



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

AGENDA

**DEVELOPING INVENTIVE
STRATEGIES FOR DELIVERING
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
INDIVIDUALS DISPLACED BY
CONFLICT AMID ESCALATING
UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND EURASIA.**



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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

“No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.” - Warsan Shire

Dear Delegates,

In the chronicles of history, some moments define the political and geographical state of nations, influencing the lives of their citizens. In corners of the world, there are faces etched with stories of struggle and resilience, all of which stem from political indifference leading to conflicts. These are not merely statistics that appear in headlines, but individuals with hopes and dreams of living life as you and I. United Nations Human Rights Council has been entrusted with the duty to promote and protect the human rights of civilians globally and we hope to bring change in all our power, with full effect.

Grateful for this opportunity to serve as the chair for UNHRC this year, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. Perceive me as a 17-year-old commerce student, interested in political affairs, literature, and sports. Serving as the Tennis Captain, Vice-Captain of Hockey, and Senior Editor at the Oliphant, my work ethic has always been to test my abilities, think out of the box, and break boundaries. Alongside me, we have Eshaan Agarwal who serves as the Academics Captain of the school and also as the Vice Chairperson of the committee, Raaghavendra Govil and Vishrut Khanna as the Directors, and Aaryan Khanna and Tanveer Madan as the Rapporteurs.

The pivotal focus of the committee this year would be to come up with inventive and innovative strategies to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees resulting from war-torn areas in the Middle East and Eurasia. All global crises contribute to one major crisis, where human sacrosanct is put into question, leading to nothing but human rights violations globally leading to an influx of refugees. Through deliberations and constructive discourse, we aim to come up with effective strategies aimed at resolving this pressing humanitarian challenge.

With this, we look forward to deliberating upon the agenda and breaking down the issue, bringing peace to the world. In unity and resolve, let us strive to make a difference and forge a brighter future for all.

In pursuit of a brighter horizon,

Divyam Duggal

UNHRC

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About the Committee

INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It can discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). The UN Human Rights Council is responsible for promoting universal respect for human rights, essentially by addressing situations where human rights are violated followed by posting crucial recommendations to the UN member states. The Human Rights Council was established in 2006 following a resolution by the General Assembly, at the same time when the UN closed the former Commission on Human Rights. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) succeeded the UN Commission on Human Rights established in 1946 to fortify the global legal framework safeguarding our fundamental rights and freedoms. Several reforms were introduced under the UNHRC, such as the Universal Periodic Review mechanism enabling investigations into human rights conditions across all UN Member States. Additionally, the Advisory Committee acts as a cerebral hub providing expertise and counsel on thematic human rights issues. Another innovation was the establishment of a system for processing grievances, allowing for the reporting of human rights violations to the UNHRC. Furthermore, the UNHRC collaborates with UN Special Procedures, including special rapporteurs, representatives, independent experts, and working groups, dedicated to monitoring human rights worldwide. At its core, the UNHRC is dedicated to advancing international human rights standards. The Council's mandate is to promote —universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all —address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon.

MEMBERSHIP

The Council is made up of 47 Member States, who are tagged by the maturity of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot. The General Assembly takes into account the seeker States' donation to the creation and protection of mortal rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard. With class on the Council comes a responsibility to uphold high moral rights norms. This is a criterion claimed by States themselves when they espoused resolution 60/251 in March 2006 to create the Human Rights Council.

Overview of the Agenda

The United Nations Human Rights Board (UNHRC) stands up to a significant compassionate emergency of exceptional scale and complexity: the uprooting of people amid rising turmoil within the Center East and Eurasia. This critical circumstance casts a long shadow over the worldwide community, underscoring the pressing need to comprehend the greatness of enduring experienced by millions caught within the vortex of conflict-induced displacement.

The Center East and Eurasia stand as epicentres of geopolitical turmoil, stamped by extended clashes and political insecurity that have accelerated the mass departure of civilians over borders and inside



their regions. From the persevering cauldron of the Syrian respectful war, where over a decade of savagery has uprooted millions and crushed communities, to the tireless turbulence in Yemen, where civilians bear the brunt of obliterating strife exacerbated by territorial competitions and outside intercessions, the locale bears witness to the situation of endless people denied of their homes, vocations, and respect.

Besides, the echoes of precariousness resounding from Afghanistan to Ukraine serve as stark updates of the delicacy of peace and the human fetch of political discord. This uprooting emergency, compounded by financial collapse, natural debasement, and the multiplication of non-state performing artists, presents a multifaceted challenge that rises above borders and opposes simple arrangements. The relocation of populaces, whether inside conflict-ridden states or over universal borders regarding security, has become a characterizing feature of the modern worldwide scene, straining the capacities of communities and compassionate on-screen characters alike.

