Background Guide

15th Annual AUSMUN

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Welcome Letter from the Director of Research

Greetings fellow delegates,

It's a pleasure to see you attending the American University of Sharjah's 2022 Model United Nations Convention (AUSMUN 2022). As the age-old adage goes, "with great power comes great responsibility," as delegates of nations at the world's largest international forum, you have a heightened degree of power and responsibility. Not only do you have a say in shaping solutions for the world, and bringing glory to your country, but also the pressure of ensuring that those solutions are pragmatic, feasible, and effective in solving the issues you have set to resolve. Not only do you have a space at the international platform, but also the responsibility to ensure that you set an apt example of your nation for the world to see.

With that being said, I wish you all the best for your preparations and I am really excited to see what your wonderful minds and enthusiastic selves come up with in the committee rooms. Finally, also remember that your responsibilities include having fun and making the best of your time at AUSMUN 2022!

Best Regards,
Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui
Director of Research - AUSMUN 2022

Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the 15th annual AUSMUN. We are honored to serve you as your moderators this year, and we welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The best way to ensure that you represent a country well is to research and read this background guide thoroughly. We expect delegates to come to the conference with an understanding of his or her country's positions. While this guide discusses the general perspectives of every issue, we look forward to hearing your ideas for solving issues and new perspectives. We hope to create a memorable experience for everyone throughout the conference!

Through the use of this background guide, we hope to give you an insight into the topics that will be discussed in the MUN and provide a stepping stone for the research that you would need to write your position papers. This background guide is limited in the knowledge you would need to have for the event since it only addresses the topics briefly. However, the questions after each topic can be used to prompt further research and shed light on how these issues can be solved when writing your resolution papers.

The UNDP is a United Nations program that aims to improve the standards of living of people by tackling key issues that people face globally such as poverty, inequality, and environmental issues. It operates globally in more than 170 countries and territories in order to achieve economic and social stability and strengthen relationships between countries by implementing policies and partnerships.

The first topic will focus on preventing violent extremism through inclusive development, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The second topic will emphasize improving living conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle.

With the continued pandemic restrictions, we can understand that there might be some inconveniences related to the preparation of this conference. However, the organizing team of this conference will ensure that delegates have a valuable and enriching experience throughout.

Best Regards,
Adebolanle Joy Ajike and Rhythm Doshi, Chairs, UNDP-1
Dana AlEnizi and Siva Nanda Rajesh, Chairs, UNDP-2
Mahra Talib AlMarri, Research Assistant, UNDP-1
Maisha Tasnia, Research Assistant, UNDP-2

Welcome Letter from the Dais

Contact Information

Please note that UNDP at AUSMUN 2022 has two sections: section 1 and section 2. Remember to cross check your email to confirm which section you are allotted in.

The topic and the background guide for both sections are the same, but the email where you must submit your position papers, draft resolutions, or carry out any form of communication with the chairs is different.

UNDP Section 1 Email: undpausmun2022@gmail.com
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Overview of the Committee

History

In 1965, UN leaders on a quest to eradicate poverty came together and formed the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Expanded Program of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the United Nations Special Fund merged to create the UNDP. Since then, the committee has focused on alleviating poverty, empowering women, protecting the environment, and creating jobs. The committee is headquartered in New York City and is headed by Achim Steiner who oversees a 36-member Executive Board representing both developed and developing countries.

Relevance

The UNDP operates in more than 170 countries in order to reduce poverty, inequality, and similar issues which make the world an inequitable place. It focuses on 4 critical areas: eliminating poverty, democratic governance, conserving the environment and energy and crisis prevention and recovery. The end goal is to advocate for change and establish the foundations for a better future for prospective generations ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016).

Moreover, the UNDP established the Sustainable Development Goals in order to translate their aims into action and develop a program to sustain peace and prosperity by 2030 ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016). The UNDP ensures it meets its goals by analyzing global issues periodically and concentrating on systems that can help solve these global matters. Every year, it compiles a report tracing and tabulating the level of development of different countries through its Human Development Index (HDI) to measure achievements in a country's development and provide policies and systems to ensure sustainable growth.

