

ECOSOC



Hello Delegates!

My name is Nabila Barceló, and it will be a pleasure to be your Chair for the Economic and Social Council in CancunMUN 2024. I'm currently 17 years old and a senior of the International American School of Cancun. During my free time, I enjoy listening to music, going to the beach, and hanging out with my friends and family. My plans for the future are to study civil engineering in Mexico, although I also enjoy public relations and politics. That's why I consider MUN one of my passions.

This will be my eighth MUN experience, but this time as a Chair, and I'm determined to do a great job. I have previous experience in conferences such as CancunMUN, MUNARJI, DMUN, PASMUN, among others, and I have been participating since 2020. I chose this committee because I have always been interested in the topics discussed and I enjoyed every time I participated in it, so I hope I can make your experience in this committee memorable as well.

I can say that I'm proud to have the opportunity to be your Chair, and I'm expecting to have respectful, well prepared and passionate delegates, to create a professional environment, but also have a great time during this conference. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all. Remember that the background guide is not your only source of information, and to research and investigate well.

Feel free to contact me at nabila.barcelo@ciac.edu.mx if you have any doubts or comments. I wish you the best!

Nabila Barceló, Chair

Economic and Social Council

Hello Delegates,

My name is Regina Jacobo, and this year I will be your co-Chair in the committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in CancunMun 2024. I am a 17 year old senior at the International American school of Cancún. Outside school I like listening to music, hanging out with friends and exercising. When I graduate from high school in 2025, I'd like to study law. This is my third MUN experience. I was a delegate of CCPCJ in 2022, and a chair of UNDP in CancunMUN 2023. I am beyond excited to hold the position of Co-Chair, especially in a committee like ECOSOC. This committee is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress.

I expect my delegates to be focused, hard-working and devoted. I want them to be able to work together to find resolutions and be respectful among their peers. My partner and I will work hard to make this committee as fun and memorable as possible. What I love about CancunMUN is that you get the opportunity to meet new people and you can see how everyone's opinions are different. Remember that the background guide should not be your only source of information, please research and investigate as well. I hope you become a part of this experience with us! Good luck delegates and make sure to be prepared!

If you have any doubts or need any help regarding anything about the conference, please contact jessed.jacobo@ciac.edu.mx

Regina Jacobo, Co-Chair
Economic and Social Council



COMMITTEE MISSION

The Economic and Social Council has the purpose of encouraging higher living standards along with full employment, and economic and social progress. ECOSOC, together with the General Assembly, has the responsibility of passing other committees' resolutions. This committee is well known for identifying solutions to social, economic, and health international problems and promoting cultural and educational cooperation. ECOSOC incites the universal respect for human rights and freedom.



Topic A: Addressing the Challenge of Food Insecurity and Mitigating the Threat of Famine

Introduction

Today the world is facing multiple challenges and threats. Addressing the challenge of food insecurity and mitigating the threat of famine, is an important one. According to the Mid-Year Update of the Global Report on Food Crises, the last record made in October 2023, there are no less than 238 million food insecure people around the world, with a 10% increase by 2022.

This situation is not a surprise. It is a man-made situation that has been growing for years. Hunger and insecurity remain key drivers of hunger and famine; these can be compounded by a toxic mix of climate change and economic shocks.

Climate change is increasingly becoming a threat multiplier. Conflict and hunger are spreading as pressure on water and other natural resources leads to more competition and displacement. Seven of the ten countries most vulnerable to climate-related risks are affected by conflict. Six are hosting United Nations peacekeeping missions or special political missions. There are more than 30 million people in over three dozen countries, just one step away from a declaration of famine, according to The Food Security Cluster.. The challenge may appear overwhelming, but progress has been, and is again, possible.

History

Since the beginning of human history, food insecurity and the threat of famine have been a challenge around the world. Going back to the end of the Second World War, as a way to create solutions to globalized agriculture, the United Nations created FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization), which encouraged countries to start to gain independence in their way of production. By 1951, "World Food Problem", a text by the Rockefeller Center's Mexican Agricultural Program, was written, advocating for the importance of food scarcity.

All these situations generated the need for industrializing agriculture, implementing the uses of pesticides, and oil-based fertilizers, among others. For a time, this resulted in a decrease in hunger, but left others in a vulnerable state. This is what is now known as the "green revolution".