This plan envelops a range of interrelated issues, including not as it were the arrangement of life-saving help and security to uprooted populaces but moreover the broader suggestions for peace, security, and human rights within the locale and past. The uprooting emergency resounds distant past the quick compassionate circle, with far-reaching suggestions for advancement, administration, and stability. Central to our consultations is the stark reality of human enduring and uprooting, which must be recognized and comprehended in all its measurements.

The stories of those uprooted by struggle - the moms escaping with their children, the fathers battling to supply for their families, and the children ransacked of their childhoods - serve as effective updates of our shared humankind and collective duty to alleviate their suffering. It is fundamental to recognize the vital part of helpful on-screen characters, counting UN organizations, non-governmental associations (NGOs), and gracious society substances, in giving life-saving help and assurance to uprooted populations. Always working in the field under harsh conditions, his work is a desire for unity and participation of the whole world to address the humanitarian problems of the minority and the disadvantaged. According to the sector, this UNHRC conference is an important opportunity for international engagement and exchange between Member States, alliances, and partners. As responsible citizens of this world, we must understand the agenda to its roots, this includes all the past conflicts in the Middle East and Eurasia. On top of that, we must also analyze previous measures that have been taken to provide humanitarian aid to conflict-stricken citizens.

Mandates by the UNHRC

As the agenda unfolds, it is important to understand the mandates and resolutions that have been taken by the UNHRC in the past to provide aid to internally displaced persons all around the world. The primary source of the UNHRC's mandate has been derived from a mandate that was adopted by the General Assembly in 1950 (Resolution 428 (V) of 14 December). Paragraph 1 of the Mandate states that "The ... High Commissioner ..., acting under the authority of the General Assembly, shall assume the function of providing international protection, under the auspices of the United Nations, to refugees who fall within the scope of the present Statute and of seeking permanent solutions for the problem of refugees."



In terms of internally displaced people, UNHRC has more than 50 years of experience protecting and supporting IDPs. In recognition of the Office's experience with forced displacement, its ability to adapt and respond to changing emergencies, and the necessity of addressing internally displaced people as equally important to resolving refugee situations, the General Assembly has authorized UNHRC to work with internally displaced people (IDPs) in several resolutions.

Regarding returnees, the UNHRC must have unrestricted access to returning refugees whenever necessary to ensure their treatment complies with international standards. In this context, the UNHRC is encouraged to enhance its returnee monitoring efforts as needed to support the establishment of sustainable returns (Paragraph (r), UNHRC Executive Committee Conclusion No. 102(LVI) – 2005). Additionally, the UNHRC's mandate on refugees is embedded in agreements requiring State Parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol to collaborate with the UNHRC, as stipulated in Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention and Article II of the 1967 Protocol.

The refugee mandate of UNHRC is applicable in emergency and non-emergency scenarios, including mixed-migration scenarios involving migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. In addition, the refugee duty is applicable both within and outside the camps. To put it briefly, the High Commissioner's mandate encompasses all refugees worldwide, regardless of their location. The total non-political (i.e., unbiased), humanitarian, and social nature of UNHRC's mandate is a defining characteristic (paragraph 2 of the Statute). For these reasons, the High Commissioner and any employees working for him or her should abstain from making any remarks or engaging in any other actions that actively adopt political positions or that might be seen as such. (UNHRC Code of Conduct, pledge 3: refrain from conflicts of interest and maintain and strengthen public trust in UNHRC.)

Key Terms

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian Assistance refers to the material and logistic assistance of the people trapped in areas of conflict in the Middle East and Eurasia.

Individuals displaced by conflict

Civilians have been forced to flee their homes within the Middle East and Eurasia region due to the ongoing conflicts and rising instability. This could include people from Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine, Nagorno-Karabakh, or any other area experiencing violence.

Escalating unrest in the Middle East and Eurasia:

Refers to the rising tension created by past wars in the area such as the Israel-Hamas war, Israel-Iran war, Three Houthi Wars, Iran-US war, etc.

Conflicts in the Middle East and Eurasia

The Middle East has been the most volatile part of the world since the mid-20th century, with multiple conflicts among disparate rivals. Some have erupted over domestic disputes, others over regional competition, with spillover drawing in major world powers. Israel fought four major wars with Arab



neighbours, including Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, between 1948 and 1973. But since the creation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the mid-1960s, it has increasingly faced challenges from militias or non-state actors, eventually also including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in the Palestinian territories, and the Houthis in Yemen. The militias became major military players in the 1980s, then evolved into influential political parties in the 1990s and 2000s. In the 21st century, they have been the most consistent threat to Israel.

Conflict is a common occurrence in Eurasia. The massive invasion by Russia in February 2022 destabilized the area and resulted in great human misery. Although the war's immediate conclusion is still unknown, Eurasia will suffer serious long-term effects from it.

Beyond Ukraine, Myanmar's protracted civil war continues. Widespread violations of human rights and internal displacement have resulted from the military junta's violent suppression of the pro-democracy movement. There have been no successful attempts at a peaceful conclusion on a global scale thus far.

