



Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations Conference
United Nations General Assembly Plenary
March 3rd - 4th, 2023 Kennesaw, GA
Email: ksuhsmun2023@gmail.com

Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the 2023 Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations Conference. My name is Edgar Romero Cordova and I have the honor of serving as your Director of the United Nations General Assembly Plenary. This is my third year being part of Kennesaw State University's HSMUN Conference with three years experience competing with KSU's Model UN team. I am currently a graduate student working on receiving my Masters in International Policy Management here at KSU. A fun fact about me is that I can speak three languages and am working on my fourth. I look forward to hearing and seeing all the solutions proposed at this year's conference.

Our committee's Assistant Director is Anna Santmier. This is Anna's first year of KSU Model UN as well as KSU High School Model UN. She is looking forward to the experience and opportunity to work with fellow delegates interested in finding solutions to complex problems. Anna majors in Civil Engineering with an emphasis on transportation at KSU. Anna enjoys hiking and reading.

Our committee Chair is Alex Rau. This is Alex's first year of both KSU Model UN and KSU High School Model UN. He is excited to gain experience in Model UN as he becomes more familiar with the structure and flow of the conference. Alex is currently majoring in International Affairs with a minor in Asian Studies. Some fun facts about Alex are that he is currently studying Hindi and is an avid rock climber.

The topics under discussion for United Nations General Assembly Plenary Committee:

- I. Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis**
- II. Identifying and Combatting Root Causes of Genocide in Developing States**

Each Member State's delegation within this committee is expected to submit a position paper presenting their ideas for both agenda topics. A position paper is a short essay describing your Member State's history and position on the issues at hand. There are three key parts to any successful position paper: history, current status of the issue, and possible solutions for the future. Information for properly formatting the position papers, as well as valuable advice for writing a quality paper, can be found in the Delegate Preparation section of the HSMUN webpage (<http://conference.kennesaw.edu/hsmun/>). Delegates are reminded that papers should be no longer than two pages in length with titles in size 12 and text in size 10-12 Times New Roman. Citations should be footnoted in Chicago style formatting, such as those used inside this guide. Furthermore, plagiarism in an academic setting is unacceptable and will nullify any score for the paper in question. During the grading process, we will be utilizing the university's plagiarism checker. Wikipedia is a wonderful place to begin researching, but we highly encourage the use of peer-reviewed academic articles or trusted media sources. The objective of a position paper is to present the diplomatic position of your Member State on both agenda topics as accurately as possible. **All position papers MUST be sent to ksuhsmun2023@gmail.com by February 24th, 2023. Late papers will be accepted until February 28th, 2023 with points penalized.**



History of the General Assembly Plenary

The United Nations (UN) was founded on October 24th, 1945, in San Francisco, California with an original member count of 51 Member-States. The international organization's main purpose is to maintain international peace, uphold human rights for every human being in each Member State. The United Nations further works to establish a setting in which obligations from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained. Over the years, the UN has worked tirelessly to promote social progress and the development of each person's standard of living. The United Nations Charter established the six principal organs of the UN. These organs are named as follows: the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council, the Economic and Security Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the UN Secretariat.

Since the inception of the United Nations, the General Assembly is the only organ in which all 193 Member States have equal representation and voting power. The GA Plenary currently consists of six main committees; the first committee on Disarmament & International Security, the Economic & Financial Committee, the Social Humanitarian & Cultural Committee, the Special Political & Decolonization Committee, the Administrative & Budgetary Committee and the Legal Committee. Each main committee of the GA is headed by a Bureau consisting of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

Acting as the main acting body of the UN gives the General Assembly more responsibilities than most organs. These responsibilities include but are not limited to: (1) receiving and considering annual and special reports from the security council, (2) receiving and considering reports from all other organs of the UN, (3) considering and approving the budget of the UN, (4) considering the amount due by each member of the UN, (5) considering financial and budgetary with specialized agencies, (6) electing members to the Economic and Social Council, members of the Trusteeship Council, and the ten non-permanent members to the Security Council. The General Assembly is also responsible for considering admitting new members into the UN as well as suspending the rights and privileges of membership, and the removal of a Member-State's membership status.

