

# KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2022

## 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](http://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 the 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.

# 2021 AGENDA ISSUES

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Financial Crisis within the United Nations -Shamitha Kuppala, Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

## Sixth Committee | Legal

Legal Empowerment of the Poor - Clay Bockhorst, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

Inequitable Representation of LMIC's in Global Health Law - Gavin Alfon, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

Legal Counteraction to Climate Change - Kylie Strehl, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

Prepared by your **2022 KUNA Presiding Officers**

Position	HS KUNA 1	HS KUNA 2	HS KUNA 3
Secretary General	Haider Nasir	Olivia Walton	Shamitha Kuppala
Pres. of the UN GA	Jack Schablik	Jady Bell	Iman Dashti
Dir. Gen. of UNESCO	Sasha Haunz	Teagan Fowler	Avery Dobozi
Deputy Sec. General	Mateo Moreno	Kayla Hawkins	Fatima Talpur
Sec. Council Pres.	Sam Smith	Ian VanSteerbergh	Sabreen Hussain
ICJ President	Hannah Richards	Clay Bockhorst	Sadie Darbo
ICJ President	Kylie Strehl	Aryahna Day	Gavin Alfon
Editor-in-Chief	Olivia Walton	Ella Cooper	Lily Wobbe

# First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

## Disarmament Commission

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Jack Schablik, POTUNGA | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The main establishing principle of The United Nations is to make sure nothing like the carnage and bloodshed of the second world war happens again. This is why the UN has always placed such an emphasis on making sure to stabilize conflicts between feuding nations. By giving each nation it's own time to be able to voice it's concern and to air grievances, The modern world has enjoyed 75 years of relative peace.

It is written in the first UN Charter that "the General Assembly may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and regulation of armaments." This gives the UN the legitimacy to be able to influence nations into neutralizing their arsenals. In order to be able to reach a wide range of issues in 1953 the General Assembly created the disarmament commission is a specialized group which is incharge of neutralizing and outlawing many weapons such as chemical weapons which causes unnecessary pain and can be used on civilians.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Should there be laws for warfare?
2. Should the UN regulate what weapons nations use?
3. Has The UN actually prevented war?
4. Does disarming nations lead to them being less able to defend themselves?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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# First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

## Bio/Chemical Warfare

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Mateo Moreno, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The primary goal and function of the United Nations is to “maintain international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.” In order to do so, the UN established the First Committee of the General Assembly to focus on the tasks of disarmament and upholding international security. Beginning in 1946 after the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the First Committee has continued to work diligently in ensuring the safety, security, and peace of all nations on earth.

In modern warfare, chemical weapons first made an appearance during World War I with the use of gas warfare. Such weaponry inflicted over one million of casualties and killed an estimated 90,000 combatants throughout the war. Ever since then, chemical and gaseous weaponry have been employed numerous times, most notably during the Iran-Iraq War and the Syrian Civil War. Chemical weapons continued to be developed until the end of the Cold War. After the Cold War had ended, national leaders from multiple countries, especially from the United States and Russia, pushed for limitations and regulations on the various chemical weapons.

Thus, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was adopted on September 3, 1992, and was opened to signature by all states on January 13, 1993. Under the CWC, the use of chemical weapons in war is prohibited, as is all development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and transfer of such weapons. While many signatories have begun the process of dismantling and destroying their nation’s stockpile of chemical weaponry, modern conflicts still depict the usage of chemical weapons. As such, the United Nations and its First Committee are determined to collaborate and further establish sanctions and resolutions that protect the citizens of this globe.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What is the “proper” procedure, or steps, that the UN takes in order to deescalate possible conflict?
2. Does the UN have the power to (or should the UN) regulate the forms of weaponry that nations use in warfare?
3. Has the UN established international laws or sanctions that limit forms of warfare? If so, what are some examples?
4. After UN decisions on International Security, what statistical changes or effects are noticeable?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Schneider, B. R. (2020, January 3). chemical weapon. Encyclopedia Britannica.  
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# First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

## Resolving the Refugee Flow Entering into Europe

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Fatima Taplur, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

In recent years, there has been an influx of refugees entering into the European continent, all coming from various impoverished and war-torn regions of the world. The countries of Europe, however, are unable to take in all of these refugees, due to various financial and political issues that influence debate. Some countries have growing nationalistic movements that refuse the entry of any refugee, while others have limited financial ability to take in as many as they like.

This crisis has become exponentially worse with the COVID-19 pandemic, with many refugees forced into dangerous conditions due to imposed lockdowns in countries with the worst cases. The virus has spread like wildfire in refugee camps also, causing many refugee-seekers to lose their life or their health. These camps do not have quality access to medical care or even materials as basic as food or water. It is clear that these refugee camps are quickly becoming unsustainable, and the only question remaining is for how long they will last.

