

AMBMUN

Al Mawakeb Barsha Model United Nations

Committee Name:

United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees (UNHCR)

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A Message from the Heads:

Dear esteemed delegates,

We would like to start off by officially welcoming you all to this year's Al Mawakeb Barsha Model United Nations and further introducing you to our committee for this conference, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We are beyond excited to get to know you all and indulge in meaningful debates throughout the duration of this conference. We believe you can all contribute positively to our committee sessions through your input, questions, and speeches. Throughout this conference, we will be discussing the following topic: "The Displacement of Civilians in Warzones".

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, is an international organization that works to rescue lives, defend human rights, and provide a brighter future for those who are forced to escape their countries due to persecution or conflict. This agency has set many goals throughout the years to ensure the safety of displaced citizens and refugees worldwide. As of today, the UNHCR works with 135 different countries that are a part of the United Nations to aid in the protection of displaced civilians and refugees. In 1950, the United Nations member states established the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, initially allocating \$300,000 for its operations. Since then, the number of stateless and forcibly displaced individuals has risen substantially to over 100 million, and the UNHCR's budget has increased to over \$10 billion due to the enormous growth in their requirements. The UNHCR has achieved numerous successful operations that have saved lives and protected livelihoods over the years due to the funding it receives from its developed member nations, including Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America.

The UNHCR has also created an agenda for the year 2030 in order to aid in achieving sustainable development goals. The 2030 Agenda's primary pillars are guaranteeing everyone's human rights and ensuring that the set action plan benefits everyone in all countries around the world. This indicates that a global commitment has been made by all parties to identify and assist those who are most in need. This perfectly aligns with UNHCR's mission to safeguard the world's most vulnerable populations—refugees and internally displaced people. Improving refugee conditions and putting sustainable solutions into place, especially in areas affected by conflict, are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that the UNHCR is making an effort to achieve.

Keep in mind that this background guide has been designed to **assist** you in gaining a general understanding of the issue at hand so that you are able to benefit from this conference. Conducting your own research is **vital** to comprehend the perspective and stance of your nation regarding this matter; therefore, this guide **does not** suffice as a sole source of research for this conference.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact any of the chairs by email. We are ecstatic to meet you all and cannot wait for the fruitful debates. We wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

The Chairs of UNHCR.

Background on the Topic:

Since the dawn of the 21st century, many of the world's unstable regions have fallen into war, including the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Asia, such as the wars in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, DR Congo, Afghanistan, etc. These wars have led to millions of people to flee their homes for safety, often taking routes that risk losing their lives and using the money they have left to finance human traffickers to take them to safe areas such as Western Europe or the United States for safety. With over 110 million people being forced out of their homes, majority of the safe world is closing their doors for these asylum seekers, creating a backlog of refugees in those countries, and forcing refugees to camp in inhumane conditions on the borders of these countries.

Past Actions:

As part of our efforts to establish lasting solutions, UNHCR has assisted nearly a million refugees in rebuilding their lives in new nations over the past ten years.

During the coronavirus, there weren't any major outbreaks in refugee and internally displaced camps and settlements; however, UNHCR rapidly responded in 134 refugee-hosting countries that were reporting local transmission. To do this, UNHCR has called for an extra \$745 million as part of the UN's revised \$10.3bn appeal for COVID-19.

Through the European Agency for Reconstruction's (EAR) project, almost 6,100 families received assistance in resolving their housing issues. The Social dwelling in Supportive Environment idea was used to build 1,150 dwelling units overall. More than 1,050 building material packages were delivered, about 270 village houses were purchased, and 500 prefabricated houses were put in more than 80 towns throughout Serbia. Over 700 IDPs were helped by UNHCR to return to Kosovo. Between 2002 and 2017, the UNHCR's Vocational Trainings project helped around 6,000 refugees and internally displaced people from the area find work and support for integration.

Ever since the ERS began, UNHCR and its partners have helped the authorities provide shelter by securing more than 1,100 additional places to stay, distributing more than 500,000 non-food items, water, and sanitation supplies, and about 200,000 medical services. Additionally, thousands of newly arrived refugees and migrants have received counseling regarding their options in Serbia, registration, and access to basic services like education and solutions.

UNHCR has been present in Montenegro since November 1992, following the arrival of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Since then, UNHCR has contributed more than \$65 million to Montenegro in supporting the Government of Montenegro and assisted some 140,000 refugees and internally displaced people overall.

Current Situation:

At the end of 2022, 108.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order. This represents an increase of 19 million people compared to the end of 2021 – more

than the populations of Ecuador, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), or Somalia. It is also the largest ever increase between years according to UNHCR's statistics on forced displacement.

Ongoing and new conflicts have driven forced displacement across the globe. The Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 created the fastest displacement crisis, and one of the largest, since the Second World War. At the end of 2022, a total of 11.6 million Ukrainians remained displaced, including 5.9 million within their country and 5.7 million who fled to neighboring countries and beyond. Conflict and insecurity in other parts of the world either continued or were reignited, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Myanmar, where more than 1 million people were displaced within each country.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

- How can we protect displaced civilians in newer ways?
- Is it possible for all countries to come to an agreement to stop wars?
- How must developing countries deal with the destruction caused by wars?
- What kind of initiatives can be created to protect citizens?
- Where will the fundings of these initiatives come from?
- Is there a way to make war less threatening to innocent civilians?

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