The Assembly is scheduled to meet from September to December each year, and thereafter from January to August as required. In September 2015, the Assembly adopted the highly recognized 17 sustainable goals that emphasizes a comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable development for all. The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform the world include:

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life Below Water



Goal 15: Life on Land

Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

The GA currently does not possess the power to enforce laws or policies. However, The General Assembly as the main policy making and representative organ is empowered to make recommendations to Member States on global issues. It has continuously promoted initiative actions targeting the political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal sectors. The GA meetings addressing these sectors have had major impacts on people all over the world today and continue to do so.



I. Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis

Introduction

Food insecurity is an issue that has affected the world throughout the history of humanity. However, in modern times, this issue has escalated into a Global Food Crisis where entire regions and Member States face severe food insecurities and increased famine. The World Food Programme in 2022, reported for its third consecutive year a record breaking increase in global hunger, with 345 million people facing acute levels of food insecurity.¹ Due to this increase in food insecurities, the international community is witnessing increased famines occurring across various Member States in Africa and the Middle East.² As of 2022, the UN World Food Programme estimated that 50 million people worldwide are on the brink of famine.³ This has resulted in the international community directing greater focus on combating the causes of food insecurity as well as the food crisis directly. Despite collaborative efforts from international organizations and the United Nations, it has become an increasingly difficult task to address due to the rapid increase of food insecurity. Meanwhile, international organizations continue to operate at a max capacity and are unable to keep up with record breaking food insecurity. This has escalated into a global food crisis that now not only requires extensive logistical planning but more comprehensive methods of financing.

History

The United Nations has long been dedicated to the protection of vulnerable populations and taken action to protect people from food insecurity. The first major step towards taking action to combat food insecurity came from the 1943 UN Conference on Food and Agriculture that would go on and establish the first permanent organization with a focus on food and agriculture.⁴ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was established in 1945 for the purposes of reducing hunger worldwide and improving nutrition through improving agricultural practices.⁵ The FAO has been committed to increasing the accessibility of high quality nutritious foods to all people through various practices such as promoting sustainable growth in agricultural sectors, protecting the production of agriculture from environmental disasters as well as reducing rural poverty.⁶ Thanks to the creation of the FAO, some of their major achievements included the elimination of the deadly livestock disease rinderpest, eliminating “river blindness” in eleven African Member States, as well as reduced the number of hungry people in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁷ The World Food Programme was later established in 1961 by UN General Assembly resolution: A/RES/1714(XVI) as an experimental organization with the

¹ United Nations. “World Food Day: Another Year of Global Record Hunger Looms amid Food and Climate Crisis | UN News.” United Nations. United Nations, October 13, 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129522>.

² World Food Programme. “A Global Food Crisis: World Food Programme.” UN World Food Programme, 2022. <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>.

³ World Food Program USA. “How Much Would It Cost to End World Hunger?” World Food Program USA, August 10, 2022. <https://www.wfpusa.org/articles/how-much-would-it-cost-to-end-world-hunger/#:~:text=The%20U.N.%20World%20Food%20Programme%20feeds%20over%20100%20million%20of,end%20global%20hunger%20by%202030>.

⁴ “The Founding of FAO.” FAO. Accessed December 27, 2022. <https://www.fao.org/3/p4228e/p4228e04.htm>.

⁵ “Food Security and Nutrition - A Global Issue.” Dag Hammarskjöld Library. United Nations, December 8, 2022. <https://research.un.org/en/foodsecurity/un-milestones>.

⁶ “FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.” United Nations Office of the secretary-general's envoy on youth. United Nations. Accessed January 1, 2023. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/09/fao-food-and-agriculture-organization-of-the-united-nations/>.