In order to solve this crisis, the countries of Europe must work together in order to come to a solution. With the help of the United Nations, these countries can figure out a way to evenly distribute supplies and resources in order to ensure a good quality of life for all refugees who enter. It is imperative that this crisis be solved soon, and it is completely and utterly possible for the nations of the UN to accomplish such a feat.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How many refugees enter or travel through various counties in order to reach a certain destination? Is there a way to alleviate the burden of traveling with so little resources?
2. In what way has the COVID-19 pandemic further complicated the issue of refugee displacement?
3. Are some countries more willing to shoulder more of a burden in order to house and feed refugees? If so, what have they done to resolve the issue? How has their political landscape responded?
4. Is it more efficient to stem the flow of refugees through aiding their country of origin, or is it more efficient to house refugees and hope that their country of origin will eventually resolve its issues?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Worldwide Concern US (2020, December 8). *THE 10 LARGEST REFUGEE CRISES TO FOLLOW IN 2021.*

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U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (2021, April 13). *COVID-19 Brief: Impact on Conflict & Refugees.*

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Karasapan, Omer (2020, January 27). *Sharing the burden of the global refugee crisis.*

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/01/27/sharing-the-burden-of-the-global-refugee-crisis/>

# Second Committee | Economic & Financial

## International Trade and Global Markets

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Sasha Haunz, Director General of UNESCO | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

In the 18th century, the Industrial Revolution took the world by surprise. Technological innovations like the steam engine and new manufacturing processes led to a worldwide increase in standard of living. It became easier to transport goods over borders and exchange ideas, which helped to spread growth potential across countries. Advancements in manufacturing were prominent, leading to standardized methods for production. In 1947, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was signed to promote international trade by eliminating and reducing barriers such as tariffs and quotas. 47 years later, the World Trade Organization (WTO) replaced GATT and was established to resolve trade disputes and enforce trade agreements. GATT dealt with trades in goods, whereas the WTO also covers trade in services and intellectual property.

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals and was adopted by all member nations in 2015. Goal 10 seeks to reduce inequality within and among countries. The International Monetary Fund reports that participation in the world economy is a powerful means to promote a nation's economic growth, development, and poverty reduction. Furthermore, the role that developing countries are playing in the global economy is increasing. Not only are more and more underdeveloped nations entering into international trade, but industrialized countries are also relying on them to stimulate their own economies. In other words, when a country enters into the world economy, they become a player in a much larger, more globalized game.

However, a developing nation's economy is generally weak and susceptible to failure. This issue was magnified in 2020 when Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) spread around the world. In June 2020, the World Bank hypothesized that despite governmental action, COVID-19 would cause the deepest global economic recession in decades. In 2021, the World Trade Organization expects the volume of world merchandise trade to increase by 8% after it fell 5.3% in 2020. The effects of the pandemic are expected to be felt for years to come. More importantly, the market and developing countries are facing problems addressing the virus because of a lack of quality healthcare and infrastructure. These countries currently have limited access to vaccines, resulting in further economic difficulties. Without the ability to rebound from the virus, first-world countries are able to take the lead and dominate global markets easier than ever before, leaving the less fortunate in the dark.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What are ways that inequalities can be addressed after the trade decline that resulted from COVID-19?
2. How could industrialized countries aid in the post-COVID rebound of the world economy?
3. How can international markets be strengthened to prevent negative impacts from future global pandemics?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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## Second Committee | Economic & Financial Inflating Currency & Economy Effects

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Iman Dashti, POTUNGA | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Inflation is an inevitable yet necessary effect of establishing an economy. Inflation is the gradual increase of prices in a market as time goes on, and it is something that has had a drastic effect on every market since the very birth of currency. When controlled, usually at a certain percentage per year, inflation can spur economic growth and incentivize productivity. However, when this rate gets out of control, whether it be by bad country leadership or unexpected market shifts, an economy can be severely set back by a large inflation rate.

Throughout history, inflation has followed death, famine, and depression. For example, in post-WWI Germany, inflation rates skyrocketed, resulting in the Hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic. As prices for necessary goods went through the roof, allied forces occupied the natural resources on German land, further draining them of their much-needed economic relief. When goods like bread and soup cost upwards of 200,000 million Marks (or \$120,000,000), people simply could not get by. This fear and dread resulted in growing hatred for the enemies, giving the perfect opportunity for Adolf Hitler to enter politics and gain rapid support. The case of inflation in Germany is just one example of how inflation can not only affect a country economically but politically and socially, allowing hateful and extremist groups to obtain massive support. While the lowest class of people suffer without food, the rest of the country barely gets by, with no viable solution in sight. But inflation hasn't only affected countries in the past.

