

KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2021

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

To help facilitate broader understanding of international issues facing the UN, our KUNA Secretaries General and their Presiding Officer teams have published the Secretary General's Agenda.

The Secretary General's Agenda is a list of international issues organized using the 6 Main Committees* of the UN General Assembly (www.un.org/en/ga):

- **First Committee | Disarmament & International Security**
Concerned with disarmament and related international security questions
- **Second Committee | Economic & Financial**
Concerned with economic questions
- **Third Committee | Social, Humanitarian, & Cultural**
Deals with social and humanitarian issues
- **Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization**
Deals with a variety of political subjects
- **Fifth Committee | Administration & Budgetary**
Deals with the administration and budget of the UN
- **Sixth Committee | Legal**
Deals with international legal matters

Each issue includes a one-page briefing:

- **Background on Issue**
Summary and background information on the issue
- **Questions to Address in Resolutions**
Guiding questions/problems that any resolutions on the issue should look to answer/solve
- **Sources for Research**
Links to research, articles, and other resources for your delegations

HOW TO USE THE AGENDA

- The best way to use the Agenda is to review each issue and explore whether your countries have taken a position on any of them (or has a vested interest in addressing an issue).
- While multiple countries may address the same issue in their resolutions, each country will likely have a different answer or solution to the problems that must be addressed.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA FAQ

Do our countries have to write resolutions on these topics?

These topics are not mandatory (only recommended by your KUNA Presiding Officers), nor are they tied to awards, but these topics will be taken into account by each Secretary General when determining which resolutions they choose to endorse, and which resolution they choose as Secretary General's Choice for the final session of General Assembly.

Does the Agenda take a position on an issue?

The agenda does not take positions on issues (or endorse any solutions), but provides "Questions to Address in Resolutions" so countries can research their own positions when drafting their resolutions.

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Prepared by your **2021 KUNA Presiding Officers**

Position	HS KUNA 1	HS KUNA 2	HS KUNA 3
Secretary General	Jeremy Faulhaber	Levy Deckard	Demos Negash
Pres. of the UN GA	Dane Larsen	Isabella Logsdon	Zoë Jenkins
Deputy Sec. General	Isaiah Pruitt	Caleb McClellan	Liliana Price
Sec. Council Pres.	Amy Yang	Trace Noel	Norah Wulkoph
ICJ President	Sarah Burbank	Allie Viney	Lily Hamilton
ICJ President	Sabrina Ward	Eleanor Ickes	***
Editor-in-Chief	Kristopher Paige	Bethany Houchin	Olivia Bohler

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Biosecurity

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Lily Hamilton, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Biosecurity is an analytical approach to managing and preventing biological risks to humans, crops, and wildlife and their environmental impact. Because of the increased prevalence of biological warfare, a strong biosecurity system has become essential in modern legislation. In the past year, countries have seen the effects viruses like COVID-19 can have on human health. Thus, a well-structured plan with clear legal policy for the management and prevention of biosecurity threats has never been more necessary.

Major concerns stem from bioterrorism, or the deliberate release of bacteria or viruses for the purpose of harming humans, animals, or plants. Due to the advancements in synthetic biology— research conducted to expand upon or invent new biological systems— the severity and probability of international biosecurity threats becoming a reality is increasing. The ease with which researchers could manufacture and/or modify biological agents, most notably Ebola, anthrax, or smallpox, is cause for concern, especially considering the rate at which modern transportation systems could amplify the spread of dangerous pathogens. Because of this, it is clear that the weaponization of biological agents has greater potential to cause serious damage to the health of humans and other organic materials than ever before.