⁷ Cavalletti, Isabella. “Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).” eco-nnect, November 2018. <https://eco-nnect.com/food-and-agriculture-organization-fao/>



assistance of the FAO and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.⁸ The World Food Programme was created with the goals of providing food aid for Member States as a way to facilitate economic and social development.⁹ Since then, the World Food Programme has launched initiatives that target malnutrition amongst infants and young children, implementing school feeding programs to improve the health and decrease malnutrition amongst children worldwide, as well as provide support for smallholder farmers to build efficient and sustainable agricultural systems.¹⁰

The United Nations has had a long term goal of eliminating hunger from the world. All Member States of the United Nations in 2015 adopted the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the purposes of improving the lives of all humans. Sustainable Development Goal two was created with the goal of creating a world free of all hunger by the year 2030.¹¹ SDG two was created with targets such as ensuring all people especially vulnerable populations such as women, children and indigenous populations have access to sufficient food, increase agricultural production levels, increase investments in rural infrastructures as well as promote trade with less trade restrictions in agricultural markets.¹² However, the covid-19 pandemic has brought great difficulties in achieving this goal, most notably, the percentage of Member States that have been affected by high food prices saw a dramatic increase from 16% in 2019 to 47% in 2020.¹³ This unfortunately has created major setbacks for the international community towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

Current Situation

Our world within recent years has been experiencing one of the largest food crises in modern history that has left hundreds of millions of people in hunger. According to the World Food Programme, in the year 2022, an estimated 828 million people experienced hunger due to global increases in food insecurity.¹⁴ This increase has been part of an ongoing trend of food insecurities and global food crises continuing to worsen and spread. The World Health Organization reported in 2021 that when looking at trends in food insecurity prior to the Covid-19 pandemic to 2021, there was an increase of 350 million people becoming moderately to severely food insecure, bringing the worldwide population that faces food insecurities to 2.3 billion.¹⁵

The current global food crisis has been a matter in the making due to various factors including climate change, extreme weather events, conflict and now most recently the Covid-19 pandemic and its widespread effects on supply chain and in agricultural sectors.¹⁶ Wars and conflict however, are the

⁸ UN. General Assembly (16th sess. : 1961-1962). "World Food Programme." United Nations Digital Library. United Nations. Accessed December 30, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/library/page/un-resources-documents>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ World Food Programme. "WFP at a Glance: World Food Programme." UN World Food Programme, November 14, 2022. <https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-glance#:~:text=WFP%20and%20partners%20supported%20more,in%2027%20countries%20in%202021>.

¹¹ United Nations. "Goal 2: Zero Hunger - United Nations Sustainable Development." United Nations. United Nations, 2022. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>.

¹² United Nations. "Goal 2: Zero Hunger - United Nations Sustainable Development." United Nations. United Nations, 2022. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>.

¹³ United Nations. "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022." United Nations. United Nations, July 7, 2022. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>.

¹⁴ World Food Programme. "A Global Food Crisis: World Food Programme." UN World Food Programme, 2022. <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>.

¹⁵ "UN Report: Global Hunger Numbers Rose to as Many as 828 Million in 2021." World Health Organization. World Health Organization, July 6, 2022. <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-07-2022-un-report-global-hunger-numbers-rose-to-as-many-as-828-million-in-2021>.

¹⁶ World Food Programme. "A Global Food Crisis: World Food Programme." UN World Food Programme, 2022. <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>.



largest contributor to food insecurity not only due to the mass destruction that occurs during wars and conflict, but due to the practice of using food insecurity and starvation as a war tactic. Conflicts due to civil wars as well as interstate wars have significantly contributed to increased food insecurity as critical infrastructures as well as agricultural sectors become increased targets in order to destabilize and weaken opponents. Current United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres during a security council session in 2022 made the statement “When war is waged, people go hungry” further noting that an estimated 60% of the population that faces food insecurities live in areas that are affected by conflict and violence.¹⁷ As a result of conflict, we have witnessed food prices increase as critical commodities such as wheat and corn become increasingly scarce due to regional conflicts that lead to the destruction of critical infrastructures that allow for the growth and transportation of crops both within a Member State but as well as into the global supply chain.

