**AMBMUN 24’**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 3**

**(GA3)**

**Background Guide**

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***Introduction to the committee:***

Every year, the General Assembly assigns agenda items about a variety of social, humanitarian affairs, and human rights concerns that impact people worldwide to its Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee, also known as the "Third Committee." The Committee's investigation of human rights issues, including the special processes reports from the recently formed Human Rights Council, is a significant portion of its work.

Along with these topics, the Committee addresses issues about women's development, child safety, indigenous concerns, refugee treatment, the promotion of basic freedoms via the eradication of racism and racial discrimination, and the advancement of the right to self-determination. Important topics for social development, including those about adolescents, families, aging, people with disabilities, criminal justice, crime prevention, and drug control, are also covered by the Committee.

The Third Committee plays a pivotal role in molding the United Nations' agenda concerning social and human rights matters, resulting in decisions and initiatives that strive to enhance the well-being of people worldwide. Within the framework of this organization, member states engage in negotiations and collaboration to tackle issues about socioeconomic development, human rights, and cultural diversity.

***Background and History:***

A humanitarian crisis is a broad emergency scenario with high rates of mortality or starvation, the spread of disease and epidemics, and medical issues that impact a whole community or a subset of people in an area. Humanitarian help is necessary to satisfy the needs of those who are vulnerable when the situation worsens, and the nation is ill-equipped to handle the fallout. This might be in the form of providing healthcare, food assistance, and infrastructure reconstruction. A decrease in the number of casualties would put an end to the crisis and initiate a phase of development collaboration.

The causes of humanitarian crises are numerous. Humanitarian crises are largely impacted by climate change, yet they receive less media attention and controversy. Ninety percent of disasters are caused by climate change, according to the UN. The frequency of natural catastrophes has increased over the past 20 years. Droughts, heat waves, floods, and destructive storms are taking lives and creating shortages that drive people to flee their homes in search of safety. Massive humanitarian disasters can result from epidemics. Infectious illness poses a significant threat to humanitarian relief efforts since the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 1.6 billion people worldwide lack access to basic medical treatment. Between 2014 and 2016, Ebola infected about 30,000 individuals in West Africa, with a 50% to 90% fatality rate. Of those, 11,000 people died.

In the twenty-first century, there have been several humanitarian crises in war zones, a sign of the challenging issues caused by armed wars and their horrific impacts on civilian populations. The Syrian crisis, which has caused millions of people to be uprooted and subjected to widespread violence, devastation, and breaches of human rights against civilians, is one of the largest humanitarian crises now plaguing the globe. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010 resulted in the deaths of about 300,000 people. The nation has suffered significantly from ten years of continual disasters, including many cyclones and a big disease outbreak, even though foreign relief arrived quickly. The rising levels of violence and political unrest have made things worse. In a similar vein, the conflict in Yemen has led to a dire humanitarian situation marked by widespread food insecurity, medical requirements, displacement, and civilian deaths.

These wars of the twenty-first century highlight the critical need for concerted international efforts, respect for international humanitarian law and human rights legislation, and ongoing assistance to address the grave humanitarian effects and strive toward long-term solutions for impacted communities. Over time, humanitarian operations have evolved from being overseen by governments and primarily focused on the health and well-being of military personnel to offering safety and assistance to all civilians affected by conflict and with a stronger charitable and political intent. With every new crisis or disaster, the public, governments, academics, and charity groups all have diverse opinions on humanitarian operations. To successfully support those living in war today and in the future, we must consider and draw lessons from the successes and setbacks of humanitarianism in past conflicts.

***Past actions:***

Several prominent international organizations, notably the United Nations and the Third General Assembly Committee, have elaborately discussed and acted upon the global limitations of many humanitarian crises. The Assembly asked the Emergency Relief Coordinator to keep enhancing the leadership and coordination of humanitarian aid and accountability within the UN humanitarian response system. Among other measures, the Assembly urged Member States to continue prioritizing efforts to prevent, respond to, investigate, and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies. Referring to the Global Humanitarian Overview for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, they said the world is facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945 and 399 million people, the highest number ever, need humanitarian assistance. “Statistics are the human beings with the tears wiped off,” he said, adding that this powerful image shows families, including children, the elderly, and women, behind the statistics.  “They are all of us.”

