

MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF XIAMEN 3RD OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL XIAMEN

DECEMBER 2-4, 2022

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13th Model United Nations Of Xiamen

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Committee Information

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations. The Council has five permanent members; China, France, Russian, United States, and the United Kingdom, and ten non-permanent members elected on a two-year term basis. The main function of the Security Council is to determine the existence of acts that threaten international peace, calling upon the parties involved to settle the dispute through peaceful and ultimately interventional means. The primary goal of the Council is to ensure the end of a conflict with as little impact on the international community as possible. Most often, the Security Council acts by giving recommendations of methods and forms of settlement. Rarely, the Council will impose sanctions or authorize force for the purpose of peacekeeping. Resolutions adopted at the UNSC are binding to all of the UN's member states.

Topic: The Political Crisis of the Houthi Insurgency in Yemen

The political crisis of the Houthi insurgency in Yemen is part of the ongoing Yemeni civil war involving the internationally recognized Sunni central government and the Zaydi Houthis, a militia of North Yemen. The Houthi militia has been engaging in military conflict against the Yemeni government since 2004 and participated in the 2011 Arab Spring event that overthrew Yemen's then-central government. After Arab Spring, the United Nations assisted Yemen in establishing a transitional government. Following a series of ineffective national meetings in late 2014, the Houthis marched into Saana, Yemen's capital, deposing the Transitional President Hadi and starting the civil war, the modern world's most dire humanitarian crisis. A six-month truce was established in 2022 with UN mediation. It has since expired with failed negotiations of renewal, leaving Yemen's citizens vulnerable once more.

President: Nicole Meng

Vice-President: Katerina Huang

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United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is the main international governmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006. The UN Human Rights Council replaced the former UN Human Rights Commission that had been criticized for its inefficiency in tackling human rights abuses established on 16 February 1946. The purpose of this committee is to deal with human rights crisis, such as harsh conditions, unfairness in treating people, suppression of human rights, and to “protect, respect, and remediate” the community. UNHRC believes that non-discrimination and equality are essential elements of the society. As the degree of civilization of the society becomes and higher, the concentration on human rights has become meticulous.

Topic: Libyan Human Rights Crisis

Libya is the fourth largest country located in North Africa. Most of the country is located in the Sahara Desert. Due to its geographical location, Libya was considered a country with poor natural resources prior to the discovery of oil there during late 1950s. The discovery of oil dramatically changed the country's economic dependency on foreign aid and imports. Muammar Gaddafi, the long-ruling Libyan leader, espouses a particular political ideology based on economic egalitarianism and direct democracy. However, Libya remains an authoritarian state, in which power is still concentrated within his inner circle of relatives and security officials. Dissatisfaction with Qaddafi's regime led to the protests in Benghazi. As the situation in Benghazi deteriorated, Libyan troops fired mortar shells and sprayed machine gun fire at demonstrators. Despite the fact that Gaddafi's tyranny is said to have played a large part in the Libyan riots, it is important to note that Gaddafi is only one factor that contributes to the outbreak of the Libyan war, and some Western countries have also played a role. The western countries supported the anti-government armed forces in Libya and conducted a series of military and political suppression against Gaddafi. As a result of the civil war's aftermath and the growth of armed organizations, the nation experienced violence, human rights violation, and instability. Due to various factors, Libyans have suffered from human rights violations such as extrajudicial killings, sexual assault, cultural genocide, misbehavior, and civilian bombardment.

Director: Jasmine Chong

Assistant Director: Jessica Chen

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations established in 1945. The purpose of ECOSOC is to advance the three facets of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It consists of 54 members elected by the General Assembly (UNGA) for three-year terms and have one representative per member. ECOSOC membership is allocated based on geographic representation: 14 seats to Africa, 10 to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 to western Europe and other areas. ECOSOC is able, and qualified to initiate studies and reports, make recommendations to UNGA and other related agencies and submit draft conventions to UNGA about matters falling within its competence. Moreover, ECOSOC can grant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) consultative status.

