done regarding your agenda?

The above are the key points which are included in the concept named "Analysis". If you are able to find answers to the above points regarding your research you'll have an easier time going with the research and trying to understand the agenda.

How to research?

Whenever you start your research, first try understanding the meaning of research and what do you plan to do in the committee. In our case try understanding Human Rights as a basic term followed by understanding Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

Write the agenda somewhere on your electronic device or a notepad and try to break it into parts. As you break it into parts try coming up with topics which can be discussed in the committee. After writing the agenda and breaking it further, search about the sub-topics on the internet and find more information about such as legal aspects, government implication etc. It's not necessary that you are able to find your sub-topics without starting your basic research, as you start your basic research you'll be coming across problems which are being faced across the world from which you can derive your sub topics. After coming up with your topics and researching on them; find out what all other committees and bodies exist (National and international both) apart from UNHRC which are taking actions on this agenda. In our case, NGO's suggestions can be also considered to provide solutions. Go thru the reports, suggestions, and

actions taken by those bodies and those given in national and UN documents for eg. Secretary General Report till date on the agenda and try to analyze the problem and solution both and give your own input. After going thru the National and International reports, do go thru the secretary general report on the agenda which'll tell you about ALL the progress which has been related to the agenda. After you're done with the above things, try to pick up case studies and find the problems in it and how can they be improved (which'll test your analytical skills) and being able to implement the solution for that problem will help you in your application skills. The above is just one of the many ways of research, and one can differ as well. But in the end, just ensure that you understand what the agenda means and what all requires to be done in order to have successful results.

High Seas: Jurisprudence, Navigation and Conflicts

The High seas or international waters, in international and maritime law, refers to the open sea that is not part of the exclusive economic zone, the territorial sea or the internal waters of any particular state.

According to Melquiades Gamboa - "high seas refers to all parts of the sea that are not included in the territorial sea or in the interior waters of a state. Being the common property of all nations. No portion of the high seas can be appropriated by any state and no state can subject any part of them to its sovereignty."

International waters in dark blue

The United Nations (1958) proposed the Convention on the High Seas, also called the Geneva Convention on the High Seas. The definition is essentially identical to that proposed by Gamboa.

By sea means all parts of the sea that are not included in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a State.

The term was institutionalized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), UNCLOS in English.

UNCLOS defines the term by adding:"(...) Freedom on the high seas includes freedom of navigation, freedom of fishing, freedom to lay submarine cables and pipes, and freedom to fly over the area"and"... all parts of the sea that are not included in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a State, nor in the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic State".

Jurisprudence

According to maritime law, the term international waters or transboundary waters apply when any of the following types of water bodies (or their drainage basins) transcend international boundaries: oceans, large marine ecosystems, seas and closed or semi-closed regional estuaries, rivers, lakes, groundwater systems (aquifers) and wetlands.

For several centuries, and since the European Middle Ages, many maritime states asserted sovereignty over large portions of the high seas. Well-known examples, Genoa claims in the Mediterranean and Great Britain in the North Sea, among others.

International waters have no sovereignty, they are [Earth nullius](#). Since no state exercises control or authority over those waters. Therefore, as a legal principle, it is established that all states have the freedom to fish, to sail, to fly, to investigate for scientific purposes, to construct artificial islands and other facilities permitted by international law.

UNCLOS recognized Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) extending 200 nautical miles from the baseline, sovereign rights over the water column and seabed, as well as the natural resources found there.

Article 87 states that the rules of international law also apply: "The high seas are open to all States, whether coastal or landlocked".

The established and accepted jurisprudence on international waters and the high seas, invests these areas as a world heritage site. Article 88 of the Convention reaffirms it by stating that international waters may be used only for peaceful purposes and that no state may legitimately claim to subject any part of the high seas under its sovereignty.

International Navigation

Vessels sailing on the high seas are generally under the jurisdiction of the National Flag (or stern flag indicating the nationality of the vessels). However, when a ship is involved in criminal acts, such as piracy, any nation may exercise jurisdiction on behalf of the Doctrine of Universal Jurisdiction.

Pending disputes

Arctic ocean

Canada, Denmark, Russia and Norway consider all parts of the Arctic seas as national waters or inland waters, unlike the European Union and the United States. The Northwest Passage through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago is one of the clear examples.

Southern Ocean

Australia claims an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around its Antarctic territorial claim. The lawsuit is still being discussed.

Okinotorishima

Japan claims that Okinotorishima is an islet and therefore must have a SEZ around it, but some neighbouring countries say it is an atoll and therefore should not have a SEZ.

South China Sea

Japan, India and the United States, consider the South China Sea as international waters, but this view is not universal.

Indian Ocean

Somali Pirate

The Somali government exercises little control over Somali territorial waters. As a consequence there is a lot of piracy, illegal dumping of waste and fishing without permission.

International cooperation

Although water is often the subject of conflict, good management can be a source of cooperation to foster greater socio-economic development. For example, Senegal river basin cooperating through the Fleuve Senegal Value Organization (OMVS) has achieved greater socio-economic development and has overcome challenges related to agriculture and other issues.

Global Water Supply: Target for Neo-colonialism

Water is life. As a finite resource in an ever-expanding world, it must be [well managed](#) to insure our survival.