Overview of the Committee

Structure and Functions

The UNDP is made up of the executive board which includes the Administrator, Assistant Administrator and the Executive Office Chief of Staff. They are elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years. However, the Western and European States group operate independently in their rotation policy. The Bureau is made up of one President and four Vice Presidents from different regions geographically in order to represent the different states across the world. The fundamental role of the Bureau is to organize board meetings and encourage discussions for decision-making.

They play a vital role to oversee many different bureaus. There are five different regional bureaus for different continents or regions. These include the regional bureau of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of the Independent States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These regional bureaus have hubs for their respective continents which are located in specific countries within those regions. Moreover, there are bureaus for other purposes such as the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, Management Services, Policy and Program Support, etc. (2021 Organisational Chart, 2021)

The purpose of bureaus is to set up meetings, encourage both formal and informal communication and dialogue during briefings, and most importantly, share information about their respective regions during meetings.

Lastly, many offices execute different roles and functions which all align with the UNDP's main aims. For example, the aim of the Human Development Report Office is to provide opportunities for individuals to increase their freedom, and to challenge policies set in place to further development. Furthermore, in order to report development transparently, the office of audit and investigations helps the UNDP achieve its goals by offering advisory services and internal audits when publishing reports and reviewing development.

Overview of the Committee

Funding

The United Nations is part of the UN system and it comprises numerous funds, specialized agencies, and programs where each of them has its specific agenda and objectives, leadership, and budget. All funds and programmes are financed voluntarily instead of assessed contributions. However, the specialized agencies are international independent organizations that are funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions. The UN organizes its work with each of the UN system entities which collaborate with the organization in order to achieve its goals ("UN System", n.d.).

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) acknowledges that the unified nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development necessitates a more sustainable approach of funding. It also demands the UN Development System entities to develop the effectiveness and functionality of their structured dialogues to fund the development outcomes that are approved in the Strategic Plans. For this reason, the UNDP provides consistent updates regarding the implementation of the Integrated Resources Plan and Integrated Budget (2018-2021) and the Strategic Plan (2018-2021) through a series of Structured Funding Dialogues. Those dialogues with the Member States serve as a valuable forum to tackle funding quality issues and better fit the funding to the Strategic Plan results. Many themes have also been covered in these dialogues which include quality, predictability, and transparency of funding, as well as the alignment of the financial resources to the UN strategic plans ("Structured Funding Dialogues", n.d.).

Moreover, the UNDP implements the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) that represents the core of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". The programme directly offers up to $50,000 grants to local communities including indigenous people, community-focused organizations, and other non-governmental groups for projects in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Biodiversity, International Waters and Chemicals, and Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management. By providing both technical and financial support to such projects that preserve the environment and improve people's livelihoods and well-being, SGP proves that community action can sustain the delicate balance between human needs and environmental requirements (GEF Small Grants, n.d.).

Topic I: Preventing Violent Extremism through Inclusive Development, Tolerance, and Respect for Diversity

Summary and History of the Issue

Violent extremism is the use of violence in line with an ideological commitment to attain social, political, or religious goals (Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, 2017). Violent extremism is a threat that knows no boundaries as it underlies the vulnerability of all societies in today's world to the challenges of fear, hatred, and intolerance (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2017). Indeed, there is substantial evidence that suggests that radicalization is a social process where identity is a primary factor of why people are involved in violent actions. Psychological research is also starting to assess how the formation of identity could become 'maladaptive' and whether some cognitive 'propensities' may merge to generate a 'mindset' that poses a higher risk.

Unfortunately, since ethnicity and religion are considered major expressions of identity, they may be vastly exploited by extremist ideologues (Allan et al., 2015). Moreover, there are several different types of violent extremism, including, but not limited to, ideological violence, issue-based violence, and ethno-nationalist or separatist violence. In terms of ideological violence, it includes nationalist or right-wing extremism that aims to preserve the perceived majority at the expense of other cultures and is justified by patriotism or superiority to other races and cultures. Issue-based violence, however, is dedicated to a particular cause or an issue such as anti-gun control, animal liberation, or environmental activism. Finally, ethno-nationalist or separatist violence is another type of violent extremism which is the actions of individuals or groups involved in independence or violent political struggles based on culture, ethnic background, or race (GSDRC, n.d.).