Increased extreme weather events and global climate change continue to play an increased role in food insecurity. Increased instances of extreme weather events continue to disrupt agricultural sectors in various Member States due to the destruction of crops and livestock that reduce the accessibility to food and contribute to food insecurity. Recent changes in weather patterns and increases in temperatures have and will continue to reduce crop yields, particularly for already vulnerable populations whose livelihoods are dependent on agriculture will not decrease the accessibility to food but also continue to push communities into poverty. The World Bank, when looking at the effects of climate change, estimates that by 2030, 43 million people in the African continent alone will fall below the poverty line due to widespread disruptions in agriculture.¹⁸ This increase in poverty will thus also be a contributing factor to food insecurity as communities impacted by disruptions in agriculture will have limited access to affordable foods. Studies by the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have shown that Member States that experience higher occurrences of extreme climate events tend to have higher rates of undernourished people.¹⁹ This can be attributed to extreme weather events and climate change leading to increased land degradation, desertification as well as depletion of water supplies only further undermining efforts to combat food insecurity.

Lastly, continued disruptions within global supply chains with rising costs of commodities have greatly contributed to the record breaking numbers of people suffering from food insecurity since the start of the covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 exposed weaknesses in our global supply chain especially within the agricultural sector that have significantly raised the cost of food, especially nutritious and high quality foods. As people across the world continue to fall below the poverty line, it has become increasingly more difficult for those most vulnerable to escape food insecurity. The World Bank reported in 2021 that rising food prices alone contributed to an additional 30 million people worldwide being pushed into food insecurity.²⁰ The rise in food prices is attributed to a large number of Member States becoming increasingly reliant on imports to fulfill their food needs while the covid-19 pandemic created disruptions

¹⁷ United Nations. “Conflict and Food Security - Security Council, 9036th Meeting | UN Web TV.” United Nations Web TV. United Nations, May 19, 2022. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10mjpv1u3>.

¹⁸ World Bank Group. “Climate Explainer: Food Security and Climate Change.” World Bank. World Bank Group, October 19, 2022. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/10/17/what-you-need-to-know-about-food-security-and-climate-change#:~:text=Who%20is%20most%20affected%20by,are%20disproportionally%20poor%20and%20vulnerable>.

¹⁹ “UN Warns Climate Change Is Driving Global Hunger.” United Nations Climate Change, September 12, 2018. https://unfccc.int/news/un-warns-climate-change-is-driving-global-hunger?gclid=CjwKCAiAzKqdBhAnEiwAePEjKqvCL3MhgqXa5E8y7ROpVbAzp9NehmlRxRXbJM_t8LiEjH8d0v0k6xoCLAYQAvD_BwE.

²⁰ World Bank Group. “Climate Explainer: Food Security and Climate Change.” World Bank. World Bank Group, October 19, 2022. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/10/17/what-you-need-to-know-about-food-security-and-climate-change#:~:text=Who%20is%20most%20affected%20by,are%20disproportionally%20poor%20and%20vulnerable>.



that prevented the transportation of various commodities including crops. Wheat was one of the most affected commodities, due to a handful of Member States being responsible for the bulk of the production of wheat for a large percentage of the world. Grains are a crucial commodity given that experts estimate that over 50% of human caloric consumption comes from grains thus being a crucial commodity for the fight against food insecurity.²¹

Conclusion

As the population of people experiencing food insecurity continues to grow at record breaking rates; this has ultimately escalated the matter into a global food crisis. This ongoing crisis should be of the utmost importance and treated as severely as any other economic or military crisis given the widespread effects and implications it has for Member States and citizens across the world. As the issue grows, it is crucial that any pre existing policies be adapted to the new demands in the international system and the leading factors that have allowed for food insecurity to continue to grow. In addition to policy, the use of technology and scientific advances should be explored for potential solutions to combat increased difficulties in agriculture due to climate change and extreme weather events. It is crucial that the international community treat this humanitarian crisis with the utmost priority given that within recent years, populations experiencing food insecurity continue to increase worldwide. It is in the international community's best interests to resolve these issues in order to prevent any further destabilization of regions and Member States.

