



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Diala Almalik**

**Ibrahim Aldaour**



**Masa Touqan**

**Tasnim Elzini**

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). By being part of the IOM committee, you will be debating about pressing issues alongside other delegates and coming up with intuitive resolutions. During the conference, you will be participating in ongoing debates in the committee, which in turn will help you learn how to build a healthy argument and enhance your argumentative skills. Sharing your ideas and thoughts is extremely important, since everyone is different. Therefore, things are seen with different point of views, and with teamwork, these ideas can be combined to make one amazing resolution.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was first known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME). It was first established in 1951 during the displacement of Western Europe after the Second World War. Consisting of 173 member states in over 100 countries, the IOM is devoted to promoting humane and orderly migration that benefits everyone. It is the leading organization that helps to advance the understanding of migration issues, encouraging social and economic development through migration, and maintain the dignity and well-being of migrants.

We urge you to prepare well in advance for this committee, as the research will help you gain the confidence to speak about the topics discussed. Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact us on [iom.ausmun@gmail.com](mailto:iom.ausmun@gmail.com) for any inquiries you may have. Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the mentioned email. The entire team is looking forward to meeting all of you.

Sincerely,  
The IOM Chairs.



**IOM**

**The International Organization for Migration**

# Topic I

## Implications of US migration policy changes for development

### 1. Summary & History

The IOM is based on the belief that migration is beneficial to the migrants as well as society, which had gained increasing acceptance internationally. According to the IOM (2019), a migrant is a "...person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (para.1). The IOM has many functions including providing secure and reliable services for migrants, enhancing the management of migration by respecting migrants' human rights with respect to international law, offering expert advice to States in order to build national and international cooperation on migration matters, and contributing to the economic and social development of States through research and implementation of migration related programmes that benefit migrants. IOM works in four main areas of migration management including migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration. The IOM has many activities in which it focuses on promoting international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protecting migrants' health, rights, and gender dimension of migration. According to the UN website (2019), the number of international migrants worldwide reached up to 272 million. An estimate of 38 million of these migrants are children, 48% are females, and 164 million individuals are migrant workers. The source for migration - the Global Migration Data Portal - aims to help policy makers, national officers, journalists, and the public to navigate the complexity of migration data. IOM's history tracks back to multiple man-made and natural disasters such as Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Chile 1973, and the Asian tsunami and Pakistan earthquake of 2004/2005.

The 1951 Refugee Convention is one of the key documents that aims to outline the rights that each refugee has, and ensures that all 145 state parties are following their obligations to protect them. One of the major disasters that highlighted the benefits of the Refugee Convention was the Hungary incident in 1956. More than 180,000 Hungarians had to relocate to Austria and Yugoslavia, where Austria showed openness and welcomed all the refugees into their country as their own. As a party to the Refugee Convention, this shows great promise of what this convention can do around the world; therefore, the US can work on further enhancing their capabilities by looking at the various countries that have worked on continuously improving their migration policies and treatments of refugees. In addition, the disasters on Czechoslovakia 1968 and Chile 1973 caused a large number of migrants to scatter to various countries. The migrants have suffered a great deal with the loss of their homes; therefore, ensuring that they are welcome to another country is a very important and humane thing to do. The US needs to ensure that all its migration policies are continuously improved in order to adapt to the various numbers of migrants into their country. This is a very important issue, as with the tragic loss of someone's home, an individual wants to feel welcome into another society, which is why ensuring an equal treatment and providing protection is a minimum for all migrants.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

