



STUDY GUIDE

ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT (HAS-ECOSOC)





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Welcome message

Honorable Delegates,

On behalf of the “Asociación Dominicana de las Naciones Unidas” (ANU-RD) and the General Secretariat of this III Edition of the New York Model United Nations Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (NYMUNLAC 2020), we welcome you to The Economic and Social Council’s Humanitarian Affairs Segment. We want to congratulate you for stepping up to the challenge and become a high-level ambassador in the United Nations System.

By becoming a part of this simulation, you will have the opportunity to debate and recommend the solutions to the most delicate and complex situations that affect, not only our lives, but the welfare of the international community as a whole.

My name is **Mauro Centeleghe** and, on this occasion, I will serve as President of this Council. I am 23 years old and currently living in Mendoza, Argentina. I finished high school at Escuela Italiana XXI Aprile and right now I am pursuing the last subjects in my law career at Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (UNCuyo). I have always loved international affairs and world history. Since I was very little I wanted to know more, to be part of this giant and amazing world we live in, so I studied several languages and took every chance I got to broaden my horizons. That drove me to win study grants for San Severino Marche – Italy and Université de Lille 2 Droit et Santé – France. For the past nine years I have been actively participating in United Nations Models; first as a delegate, then as a mentor, helping prepare new delegates, and finally in the role of chief organizer of the UN University Model of UNCuyo 2019 and 2020. Lastly, I am currently working as a member of “Fundación Alquimia Creativa”, where we work to complement formal education through experiential learning and gamification of the classroom.

Joining us as Vice President of this Commission is **Ignacio Milman**, 17-year-old Argentine, resident in Mexico and currently studying high school at the Instituto Thomas Jefferson Campus Zona Esmeralda. He started his participation in the Model United Nations (MUN) in 2015, when he was in his first year of middle school at 13 years old and since then he has had the opportunity to participate in 20 Models organized by both national and international agencies, highlighting his first foreign participation in 2017, in the MUN called HACIA Democracy, organized by Harvard University. He has also achieved various recognitions, such as Best Delegate at ISPMUN, held in Alicante Spain, Best Delegate and Best Negotiation Skills at NYMUNLAC 2019, in New York City and first place in GlobalSenMexMun 2019. As an organizing member of Models, in 2018 he assumed the role of Secretary General of TJMUN 2018, becoming the youngest student to lead this event.

And last but not least, **Liliana Gonzalez**, who will be serving as Rapporteur throughout all sessions of this debate. High school student at the Christopher Columbus College in Mexico City, she has been involved in Models since she was in sixth grade and ever since, she has reaffirmed with everyone her belief of world peace as an attainable goal. She currently serves as Academic Secretary in the Christopher Columbus College’s Model of the United Nations (COLONMUN), and has previously performed as secretary of other such events, such as when she served as Logistics Secretary in the 2020’s edition of INMUN and as Vinculation Secretary in the H. Chamber of Deputies of Mexico’s Model of the United Nations.

Finally, we would like to mention that the dynamics proposed by MUNs, gave us the opportunity to continue developing skills that had helped us in both personal and professional lives. We are elated to share these experiences with peers and future generations.

This document is a way of guiding you in your study, but you should not limit yourself to continue investigating the topics to be discussed during the Conference. We encourage you to study the current issues that directly affect the domestic and foreign policies of the country you will represent. Know that general knowledge of the topics will not be enough to ensure an outstanding performance in this Commission. We will be expecting better than average speeches and discussions; we will demand preparation, a sharp foreign policy, eloquence, motivation, and clear statements.

The topics in agenda in this NYMUNLAC 2019 ECOSOC HAS are:

- Addressing internal displacement associated with disasters and conflict
- Progress and Actions to Protect from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Also, this Council may have to discuss an emergency session: an unknown situation that could lead to the breach of the world peace and international security. As the very essence of an emergency is its unpredictability, it could happen any time and be about anything. In that sense, we urge you to keep studying the different topics that constitute part of the agenda of the international community, keep up with the news about current international events and specially make a deep study of your country, knowing the essence of their political agendas may help you elaborate a position no matter the topic.

We look forward to meeting you all soon! It will be an honor for us to moderate your work. We earnestly hope you embrace this opportunity to grow as an agent of change for your society, and impact your surroundings with the acquired knowledge in this Conference.

¡Welcome to NYMUNLAC 2020!

Mauro Centeleghe
President HAS-ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The UN Charter established “The Economic and Social Council” in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. ECOSOC is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

The Council consists of 54 Members States, which are elected yearly by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. Seats on the Council are allocated ensuring equitable geographic rotation among the United Nations regional groups, with 14 being allocated to the African Group, 11 to the Asia-Pacific Group, 6 to the Eastern European Group, 10 to the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 13 to the Western European and Others Group.