By the 1970s, different aspects such as the weather and economic conditions provoked a new “world food crisis.” The rise of meat consumption was also relevant, leading to shortages, and spreading famine across the southern hemisphere. The principal consequence of this was the creation of a “global diet”, this global diet was a more uniformed way of eating, mainly with the influence of primary crops, for instance rice and wheat, as well as processed and animal products.

Over the years, many attempts to end this problem have been made, and many social protection programs have been created. For example, data indicates that in 130 countries there exist school-feeding programs. Many international organizations such as NGOs have had an impact on the topic, and the Millennium Development Goals and Food has been the most successful anti-poverty movement recently. These goals aimed to decrease poverty from 2010 with a deadline in 2015. This work is continued in the Sustainable Development Goals, a program which proposes to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.

On the other hand, in 2005, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) was created to encourage the rural poor who experience ongoing food insecurity to build assets and achieve food self-sufficiency. This program provides these people with the needed resources to achieve its goal.

Nowadays, food insecurity and the threat of famine remain a relevant issue, it is estimated that nearly 800 million people around the world do not get enough to eat (World Vision, 2024). It is important to consider facts that have led to an increase in this issue, such as the global pandemic of COVID-19, war conflicts, and weather conditions, among many others.



Current Situation

Needs will remain unacceptably high throughout 2023, with 258 million people in 53 countries experiencing severe food insecurity. At the same time, as the International Agency Standing Committee (IASC) reported, humanitarian aid budgets have become even tighter, leaving millions of people without help. The food crisis continues to dominate the global outlook for 2024. Extreme weather events triggered by the climate crisis interact with new and worsening conflicts and economic instability to increase humanitarian needs.

Given the high demand and potential for further reductions in bilateral donor funding, humanitarian aid planning processes in 2024 need to focus more on the most vulnerable populations and the most cost-effective ways to meet their current food security needs. Given the high demand and potential for further reductions in bilateral donor funding, humanitarian aid planning processes in 2024 need to focus more on the most vulnerable populations in the most cost-effective ways to meet their current food security needs.

By April 2024, populations in 18 of the 22 countries or territories identified as hunger hotspots are likely to face significant exacerbations of severe food insecurity. 7 Of these, five contexts or “hotspots” are of greatest concern: Burkina Faso, Mali, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), South Sudan, and Sudan, this noticed by the Global Humanitarian Overview .

Under the most likely scenario, 7 million people will face catastrophic famine by June 2024 (IPC5), with the possibility of mass starvation. The window of opportunity to significantly reduce the impact of the world’s worst hunger crisis in decades is closing fast.

Points to Consider

- What are the complex factors contributing to food insecurity and famine?
- Has your country done anything to solve the problem?
- How can your country help other countries?
- What are some effective solutions to address food insecurity and prevent future famines?
- What is the UN's position on this issue?



Useful Links

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc5392en/cc5392en.pdf>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/we-need-solutions-now-address-global-food-insecurity-and-prevent-future-food-crises>

<https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/worsening-hunger-crisis-requires-global-response-across-all-sectors>

<https://daily.jstor.org/global-food-security-a-primer/>

<https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>

Works Cited

Rising Global Food Insecurity: Assessing Policy Responses,

www.fao.org/3/cc5392en/cc5392en.pdf. Accessed 27 Feb. 2024.

"We Need Solutions Now to Address Global Food Insecurity and Prevent Future Food Crises - World." *ReliefWeb*, 17 May 2022,

reliefweb.int/report/world/we-need-solutions-now-address-global-food-insecurity-and-prevent-future-food-crises.

Published on 8 December 2023 Keywords Climate Change. "Worsening Hunger Crisis

Requires Global Response across All Sectors." *Worsening Hunger Crisis Requires Global Response across All Sectors* | *Humanitarian Action*, 8 Dec. 2023,

humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/worsening

The State of Food Insecurity in the World, FAO. Accessed 28 Feb. 2024.

www.fao.org/3/i4646e/i4646e.pdf.

Country box:

Afghanistan

Argentina

Australia

Austria

Brazil

Canada

China

Colombia

France

Germany

India

Iraq

Israel

Italy

Japan

Jordan

Liberia

Mexico

Russia

Spain

Sudan

Switzerland

Syria

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States of America

Venezuela

Yemen



Topic B:

The Preservation of Cultural Heritage Sites in Conflict Zones


Introduction

TPreserving cultural heritage sites in areas of conflict is a relevant issue that needs to be solved and seeks more attention since it can be a factor in reconciliation and peacebuilding. Considering the actual circumstances of wars around the world, it is important to remember how during these times of conflict, cultural heritage ends up being affected as well, and it is commonly overlooked. Cultural heritage forms an important part of a nation's identity, and it represents a country's history, present, and future. Therefore, when these sites, monuments, and documents, among other kinds of representation, are affected, it not only impacts on the territory and its identity as a nation but also its economy, security, and prosperity. It is necessary to recognize the long term consequences that the destruction of the cultural heritage generates. It has been an important and relevant issue for a long time, taking as an example the destruction of cultural heritage during World War II due to attacks across Europe.