Large scale movements of refugees and migrants affect all the UN Member States, which requires great cooperation and responsibilities. The UN Member States have adopted a set of commit-

ments - known as New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants - in which they recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. This declaration understands all the positive contributions that migrants have on societies, and their contributions to the sustainable and inclusive development, as well as the commitment to providing safety and freedom to all migrants - regardless of their migratory status. Due to the New York Declaration, the UN member states worked together in order to establish the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" (GCM) which began in 2018 at the intergovernmental conference on international migration in Morocco. This new initiative covers various issues including the strengthening of migrant's labor rights, improving migration data, and establishing international efforts on migrants. The GCM will hope to increase the benefits for all individuals, communities and countries. The IOM has developed an initiative that helps to improve the diversity and inclusion of migrants within the US as well as internationally through a platform referred to as "i am a migrant" which includes documentaries of experiences from various individuals, providing their perspective on migrant's experiences through their migratory journeys. This initiative hopes to expose societies to the effects and tolls that migrants face in order to help establish a society in which it provides assistance to all its migrants. Nonetheless, migration can have some negative implications on the world. For instance, it could lead to the loss of a country's culture, as the number of migrants can exceed the natives which would cause the native culture to slowly disappear. Although a mix of culture is beneficial; however, natives might feel a loss of identity as their culture has vanished with the new cultures that accompanied the migrants into their country.

### **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The IOM and the UN worked together and developed the Migration Governance Framework which aims at facilitating the safe migration of people through various migration policies. The main principles of this framework is to firstly, follow the international standards set out for protecting migrant's rights, secondly, developing policies through specific approaches that aim to benefit migrants, and finally, engage with various partners to help resolve the migration issues. In addition, through the Migration Policy Initiative (MPI), the US hopes to improve the livelihood of migrants, and ensure their safe movement into the country. The MPI was founded in 2001, and has now become a leading institute in the research and development of migration policies, research, and learning opportunities. Within the US Department of State, the Bureau's Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Office for International Migration (PIM) works on improving the immigration process through various initiatives and targeted programs that aim to improve capacity. Some capacity building programs include providing funding to other countries that help them manage their immigration systems as well as helping them prepare for any emergencies that might cause displacement. Specifically, these programs ensure that all immigrants have all the necessary documents they need in order to ease the process for them as much as possible. Furthermore, these capacity programs aim at protecting any potential refugee, enhancing the recruitment process and opportunities for immigrant workers, and finally, assist citizens in any crisis or disaster that may occur.

### **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- How can member states improve the livelihood of migrants in the US?
- What ways can existing IOM functions be improved to benefit the migrants?
- What new initiatives can the UN and the IOM develop in order to ensure society benefits from migration?

### **5. Suggestions for Further Research**

- Migration Governance Frameworks

- Migration Sustainable Development Goals
- Refugee Convention

# Topic II

## The Libyan Migration Crisis

### 1. Summary & History

The Kingdom of Libya is considered a vital destination and a transit country for Arabs and Africans who seek refuge, employment, and education opportunities in Europe. As of 2016, embassies estimated a skyrocketing number of 700,000 to about a million migrants residing in Libya. Unfortunately, the security and financial conditions in Libya do not provide a suitable environment for those migrants. Migrants in Libya often face plenty of safety hazards that include, trafficking, exploitation, and lengthy imprisonments. Due to the lack of rule of law in the country, migrants often become a target for smugglers and encounter extensive detention time, harassment, and many violations of basic human rights. Therefore, numerous migrants have chosen to leave Libya and lead a dangerous pathway across the Mediterranean Sea. IOM has made it a priority to manage the migration crisis in Libya ever since it unleashed its operations there in 2006. Furthermore, IOM Libya offers tremendous humanitarian endeavors for vulnerable migrants like women and children. Nevertheless, the situation in Libya requires widespread contributions and solutions to the hazardous atmosphere that internally displaced people and migrants live in.