There are numerous causes for violent extremism which can be simplified into two categories called 'push' and 'pull' factors. Push factors include issues like inequality, discrimination, persecution, etc. which push people to be a part of terrorist groups. Pull factors attract people to join terrorist groups by providing them with what they want to receive such as justice, hope, or purpose (Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, 2017).

Furthermore, violent extremism is a crucial issue that should be addressed for several reasons. Globally, there are millions of people who have been killed, displaced, widowed, disabled, and orphaned as a result of violent extremism movements. Although the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Boko Haram have decreased their attacks in their home countries, they have spread their attacks globally. In 2015, there was a 20% reduction of deaths in Iraq by ISIL. However, this was overshadowed by a 174% increase in deaths world-wide. (Qadeem, 2020; Global Terrorism Index, 2016). Additionally, the attacks have spread to different parts of the world. For example, ISIS and al-Qaeda have caused unrest across the globe in parts of Asia, Africa, Europe, and more. Likewise, Boko Haram and al-Shabaab have struck more parts of Africa and Asia with their attacks (UNDP, 2016).

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In fact, the greatest effect of such a societal attitude is the transformation of pluralistic and tolerant societies into intolerant ones. On the national level, violent extremism is considered the most significant threat to countries as it results in instability and insecurity of nations ("Impact of Violent Extremism", 2020). Additionally, violent extremism has an impact on the individual level, as it causes immense displacements of people from their provenance to other places which massively impacts children and young people's education and thus, results in social exclusion and unemployment.

On the psychological level, however, a harmful and indeed, unrecognized impact of extremism, people who have been living in uncertain situations due to the consistency of violent extremism, develop pantophobia and other serious psychological long-term disorders. Finally, on the economic level, violent extremism causes shutdowns of many operating businesses in the affected areas which undoubtedly then causes tremendous poverty, unemployment, and crime rates to rise (Qadeem, 2020).

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Key Issues

The Past, Present, and Future of Violent Extremism

Throughout history, we have seen patterns and trends for political extremism and radicalization across the world. Some extremist groups were initiated with the hopes of freedom and liberty, while others were initiated to simply terrorize and establish chauvinist political groups. In Europe during the 1800s, there were a series of uprisings and revolutions known as the 'Springtime of the Peoples' (Naryan, 2016). The aim of such revolutions was to create independent states from monarchical regimes. The root of the revolution was to protest for freedom of the press, better working rights, democracy, and many other rights. However, due to weak military support and divisions among the revolutionary groups, this, in turn, resulted in violence and the killings of thousands of men and women during this time period.

Moreover, the Great Depression in the 1930s played a significant role as a push factor in creating extremist groups among societies. One clear example was in Germany. Hitler rose to power through his Nazi Party by overthrowing the Weimar Republic deeming them incapable of ruling Germany. As a result, by 1932, Germany was the largest political party in the Reichstag and Hitler began to eliminate any form of democracy in Germany through propaganda and intimidation. From this example, it is clear to see how economic crisis, desperation and prospective hope can act as a breeding ground for the development of extremist groups (The National WWII Museum, 2017)

In our modern world today, another political paradigm of extremism can be seen in the Syrian civil warfare. Pro-democracy extremists started protesting for liberation from the repressive system the government ruled with which soon escalated into a blown-out civil war. Consequently, rebel groups soon formed extremist [so-called] jihadist groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS ("Why has the Syrian war lasted 10 years?", 2021).

In the future, according to the Global Network on Extremism and Technology, it is believed that there will be an increase in the number of cyber-attacks and recordings of violent extremism through the use of advanced technology. More dangerous and harmful weapons can be produced with the recent developments in 3D printing and if put in the wrong hands, this would have detrimental effects on society (Kirschke-Schwartz, 2021).

As a result of the rise in extremist groups, this has placed enormous pressure on the UN to take necessary action. Although liberty and freedom, which are positive things to advocate for, tend to lie at the heart of the rebellion of many extremist groups, it leaves one to question whether terrorism, mass killings, and extremist attacks can justify the genuine intentions these extremist groups may have. In the 1800s, thousands were killed or exiled in Europe during its revolution, and currently, suicide bombings and mass shootings still continue to take place across the world. Undoubtedly, history has and still is continuing to repeat itself, hence the UN must continue to implement policies to ensure terrorist groups do not taint the true meaning of freedom.