Committee Directive

Keeping in mind Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end hunger by 2030, Delegates should analyze past UN and international efforts to assist populations experiencing food insecurity and famine to identify prior limitations and coordinate more effective action to resolve global food insecurity. Delegates should further analyze the primary causes of food insecurities and propose new solutions and guidelines to have specific solutions for populations that are experiencing widespread food insecurity in order to prevent the spread of food insecurity by combating the root causes. Delegates should consider global collaborative efforts for proposed solutions given that the global food crisis is a serious humanitarian issue that should be prioritized by Member States as it has harmful effects on the quality of human life and regional stability. Delegates should also keep in mind the limited resources that Member States have and find cost effective solutions that could be implemented across developing Member States. In addition, delegates should remain committed to upholding and respecting the sovereignty of all Member States. When proposing new solutions and recommendations regarding alleviating the current global food crisis, it is essential that solutions remain balanced in terms of not infringing on Member States sovereignty over their territory while remaining effective to prevent this Global Food Crisis from escalating any further and further contributing to global instability.

²¹ Nikos-Rose, Karen Michele. "Global Food Supply-Chain Issues Call for Solutions." UC Davis, July 1, 2022. <https://www.ucdavis.edu/curiosity/news/global-food-supply-chain-issues-call-solutions>.



II. Identifying and Combatting Root Causes of Genocide in Developing States

Introduction

Genocide is a beyond reprimandable act that has devastated the world for hundreds of years. Defined as the intentional destruction of a particular group based on nationality, ethnic group, race, religion, or otherwise, genocide is a condemnable action that has the potential to plague all Member States, but especially those that are still considered to be developing.²² Since the coining of the term after World War II, governing bodies, both domestic and international, have become more keenly aware of the devastation inflicted by genocidal practices. While it seems like a horror of the past, genocide is still a force of conflict in developing Member States across the world, in fact it is estimated that some forty-three genocidal events have taken place since 1956, resulting in millions of deaths and an incalculable amount of destruction on the political, economic, and cultural spheres of humanity.²³ The United Nations General Assembly Plenary established the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948.²⁴ The Genocide Convention, as it is more commonly referred to, condemns genocide as a punishable international crime, even if the Convention has not been ratified by every Member State, regardless if they are an active member of the United Nations.²⁵ While the Genocide Conventions have done well to encourage combat against atrocity crimes, there have still been many losses suffered in developing Member States due to oversights and neglect that must be addressed with any further frameworks.

History

The United Nations was formed on the basis of securing international stability and peace, economically and in regards to humanitarianism. Following the Second World War in 1948, a codified response that outlined genocide as an international law called the Genocide Convention was formed. Though ultimately the United Nations' goal is to prevent any further atrocity crimes from occurring, the Genocide Convention is in place to ensure support and advisement for dealing with the possible occurrence of a possible genocidal event. Since its ratification, the United Nations has enlisted regional organizations to assist in the prevention of genocidal crimes, compelling said organizations to function under a three pillar system. The first pillar is to identify friction within the societies in their jurisdiction,

²² "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide". Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Accessed December 23, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>

²³ Anderton, Charles H.; Brauer, Jurgen, eds. (2016). *Economic Aspects of Genocides, Other Mass Atrocities, and Their Prevention*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-937829-6.