Unfortunately, the largest funder of water management in the developing world, the [World Bank](#), sees “well managed” as “primed for extraction of maximum profit.” Since the 1980’s, this profiteering mindset led the World Bank to push for [water privatization](#) as the ONLY option. Privatization completely ignores the essential nature of water:

[Water](#) is not like telecommunications or transportation. You could tolerate crappy phone service, but have faulty pipes connecting to your municipal water and you’re in real trouble. Water is exceptional.

A combination of climate change, increasing consumption of meat, and increasing population makes global leaders fearful about [growing water scarcity](#). The race is on to secure the world’s water supply.

Gateway To The Guaraní Aquifer

Should a 460,000 square mile (1.2 million square kilometre) fresh water reservoir be sacrificed at the altar of short term corporate profit? A legion of multinational corporations and nation states set their sights on the Guaraní Aquifer, the largest uncontaminated aquifer on the planet. Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay all possess subterranean rights. U.S. SOCOM and the Army Corps of Engineers made overtures in 2010, [proposing a “workshop”](#) to discuss ways these four countries could collaborate on management of the aquifer.

Paraguay-U.S. Relationship



Paraguayan Dictator Alfredo Stroessner.

Long-standing ties to Paraguay made that nation a logical choice for U.S. entrée into the Guaraní Aquifer watershed. Those ties trace back to the McCarthy era. Right-Wing Paraguayan Dictator Alfredo Stroessner shared the U.S. anti communist outlook. Stroessner held power from 1954 to 1989, and U.S.-Paraguay relations grew stronger. Paraguay participated in the CIA led human rights violations of Operation Condor.

Fast-forward to 2005: [U.S. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld](#) met with then President Duarte Frutos. Rumsfeld warned against the ‘malign’ influence of Venezuela and Cuba, countries trying to “export an ideology that harms democracy.” Rumsfeld strongly implied that U.S. assistance to Paraguay would be increased if they signed an [Article 98 agreement](#) (the Bush administration’s underhanded attempt to grant immunity from International Criminal Court jurisdiction).

Following Rumsfeld’s visit, the U.S. Embassy in Paraguay [reported](#) to the State Department:

Chavez could be behind the spread of blatantly false rumors of U.S. plans to build a base in Paraguay, deploy 400 troops to Paraguay to protect oil and natural gas reserves in Bolivia, and steal the region’s fresh water supplies from the Guarani Aquifer.

U.S. Ambassador Keane [warned](#) that Article 98 agreement negotiations were threatened by these “blatantly false” rumors.

The 2008 election of Fernando Lugo gave Paraguayans their own version of “Hope And Change.” Lugo, a former Catholic priest and “bishop of the poor,” brought a new focus on ordinary people to the

presidency. Lugo pushed back against the overreach of multinational corporations like Monsanto, Cargill, Syngenta, and Río Tinto. Lugo also promised to [manage resources](#) like the Guaraní Aquifer for the benefit of all.

Lugo's impeachment in 2012 amounted to a coup d'état on behalf of multinational corporations and the U.S. empire.

Terrorists at The Triple Frontier?



Triple Frontier between Argentina, Paraguay, & Brazil

The geography of the 'Triple Frontier' between Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil, lends itself well to cross-border smuggling. The de facto capital of this region, Paraguay's Ciudad del Este, plays host to an established counterfeiting and copyright piracy industry. The government of Paraguay not only allows this activity to continue, it does little to enforce customs or border traffic. [The entire region has been turned into a chessboard for corporate interests and gluttonous overlords. As people suffer for want, a few make fortunes by hoarding water resources.](#)

The neocon cabal surrounding President George W. Bush used this porous border as the setting for a whopper of a tale. The storyline, courtesy of the CIA, painted a lurid picture of terror networks blending in with the Arab community of the 'Triple Frontier.' The U.S. and Israel arbitrarily declared this largely Lebanese expatriate population guilty of providing support to groups like Hezbollah. U.S. parlayed this rhetoric into [justification for American military presence](#) at the Mariscal Estigarribia air base in Paraguay, claiming the need to "monitor" the Triple Frontier (and the Guaraní Aquifer).

The U.S. explanation for its military presence in Paraguay [falls apart upon closer examination](#). The United States government, overrun with 'revolving door' politicians and obscene amounts of money,

often acts as a de facto corporate agent. In this capacity, the United States uses its military in the service of corporations like giant agriculture conglomerates like [Cargill and Bunge](#), chemical behemoths [Monsanto, Syngenta, and mining leviathan Río Tinto](#).

Politics of Empire

[U.S. policy in Latin America](#) has not changed since the Cold War. Its overarching goals include preservation the free market, protection of American corporate interests, and crushing the spread of leftist regimes. Many Americans remain blissfully unaware of this charade

When you have two parties that are both wholly owned subsidiaries of big business and big war and your news channels side with one or the other exclusively, never criticizing the side they chose, then you know you arent watching news but advertising.

Advertising brought to you by forces eager to maintain U.S. imperial status
quo. *#WateringNeocolonialism*

“The world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Delegates you may also research on these aspects

- 1.The case of south china sea
- 2.The String of Pearls of China
- 3.The Indian Response to Chinese encircling

All the best Delegates. Feel free to ask anything.

Warm Regards

AZKA KHAN

CHAIR.

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