The long-simmering Israel-Palestine conflict also erupts from time to time. Finding a long-term solution is difficult due to deeply ingrained historical grudges and the complicated question of Jerusalem's status as a holy city for both parties. International concerns have been aroused by the recent escalation that claimed civilian lives.

These are but a handful of the disputes afflicting Eurasia. Addressing the underlying problems, working with other countries, and agreeing on peaceful solutions are all necessary for their resolution.

The helpful needs of those affected by relocation are tremendous and shifted, extending from necessities such as nourishment, water, and protection, to assurance from savagery, misuse, and discrimination. At the heart of this session of the UNHRC lies the basics to comprehend the multifaceted impacts of conflict-induced uprooting within the Center East and Eurasia.

Israel and Hamas

With the PLO sidelined after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, tensions between the Palestinians and Israel deepened in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. The first Intifada erupted in 1987 after an Israeli military truck killed four Palestinians in Gaza, and it lasted until 1993. The protests gave rise to Hamas, an Islamist movement that shifted the goals of the Palestinian movement. It decreed, "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavours." The first Intifada ebbed with the 1993 peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

A second Intifada erupted in 2000 after the collapse of U.S.-led talks between Israel and the PLO at Camp David. Violent protests continued until 2005 when Israel withdrew unilaterally from Gaza. In the 2006 Palestinian elections, Hamas won the majority of seats in parliament in a major political upset over Fatah, the dominant PLO faction. Amid disputes among the Palestinians, Hamas seized control of Gaza while Fatah led the West Bank government.



Hostility between Israel and Hamas flared into conflicts in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2021, 2022 and 2023. On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas launched cross-border raids in the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Israel's military response killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and destroyed more than half of Gaza's buildings.

Israel and Hezbollah

Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 forced thousands of Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) fighters to flee to other countries. This invasion and Israel's subsequent occupation of southern Lebanon sparked widespread anger among Lebanon's Shiite population. In response, Hezbollah was formed—a militia armed, trained, and supported by Iran. Initially operating covertly for a decade, Hezbollah emerged publicly in 1992 to participate in Lebanon's parliamentary elections.

Throughout the eighteen-year Israeli occupation, Hezbollah consistently attacked Israeli forces, employing tactics such as guerrilla warfare, rocket attacks, and suicide bombings. The relentless pressure from these attacks, including a significant number of suicide bombings, eventually compelled Israel to reconsider its position. In 2000, Israel decided to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. This withdrawal marked the first time Israel retreated from a conflict zone without securing a peace agreement, highlighting the significant impact of Hezbollah's sustained resistance.

At the time, then-Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin reflected, “Among the many surprises, and most of them not for the good, that came out of the war in Lebanon, the most dangerous is that the war let the Shiites out of the bottle. No one predicted it. I couldn't find any intelligence report.” He added, “In my opinion, the Shiites have the potential for a kind of terrorism that we have not yet experienced.”

In 2006, a cross-border raid by Hezbollah sparked a 34-day war with Israel. For all the death and destruction, Hezbollah was able to rearm and rebuild. By 2024, it had an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles pointed at Israel. After the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Hezbollah launched more than 700 rockets or missiles into northern Israel in the first three months—in sympathy with its Palestinian allies.

Israel and Iran

Israel and Iran had diplomatic and economic relations, including oil and arms dealings, until the monarchy was ousted in the 1979 revolution. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader, condemned Israel as an “enemy of Islam” and the “Little Satan” (while the United States was the “Great Satan”). Despite a back-channel arms deal with Israel during Iran's eight-year war with Iraq, tensions steadily escalated. After President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in 2005 that Israel should be wiped off the map, Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shimon countered in 2006, “The president of Iran should remember that Iran can also be wiped off the map.” Iran's threats persisted. In 2010, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted, “Israel is a hideous entity in the Middle East which will undoubtedly be annihilated.”

Tensions have played out, particularly over Tehran's support for militias in the Axis of Resistance. Iran helped create Hezbollah and helped it become the largest in the Middle East and one of the largest non-



state actors in the world. The Islamic Republic also armed and aided other militias—a collection of Shiite militias under the rubric of the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, local Muslim militias in Syria, both Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Palestinian Authority, and the Houthis in Yemen. All share the strategic objective of eliminating Israel.

The biggest flashpoint has been Iran's nuclear program as it advanced over the decades. For decades, Israeli leaders have vowed to stop or destroy it. Between 2010 and 2012, four nuclear physicists were assassinated in covert operations; the father of Iran's nuclear program was assassinated in 2020. Iran claimed Israeli agents were responsible. Israel was also reportedly complicit in the Stuxnet virus that infected and delayed Iran's centrifuge program in 2010. Key Israeli leaders opposed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal brokered by the world's six major powers and were pleased when President Trump abandoned it in 2018. In his address to the UN General Assembly in 2023, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed, "As long as I'm prime minister of Israel, I will do everything in my power to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons."