²⁴ United Nations. "United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed January 7, 2023. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide-convention.shtml#:~:text=The%20Genocide%20Convention%20was%20the,during%20the%20Second%20World%20War.>

²⁵ Ibid.



the second being to promote peace and tolerance within those societies, and the third is to protect groups at risk if an atrocity crime did break out.²⁶

At the World Summit in 2005, the United Nations took action to address the root causes of genocide, through adopting the Responsibility to Protect principle, which acknowledges the important role domestic agencies have in promoting international cooperation and combatting local conflicts. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been a crucial part of implementing this principle, as these organizations represent local communities and governments and can best perceive how to address any rising conflicts within their jurisdiction. CSOs were first called into action during the Libyan Civil War in 2011 in order to protect civilians from threats made by the dominating Qadhafi regime. While resources to the regime had been cut-off under the United Nations' guide, the power to support from within Libya was handed off to CSOs.²⁷ Civilian-run and volunteer-orientated groups formed in a response to the violence and atrocities during the revolts of the war, providing protection and aid to those at risk- such as sub-Saharan Africans and political dissenters. This particular case study, while laced with controversy, represents best the goals of the Responsibility to Protect principle in allowing Member States to maintain agency in dealing with domestic conflicts.

Providing further support in the forms of litigation, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) handles violations of international laws against atrocity crimes. The first state found guilty of breaching the Genocide Convention was Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2007, due to Bosnia's failure to do anything in the way of preventing the Srebrenica genocide. Following the breakup of Yugoslavia, Serbian forces seized territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina to create a serb ethnic state, which resulted in the mass murder of thousands of Bosnian Muslims. While not found directly responsible for the lives lost, Bosnia was aware of the massacre occurring on their soil, and the refusal to do anything to stop it was seen to be just as catastrophic.²⁸ The failure to prevent genocide under the Genocide Convention is seen in the same vein as perpetuating atrocious crimes. It is situations like the Bosnian War that bring light to the importance of preventative measures.

Current Situation

Although strides have been made in the past to combat ongoing genocides and prevent forming ones, genocides continue to occur in a number of Member States and there remain warning signs in many different regions . The Rohingya Genocide in Burma is an example for this; as a result of an increasing nationalist fervor and martial law in Myanmar, an estimated 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from their Member State and thousands have been killed after decades of persecution.²⁹ One particularly well documented instance of the Myanmar Tatmadaw's attempts at ethnic cleansing is the Inn Dinn Massacre, in which ten men in a village on the Western end of Burma were summarily executed by soldiers as part of a regional 'Clearance Operation.'³⁰ As a result of these operations, not a single villager at Inn Dinn

²⁶ "Regional Organizations". Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect . Accessed December 24, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/regional-organisations.shtml>

²⁷ "Security Council Approves 'No-Fly Zone' over Libya, Authorizing 'All Necessary Measures' to Protect Civilians, by Vote of 10 in Favour with 5 Abstention" Security Council, United Nations. Accessed December 31, 2022. <https://press.un.org/en/2011/sc10200.doc.htm>

²⁸ "Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro" International Court of Justice, February 26, 2007. <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/91/091-20070226-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>

²⁹ Paige K. Anderson, "The Rohingya Genocide: How Geopolitics Have Brought the Crisis to a Standstill". Harvard International Review.

³⁰ Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo, Simon Lewis, and Antoni Slodkowski (2018), "How Myanmar forces burned, looted and killed in a remote village." Reuters, Reuters, February 8, 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/2s3z8c5w>



remains in Burma.³¹ Suppression of media coverage also facilitates this ethnic cleansing, as attempts to broadcast atrocities are swiftly punished by the government. In one case, two journalists working for Reuters on the case of the Inn Dinn massacre were released after 500 days in prison and international pressure from the United Nations and Reuters.³² The United Nations, while making attempts to address this crisis, have made little headway in preventing the persecution and mass exodus of Rohingya people from Burma, primarily to Bangladesh. Furthermore, the military coup within Myanmar has slowed progress considerably, as personal freedoms have been heavily restricted under the military junta.