In 2001, a letter containing anthrax, an easily-found, harmful bacterial agent, was sent through the U.S. postal service, infecting twenty-two individuals, five of whom died. On a larger scale, acts of bioterrorism like this, aided by the exponential advancement of biological technology, could be catastrophic across the globe. Considering the impact of COVID-19 in the past year, concern for biological warfare with deadlier viruses or bacteria cannot be understated. Without measures taken to prevent biological warfare and clear protocol in place to reduce the impact of any outbreaks that result if biosecurity is threatened, the UN is leaving countries open to potential biological threats.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the UN enstate guidelines to prevent bioterrorism?
2. What protocol should be in place if there is a clear breach of biosecurity?
3. What disciplinary steps should be taken if a country fails to follow UN biosafety guidelines? 4.
4. Can the UN hold the scientific community responsible for containing information found through synthetic biology studies?
5. How can preventative measures such as vaccine research be integrated into scientific practices?
6. What can the UN do to mitigate the impact of a potential outbreak as a result of bioterrorism?

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First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Post-Soviet Tensions in The Caucasus (Georgia, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Kristopher Paige, Editor-in-Chief | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The modern dissolution of federations has, historically, caused massive regional strife between the succeeding states that form following said dissolution; the breakdown of Yugoslavia and of the Soviet Union stand as the two most violent examples in the past three decades. The breakdown of Yugoslavia in the 90s resulted in bitter ethno-religious conflicts engulfing the Balkans, conflicts that affect the region even today, in the form of poverty, corruption and general social unrest. Likewise, in the ensuing decades following the collapse of the Soviet Union, numerous secession and independence wars arose, namely in the respective nations of Chechnya, Ukraine, Ossetia, and, most recently, in Nagorno-Karabakh, a contested Caucasian region between Armenia and Azerbaijan. These conflicts range in causes, from long-brewing ethnic tensions breaking, to struggles for political autonomy, to religious clashes. Beyond these dissolution conflicts, however, the Caucasus region (named for the mountains of the same name that sit between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea) is also struggling with foreign intervention into political affairs, with countries like Turkey and Iran attempting to bring the Caucasus region into their sphere of influence. The influence of extremist Islam has also begun to take hold in nations such as Chechnya.

The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, specifically, is the most alarming example of tensions breaking in the region, since the territorial contests of the inhabiting nations have not been settled formally. In the future, further conflicts could arise unless diplomatic solutions are reached in assemblies such as the UN.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the nations of Caucasia address their ethno-religious differences diplomatically?
2. What is the most effective method of settling territorial disputes?
3. What previous attempts have there been of settling disputes in the region; how effective have they been?

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Second Committee | Economic & Financial

Sustainable Development

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Demos Negash, Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

As the global population soars toward record levels of consumption and population growth, questions regarding the ability to maintain these levels have been raised. The transformation of global society in the 21st century has come at the price of profound ecological damage, labor and financial exploitation, and erosion in trust of numerous institutions. According to Purvis et al. (2019) in the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, drastic change is necessary to preserve millions of species in the near term. In order to preserve future horizons for generations to come, the need for sustainable development deepens with the dawn of every day.

Sustainable development is not an unknown paradigm; the concept has evolved over time. For centuries, scholars have recognized the link between population growth, human consumption of natural resources, and depletion of said resources. Although scholars and economists predicted technology would assume the mitigator role in the consequential impacts on humans, the unprecedented levels of concurrent technological innovation and environmental degradation speaks for itself. Sustainable development constructs a framework for a policy agenda that works for the future of the world population by meeting their needs without jeopardizing ecosystems and the world's finite resources. Agreements and mission goals have already been set by all individual continents, displaying a worldwide concern. Although continents have taken localized steps to work towards a more sustainable future, organized international cooperation is pivotal to make impactful, long-lasting change.

The United Nations has taken steps to transition to a sustainable future through the implementation in 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The seventeen goals set priorities for the world to mobilize towards a more sustainable future. These goals range from ending poverty to advocating for inclusive societies. One hundred ninety-three countries from across the globe have made efforts to take localized action within their respective terrains. For example, in Angola, Ethiopia, and South Africa, steps have been taken to popularize the SDGs among the private sector and government officials. Building upon these goals, ambitious steps are still required across the globe in order to achieve a feasible future that allows later generations to tackle the world's greatest problems.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the UN ensure the developing world does not lack barriers to sustainable development?
2. What policy mechanisms can simultaneously accelerate economic growth and sustainable development?
3. How should the UN's parameters for sustainable development be defined for member states to follow?
4. Should member states be penalized for unsustainable resource consumption?
5. Through what approaches should the UN incentivize investment in sustainable development in member states?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

- Mensah, B. (2019). Sustainable development: Meaning, history, principles, pillars, and implications for human actions: Literature review. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 5(1), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2019.1653531>
- UNDP Africa. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Goals*. <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>
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Second Committee | Economic & Financial

International Trade and Development

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Levy Deckard, Secretary-General | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Trade has remained a steady facet of human civilization since the age of the bartering system. In the modern era, with technology enabling a new age of information and globalization, the international community has the ability to be more interconnected than ever.