Today, there are countries with inflation rates upwards of 500% projected for the upcoming year. Zimbabwe, for example, suffered from an inflation rate of 550% in 2020; and for this year, that rate has nearly doubled. The result of this inflation rate is a severely impoverished community, extreme wealth distribution problem, and a near unsolvable hunger and health crisis. Usually, inflation is inversely related to unemployment, and as one increases, the other decreases at an equal rate. But in Zimbabwe, the unlivable conditions are "driven by the shrinking economy and hyperinflation." In countries like Zimbabwe, major strides need to be taken to produce liveable conditions and bring the country out of its near irrecoverable conditions.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What have other countries done that successfully got them out of skyrocketing inflation rates?
2. What is the main driving force for increasing inflation rates?
3. How have other countries reacted to increasing inflation rates in neighboring/allied countries?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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## Second Committee | Economic & Financial Cryptocurrency

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Aryahna Day, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

It is no secret that our world is becoming more and more digitized each day. As we embark on the future and go through cultural shifts we must examine the effects these decisions have on not only ourselves but the world. Cryptocurrency or “crypto” by definition is “a digital currency in which transactions are verified and records maintained by a decentralized system using cryptography, rather than by a centralized authority.” Currently, it is becoming commonplace in our global market. Backed by celebrities and social media trends, the elusiveness of crypto is becoming less of a roadblock for those considering investment. Though the question poses on whether or not it is safe, reliable, and feasible for individuals and our world economy as a whole.

The largest cryptocurrency, currently, is Bitcoin. On May 9th, 2021 the value of one Bitcoin was at roughly \$58,000.00 US. Though, alarmingly, the value of one coin has substantially dropped since then. The equivalent of one coin, at this hour, it sits at \$33,128.53 US. This illustrates the flexibility of this market. Whether or not it is a good or a bad thing, is to be debated. Many Americans appreciate the freedom and community-based platform of crypto, though China, a world market leader, disapproves fully of digital currency because it is not government regulated. The country has taken steps to dismantle the commonplace of digital currency within its banks as of recently. Causing the overall value of the coin to drop. Considering that China is a “Giant” for trade and investment, the probability that Cryptocurrency will become larger and more dependable is slim. This is affecting individuals all across the globe. As people sell their coins and depart from crypto, the coin loses value. Meaning that investors in crypto are losing money, which affects our overall economy negatively. As citizens become poorer, goods and services cannot be bought, trade becomes scarce and overall a country becomes weaker, and the economic gap within it becomes larger.

In a more encompassing viewpoint, as one industry rises or crumbles, others are affected. Mining Bitcoin alone is extremely harmful to the environment, as it uses an incredulous amount of electricity to produce the coins and secure them from the database in which they are mined. This has caused alarm to many citizens and has further weakened the market. Another cause for concern is the legality of the currency. As it is completely legal to own Bitcoin in the US, the activities being promoted through payment with crypto are anything but. According to U.S Law Enforcement, \$2.3 million dollars were found paid in bitcoin to a criminal cyber group involved in ransomware attacks. Cryptocurrency is for the most part completely anonymous, this aspect of trade has been somewhat of a harbor for criminal activity. Another issue facing cryptocurrency is the social ethics of the trade. Many citizens are not on board with the phenomenon while others are enthusiastic! This creates diversity within our communities and economically is plaguing as businesses struggle to either hop on board or steer clear of the coins. As cryptocurrency climbs in favor, from celebrity endorsement and social media trends, it is important that we educate citizens on cryptocurrency to further unify them and promote awareness of issues that need to be addressed, something that promoters tend to leave out.

Moving forward, it is important for the issues within this growing market to be addressed and properly dealt with, within the United States and other countries around the globe, to prevent economic collapse, environmental concerns, crime, and further social divide.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What are the current enforcement in place, if any, for the trade of cryptocurrency within your country? Further, why are those in place?
2. How will the environment be properly protected, within the mining and use of cryptocurrency?



3. Within the topic of legality concerns, will cryptocurrency companies opt for more anonymity or transparency? Further, How will this affect community investments and/or criminal activity?
4. How will the success and reliability of cryptocurrency continue, knowing that other countries are not on board? And if not, then what are the steps being taken to dismantle cryptocurrency effectively?
5. How will your Resolution educate individuals on cryptocurrency and the nature of the market before investing?

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<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/07/politics/colonial-pipeline-ransomware-recovered/index.html>

## Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

# Disabilities and Gender-Based Violence

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Hannah Richards, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

When the United Nations adopted Resolution 1325 in 2000, it was mandated that gendered perspectives be integrated throughout all matters of peace and security. Resolution 1325 built the foundation for the involvement of women in matters of reform, including grassroots women's movements. Since 2000, the United Nations has adopted ten resolutions on the matter of "Women, Peace, and Security (Butler, n.d.)."