However, most of the countries that are affected by this problem do not have the necessary resources to prevent the destruction of these sites once they are in conflict or do not have the information to create strategies to solve this issue.

History

Throughout human history, armed conflicts have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on people's lives. In addition to the humanitarian costs, if a territory's cultural heritage is compromised, it can also pose a serious threat to the integrity of that territory. Unfortunately, this happens all too often when cultural assets are destroyed. Since the end of World War II, attacks on cultural sites during armed conflicts have increased. The world is witnessing atrocities taking place in many areas. Although wars occur in different countries for different reasons, the consequences of armed conflict for communities are often similar. While headlines often focus on people's suffering, the loss of cultural heritage is often forgotten. However, the deliberate destruction of one side's cultural heritage is increasingly becoming a tactic in armed conflict.



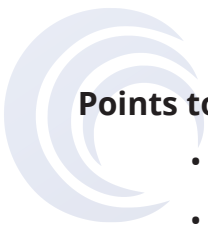
Therefore, protecting culture and combating crimes against culture have been core missions of the UN since its inception. In this spirit and with a commitment to safeguarding heritage for future generations, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999) were adopted with the support of UNESCO. The 1954 Hague Convention paved the way for the emergence of numerous international instruments in the field of culture and is a fundamental international instrument for conflict prevention, post-conflict recovery, and peacebuilding.

Current Situation

At this time, there are various examples of the destruction of cultural heritage in conflict zones. One of the most recent ones is the current situation in Ukraine, where since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, around 343 cultural sites, including historical and religious buildings and documents and archives have been damaged, causing harm on Ukrainians identity and being considered even as cultural genocide.

Another clear example was seen with Iraq and Syria, when they were targeted by the Daesh terrorist organization in 2015. Taking into account the Syrian civil war and internal conflicts in Iraq happening at the time, this terrorist organization took the opportunity to destroy cultural heritage across the cities of Nineveh, Raqqa, Mosul, Homs, and Aleppo, but mainly Palmyra. This group's goal was to destroy any kind of symbol of identity, causing a cultural cleansing. They achieved the destruction of Islamic-Muslim cultural sites and important architectural pieces of high importance and value for Syrians.

Over the years many conventions and resolutions have been made, but cultural heritage is still being damaged during war and in conflict zones. This is due to many factors, and the actions taken have not solved the problem. Most recently, in 2017, the Security Council created Resolution 2347, which ensures support for the issue of destruction of cultural heritage, along with the cultural blue helmets, an initiative created by UNESCO and the Italian government seeking cultural preservation.



Points to consider

- What has already been done to ensure the protection of cultural heritage?
- How can your country help to ensure these sites' protection?
- What has your country already done?
- What are the long-term effects of the destruction of cultural heritage during conflicts?
- Why do the existing solutions not work as they should?

Useful links:

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/targeting-culture-the-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-in-conflict/>

<https://www.oecd.org/development-cooperation-learning/practices/promoting-the-protection-of-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-affected-areas-ad7be986/>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/futuante.15.1.0068>

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/myreformstory_nada-al-hassan.pdf

<https://www.coespu.org/articles/cultural-heritage-protection-armed-conflicts>



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<https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2022/05/09/protecting-cultural-heritage-during-conflict/>

"Cultural Heritage: 7 Successes of UNESCO's Preservation Work." *UNESCO.Org*, Accessed 27 Feb. 2024.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/cultural-heritage-7-successes-unescos-preservation-work>

Mourelle, Diego. "Cuando El Patrimonio Cultural es Víctima de La Guerra." *El Orden Mundial - EOM*, 9 Jan. 2020,

<https://elordenmundial.com/patrimonio-cultural-victima-guerra/#:~:text=En%20los%20últimos%20años%2C%20se,de%20la%20organización%20terrorista%20Dáesh>

Rubén Permuy Iglesias Autor, et al. "How War Destroys Cultural Heritage." *UOC*, Accessed 27 Feb. 2024. <https://www.uoc.edu/en/news/2022/018-gloria-munilla>

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