After World War II, the General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs (GATT) was created in the first conference of the United Nations. The legal agreement was intended to promote international trade by eliminating the trade barriers of tariffs and quotas. In 1995, the GATT became the World Trade Organization (WTO), maintaining the same intentions of promoting trade without barriers.

Sustainable Development Goal 10 of the United Nations is “Reduced inequalities,” and the United Nations has recognized the World Trade Organization as fundamental in reducing income disparities. Without the barriers of tariffs, a greater flow of goods and services can aid in the development of countries without access to necessary resources. However, trade also is accompanied by negative repercussions. Extensive use of fossil fuels to transport goods and services between countries contributes to the ongoing climate crisis. Battles for exclusivity between the resources traded by countries have produced international tensions such as seen in the South China Sea. Free trade agreements can also have adverse effects on the working conditions of underdeveloped countries. As governments take steps to reduce regulations protecting workers to improve economic output, workers are forced to endure long hours while receiving minimal pay. According to an article published in the New York Times by Steven Greenhouse and Michael Barbaro, “Some foreign workers in Jordanian factories that produce garments for Target, Wal-Mart and other American retailers are complaining of dismal conditions – of 20 hour days, of not being paid for months, and of being hit by supervisors and jailed when they complain.” While free trade is generally beneficial for the economies of all countries involved, it is often accompanied by job loss. According to a statement from Robert Azevêdo, the director-general of the WTO, “Trade is responsible for two job losses out of ten. What happens is the other eight are lost not because of trade but they are lost because of new technologies, innovation, higher productivity.”

While free trade can serve as a tool to aid the development of underdeveloped countries, it is often the case that agreements are accompanied by many unintended consequences. As such, it has become the responsibility of the United Nations to consider how trade should be carried out between countries while reducing the adverse effects of free trade on the environment, working conditions, and individual economies.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. To what extent, if at all, does the United Nations have a responsibility in facilitating free trade between countries?
2. Should the United Nations promote international trade agreements to foster the economic development of countries that lack access to basic resources, or is the exclusivity of trade agreements harmful to the global economy?
3. Should the United Nations impose tariffs on countries impeding the ability of others to carry out free trade?
4. What steps should the United Nations take to improve the sustainability of international trade?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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Trade and the environment: How are trade and environmental sustainability compatible? Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Retrieved December 13, 2020, from <https://www.oecd.org/trade/topics/trade-and-the-environment/>

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Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Rise of Misinformation and COVID-19

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Zoë Jenkins, POTUNGA | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

With more and more of us on social media platforms, and a drive of corporations to generate ad revenue by hooking users, we have seen a dangerous rise in misinformation. While it started with heavy-buzzword articles claiming to cure diseases with ludicrous remedies, it has since taken a more sinister turn to influence our politics and beliefs. At its essence, creators of misinformation prey on our human instinct to confirm our own beliefs, driving people towards extremes of the spectrum. Although most people who share misinformation do not do so intentionally, it continues to perpetuate and escalate viewpoints that not only lead to division but also violence -- especially against already marginalized groups.