Pantophobia "is another form of panophobia, which is defined more accurately as "a condition of vague nonspecific anxiety" or "a generalized fear" (Merriam Webster, 2021)

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The Role of Inclusive Development in Preventing Violent Extremism

As a result of migration due to refugees fleeing from war-torn areas, many places in Europe and Africa have seen an increase in the number of people in their countries ("Overcoming barriers", 2009). Many of these refugees and migrants seek shelter, food, clothing, and other basic human needs but due to scarcity and the lack of resources to help the increase in population, this often creates inequalities and usually triggers extremism among the society.

The UNDP has realized that although the differences among different cultures and ethnic groups can pose a threat to cause violent extremism, through the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, there can be hope for inclusive development and tolerance. The Agenda aims to recognize the horizontal inequalities societies may face and address them through eradicating poverty, providing work and housing for lower-income families, and educating people to respect different cultures and backgrounds ("Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism", n.d.).

In the UNDP's Agenda for Action, there are a number of ways in which they plan to target the prevention of violent extremism. One of which is to provide a platform for victims of violent extremism to share their stories and depict the catastrophic effects it had on their lives. This would help promote dialogue by starting such conversations which are often tabooed. Moreover, mediators like artists, teachers, and the media can help identify the initial stages of violent extremism within a community and work collectively with the government to address the issue before it escalates ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016).

Another aim is to develop inclusive governance and democracy globally. In some countries, access to political power is limited, or due to corruption, there is a low incentive to vote. As a result, extremist groups use this as leverage in order to stir protests and rebellion. This has often resulted in extreme suppression by the government and people rendered helpless and caught in the vicious cycle of oppression and retaliation. Hence, if governments become more inclusive and tolerant, this would help prevent violent extremism by providing people with the sense of security they need from the government ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016).

Moreover, the UNDP's corporate Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 ("UNDP Strategic Plan", 2021) aims to pressurize governments and leaders to promote inclusive and tolerant policies, build strong strategies to prevent extremism, and ensure that human rights are met in all countries across the world.

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The Challenges of Preventing Violent Extremism

The issue of violent extremism has been a prominent concern for decades to global politicians and policymakers. Yet, its continuous prevalence proves the difficulty of faithfully adopting and implementing long-term sustainable solutions (Bowen, 2017). Although states have introduced policies to prevent violent extremism actions, there is no policy or strategy developed to tackle the long-lasting harm caused by extremism on individuals, families, and communities (Qadeem, 2020). Hence, there are key challenges associated with the sustaining peace agenda, primarily, its power to appeal to sustainable and adequate funding. These challenges should be addressed if it is to be implemented successfully across the UN system and its member states.

Indeed, the ability to sustain peace to enhance combating violent extremism will eventually depend on how well these challenges are overcome. Certainly then, policymakers should ensure that societies adopt self-sustaining peace conditions through improving local factors that strengthen their immune systems and by regularly engaging with communities that are currently attacked by violent extremism and the ones that might be at risk of it in the future (Bowen, 2017). Yet, developing such responses to tackle violent extremism is increasingly associated with Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) which is not straightforward to implement.

Furthermore, another critical issue that development practitioners are facing is the limited scope of the study of violent extremism as it is predominantly focused on immediate security issues. Whilst security analysts and academics have greatly studied the radicalization of violent extremism, less focus has been devoted to the reaction and impact of societies to sustained acts of terrorism. To demonstrate, states' response to violent movements is often an overreaction, and it is this overreaction that terrorists are seeking in order to polarise and divide societies. Thus, states must be extremely cautious in their reaction or overreaction acts of terrorism as it can produce a radicalization cycle between terrorists, governments, media, and society (Global Terrorism Index, 2018).

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Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The UNDP has helped conduct research into the causes of violent extremism in many different regions and has also implemented policies and initiatives in order to solve the issue. For example, the UNDP's Bureau for Policy Programme Support (BPPS) conducted research along with The Addis Ababa Regional Hub into the rebellion and terrorism in Africa. Similarly in July 2015, the Istanbul Regional Centre along with the BPPS analyzed the reasons for extremism in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016). Following this research, they were able to pinpoint specific push and pull factors in those regions in order to resolve them.