However, despite these actions of advocacy for gender equality, several issues still threaten the state of female action. Sexual violence is a disheartening issue that has impacted women and young girls for decades. Specifically, in South Sudan, young girls have faced gender-based violence (GBV) as a means of humiliation within armed conflict. Over 65% of South Sudanese women have faced GBV, which is double the global average (Atim, 2021). Furthermore, this violence is specifically targeting young women with disabilities.

Young women with disabilities are two to three times more likely to experience GBV (Atim, 2021). In South Sudan, a fourteen-year-old girl was assaulted during the conflict in Bor. This fourteen-year-old girl, being entirely deaf, could not communicate her trauma with anyone surrounding her. Women with disabilities do not have adequate access to healthcare and medical assistance, which makes them substantially more vulnerable to GBV (Ortoleva, 2020). Furthermore, disabled women who have faced GBV are then resented in their communities as a result of stigma, subjecting future generations of disabled women to this same limited access to healthcare.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How are disabled women additionally discriminated against?
2. What healthcare should be available to women with disabilities?
3. How can this healthcare plan be introduced and implemented?
4. How can stigma against disabled individuals be eliminated?
5. How can gender-based violence be addressed to prevent such crimes?

### SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

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## Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian Education Disparity

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Haider Nasir, Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Growing up here in the United States, many of us are gifted with a k-12 education. Sadly, millions of children across the globe have not been given this privilege. Child education is halted for various reasons. Whether the child lives in rural areas, or conflict zones, 27 million children are without school. Girls also struggle with getting a good education. Sixty-six percent of countries have not reached gender parity within their primary education. Poverty remains the largest reason by far though. Many families have to decide whether or not to provide the household with basic needs or send children to school. Children from poorer households are 5 times more likely to not receive a proper education. No matter the reason, child education is an essential part to our future generations and is a problem that urges resolve.

UNICEF currently works within 144 countries towards bridging the gap of child education. Their main goal is to provide quality education to all children no matter their situation. By 2021 they plan to have 60 million out-of-school children receiving education. In total, they plan to have 79% more countries providing children with quality education. By 2030 Unicef hopes to connect all children and young individuals to world-class digital access to education. With an ever-globalizing world, education is slowly becoming more accessible. Work is still needed though, and through various efforts, education for all can become a reality.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. Where is education lacking?
2. What age groups are not getting access to education?
3. What genders are not receiving education?
4. What has already been put in place to better the nation's state of education?

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## Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

# Food Insecurity

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Olivia Walton, Secretary General | HS KUNA 2

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The world is still grappling with some of the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a rise in food insecurity. According to the World Bank, this increase in insecurity is “affecting vulnerable households in almost every country, with impacts expected to continue through 2021 and into 2022<sup>1</sup>.” Professor John Drake from the University of Georgia notes that this problem stems from “reductions in agricultural production, supply chain disruptions, and trade restrictions<sup>2</sup>,” all of which were caused by precautions and procedures taken to control the spread of the coronavirus. Clearly, this issue is not confined to a single country or even a single continent; the entire world is dealing with an unstable and uncertain food supply. Approximately 265 million people in the most impoverished and underdeveloped countries will likely have to fight hunger and poverty<sup>3</sup> for at least the remainder of the decade.

Several professionals have proposed steps to combat global food insecurity. These steps include developing new and sustainable farming practices around the world and continuing to support the United Nations’ World Food Programme’s (WFP) distribution campaigns. The UN and its member states can tackle food insecurity head on by promoting agricultural gain and sustaining an effort to provide agricultural resources to countries with the highest poverty rates. This could look like distributing increased amounts of seeds and fertilizer to countries with the least amount of access to a stable food market, funding research of sustainable practices and crop types to be used in poor countries, or granting stipends and subsidies to companies in countries that implement new, greener technologies in their farming procedures. If maintained, this increase in responsible agriculture practices could even help reduce the rate of carbon emissions and greenhouses through a process called carbon sequestration<sup>4</sup> (U.S. Department of Agriculture). Carbon sequestration is a multi-step process in which carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is captured and stored<sup>5</sup>. In addition to increasing access to agricultural resources, countries can financially support solutions to food insecurity by donating to the WFP.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the United Nations promote solutions to global food insecurity?
2. To what extent, if any, can the United Nations hold member states accountable for implementing sustainable solutions to this issue?
3. What programs within the UN (like the WFP) can be expanded or utilized to combat food insecurity, specifically, in the most impoverished countries?
4. How can the United Nations encourage member states to work together to help larger populations facing food insecurity?