We have seen the direct role of purposeful misinformation in the 2016 Brexit vote and U.S. Election. Cambridge Analytica, a UK data firm, acquired the private data of tens of millions of Facebook users, allowing them to develop misleading social media campaigns to manipulate the opinions of millions. The company utilized this data not only to influence Brexit and the 2016 U.S. Election but also numerous foreign elections, notably in the Caribbean. We have seen similar spirals of misinformation in the wake of the 2020 U.S. Election with conspiracy theories of QAnon believers, which has caused numerous arrests as people act violently based on those beliefs. The conspiracy theory has also been credited with hijacking the child trafficking issue.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only amplified the issue of misinformation as many around the world have been exposed to news outlets scapegoating minority ethnic groups for the spread of the virus, or denying its existence altogether. We have seen a spike in violence against Chinese and Muslim people all around the world due to a rise in disinformation regarding these groups. Misinformation about the existence or nature of COVID-19 has fueled many to disregard social distancing and mask orders, contributing to a surge in its spread and deaths resulting from the virus.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the United Nations help combat misinformation on social media platforms?
2. How can the United Nations support efforts to require fact-checking for internet sources?
3. What steps can the United Nations take to reduce political and social turmoil occurring as a result of misinformation?
4. How can the United Nations help citizens spot misinformation?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Anderson, Janna; Raine, Lee. (October 19 2017). *The Future of Truth and Misinformation Online*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/10/19/the-future-of-truth-and-misinformation-online/>

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Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Death Penalty

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Jeremy Faulhaber, Secretary-General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

The death penalty is still legal in 53 countries including the United States, China, Egypt, and Iran. While some may see capital punishment as a fair and reasonable punishment, in many countries, it is being used unjustly.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (part of the International Bill of Rights) specifically states that the death penalty shall not be used on convicts under the age of eighteen. Despite this, juveniles can be found on death row in many countries around the world. Iran is the most prominent of these countries. According to a United Nations report, 160 juveniles were on death row in 2014. 73 executions of juvenile offenders were recorded by Amnesty International between January 2005 and November 2015. It is believed that the real number of executions is much higher because many death row cases go unreported.

In January 2016, Saudi Arabia executed at least four juveniles in a mass execution of 47 people. One of the four was arrested while in school and tortured into falsely confessing to involvement in anti-government protests. Three other Saudi juveniles were executed in 2012 after being tortured into falsely confessing to taking part in pro-democracy protests.

The death penalty for children under the age of eighteen has generally been abandoned in most countries around the world, however, seven countries have been known to execute underage convicts since 1990: China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

The death penalty is also used to discriminate against minorities, especially in the United States. The only crime that can lead to capital punishment in the states is murder. 75% of murders include white victims. Sophisticated studies have shown there has been biasing in almost all white-victim cases, and defendants have been more likely to be sentenced to death for the murder of a white person. The Supreme Court considered the issue of racial bias in the death penalty, however, they decided that the studies alone could not provide enough proof of racial discrimination.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. What punishments should be given to governments that unjustly use the death penalty?
2. Can the death penalty be legal without being used in corrupt ways?
3. Should there be limitations as to how many people can be killed in each country?
4. How can the UN enforce just use of capital punishment?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Center, D. P. I. (2019, September 26). Executions of Juveniles Outside of the U.S. Death Penalty Information Center. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/policy-issues/juveniles/execution-of-juveniles-outside-of-the-u-sCenter>

D. P. I. (2020, October 22). Race. Death Penalty Information Center. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/policy-issues/raceWebb>

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Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Spike in Abuse as a Result of COVID-19

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Liliana Price, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

As we crest into the one-year anniversary of COVID-19, the vast majority of citizens across the globe have been in quarantine for anywhere from 3-12 months. There has been a seemingly significant spike in awareness of mental health, privilege, and even social injustice in households. However an issue that affects millions of adults and children each year is left unaddressed: abuse in the home. Your home becomes your entire world when in quarantine. What if you cannot find comfort in your home? What can you do when you have no other option but to be in a place that does not feel safe for 24 hours a day? All access to help and additional resources have been abruptly halted for people, of all ages, affected by this issue. The CDC reports that "stay-at-home order[s] can force victims to stay in dangerous situation[s]".