Three Houthi Wars in Yemen

The Houthi rebel movement emerged in the 1990s among a tribal Shiite sect committed to reviving cultural and religious traditions. After the Arab Spring uprising ended the 22-year rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen imploded politically. The civil war erupted in 2014 after Houthi insurgents seized Sanaa, the capital, and power from the government supported by neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The civil war went regional in 2015 when a Saudi-led coalition imposed an economic blockade of Yemen and launched massive airstrikes on Houthi-controlled areas. It supported the government that fled Sanaa. The conflict became a virtual proxy war between Saudi Arabia, a predominantly Sunni nation, and Iran, the largest Shiite country in the region, which had armed and aided the Houthis. The Saudi campaign continued into March 2023, when diplomacy led by Oman attempted to mediate a ceasefire. It stalled after the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

In October 2023, the Houthis launched a third front on commercial shipping in the Red Sea, a strategic waterway through which almost a third of international shipping passes en route to the Suez Canal. They claimed the drone and missile campaign was in support of their allies in Hamas, although the vast majority of ships targeted had no connections to Israel. The United States responded by mobilizing two international coalitions. Operation Prosperity Guardian is committed to protecting international shipping. Operation Poseidon Archer intercepted Houthi drones and missiles over the Red Sea and attacked their military sites in Yemen.

Iran Proxy Attacks on US Forces in Iraq, Syria, and Jordan

The United States continued to deploy military forces to contain the remnants of the Islamic State after it collapsed in Iraq (in 2017) and Syria (in 2019). The separate missions were to advise and assist local forces—the Iraqi military and the Syrian Democratic Forces. Various Iranian-backed proxies launched sporadic attacks aimed at forcing the United States to withdraw from both countries. The campaigns escalated after the outbreak of the war in Gaza in October 2023. Between October and January 2024, the militias attacked US forces more than 160 times—more than 90 on multiple US positions in Syria and more than 60 on multiple US positions in Iraq.



The campaign opened on a new front on Jan. 28, 2024, when a member of Iran's Axis of Resistance launched a drone on a US outpost in Jordan, along the border abutting Syria and Iraq. Three Americans were killed and more than 40 injured. They were the first Americans killed under fire in the Middle East since the beginning of the Gaza war. The Biden administration blamed the Axis of Resistance and vowed retribution.

Iran and the United States

Tensions between Washington and Tehran date back to the 1979 revolution, which transformed Iran from a U.S.-backed monarchy into an anti-American theocracy. Hostilities peaked in November 1979 with the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran, where 52 US diplomats were held hostage for 444 days. The crisis was triggered by the Carter administration's decision to admit the ousted Shah for medical treatment, fueling Iranian fears of a repeat of the 1953 U.S.-backed coup.

Over the decades, Iran developed a network of militias to attack American targets, increasing the costs of U.S. involvement in the Middle East. The 1982 bombing of U.S. Marine peacekeepers in Lebanon by Hezbollah, trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, marked a significant escalation. US-Iranian relations further deteriorated when the Reagan administration supported Iraq during the Iran-Iraq War and after the 1988 downing of an Iran Air passenger plane by the US Vincennes, killing all 290 aboard.

Attempts to defuse tensions from the mid-1990s to mid-2010s included various overtures and the 2015 nuclear deal, which limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting sanctions. However, tensions resurfaced in 2018 when President Trump withdrew from the deal and imposed extensive sanctions. In 2020, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani by the U.S. led to Iranian retaliation and heightened conflict.

In 2021, President Biden sought to revive the nuclear deal, but negotiations stalled. By 2023, estimates suggested Iran could rapidly develop a nuclear bomb if it chose to. Following the outbreak of war in Gaza in October 2023, Iranian-backed militias escalated attacks on U.S. targets in the Middle East, culminating in a significant drone attack on a U.S. outpost in Jordan in January 2024, which killed three American soldiers and injured over 40, prompting President Biden to vow military retaliation. This marked a peak in US-Iran hostilities, impacting broader regional conflicts.

Russo-Ukraine Conflicts

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, marked a dramatic escalation of the eight-year-old conflict that began with Russia's annexation of Crimea and signified a historic turning point for European security. A year after the fighting began, many defense and foreign policy analysts cast the war as a major strategic blunder by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Prior to the invasion, there had already been eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian Government forces and Russia-backed separatists.



This paper provides a timeline of the major events that happened in the conflict in Ukraine from the 2014 annexation of Crimea to the eve of the 2022 Russian invasion.

Toward the end of February 2014, unidentified military figures, later confirmed to be Russian personnel, surrounded the airports in Crimea, a majority-Russian peninsula in Ukraine. The Crimean Autonomous Assembly was then seized by pro-Russian forces.

Since then, Russia has maintained its control over Crimea and supported pro-Russian separatist forces who also took control of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine (the Donbas) in 2014.