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## Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

# Atomic Radiation

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Avery Dobozi, Director General of UNESCO | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Atomic radiation has been accumulating over centuries due to natural and man-made sources. Radiation is any energy released from a source, such as light from the sun or microwaves from an oven. Recently, ionizing radiation has become more common as a means to assist rapid modernization. Space exploration, electricity, and renewable energies would not be possible without ionizing radiation. The United Nations has even recognized the necessity of ionizing radiation as the world advances. Thankfully, short-term exposure to radiation is common, and not considered a problem, but long-term exposure to atomic radiation could have dire consequences. Unfortunately, the use of ionizing radiation is a relatively new technology, therefore, the effects on humans and the environment are unknown.

Through research and data collected regarding the atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is evident that exposure to atomic radiation has an array of health effects. This includes direct links to abnormal tissue growth, vision problems, chromosomal mutations, intellectual disabilities, and death. There are also possible correlations between atomic radiation and cancer. It has been observed that atomic radiation has detrimental effects on plants. Through the analysis of the Chernobyl disaster and surrounding environments, it is inferred that radiation causes plant reproductive systems to fail. This could result in fruitless plants, food shortages, dead greenery, and suffering ecosystems. On a global scale, if atomic radiation grows to impact large areas, climate change and global warming could also be affected.

As previously stated, the extent as to which atomic radiation may affect future generations is unknown. As nuclear accidents become more frequent in the modern-day world, the concern for humankind and the environment is growing. There are multiple precautionary steps the United Nations could take to limit nuclear disasters and atomic radiation exposures in the future. Both the Scientific Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the United Nations could work to increase funding for nuclear power sources to ensure they are safe and limit faults that release atomic radiation. Publishing findings of these committees in regards to the effects of atomic radiation could also promote the establishment of safety protocols in individual countries. Continued research through the Scientific and Special Political Committees regarding the effects of atomic radiation on both biotic and abiotic environments is also needed. It is the responsibility of the United Nations to uncover the true extent of which atomic radiation may impact daily life, and how nations can combat this fatal problem.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How could the unknown status of the effects of atomic radiation limit food sources for future generations?
2. What could countries do to ensure minimal atomic radiation leakage at nuclear plants?
3. How is atomic radiation known to harm humankind and the environment?

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## Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

# Neocolonialism and the International Judicial Systems

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Sadie Darbro, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

At the beginning of the United Nations, decolonization of the 72 non-self-governing territories and the 11 trust territories were at the forefront of policy. The 11th chapter of the United Nations Charter, the founding document of the United Nations, addresses "non-self-governing" territories directly through highlighting the responsibility of the administering governments to promote the development of self governing bodies and governments. In 1961, the United Nations General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples, also known as the C-24. The C-24 continues to work in conjunction with the 4th committee by reporting the acquired information on the 17 non-governing territories to the committees during annual meetings. As of 2021, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a bill declaring that the decade from 2021 to 2030 will be the "Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism"

It is important to establish the International Judicial System includes the International Court of Justice, and the Tribunals which are established in conjunction with the International Criminal Court. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a civil court which deals with disputes between countries. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a separate entity from the United Nations, and works conjunctively with the UN to establish Tribunals, which try of individuals who are charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide.

While systems such as these are established with the intent to pursue justice, their origins and nature place countries, particularly those previously colonized, in difficult situations. Within the last 22 years of the ICC being established, of the 22 cases and nine situations, all except 1 has been based in Africa. This has led to claims of neocolonialism, in the sense of upholding an unjust power dynamic between previously colonized countries and previous colonizers. Typically, countries who had been colonized, like Zambia or Niger, have less international political power than countries like Great Britain and the U.S. This imbalance of power within these international systems results in the disproportionate treatment of these countries by the ICC, due to the power some countries hold over funding, and global influence. For example, In 2016 the ICC expressed that it would open an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan, the US, under the Trump administration, sanctioned ICC worker's visas and froze any of their U.S. bank accounts. This compared to the complex and varying reaction from the African Union demonstrates the asymmetrical power dynamics of how U.N. action is "enforced". The political power and influence which wealthier countries hold result in an unfair distribution of action taken against countries. The ICC is a smaller example of the larger issue of Neocolonialism within the International political community. As the United Nations does have any power to enforce its legislation or the ICJ's decisions, countries with more power have less to lose in deviating from the U.N. than say the countries who have less political and economic power.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What are ways in which the United Nations reform it's Judicial Systems that would prevent neocolonialism?
2. How can the United Nations implement laws which prevent neocolonialism in its relationship with the ICC?
3. How is neocolonialism within all United Nations systems a global issue?
4. What are some global solutions to Neocolonialism, particularly within the judiciary system?