The president of the Council is elected for a one-year term and chosen from the small or mid-sized powers represented on the Council at the beginning of each new session. The presidency rotates among the United Nations Regional Groups to ensure equal representation. Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway was elected as the seventy-fifth President of the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2019.

The Council main focus is to **articulate** and **coordinate** between UN Member States, UN organizations, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities. ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, and specialized agencies, programs and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people’s lives.

The Economic and Social Council Chamber in the United Nations Conference Building serves as a metaphor: the pipes and ducts in the ceiling above the public gallery were deliberately left exposed because the architect believed that anything useful should be left uncovered and the "unfinished" ceiling is a symbolic reminder that the economic and social work of the United Nations is never finished; there will always be something more which can be done to improve living conditions for the world's people. By emphasizing combined economic, social and environmental concerns, ECOSOC encourages agreement on coherent policies and actions that make fundamental links across all three.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS)

Around the world, increasingly complex and protracted crises strike a rising number of people. These threats require well-coordinated responses drawing on skills and resources from diverse partners, particularly given the scale of the impacts and rapidly escalating costs. The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) has been essential for discussing the activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. It is a unique platform that brings together UN Member States, UN organizations, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities.

Each June, they discuss and agree on how to best tackle the most recent and pressing humanitarian concerns. Interactive panel discussions and side events share the latest information on current opportunities and challenges. HAS 2019 took place from 24-26 June in Geneva. The theme for the HAS was “Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General”. It was from the many topics discussed there that NYMUNLAC took the two main topics you are going to debate upon in April: “Addressing internal displacement associated with disasters and conflict” and “Progress and Actions to Protect from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”.

Topics of ECOSOC HAS: NYMUNLAC 2020

Topic I: Addressing internal displacement associated with disasters and conflict

Internal displacement remains one of the most urgent topics in international politics. Extreme weather events, such as floods, storms, wildfires and drought, continue to force millions of people from their homes every year, and according to international organizations such as FAO (The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), climate change is expected to intensify, not only in frequency, but in scale as well, thus making displacement driven by sudden and slow-onset disasters all the more worrisome. Meanwhile, conflict and violence remain key drivers of internal displacement, also displacing millions of people annually. In some circumstances, conflict interacts with disasters or environmental degradation and vice versa. This can prevent the internally displaced from returning relatively quickly to their homes, force them to flee again, exacerbate tensions with other groups, and complicate the achievement of durable solutions.

While displacement can affect all countries regardless of their levels of income or development, the risks and impact of disasters and conflict are often disproportionately borne by those countries and communities which already face significant development and humanitarian challenges. Having lost their homes, livelihoods and often more, internally displaced persons struggle to access their rights and can face vulnerabilities and discrimination.

Reducing the risk and impacts of disaster displacement while preventing and addressing the consequences of conflict displacement require governments and the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors to work together more effectively to resolve protracted crises, support internally displaced persons to secure durable solutions, and invest in efforts to manage risk and build resilience in the long term.

Topic II: Progress and Actions to Protect from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Sexual violence is one of the most widespread human rights violations. A staggering 1 in 3 women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime, and risk increases during humanitarian crises (ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, 2019, p. 1).

Protection from sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment is critical for the effective delivery of aid to people in need, but also to the integrity of humanitarian organizations and workers and the upholding of humanitarian principles. Organizations that do not protect their own staff and beneficiaries from, and respond appropriately, to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment endanger delivery of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals and related targets.

Humanitarian assistance should always provide an environment in which people caught up in crises feel safe and respected. They should also give access to the protection and support that the victims need without fear of exploitation or abuse, especially from aid workers.

Over the past year, the United Nations and its partners have taken broader, system-wide efforts to tackle the causes of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. The overall aim is to create a humanitarian eco-system in which people caught up in crises can access the assistance they need without fear of exploitation, abuse or harassment by any aid worker and feel safe if they up when abuses occur.

In December 2018, the IASC Principals agreed a plan for accelerating protection from SEA designed to:

1. Encourage victims/survivors to come forward by providing safe and accessible reporting;
2. Improve the quality of assistance and protection provided to victims/survivors; and
3. Enhance accountability by strengthening vetting, reference-checking, investigations and disciplinary measures.

To conclude, we would like to reemphasize the harm that these horrible acts inflict on a person. They not only cause immense suffering to the direct victim, but also devastate families, undermine workplace productivity, and stall development, recovery, and peace. We must do everything within our power to end these practices. As in the words of The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2018) “Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment must not be tolerated; they are an unacceptable breach of the fundamental rights of the people we serve and of those with whom we work as well as a deep betrayal of our core values.”

References and others links of interest

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