Moreover in March 2016, the UNDP hosted a conference about violent extremism with the help of the Oslo Governance Center to discuss the issue with different panelists and arrange workshops in order to create a platform for such matters to be discussed transparently ("Preventing Violent Extremism", 2016).

Additionally, The UN resolution document A/70/674 has more than 70 recommendations to states and countries in order for them to prevent violent extremism. These recommendations include investing in violence prevention, monitoring the trafficking of heavy weapons, reviewing laws to ensure that they align with the principles of good governance, which would reduce the appeal of violent extremism. This document is recommended for further reading in order to expand one's knowledge on the subject.

Lastly, the UNDP has also been involved in managing the UN interagency Network on Youth Development to create a platform for the youth in society to advocate for change and encourage peace and sustainability between countries.

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Questions a Resolution Should Address

- How has Covid-19 affected violent extremism movements across the world?
- Why are women in developing countries more prone to violent extremism than men?
- What is the role that respect of diversity can play in helping to reduce violent extremism movements?
- To what extent can inclusive development support policymakers in regulating violent extremism?
- Why are poor countries more likely to be targeted by terrorist attacks?
- What are some ways that can combat, or at least, minimize violent extremism as much as possible?
- How did violent extremism actions evolve throughout the years?
- Are the violent practices becoming more or less evident as time passes? And why?
- What are the main causes behind violent extremism actions and where do violent extremists want to reach?

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Topic II: Improving Living Conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle

Summary and History of the Issue

The region of Central America's Northern Triangle consists of three countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. While governments in the region attempt to minimize the effects of poverty, violence, and corruption, many residents of the region continue to migrate in order to escape these problems. Around 311,000 people have left annually in recent years (Congressional Research Services, 2021). Some migrants seek asylum and/or economic opportunities in Europe or other parts of Latin America. Others mostly endure a long and difficult journey through Mexico to the United States. The Hondurans account for the largest number of Northern Triangle immigrants intercepted by the U.S. border patrol, followed by Guatemalans, then Salvadorans.

Factors such as environmental challenges, the lack of economic opportunities, and chronic violence are what drive residents to migrate. Economic blow from the COVID-19 pandemic, back-to-back hurricanes, corruption and poor governance, and high rates of domestic and gang violence is what makes living there so dangerous.

Some migrants see it as easier to enter the United States under the Biden Administration. However, most migrants are being turned away at the border, while some unaccompanied children and families are allowed to stay in overcrowded government facilities. With the U.S. immigration system being under severe strain, President Biden has proposed a $4 billion plan to address issues driving migration in Central America.

If not acted upon, many migrants could end up in unsafe circumstances fleeing their country. To finally make a change on migration from the Northern Triangle, countries must tackle the root causes, which include land ownership inequality, declining employment opportunities, high violence, crime, and poverty rates, and the government's failure to respond to natural disasters and clear socioeconomic and security conditions. Solutions include building climate resilience, combating violence and corruption, and alleviating poverty (Cheatham, 2021).

Topic II: Improving Living Conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle

Key Issues

Socioeconomic Conditions

Economic power and land ownership are concentrated in a small group of elites in the Northern Triangle, providing a clear disadvantage to others, extreme inequality, and widespread poverty. With the lack of improved job creations, new workers may be forced to choose between pursuing limited careers in the unregulated informal sectors or seeking opportunity elsewhere, outside the Triangle.

Many households in the region depend on money sent by relatives living and working abroad as a source of income. Though the percentage dropped early during the COVID-19 pandemic, these remittances accounted for nearly 21% of the country's economic output, according to the World Bank. What mainly cripples governments' ability to provide social services are corruption and meager tax revenues (Congressional Research Services, 2021).

Natural Disasters

Environmental shocks have heightened the already difficult living conditions in the Northern Triangle. Portions of the region have struggled with drought since 2014. In addition to crop loss, rural communities have experienced declining employment opportunities in the coffee sector. The coffee sector is a crucial source of income, which provides a seasonal income for 1.3 million families. The spread of the coffee leaf fungus in 2012 has reduced coffee production. Furthermore, low international coffee prices have made it hard for farmers to replenish diseased coffee trees and pay off debts.