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# Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

## Decolonizing Sustainability Efforts

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Teagan Fowler, Director General of UNESCO | HS KUNA 2

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

At the time that the UN was established in 1945, 750 million people lived in colonies and now, only 2 million people live in non-self-governing territories. Decolonization has been a priority for the United Nations since its founding, and as you can see from the statistics, they've been incredibly successful in assisting in the creation of independent states. Climate change is also a massive concern for the UN, and they have a whole Secretariat program dedicated to this increasingly deadly foe. However, the UN does not consider how these intersect. They only see modern, first world solutions to a problem that affects every single part of the world we share with not only each other, but also the plants and animals of Earth. And indigenous people are being hit first, and hit hard.

Kyle Wyhte, an indigenous Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan, did study the intersection of these two fields. He points out that indigenous people have suffered from climate change due to colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism. They use their cultural knowledge, unique perspectives, and innovations to combat climate change before it is too late. An essential and often overlooked solution to climate change is the returning of land back to native people, and in America, it's called the Land Back Movement. Indigenous people have a tradition of consuming less, utilizing the land more, and emitting fewer carbon emissions, even today. The movement is fundamentally anti capitalist, as it has to be, since much of global warming can be attributed to capitalism.

There is little indigenous representation in the UN, despite the progress and inclusion of the last decade, so we must take it upon ourselves to create spaces for indigenous people, from Siberia to the Amazon, to come and fight for their homes and against climate change. We cannot begin the work of decolonizing climate change efforts without their voices. Not only does the Land Back Movement fight climate change, it is vital to the preservation and extension of dying cultures.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can indigenous voices be more elevated in the United Nations?
2. How can the UN incentivise colonizer countries to adopt policies to create platforms for indigenous people, especially after nearly a decade of worldwide hesitation to adopt UNDRIP?
3. What indigenous inventions and traditions can be implemented across the modern world to combat climate change?
4. Knowing that green spaces are often colonized and center around white supremacy, what should the UN do in order to make them more open to other influences?
5. How can the Land Back Movement be incorporated in our everyday lives as individuals, countries, and international bodies?

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## Fifth Committee | Administration & Budgetary

# Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Kayla Hawkins, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 2

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

In the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse related to implementing partners in the context of United Nations activities. Implementing partners are not directly under the authority of the United Nations, and they often operate in remote or high-risk environments. Many implementing partners have capacity, investigative and training gaps with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse.

All allegations concerning sexual exploitation and abuse involving implementing partners must be investigated by the United Nations. For the period of July 2019 – June 2020, only 36% of investigations were completed within the target six-month period for investigations. This has only worsened due to COVID-19. Of 157 allegations received in 2020 involving United Nations staff and related personnel, only 14% of investigations had been concluded by December 30th of 2020.

The 16th UN Sustainable Development Goal is to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Although allegations are continuing to be reported, the investigations are not getting done in a timely manner, allowing these implementing partners to commit more crimes in the process, as well as not allowing proper justice for the victims. This is an issue that needs to be addressed in a more effective way.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How might investigations conducted by the United Nations be more timely and effective?
2. In what ways can the United Nations decrease the amount of sexual exploitation and abuse involving implementing partners?
3. How can the United Nations properly train implementing partners with the knowledge they need to appropriately fulfil their duties?
4. How can the United Nations counteract the negative effects COVID-19 has put on investigations?

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## Fifth Committee | Administration & Budgetary

# Corporate Social Awareness

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Jady Bell, POTUNGA | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Currently, the United Nations (UN) is involved in 12 peacekeeping missions around the globe (General Assembly Adopts ..., 2020) and each of them requires significant financial funding. This funding must be approved by the Administration and Budgetary Committee to become a reality. In addition to the peacekeeping missions, the supportive UN Logistics Bases in Uganda and Italy must also be supported financially. The financial support to pay for the peacekeeping activities of troop- and police-contributing countries was questionable due to the limited amount of funds allocated to these activities by the UN. In the past the UN had passed a resolution to pay for activities in excess of the approved funds, however, this process had expired in 2019 and was no longer available for the 2020 campaigns, thus leaving the payment for the peacekeeping missions in question.

In the June 30th, 2020 meeting, the Fifth Committee approved the resolution for the Administrative and Budgetary considerations for financing the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the amount of \$355.69 million for the fiscal year of 2020-21. A significant amount of the funds went to the sustaining of 1,355 U.N. posts throughout the world and 2 new posts that were needed. Included in this resolution was the continued funding of 62 general assistance positions, and an additional 6 positions were established (General Assembly, 2020). The adoption of this draft provides the financial means to accomplish the goals of the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the world.