Fighting between Russian-supported separatists and Ukrainian government forces has continued in the Donbas for the last eight years despite the negotiation of the Minsk Agreements in 2014/2015 which called for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, and constitutional reform recognising the special status of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflicts

An area with a lengthy and intricate history, Nagorno-Karabakh is tucked away in the Caucasus highlands. Its majority ethnic Armenian population has long harboured animosity toward neighbouring Azerbaijan, which has an Azeri majority. This long-simmering conflict has burst into full-fledged conflicts, forcing thousands of people to flee and inflicting lasting damage on both sides. The Soviet era sowed the seeds of the conflict. Despite having an Armenian population, Nagorno-Karabakh was administratively included in Soviet Azerbaijan in 1921. This decision, which was made allegedly for political reasons in the area, led to unrest. The 1980s saw an increase in tensions due to growing calls for autonomy from Armenia. Violent skirmishes broke out in 1988 as Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian population pushed to be united with Armenia.

The situation worsened as the Soviet Union fell apart in the early 1990s into a major conflict. Driven by intense nationalistic feelings, both parties participated in a violent battle that lasted for six years. Thousands of people were displaced and there were significant casualties from the fighting. Following the signing of a ceasefire deal in 1994, Armenian forces remained in charge of Nagorno-Karabakh and the neighbouring Azeri regions. The underlying conflict was not resolved by the ceasefire agreement that was mediated in 1994. The talks towards a long-term agreement were at a standstill for many years. There were intermittent battles along the line of contact, and the area remained highly militarised. The international world made vain attempts to mediate a peaceful resolution, notably through the OSCE Minsk Group, which was co-chaired by the United States, France, and Russia.

There was heavy combat again in September 2020. Each side accused the other of starting the conflict. The conflict featured the use of heavy weapons, including drones, and seriously damaged infrastructure owned by civilians. Azerbaijan was actively supported by Turkey, whereas Armenia was dependent on its long-standing ally, Russia. A truce mediated by Russia brought an end to the six-week conflict and allowed Azerbaijan to retake control of several key areas, notably the strategically vital city of Shusha. Land that Armenia had possessed since the first conflict had to be given up.



The 2020 conflict had a profound effect on the area. Many more were displaced, and thousands of people lost their lives. The devastation of infrastructure and the upheaval of social and economic life are still evidence of the war's aftereffects. Tensions are still high despite the cease-fire. There is still disagreement about the status of Nagorno-Karabakh and what will happen to its Armenian citizens. Russian peacekeeping troops' participation in the region adds another layer of complexity.

Afghanistan-Taliban Conflict

Afghanistan has experienced decades of conflict, significantly shaped by the rise and resurgence of the Taliban. The 1979 Soviet invasion set the stage for ongoing turmoil, with the U.S. and other nations supporting the mujahideen against Soviet control. Following the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, civil war ensued among mujahideen factions.

Emerging from this chaos, the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic group, promised stability and strict adherence to Islamic law, seizing control by the mid-1990s. Their rule, marked by harsh Sharia interpretations, exacerbated the Afghan people's suffering and intensified the refugee crisis.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, toppling the Taliban for harboring al-Qaeda after the 9/11 attacks. Despite installing a new government, the U.S.-led war persisted, with the Taliban regrouping in Pakistan and launching an insurgency. The protracted conflict caused significant casualties and suffering, displacing millions of Afghans and creating a major refugee crisis, particularly in Pakistan and Iran.

As of 2024, over 3.2 million Afghans are internally displaced, lacking basic necessities. Pakistan hosts around 3.5 million Afghan refugees, many in camps with limited opportunities, while Iran shelters approximately 1.5 million, facing similar challenges.

In August 2021, the Taliban rapidly captured key cities, prompting many Afghans to flee. Despite the Taliban's promises of more moderate rule, skepticism remains, especially among women and minorities. The uncertainty and fear of persecution deter refugees from returning, as Afghanistan's security and prospects for peace remain fragile.

The international community, regional parties, and the Taliban must collaborate to ensure Afghan refugees' safety and well-being and work towards a peaceful resolution. Achieving stability requires investing in rehabilitation projects, providing opportunities for refugees, and fostering dialogue, necessitating sustained international commitment and genuine efforts for peace.



India-Pakistan Conflicts

The Indian subcontinent was severely scarred by the violent partition of British India in 1947 on the basis of religion, leaving a legacy of relocation and violence that still influences ties between the two countries. This essay examines the main conflicts that India and Pakistan have fought, as well as the catastrophic refugee crises that have followed them.

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim area headed by a Hindu Maharaja, is at the center of the conflict. Due to the ambiguity created by the partition process, Pakistan was able to sponsor incursions that resulted in the first Indo-Pakistani War (1947–1948). This war, a brutal struggle for control of Kashmir, ended in a stalemate, solidifying a Line of Control (LOC) that continues to divide the region today.

Conflicts continued to be fanned by the struggle for control over Kashmir. Pakistani attempts to invade Kashmir ignited the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, which also ended inconclusively. But in the 1971 conflict, which was also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War, India emerged victorious and Bangladesh was established. Although the dispute over East Pakistan was settled as a result of this war, tensions over Kashmir persisted.