The General Assembly's third committee has vividly participated in limiting many war crimes, including humanitarian crises. Including Russia- Ukraine negotiates which started back in 2014, On 2 March, the UN General Assembly adopted — by an overwhelming majority of 141 against 5 — a resolution rejecting the Russian Federation's brutal invasion of Ukraine and demanding that Russia immediately withdraw its forces and abide by international law. Another example is human rights; the right to free speech and the right to assemble must always be upheld. Iran is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The General Assembly is urging Iran to strictly adhere to its principles and to allow for an unbiased, transparent, and comprehensive investigation into the use of violence by the Iranian security forces in response to the recent protests. Condemning human rights violations, including violence against women and children, torture, and arbitrary detention, Urging the Afghan government to improve the protection of civilians in conflict zones, and calling for accountability for human rights abuses.

Another crucial crisis zone is Ukraine where over 3.7 million civilians were displaced. GA3 hasn't been silent on Ukraine. They've condemned injustices, pressed for aid to displaced Ukrainians, and urged investigations into abuses. Through briefings, discussions, and resolutions, they've brought attention to the crisis, encouraged international cooperation, and pushed for accountability, even though their decisions aren't legally binding. Their actions stand as a powerful moral statement to the world, reminding all parties of their responsibility to uphold human rights and find a peaceful resolution.

***Current situation:***

Thousands of lives, including those of children, have been lost to violence in several areas of conflict. Many more are suffering injuries, being relocated, being kept captive, or attempting to flee these catastrophes. Humanitarian aid is becoming needed in a rising number of countries, including Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria, and Lebanon. In addition, millions of people in these countries depend on basic human needs to preserve their lives and prevent further suffering, thus there is an urgent need for aid. The misery of the displaced is one of the most pressing issues in these conflict zones. An increase in refugees and internally displaced individuals usually presents challenges for aid organizations and host countries, making it impossible for them to provide enough housing, food, water, and healthcare. The continuous nature of warfare, which keeps these people always vulnerable, worsens this situation. Moreover, the terrible actions of indiscriminate bombings, armed assaults, and the use of unconventional weapons cause unimaginable suffering for populations, including women, children, and the elderly. Their situation is made worse by the decline of essential services, which leaves them without necessities and forces them to fight every day just to survive.

For instance, throughout more than 11 years of conflict, Syria's water network has sustained severe damage, leading to a 30–40% drop in supply. The rise in instances of severe diseases this year brought attention to the necessity of preventing the collapse of essential infrastructure, which would have caused the people much more suffering. Yemen is another instance of a terrible humanitarian disaster taking place in a region that is engaged in armed war. Due to the conflict, which grew more intense in 2015, Yemen's humanitarian situation is dire and is sometimes referred to as one of the worst humanitarian disasters in history. The internationally recognized government, the Houthi rebels, and regional powers are among the parties to the war that are worsening the situation for the Yemeni people.

The significant effects of conflicts vary extensively, from the tragic deaths and widespread cruelty to the long-term effects of lifelong disabilities and the debilitating hold of PTSD on people. These wars devastate vital healthcare and infrastructure, increasing the difficulties experienced by affected populations and blocking their access to essential services. Millions of people being forcibly displaced also make the humanitarian problems worse by resulting in insecure living with insufficient essentials. To solve the complex issues and lessen suffering, as well as to guarantee the safety and well-being of communities undergoing wars, swift and well-coordinated international action is necessary. Beyond the immediate physical impact, conflicts produce ongoing chaos and disruption that leave permanent damage to future generations.

***Questions a resolution must answer:***

* What measures can be taken to facilitate humanitarian access and delivery of aid in conflict-affected areas, ensuring assistance reaches those in need?
* How can international organizations promote sustainable solutions to prevent and alleviate humanitarian crises in protracted conflict zones?
* What strategies should be implemented to safeguard the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations, especially women and children, in conflict-affected regions?
* In what ways can the global community strengthen solutions for conflict resolution and peacebuilding to mitigate the occurrence and impact of humanitarian crises?
* What role should humanitarian organizations, and governments play in ensuring the protection and safety of humanitarian workers operating in conflict zones?
* What are some other action plans that can be implemented to ensure the complete safety of educational institutions and hospitals?