Over the years, Libya's geographical location and its 1,100-mile coastline have made monitoring migrants an impossible task. Libya is positioned in an optimal location where migrants from all over the Middle East and Africa utilize the Libyan coastline to maneuver all the way to Europe. The coast was unsupervised by the government causing a flood of migrants that were snuck in and out by smugglers. The area most affected by the flood of migrants was Europe, and especially Italy. President Gaddafi was paid an accumulative \$5 billion by the European Union over 20 years to prevent further migrant invasions to Europe. After Gaddafi's fall and death in 2011, the migration crisis ignited again after the borders on the shores were loose. The conditions deteriorated even more since 5 of the 6 African countries that surrounded Libya were in constant war and conflict that caused migrants to take the Libyan route for migration. One of the most important factors contributing to the crisis is the armed conflict between two rivaling parties in Tripoli, and the fall of the government in 2014. The armed conflict caused an outburst of internally displaced people and migrants due to the massacres and violence in the vicinity. The Libyan Coast Guard has funded all kinds of lifesaving assistance from IOM in 2014 to enhance the living conditions of migrants. Especially since thousands of deaths have been recorded across the Mediterranean Sea due to the overflow of migrants. In addition, sanitary products, health care, basic necessities like food, water, and shelter, and protection from traffickers were provided to all deprived migrants. Resolving this issue is crucial to the well-being of the population and the economy of Libya and its surrounding countries. Smugglers along the borders can take advantage of the crisis and harm the migrants. However, IOM has made sure to fund nonprofit organizations and has collaborated with multiple organizations like WHO and UNHCR to provide for the needs of migrants alongside protecting them from illegal executions. For example, IOM has successfully worked on returning migrants safely from about 27 countries in 2014, and provided direct humanitarian assistance in Libya for minors, individuals affected by trafficking, and all others in need. All in all, IOM will continue supporting migrants financially and psychologically as long as the crisis is resolved.

## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

Libya has remained to be an important transit country for migrants and refugees searching for a haven in Europe. Despite the insecurity and political instability as well as the financial crisis, migrants from Africa and neighboring countries continue to flood the country. IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was able to identify and locate 348,372 internally displaced (IDPs) in Libya. Host communities have absorbed the bulk of the internally displaced, however, as the situation becomes protracted, their resources and basic services have become scarce and overstretched. Unfortunately, most migrants are caught by authorities (militants who currently control most of Libya) and detained in detention camps or imprisoned. Potential for return is minimal in safe areas because the overall security situation has not allowed for international assessment and assistance. With the constant tragedies of the refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea, IOM commenced activities in Libya to provide psychosocial, medical and clothing assistance. Based on estimates provided by embassies, the total population of migrants in Libya is about 700,000 – 1 million people that are mainly coming from Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Syria, and Mali. Migrants presently experience extreme insecurity in Libya, including arbitrary arrest by non-State actors, detention for indefinite periods of time, bonded labor, harassment and general exploitation. However, migrants and refugees are not receiving optimal help due to many factors. For instance, there is severely inadequate data collection by national authorities hindering international help from reaching the required capacity. Due to the lack of legal provision, there is a continuous lack of administrative forms of immigration detentions.

## **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

IOM is currently establishing a program to promote peace and build local capacities. This includes stabilization programs in various primary sectors such as Infrastructure, restoration of essential services, community outreach and social cohesion. Additionally, IOM provides humanitarian repatriation and reintegration assistance where migrants are assisted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. They also focus on capacity building to rebuild civil society organizations and train local partners in various topics including healthcare, human trafficking, and human rights. Moreover, IOM currently works with the Libyan Coast Guard to assist migrants rescued at sea.

Regardless, due to the continuous political instability and conflict, the migrants and refugees continue to relentlessly face grave humanitarian situations and unadorned human rights violations. Greater cooperation and a stable Libyan government are needed to overcome the pressing obstacles. One of these obstacles that delegates must consider is the protection of the inability to protect the migrant workers in Libya. Another issue to address is the massive number of victims due to combat and human trafficking. An IOM survey states that 91% of migrants worldwide had experienced forced labor or physical violence were migrants inside Libya. IOM will map protection services available to vulnerable migrants with particular emphasis on victims of trafficking (VoTs), Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), migrants with serious medical conditions (including HIV/AIDS), and other categories of those at-risk. IOM focuses on the capacity building of governmental and non-governmental entities from local NGOs and civil society organizations through a wide range of trainings and programs to scale up their capacities to be able to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs in the country.

## **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- How can the international community work with a local partner to offer alternatives to migrant detention centers?
- What are the tangible strategies that the IOM can use to achieve its objectives?

- How to protect the rights of women and children in a lawless state?
- How to address the human rights abuses that take place in detention centers?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- Immigration Detention in Libya
- Libya Migration Crisis Operational Framework
- Combating the Smuggling and Trafficking of Persons

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