Another present-day genocide occurring is the Darfur Genocide in Sudan. As a result of military conflict between Darfuri rebellion groups and the ruling party, the Khartoum government and the Janjaweed militia group has been implementing an objective to eliminate people in the region since 2003. This systematic destruction of the Darfuri people stems from the divide between the ethnically Arab population in Sudan's North, and Africans in the Southwest. Because political power lies with the Arab majority,³³ racism-fueled aggression towards non-Arab ethnic groups has occurred with little response. With hundreds of thousands dead and millions having fled from Darfur, it remains one of the most catastrophic instances of ethnic cleansing in the 21st century.³⁴ Both the Janjaweed and Sudanese government have employed strategies of village-burning, mass murder, and rape to exterminate Darfuri people.³⁵ The crisis has stabilized in recent years, with trials under way against Sudanese military leaders.³⁶ The implementation of UNAMID, a United Nations led operation in Darfur has additionally provided aid and stability to the region, having a peak of 23,000 officers stationed in Sudan to facilitate peacekeeping, distributing food, educational supplies, medical equipment, and improving infrastructure for access to water.³⁷ Nonetheless, the responses to this genocide are insignificant when compared to the irreversible consequences that the killings have created. With millions affected by this nearly two-decade long event, the reactions by the United Nations can not be seen as a successful measure. Given these two modern examples in developing Member States, it is clear to see the issues in the United Nations' framework for responding and preventing genocides in the modern day, with speed of action and united collaboration among assisting Member States being the largest of them.

Conclusion

As an institution founded in response to conflict in World War Two, the United Nations has a long history with responding to genocides and ethnic cleansing. Since the General Assembly Plenary's adoption of the 1948 Genocide Convention, the international community has made it of great importance to protect vulnerable populations from violence and acts of genocide.³⁸ However, genocides have continued to run rampant in many developing Member States for a plethora of reasons: either due to

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Central Intelligence Agency, "Sudan - The World Factbook". <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/sudan/#people-and-society>

³⁴ United Nations. "Concrete action essential to fulfill Darfur promise: ICC Prosecutor." United Nations News, 17 January 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109922>

³⁵ David Scheffer. "Rape as Genocide." New York Times. 3 November 2008. https://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/03/opinion/03iht-edscheffer.1.18365231.html?_r=0

³⁶ United Nations. "Darfur: Trial of Janjaweed leader must not be 'a false dawn' for justice, Security Council hears." United Nations News. 23 August 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125272>

³⁷ United Nations. "Darfur: UN transition to peacebuilding." United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/darfur-un-transition-peacebuilding>

³⁸ United Nations. "United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed January 7, 2023. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide-convention.shtml#:~:text=The%20Genocide%20Convention%20was%20the,during%20the%20Second%20World%20War.>



increased tensions economic, social, and or political. These crises have illuminated the United Nations' lack of effective and timely action in time-sensitive situations such as genocide. As such, it is the duty of this committee and delegates to develop new strategies to combat genocidal acts occurring throughout the world and prevent the circumstances where new ones may arise.

Committee Directive

Given the extensive history of genocides throughout the world, delegates should begin their work by understanding the various factors that have contributed both in past and present events of genocide. Delegates should understand the common signs in early stages of ethnic cleansing, taking into account the social, economic, and political factors that are at play. Once having an understanding of these root causes, delegates should then take into consideration any current frameworks regarding genocide prevention given by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect,³⁹ and highlight any potential oversights in this process. Delegates should additionally see the usage of this framework in history and make critiques and identify weaknesses that have contributed to the continuation of genocides. With this information, delegates should propose new strategies to not only better identify and respond to genocides and ethnic cleansing appropriate to modern issues but to ensure timely responses in order to effectively protect at-risk and vulnerable populations. While establishing these strategies and proposals, delegates should remain vigilant in preventing potential infringements on a Member States' sovereignty in these processes.

³⁹ United Nations.. "Our Work". United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/early-warning.shtml>