There was bloodshed during these conflicts. Significant refugee flows were brought about by each battle, posing enormous humanitarian concerns. The most catastrophic event was the partition itself, which resulted in the projected displacement of 10-15 million people and the horrible deaths of 1-2 million people. Subsequent wars, though on a smaller scale, also led to displacement, with the 1971 war seeing a mass exodus of refugees from East Pakistan to India.

The human cost of the hostilities was increased by the refugee crisis. Numerous refugees struggled to start over after losing their homes and means of support and experiencing the psychological effects of being uprooted. The region's social and economic well-being is impacted by these effects, which are carried down through the generations.

The carnage caused by rebel activities supported by Pakistan is fueling the unsolved Kashmir conflict, which remains a long-lasting shadow. Relationships are further strained by cross-border terrorism, as the horrifying 2008 Mumbai attacks demonstrated. The hostile environment hinders economic growth and interferes with the daily lives of regular people.

There have been initiatives to pave the way for peace despite the depressing story. The groundwork for a dialogue-based resolution of the Kashmir dispute was established by the Simla Agreement (1972). While several rounds of peace talks have been held, a lasting solution remains elusive. Limited confidence-building measures like ceasefire agreements exist, but violations are a persistent concern.

Israel-Palestine Conflicts

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate



of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Following the 1956 Suez Crisis and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defense pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilization of Israeli troops. In June 1967, following a series of maneuvers by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel preemptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Six years later, in what is referred to as the Yom Kippur War or the October War, Egypt, and Syria launched a surprise two-front attack on Israel to regain their lost territory; the conflict did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, but Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared the war a victory for Egypt as it allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. Finally, in 1979, following a series of cease-fires and peace negotiations, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel.

Even though the Camp David Accords improved relations between Israel and its neighbors, the question of Palestinian self-determination and self-governance remained unresolved. In 1987, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip rose against the Israeli government in what is known as the first intifada. The 1993 Oslo I Accords mediated the conflict, setting up a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves in the West Bank and Gaza, and enabled mutual recognition between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. In 1995, the Oslo II Accords expanded on the first agreement, adding provisions that mandated the complete withdrawal of Israel from 6 cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

In 2000, sparked in part by Palestinian grievances over Israel's control over the West Bank, a stagnating peace process, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque—the third holiest site in Islam—in September 2000, Palestinians launched the second intifada, which would last until 2005. In response, the Israeli government approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank in 2002, despite opposition from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

Factionalism among the Palestinians flared up when Hamas won the Palestinian Authority's parliamentary elections in 2006, deposing longtime majority party Fatah. This gave Hamas, a political and militant movement inspired by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, control of the Gaza Strip. Gaza is a small piece of land on the Mediterranean Sea that borders Egypt to the south and has been under the rule of the semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority since 1993. The United States and European Union, among others, did not acknowledge Hamas' electoral victory, as the group has been considered a terrorist organization by Western governments since the late 1990s. Following Hamas' seizure of control,



violence broke out between Hamas and Fatah. Between 2006 and 2011, a series of failed peace talks and deadly confrontations culminated in an agreement to reconcile. Fatah entered into a unity government with Hamas in 2014.

In the summer of 2014, clashes in the Palestinian territories precipitated a military confrontation between the Israeli military and Hamas in which Hamas fired nearly three thousand rockets at Israel, and Israel retaliated with a major offensive in Gaza. The skirmish ended in late August 2014 with a cease-fire deal brokered by Egypt, but only after 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians were killed. After a wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in 2015, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah announced that Palestinians would no longer be bound by the territorial divisions created by the Oslo Accords.

In March 2018, Israeli troops killed 183 Palestinians and wounded 6,000 others after some Palestinians stormed the perimeter fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and threw rocks during an otherwise peaceful demonstration. Just months later, Hamas militants fired over one hundred rockets into Israel, and Israel responded with strikes on more than fifty targets in Gaza during a twenty-four-hour flare-up. The tense political atmosphere resulted in a return to disunity between Fatah and Hamas, with Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party controlling the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank and Hamas de facto ruling the Gaza Strip.

The Donald J. Trump administration reversed longstanding U.S. policy by canceling funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, which provides aid to Palestinian refugees, and relocating the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Trump administration also helped broker the Abraham Accords, under which Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates normalized relations with Israel, becoming only the third and fourth countries in the region—following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994—to do so. Similar deals followed with Morocco and Sudan. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah rejected the accords, as did Hamas.

In early May 2021, after a court ruled in favor of the eviction of several Palestinian families from East Jerusalem properties, protests erupted, with Israeli police employing force against demonstrators. After several consecutive days of violence, Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza, and other Palestinian militant groups launched hundreds of rockets into Israeli territory. Israel responded with artillery bombardments and airstrikes, killing more than twenty Palestinians and hitting both military and non-military infrastructure, including residential buildings, media headquarters, and refugee and health-care facilities. After eleven days, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, with both sides claiming victory. The fighting killed more than 250 Palestinians and at least 13 Israelis, wounded nearly 2,000 others, and displaced 72,000 Palestinians.