The Coronavirus and its drastic impacts are still in process, so many organizations worry about dramatic spikes in both domestic and child abuse during this prolonged period of uncertainty and isolation. Even previous to COVID-19, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experienced domestic abuse in their lifetime. Additionally, the CDC reports 1 in 7 children experiencing child abuse and neglect in 2019; "rates of child abuse and neglect are five times higher for children in families with low socio-economic status compared to children in families with higher socio-economic status". The global pandemic has left each country responding to it in varying degrees of financial assistance and available helpline programs. With the status of the global economy depressing as a result of the pandemic, families are left in generally worse financial circumstances than in years preceding COVID-19; this precarious situation further raises the question, how much has child and domestic abuse increased in the average home during quarantine? The issue of abuse at home was already a global problem demanding the attention of the United Nations, and the isolating effects of quarantine have only significantly heightened it, with a complete lack of programs, information, or assistance for victims who need help in these situations.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the United Nations provide tangible resources to the people across country borders?
2. How can scientific data collection to uncover the true increase of this issue be conducted?
3. What role should the United Nations play in addressing this demanding problem?
4. Is there a country that has a functioning program the United Nations could model and implement in all member nations?
5. What are some possible solutions to spiking abuse in the home that can be feasibly implemented globally?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Abramson, A. (2020, April 8). How COVID-19 may increase domestic violence and child abuse. Retrieved January 10, 2021, from <https://www.apa.org/topics/covid-19/domestic-violence-child-abuse>

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Ethnic Civil Wars

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Dane Larsen, President of the UN General Assembly | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The United Nations was initially created in an attempt to limit the violence between member countries. However, taking the objective of world peace, it must be the UN's utmost priority to intervene in Civil Wars in countries previously colonized. Neocolonialism is a threat to cultures around the world, but no other continent is affected more than Africa.

The Berlin Conference of 1884 reflected the superiority of Europe at the time technologically. Also known as the Scramble for Africa, the main powers of the world including Germany, Britain, and France, among others, portioned the regions of Africa more or less equally for the sake of colonialism. Militaries waltzed in with weaponry and took over the land of indigenous ethnic groups in an attempt to take advantage of the available workforce and strip the continent of its natural resources for profit in the Mother country. The division of the World's largest continent was done with no regard to the territories of each of the over 3,000 ethnic groups that call Africa home.

As a result of this, groups that previously had altercations before the arrival of the European powers in the late 19th century were forced to work and be grouped together with the same citizenship and shared land.

Even after the last colony to gain its independence, Djibouti (French Somaliland) in 1977, created their own government, the country was too far gone. Their economies were dependent on European markets, and therefore the term 'independent' only went so far. Far more important than the economy though, multiple wars were brewing even when the countries were wrongly owned, mobilizing the militaries of the European powers. The blueprint for political and cultural unrest was there before independence was gained.

Even today these effects are present. During a global pandemic, economic crashes, and the most effective medicine and technology ever, African nations are experiencing Civil Wars that the world is not nearly educated about enough. With ethnic groups being militarized, overthrowing governments, and resenting each other rather than the European nations that drew up this conflict, it is necessary for the UN to step in and stabilize the region.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. In what ways can the UN minimize the devastation in war-torn countries?
2. What efforts can be made to erase the effects of the Berlin Conference?
3. To what extent is the UN obligated to reverse the evils of the past?
4. Should a new refugee system be created specifically for Ethnic Wars in Africa?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Political Autonomy

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Allie Viney, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Political autonomy is achieved when a group of people or a territory is self-governing, or not under the control of an external government or authority. For example, the United States has full political autonomy; they are an independent state and not controlled by a higher government. All throughout history, territories around the world have struggled to gain independence and autonomy due to various conflicts. However in the past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, political movements for autonomy have lost momentum due to the declining economies and motivations of the advocates. Questions have also been raised about the extent to which the government has the right to discourage these protestors, particularly ones who are peaceful.