Topic: World Energy Problems

“The UK is now suffering the biggest gap between richest and poorest in energy costs as a proportion of income.” — Report from IMF;

“Governments need the fiscal space to support their most vulnerable populations to avoid worsening levels of energy poverty or losing energy access altogether.” — UN Global Crisis Response Group;

World Energy Problem is based on the global demands on traditional resources. The supply disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war and unsustainable storage of traditional energy sources such as fossil fuel resulted in dramatic increases of energy price, which result in negative effects on global trade and manufacture, and eventually influenced the living and employment of a huge percentage of population. According to the World Bank's latest Commodity Markets Outlook report published on 26 April, energy prices are expected to rise more than 50% in 2022. To solve the global problem of energy demand and the inevitable depletion of fossil fuels, not only the development of sustainable energy is vital, but the negative impacts to our economy and society such as unemployment, living costs increases and economic recession is also significant to be noticed — which is still one of the main topics of ECOSOC in this urgent, turbulent but hopeful time.

Director: Winston Zhao

Assistant Director: Julie Chen

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is the fourth committee of The United Nations General Assembly that deals with variety of political issues such as decolonization, atomic radiation, the Middle East, and peacekeeping operations. It is established in 1993, with the combination of Decolonization Committee and Special Political Committee. Decolonization, as the major issue of the fourth committee, it has already decolonized approximately 80 countries from colonial power since 1945. However, there are still about 17 countries that are under the colonial rules, which is the final goal of SPECPOL to decolonize all the colonies.

Topic: Political Interior and Security Risk in Afghanistan

Since 2001, a U.S-backed government has taken over the regime of Afghanistan. The Taliban, an Islamic fundamentalist group, has regrouped, and started to fight back for the territory. In August 2021, the Taliban successfully took over the power. It imposed strict rules that led to inadequate foods, weak security, and economy. Moreover, numerous human rights violations were documented by the UN mission, for instance, Opposition to women's education, public executions of opponents, persecution of Shiite-like minorities, destruction of ancient heritage, and assassination of American servicemen. The goal of this conference will be discussing about the possible resolution for this certain conflict.

Director: Darren Dong

Assistant Director: Sky Ha

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The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

Founded in 1945, the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) is the third of six committees falling under the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The third committee was formed with agendas on the topic of addressing social, cultural, and humanitarian issues, as well as promoting fundamental freedom and human rights for all. SOCHUM discusses questions such as but not limited to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, discrimination against ethnic minorities, the treatment of refugees, and the right to self-determination, and addresses important social development questions on issues relating to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control. The Committee has no power to force nations to keep promises or actions but can set agreed-upon international standards and recommend actions.

Topic: Human Rights and Cultural Heritage of Involuntarily Displaced Persons in the Middle East

The refugee crisis in the Middle East has always dominated global headlines. As of May 2022, 100 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. It witnesses the highest levels of displacement on record. Out of the 100 million displaced worldwide, the Middle East contributes to 30 percent of the numbers, more than any other region in the world, with Syria and Yemen running the top. Displaced people are highly vulnerable, and have the same rights as any other citizen. However, they usually face discrimination, violence, physical and psychological suffering, radical separation, and the death and scattering of family members. All these factors are attacks on cultural heritage and diversity. These result in having them forcibly turn down cultural expressions such as collective practices, the celebration of birth, marriage, and other festive social or religious events, believing it is the way to live through disasters. The protection of human rights and cultural heritage of involuntarily displaced persons is essential to achieving a persistent reduction of unfair treatment happening to them.

Director: Levana Yau

Assistant Director: Kyle Kim

Assistant Director: Kenny Li

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, popularly known as the Stockholm Conference, as it was held in Stockholm, Sweden. It is an International environmental authority engaged in establishing a global environmental agenda and promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, also serving as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. The United Nations Environment Assembly is the governing body of the UNEP.