The most far-right and religious government in Israel's history, led by Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu and his Likud party and comprising two ultra-Orthodox parties and three far-right parties, was inaugurated in late December 2022. The coalition government prioritized the expansion and development of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, endorsed discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on religious grounds, and voted to limit judicial oversight of the government in May 2023 after a delay due to nationwide protests in March.



Myanmar Civil War

Since gaining independence from British rule in 1948, Myanmar has grappled with effective governance in its multiethnic society. After a coup in 1962, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, has often held control, engaging in conflicts with ethnic minority groups fighting for self-determination.

The Rohingya, a highly persecuted Muslim group numbering over one million, face discrimination both from their neighbours and their nation, and are not considered citizens by Myanmar's government. Buddhist nationalist groups, including the MaBaTha and the anti-Muslim 969 movement, regularly call for boycotts of Muslim shops, the expulsion of Muslims from Myanmar, and attacks on Muslim communities. After two waves of violence, reprisals, and riots in June and October of 2012 intensified the century-old conflict in the predominantly Buddhist country, more than one hundred thousand Muslim Rohingyas were internally displaced and hundreds were killed.

Tensions between Buddhist and Muslim communities in Myanmar's Rakhine State escalated dramatically in August 2017. A series of attacks by a group of Rohingya militants calling itself the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on military and police outposts killed more than seventy people, including twelve Burmese security forces personnel. In response, the military launched a brutal crackdown on Rohingya villages, causing over seven hundred thousand people to flee across the border to Bangladesh since August 2017. Widespread reports indicate indiscriminate killings and burning of Rohingya villages, escalating to the point that the UN Human Rights Commissioner called the situation in Rakhine State “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.”

This outburst of violence by the military came after a similar attack on a security post along the Bangladeshi border in October 2016 killed nine police officers. The army responded to that attack with a month-long crackdown on unarmed Muslim civilians, causing more than a thousand civilian deaths and driving tens of thousands more to flee their homes in search of safety.

After winning Myanmar's first competitive national election in more than twenty-five years and taking office in March 2016, the National League for Democracy party—unofficially headed by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi—continually failed to address the status of the Rohingya people, who were not allowed to vote in the election. A national peace conference was held in August 2016, aimed at ending decades of fighting between the military and several armed ethnic groups, but Rohingya representatives were not invited to attend. That same month, Aung San Suu Kyi announced the creation of a nine-person commission, headed by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to review and offer recommendations to address the tensions in Rakhine. The commission delivered its final report in late August 2017, just days before the outbreak of violence in Rakhine.

In early February 2021, Myanmar's military carried out a coup, detaining senior leadership of the democratically-elected government, including de facto head of state Aung San Suu Kyi, and forcing other members of parliament into hiding. After seizing power, General Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of the ruling military junta, instituted a year-long state of emergency. Protests immediately began in the capital, Naypyidaw, following the coup and have continued for months, with protesters demanding the restoration of civilian rule and democratic governance. Security forces have repeatedly used lethal



force against protesters, including in late March when over one hundred people were killed in a single day; it is estimated that more than six hundred people have died since the protests began. The military junta also instituted curfews and other limitations on gatherings in an effort to curb the demonstrations. As a result of the coup, economic freefall has further compounded the inability of ethnic minorities discriminated against in Myanmar, including the Rohingya, to access basic services and necessities. Moreover, the current military regime in power is the same military that sanctioned and carried out waves of violence against the Rohingya in the past, including most recently in 2017. Since taking power, General Hlaing has also cast doubt on the right of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh to return.

Accepted Sources

Evidence or proofs from the following sources will accede as credible in the committee:

1. News Sources

a) REUTERS

Any Reuters article that mentions the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in the council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee. However, Reuters reports claiming to quote any individual affiliated in any manner to any government may not necessarily reflect the views of that government in totality. For example, at times the office-holding individuals venture out for lectures, talks, discussions, etc. wherein they tend to express things that are a contravention/extension of the policy they hold. So we need to take into consideration the time and space dimension of such views and also the chronology of what they spoke or what their government policy was posted before this. Thus, the Reuters report can be denied by any member state subject to their policy and it is only when the report is accepted by the government that it shall be admitted as persuasive proof.

b) State-Operated News Agencies

These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council.

2. Government Reports

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information.



3. UN Reports

All UN Reports are considered as credible information or evidence for the Executive Board.

Please note that under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>) Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>) or newspapers like The Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>), Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>) be accepted in the Council.

Questions To Be Answered

The following are questions that are expected to be answered during committee sessions:

The scale of displacement

How many people are currently displaced by conflict across the Middle East and Eurasia, with specific breakdowns by country, region, and demographics (women, children, elderly)?