A prime example of both of these issues is the political movement for autonomy in Hong Kong, China. In the past, Hong Kong's youth, teachers, and young parents have protested in the streets for political autonomy from China. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, their numbers have diminished from hundreds of thousands (sometimes over a million) to only thousands of protestors. Additionally, increased security laws and police presence has scared many of Hong Kong's citizens into staying at home. Police have responded to even peaceful protests with water cannons and pepper spray, making peaceful activists feel that the cost of protesting is too high. Even on social media, protestors began deleting pro-autonomy content in fear of the security laws, which give China the right to impose laws punishing any "acts and activities" that threaten national security.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What are the positive and negative impacts of your country supporting political autonomy for regions within or outside of its control?
2. How could your country support or deter political movements for autonomy during the pandemic?
3. What economic and political impacts will a region's autonomy have on the world?
4. To what extent does your country have the right to discourage protestors, particularly peaceful ones?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Labor Exploitation

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Sarah Burbank, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Beginning in the 1400's, the European powers of the world began competing on a massive scale to expand their economic pursuits to new reaches. From Africa to South America, indigenous people were slaughtered, natural resources were plundered, and human beings were similarly commodified. Much of the world was colonized, to serve as economic wells of raw materials, as well as pawns in various geopolitical struggles. This came at the great cost of a lack of political, religious, and economic sovereignty for much of the world. Over the past 300 years we have seen the difficult process of decolonization, hard won by the native peoples of the world. This reign of terror was quickly replaced by economic imperialism- a type of quasi-colonialism, in which the power dynamic is economic as opposed to starkly political.

The modern economy runs imperialism- the economic subjugation of former colonial states for the good of first world profiteers. We see this dynamic in all aspects of our now globalized economy. First world corporations export their production to foreign countries wherein labor regulations are lax or nonexistent- thereby increasing profit to the harm of the peoples displaced and forced into subpar working positions, domestically and abroad. In a new form of colonialism, equally as insidious as the last, nations find themselves unable to enforce labor regulations to avoid precious jobs being exported elsewhere, or unable to enforce said regulations when faced with a lack of political infrastructure often found in newly developing nations coupled with the enormous capital available to impose the will of enormous corporations.

This invisible abuse is unavoidable in the first world economy. Every product from clothing to produce to seafood to electronics was likely made in part with slave wages or indeed actual slavery. If nations are to decolonize successfully and build economies that benefit their citizenry, not global corporations, we must internationally collaborate to develop rigorous labor standards and enforce them strenuously.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. How are workers exploited in my country
2. How can labor regulations be better enforced in my country?
3. How does my country benefit from or depend upon labor exploitation?
4. How can my country create ethical sources of labor?

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Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Sexual Exploitation in the UN Peacekeepers

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Caleb McClellan, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

The unprecedented pace of U.N. peacekeeping operations over the past 10 years has revealed serious flaws that need to be addressed. Sexual assault in Peacekeepers and other UN personnel around the world recent years has been a particular problem. In extreme cases, such as in Haiti, more than 100 United Nations (UN) peacekeepers ran a child sex ring over a 10-year period and none were ever jailed, or held accountable.

Over the previous 12 years there had been almost 2,000 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation and Peacekeepers and other UN personnel around the world, with a disproportionate effect of the exploitation falling upon impoverished communities, such as in Somalia Haiti, and Mozambique. In Mozambique in particular, it was found that in 6 out of 12 country studies on sexual exploitation of children in situations of armed conflict prepared for the present report, the arrival of peacekeeping troops has been associated with a rapid rise in child prostitution. Corruption in peacekeepers has not been strictly sexual assault, for example, officers in the police unit in Haiti extorted money from daily paid workers. On a separate occasion, local staff at the UN mission in Kosovo were forced to pay bribes to UN staff to secure employment.

It is important to ask ourselves, what effect does a heavily militarized force have on an already heavily militarized area. If the demonstration of force so often becomes the threat of force, or the use of force upon the very people we seek to protect, what peace are we keeping? When 6 in every 7 peacekeepers are soldiers, what message are we sending? What is a military force where 90-95% of training goes towards learning how to fill in forms, recognize mines, pilot vehicles, and perform administrative duty, as opposed to the very little remaining time left on intercultural relations, human rights, consequences of violence, or issues of power, really set up to accomplish? The peacekeepers do good, and according to a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, it is eight times more cost effective for countries such as the U.S. to financially support a UN Peacekeeping mission than to deploy U.S. military forces. Regardless of the good they do, there are obviously massive problems in the way things are run. Policing is such a huge role in how the UN administers, and it seems that it is time that we reconsider how we administer.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How might we go about fixing corruption in UN peacekeeper operations?
2. What differences in training, and percentage of distribution of roles (soldiers, police, civilian operatives,) might make a difference in peacekeeping effectiveness?
3. What differences could we make in how we spend our annual peacekeeping budget?