The Administration and Budgetary Committee also adopted multiple resolutions to financially support the peacekeeping missions throughout the world. Included in these resolution adoptions were \$283.11 million for the U.N. Interim Security Force for Abyei, \$937.71 million for the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, \$55.21 million for the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, \$1.15 billion for the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and \$28.4 million for the U.N. Stabilization Mission and U.N. Mission for Justice in Haiti. Additional resolutions were adopted for Kosovo, Liberia, Mali, Lebanon, the Republic of South Sudan, the Western Sahara, Darfur, and Somalia. Interestingly, there were some complaints registered at the meeting that the format for the U.N. operations had changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of the participating members meeting at a single facility, the resolutions were sent to the representatives via email and they were considered adopted if none of the members registered a complaint or required additional input (General Assembly Adopts ..., 2020).

The function of the Administration and Budgetary Committee is to oversee and finance the peacekeeping operations of the U.N. Included in these activities are providing the finances needed to carry out their mission, provide an accountability for the funds provided, and managing the operations that are deemed needed to keep peace throughout the world (Administrative and Budgetary ..., 2021). It is a wonderful desire to have world peace, yet it seems to be an impossible goal to many. Harvard University professor, Steven Pinker believes that we currently live in the time when there is the greatest amount of peace in the world's history (Stretka, 2017). Malley (2020) describes and lists ten conflicts in the world today, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sahel, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, etc. Thus, global peace is a desirable goal, attaining it will be difficult to achieve. While this may seem like a futile task, it should not diminish our efforts to strive for.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the U.N. facilitate the collection of funds withheld by participating countries to pay for these peacekeeping missions?
2. With limited resources available, will the U.N. be able to provide troops and resources to the current riots in Cuba and South Africa? If so, how will we determine how much aid, and in what form (weapons, troops, food, etc.) will we send?
3. Do countries not represented in the United Nations receive financial aid, troops, etc. if there is a need, or do only members receive assistance?
4. How does the United Nations determine if a country should receive aid? Many nations have internal strife, yet all do not receive aid from the United Nations. Why?
5. Is it the responsibility of the sovereign nation or the United Nations to keep the peace within that country? Who decides and by whom is that decision made?

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## Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

# Financial Crisis within the United Nations

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Shamitha Kuppala, Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Money makes the world go round.

However, one of the world's most prominent organizations, the United Nations, has recently encountered a financial crisis involving a lack of liquid assets (usable money). According to Wasim Mir of the International Peace Institute, this crisis, which began in full swing around 2020, was caused mainly by one factor: the reluctance of large powerhouse nations to pay contributions to the UN. Countries like the US, Russia, and Brazil have been withholding funding in order to sway the organization to alter its policies in their favor, and thus reignite their donations. In effect, these nations have almost full financial control over the United Nations.

Other prominent causes of the financial crisis could be bribery within the UN, corruption among officials, inaccurate financial records, and unreliable sources of cash-flow.

The implications of this financial crisis are significant. First, during the current COVID-19 situation in which many countries and other parties require more outside contributions than other times, the UN is unable to provide aid. Second, the UN does not have sufficient financial resources to offer basic care to the nations that have been previously pledged assistance, which puts the United Nations behind on its previous goals and conveys an undesired message to other donors. Finally, the potential significance of bribery and corruption within both the organization and its member parties in the financial crisis means that the UN's goals of impartiality and general morality are not being met. Because of the vast scope of this issue, the financial crisis of the UN undeniably must be solved efficiently and effectively.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How can the United Nations change its financial plan to accommodate fluctuations in member nation payments?
2. How has the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the UN's financial crisis and the ability of some member nations to pay?
3. How can the United Nations combat the strategy used by some member nations of withholding contributions to convey objection to UN tactics?
4. What internal finance management problems does the UN experience (such as corruption) and how can they be solved?
5. How can member nations and other organizations be persuaded to contribute to alleviate the financial crisis?

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## Sixth Committee | Legal

# Legal Empowerment of the Poor

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Clay Bockhorst, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

During the 2005 world summit the UN adopted Resolution 63/142 which addressed legal empowerment. The main solution addressed in the resolutions was creating the Millennium Development Goals along with other goals in stopping legal inequality to the poor. The resolutions also recognized each country independently needs to enforce the rules. Another highlight of the resolution is recognizing that "empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger." This resolution also tasked the "Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the legal empowerment of the poor". There are 4 pillars in legal empowerment which include, access to Justice and Rule of Law, Property Rights, Labour rights and business rights. Legal Empowerment allows the poor to not only become more protected under the law but also allow them to use their rights and the law to increase their rights and voice in their nation.