UNEP reorganized its work programme into six strategic areas as part of its move to results-based management, which are climate change, post-conflict, and disaster management, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances, resource efficiency/sustainable consumption, and production. The purpose of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage cooperation in protecting the environment by educating, motivating, and empowering nations and people to improve their standard of living without compromising that of future generations. Moreover, the organization works to create international agreements addressing environmental issues and associated concerns. The secretariats of numerous conventions are housed there.

Topic: Reducing Global Carbon Emissions Through Alternate Transportation Fuels

Global carbon emissions from fossil fuels and other kinds of pollutants have drastically increased since 1900. One of the biggest contributor industries is the transportation industry with 21% of global carbon emissions related to transportation, where all kinds of vehicles such as cars, trucks, planes, and others are all relying on fossil fuel combustion around the 2000s. Since 1970, CO₂ emissions have increased by about 90% from fossil fuel combustion and other industrial processes contributing about 78% of the total greenhouse gas emissions from 1970 up to 2011. The greenhouse gas led to global warming or climate change which affected the world with unstable climate, pollution, etc. In recent years, the transportation industry had slowly converted to using electric power such as electric cars and buses to try to decrease our carbon emission rate. Even though it contributed a lot to decreasing the global carbon emissions, it wasn't enough to make a concrete change. New inventions also began such as hydrogen cars, where cars use water and hydrogen fusion instead of using fossil fuels, an experiment done by using oil which is extracted by plants also got used to power airplanes instead of using fossil fuel. Although transportation has slowly shifted into more sustainable fuels, and many policies support the conversion to electric vehicles by 2030 but is calculated that even if all the policies and initiatives were to be successful, it will only decrease the global carbon emission rate by only 14%.

Director: Rex Yu

Assistant Director: Siwon Heo

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World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the United Nations agencies, founded on April 7, 1948, with its headquarters in Geneva and Switzerland. WHO carries the role of connecting and partnering nations in order to promote health, and solve various public health problems. The purpose of the World Health Organization is to create a better and healthier living environments for people around the world, and WHO have set several objectives to achieve this goal including the responsibility to prevent the spread of epidemic and endemic diseases on both the national and the international level, to provide and improve medical training and education in international public health sector, and to provide overviews of topics related to medicine development and regulation, which is targeted to a wide audience of health professionals and policymakers.

Topic: Framework for Malaria Elimination

Malaria is an illness caused by the transmission of Plasmodium parasites, which are spread via bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Malaria is a hazardous, life-and-death disease that is accompanied by symptoms such as fever, headache and chills, therefore, malaria is known as a febrile illness which in some cases could become severe within few days or hours. Because of its widespread and significant consequences, malaria is recently receiving great awareness, but nevertheless, the outbreak of malaria did not happen recently. However, overtime, more scientific knowledges and discoveries were made, as well as the vaccines and chemotherapies to prevent malaria. Moreover, as the funding increased, coverage of medical tools scaled up, and more countries are pursuing elimination, leading to hopes for utmost eradication of malaria.

Director: Jane Yeo

Assistant Director: Audrey Wong

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United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The International Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations (UNICEF) was founded on December 11, 1946, with the initial objective of addressing the immediate needs of children in China and Europe in the wake of World War II. Since 1950, it has expanded to meet all children's long-term requirements in developing countries. Unambiguously, regardless of how much a country had participated in the conflict, UNICEF's duty was to help children and young people whose lives and futures were in risk.

Topic: Children's Education and Poverty in Middle East

In recent years, although the education rate of children in the Middle East has increased, more than 21 million teenagers and children are still out of school or at risk of dropping out. Poverty, conflict, and other factors make access to education difficult for these children. The number of out-of-school children in the Middle East has decreased by 40%, implying that one out of every four children and young people will be unable to read. Discrimination, economic conditions all have an impact on school attendance. Armed conflicts, such as those in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, have a direct impact on school attendance. As the conflict continues to expand, millions of children are facing difficult lives because they lack the knowledge and skills needed by adults. For the time being, the committee should allow children in the Middle East to provide more educational opportunities.

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