Are there emerging displacement hotspots requiring immediate and prioritized assistance?

Humanitarian Needs Assessment

What are the most critical humanitarian needs facing displaced populations (food, water, shelter, healthcare, sanitation, education, psychosocial support)?

How do these needs vary across different demographics and locations within the region?

Are there specific needs of vulnerable groups within the displaced population that require targeted interventions (e.g., pregnant women, people with disabilities)?

Challenges to Delivery

What are the primary security risks and access limitations hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict zones?

How can bureaucratic hurdles and political instability be addressed to ensure timely and unimpeded aid delivery?

What strategies can be implemented to mitigate the risks faced by humanitarian personnel operating in conflict zones?

Innovative Strategies

What unconventional methods or technologies can be employed to deliver aid more efficiently, bypassing traditional channels or overcoming logistical obstacles?



How can collaboration between UN agencies, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector be fostered to improve the reach and effectiveness of humanitarian interventions?

Are there opportunities to leverage digital solutions (e.g., cash transfers, and remote healthcare consultations) to enhance aid delivery in the region?

The focus of the Committee

Protection of Civilians:

How can the UNHRC advocate for the safety and security of displaced individuals, particularly vulnerable groups, in the context of ongoing conflict?

What measures can be taken to hold warring parties accountable for upholding the principles of international humanitarian law and ensuring the protection of civilians?

Accountability and Monitoring:

How can the UNHRC establish mechanisms to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its intended beneficiaries and is not diverted for unintended purposes?

What strategies can be employed to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of humanitarian interventions on the ground?

Durable Solutions:

What long-term strategies can be implemented to support the sustainable recovery and reintegration of displaced populations into their communities?

How can the UNHRC contribute to addressing the root causes of conflict and displacement in the region to prevent future crises?

What role can the UNHRC play in supporting diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts to create a sustainable future for displaced people?



DOCUMENTATION

Position Paper

A position paper is a written document that outlines the stance, policies, and proposed solutions of a specific country or delegation on the agenda topics being discussed. It serves as a means for delegates to communicate their country's position and strategies to other participants in the simulation.

It typically includes an introduction that provides background information on the topic and highlights its significance. It then proceeds to present the country's perspective, outlining its main objectives, interests, and concerns related to the issue. Delegates often support their arguments with factual evidence, statistics, and references to international treaties or agreements.

A position paper suggests specific measures, policies, or actions that the delegation believes would address the problem effectively. These proposals may range from diplomatic negotiations to development programs, peacekeeping operations, or legal reforms.

Position Paper Format

Portfolio:

Committee:

School Name:

Agenda:

Paragraph One – Issue and Position

This paragraph serves to succinctly outline the key problems associated with the topic. Its purpose is to provide a basic understanding of the current situation. After introducing the issue, present your country's policy and explain why your country supports it. Keep this section concise, limiting it to five to six sentences.

Paragraph Two – Detailed Background Information

This paragraph allows you to demonstrate your in-depth knowledge of the historical and present contexts of the topic. Cover the following points:

- Origin of the problem, highlighting why it emerged.
- The issue's relevance to the international community and its global significance.
- Previous attempts to address the problem, if any.
- Assess successes and failures of past actions, providing reasons for their outcomes.
- Persisting problems or unresolved aspects related to the issue.

Devote a couple of sentences to each item on this list to ensure comprehensive coverage and set the stage for the final paragraph.



Paragraph Three – Proposed Solutions Regarding the Issue

This paragraph distinguishes your paper by presenting your unique solutions to the problems outlined in the previous paragraph. Emphasize the quality of your proposals as it influences the overall evaluation of your position paper. Discuss the following:

- Specific proposals to address particular issues.
- Implementation plans for each proposal, including their feasibility.
- The global impact of solving the problem or implementing the proposed solutions.

Ensure your position paper adheres to formatting guidelines, such as using a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman) with 12-point font size, 1-inch document margins, and not exceeding two pages.

INSERT SAMPLE PP PHOTO

Other Documents

Working Paper

A working paper is a preliminary document that delegates create to propose ideas, solutions, or strategies regarding a specific topic. It serves as a starting point for collaboration, discussion, and refinement before evolving into a draft resolution or an amendment during the conference.

Communique

A Communique is a formal written document issued by a committee or group of countries to convey their collective position, decisions, or recommendations on a specific issue. It summarises discussions, agreements, and proposed actions, serving as a means of communication and promoting dialogue among delegates.

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

Kindly note that the **submission deadline for position papers for this committee is July 31, 2024**. Upon completion of your position paper, it is requested that you please save the file as "Your Country Position Paper" and attach it to an email to be sent to the committee's designated email address. When composing the email's subject line, please include your country name along with the term "Position Paper." It is important to ensure that the subject of the email is formulated as follows:

(Country Name) - Position Paper

The email address for this committee: chair.unhrc@welhamboys.org