Our world has always had people that live in extreme poverty and don't have access to the same things a majority of the world is granted. One of the most important of these privileges is legal equality. According to the World bank "9.2%, or 689 million people live in extreme poverty on \$1.90 or less a day." A majority of these people lack access to a good education, in turn not learning how to read let alone the rights they are granted in their given country. This along with multiple other factors such as not understanding legal proceedings, transportation, lawyers etc. This leads to massive legal inequality for those who are already struggling with financial issues along with other struggles. Knowing one's rights should be a human right and should be a main goal for the UN to address.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What committees or programs could be formed by the UN to combat Legal inequality and promote legal empowerment of the poor?
2. In what ways could the UN hold countries accountable for promoting Legal Empowerment for the poor?
3. What solutions could the UN have for countries struggling to stop legal inequality for the poor?
4. In what ways can Legal empowerment be enforced?

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## Sixth Committee | Legal

# Inequitable Representation of LMIC's in Global Health Law

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Gavin Alfon, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Within international policy writing, as well as legal cases held within the international scope, LMIC's are defined as *Low-to-Middle Income Countries* or used interchangeably with the term *Developing Country*. To be recognized as a developing country, a nation has to fulfill a series of factors that include, but are not limited to: comparatively low GNI, limited access to Healthcare, and minimal opportunities for quality educational experiences, especially for private sector jobs. Considering this, it is understandable to observe an inequitable representation of LMIC's in the legal sector of international affairs, however, within this day and age, it is completely unacceptable for this practice to continue. Because of this, it is essential for topics such as equitable representation in court, access to healthcare from a legal perspective, and the reliability of the current international health law regime to be discussed.

From a legal perspective, all nations have an adequate form of healthcare that it's citizens have access to, whether that be from a private or public provider is left to the discretion of the nation. However, there is a disproportionate representation of countries that are less developed than the first world countries (ie. USA, Canada, UK, etc.) in the global law sector. This has led to a series of NGO's (non governmental operations) to address you, most namely being the WHO. Despite their prevalent presence in intranational and International legal disputes over this issue, there has been little to no improvement over the past decade.

As a nation wishing to address this issue, you would be openly advocating for progress within the overarching global inequity issue. Additionally, while expressing your disagreement with this issue, it is important to recognize one's nation's own responsibility for allowing this issue to persevere. Lastly, it is important to recognize the correlation between wealth and legal representation within your own nation. Nations, especially those with a radical difference in the socioeconomic spectrum among their citizens such as China, India, Philippines, Guatemala, Azerbaijan, etc., are the most vulnerable to this type of inadequate representation. Therefore, addressing this issue would require a different solution than a nation such as the aforementioned first world countries where, on the spectrum of damage this form of inequitable legal representation has caused, is the polar opposite.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What Systemic factors are perpetuating the limited representation of LMIC's in International law?
2. What patterns are observable within which LMIC's can not gain equitable representation in global law.
3. What NGO's are currently advocating for a similar concept?
4. What intranational factors perpetuate these trends? What international factors perpetuate these trends?

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## Sixth Committee | Legal

# Legal Counteraction to Climate Change

**ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR:** Kylie Strehl, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

### BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

The issue of climate change is one that the United Nations has been attempting to tackle for decades. However, despite decades of action and compromise, it is evident that current legislation is not effective enough.

The UN has erected several committees in the past, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to name a few. Through the United Nations, there have also been several agreements/treaties created to curb the effects of climate change such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Although good has come out of these arrangements, it is not enough to curb the ever-increasing damage caused by climate change and instability.

The 13th sustainable development goal of the UN is to "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts." Climate change is an issue that arguably affects all countries, the degree of which is dependent on the level of development and affluence of each country. As a result of the persistence and prevalence of the detrimental effects of climate change, it is absolutely necessary that the countries obligated to the UN cooperate through legislation to attempt to counteract climate change. Although the resolutions and agreements formed through the UN are not entirely legally binding, it is important that the UN as an international organization focused on empowering and protecting the world takes any and all action possible to battle an issue that indiscriminately affects every country.

In terms of the UN, the key to remedying such an issue is cooperation and compromise between countries. As some countries contribute to climate change more than others, it is important to take into account other countries' needs and wants in order to manufacture agreements and action. Additionally, when crafting resolutions, it is incredibly important to consider plausibility and economic effects as many of the detrimental effects of climate change are linked to production and transportation, which are foundations of several countries' economies.

All in all, climate change is an issue that has been combated by the UN for years. It is an ever-increasing threat, and, as such, it is vital for the UN to continue to try and take action and craft resolutions that encourage cooperation among countries to battle this issue.

### QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What committees can be formed to deal specifically with the issue of climate instability?
2. What specific policies and agreements can be formed through the UN in order to remedy the causes and effects of climate change?
3. How can pre existing policies and agreements be utilized to further combat climate change?
4. How does the level of development of a country affect the plausibility of implementing said aforementioned policies and agreements?
5. How can these policies and agreements be enforced or incentivized?

## **SOURCES FOR RESEARCH**

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