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Sixth Committee | Legal

Intellectual Property

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Isaiah Pruitt, Deputy Secretary-General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Intellectual Property is defined as a “category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect.” More specifically, it usually comes in the forms of copyrights, trademarks, patents, and so on. Intellectual Property usually is a valuable idea, like new software, a cure to a disease, or maybe even the next groundbreaking social media outlet. These ideas sometimes have not come to complete light yet, but contributors/organizers might want to take the idea on a different path and therefore profit off of the original idea.

An organization named “WIPO” (formed by the United Nations), or the World Intellectual Property Organization, helps regulate and monitor international Intellectual Property. Intellectual Property is a very big part of international cooperation between businesses across the world. According to WIPO, one of the main challenges to Intellectual Property is infringement. Many laws detailing Intellectual Property are vague. To address the infringement issue, laws specifically and exclusively protecting Intellectual Property are required to face this issue head-on.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How has the UN helped regulate and stop Intellectual Property theft & infringement?
2. What impact does the cybersecurity world, and social groups, have on Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property theft & infringement?
3. What policies are in place to help curb Intellectual Property theft & infringement?
4. How has your country helped combat Intellectual Property theft & infringement?

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Sixth Committee | Legal

Safeguarding Patient Privacy

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Eleanor Ickes, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Patient privacy, as declared by HIPAA, includes standards, “to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information and applies to health plans, health care clearinghouses, and those health care providers that conduct certain health care transactions electronically.”

Patient privacy is not important just to the patient, but the healthcare professional as well. They create a relationship between the doctor and patient that also fosters honesty and openness. Despite what most may believe, the issue that most concerns patients is privacy. 80% of patients rated their privacy as very important, more so than the price of healthcare. Despite this, there have been many large breaches of privacy in the past couple years regarding patients' private information.

Privacy does differ from confidentiality. Patient confidentiality refers to the agreement between medical professional and patient with regard to personal information. Privacy, on the other hand, is more so dealing with the patient and how he/she decides to share information (for the most part). As a result, privacy is at a greater risk of being breached – putting faith in the licenses of healthcare professionals.

In 2019, there were more than 572 data breaches in the healthcare industry alone. This included a breach of more than 41.4 million patient records. A significant jump in these types of breaches has been noted from 2018 to 2019, making the issue even more serious. It points out the lack of security measures in most cases, and identifies a universal issue which everyone can work to put to an end.

The largest breach from 2019 was with the American Medical Collection Agency. It impacted 21 million patient records from well-known labs and corporations – plus, it was undetected for eight months, and included social security numbers as well as physical addresses. Hacking incidents encompass the majority of data breaches, and some of the data stolen has been found on the dark web.

The recommendation to combat this issue at the present moment is to implement advanced technologies into their companies, as well as training employees to notice suspicious activity and educating the public on why this issue matters.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How do the rights of patients in your country differ from that of another? Is this right? Why or why not?
2. How can we set a legal precedent for a concept whose definition nearly everyone disagrees on?
3. What can your country do to help protect patient privacy?
4. Because there is no “right to privacy” in the US Constitution, how can we guarantee this right to stand?

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Sixth Committee | Legal

Safeguarding Patient Privacy

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Sabrina Ward, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Marginalized rights are something we are all familiar with right now. From the Black Lives Matter movements, to the yearly womens' march in Washington DC, large groups of people are always searching for their equality. Rights assure liberties and freedoms of those that are given them, and every person should have access to them and be certain of their safety under the law.

Marginalized groups will always be a part of the whole, so even if it isn't directly visible, every individual in society is impacted by marginalization, even if it seems small.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can we individually help to improve those in marginalized situations?
2. What can be done governmentally to alleviate marginalization?
3. How many groups are marginalized?
4. What does marginalization look like?

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