When hurricanes Eta and Iota and COVID-19 struck the region, families began selling off their land and migrating in 2020. The International Monetary Fund estimates those crises "contributed to annual economic contractions of nearly 9% in Honduras, 7.9% in El Salvador, and 1.5% in Guatemala" (Congressional Research Services, 2021). The number of people going hungry in the Triangle nearly quadrupled from 2.2 million in 2018 to around 8 million in 2021, according to the World Food Program. Looking forward, experts say that both population growth and climate change could further strain the region's economies, causing more people to migrate (Cheatham, 2021).

Topic II: Improving Living Conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle

Security Conditions

As the Northern Triangle became the primary transit area for South American narcotics bound for the United States, homicide rates rose rapidly in the 2000s. Many criminal organizations have secured trafficking routes through Central America by battling each other and intimidating and infiltrating government institutions. There are many gangs, such as the Mara Salvatrucha and the 18th Street Gang, who constantly resort to violence when engaging in neighborhood turf wars to control drug distribution and other activities. Homicide rates in the Triangle have been among the highest in the world. According to critics, the U.S. interventions during the Cold War helped destabilize the region.

The Northern Triangle also experiences widespread gender-based and sexual violence, making it unsafe for many communities living there. These atrocities are unplanned and impulsive, which rise from interpersonal disputes. Initially, the pandemic and global lockdown disrupted criminal activities, however, reports suggest domestic violence increased when gangs and illicit trafficking groups quickly adapted to change.

Women in the Triangle are fleeing due to gender-based violence. As of 2019, El Salvador and Honduras have Latin America's highest rates of gender-based murders of females over the age of fifteen, also known as femicide (Cheatham, 2021).

Governance

The governments of the Northern Triangle have evidently struggled to address clear socioeconomic and security conditions. Furthermore, they have also struggled in responding to natural disasters. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have a long history of autocratic leaders, and their transition to democracy has been uneasy. The governments' failures to change, reform, and give sufficient resources to the public sector has left government institutions weak and unable to carry out their duties and mandates.

Topic II: Improving Living Conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the governments of Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and the United States pledged to work together to increase refugee protection in Central America through the San Jose Action Statement. The joint declaration was also the result of an unusual assembly of concerned government agencies convened by UNHCR and the Organization of American States (OAS) in Costa Rica, which included four South American countries as well as other interested countries. The 'San Jose Action Statement' stresses the importance of timely identification and documentation of people in need of protection and shelter. It also emphasizes unrestricted access to effective and equitable protection processes. Finding alternatives to imprisonment for asylum seekers, and assuring them access to legal assistance is also one of the key topics of this statement.

Northern Triangle administrations have spearheaded efforts to establish courts and tribunals with national jurisdiction over accusations of corruption and extortion. In Guatemala, the Special Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption Impunity (FECI) was established in 2008, while in Honduras, the Specialized Fiscal Unit Against Corruption was established in 2017. El Salvador is currently the only country in the region that maintains an OAS-approved International Commission against Corruption and Impunity, known as CICIES. While maintaining a modest profile, CICIES has aided inquiries into possible offenders. Northern Triangle nations pledged to create independent anti-corruption auditing procedures and implement measures to professionalize public service as a result of the A4P under Barack Obama's administration. Despite gaining traction early on, they were unable to completely deliver on these pledges due to a lack of national and international follow-up.

Civil-society initiatives to demand more clear and open mechanisms that safeguard the independence of the judicial branches, the installation of judges and magistrates have also been aided by US and European Union (EU) efforts. The US and EU embassies have played a critical role in advising on legislation and criminal sanctions, as well as properly vetting prosecutors and supreme court nominees. The embezzlement of an estimated $300 million in government money at the Honduran Social Security Institute triggered civic unrest and led to the formation of the Organization of American States (OAS) backed Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (Atlantic Council, 2021).

Topic II: Improving Living Conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle

Questions a Resolution Should Address

- Why have the living conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle deteriorated? What are the causes?
- What are the key factors affecting the living conditions in such regions?
- What should be done in order to improve living conditions and standards of such regions?
- How can awareness regarding the issue be spread in order to solve the problem at hand?
- How can non-governmental organizations (NGO)/Nonprofits play a role in improving living conditions of central America's northern triangle?
- What recommendations are passed regarding the declining of proper living conditions in Central America.
- How can governments of this region endorse, improvise and lead in solving the issue?
- How funds can be vital & important in improvising the living conditions of these regions?

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