

Topic Proposals ThessISMUN 2020

Security Council

Topic : The Kurdish Question: a case of an autonomous Kurdish State

The Kurds are one of the indigenous peoples of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now south-eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, north-western Iran and south-western Armenia. Today, they form a distinctive community, united through race, culture and language, even though they have no standard dialect. They are also divided to a number of different religions and creeds, although the majority are Sunni Muslims. In the early 20th Century, many Kurds began to consider the creation of a homeland - generally referred to as "Kurdistan". After World War One and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres. However, this never happened, since the Treaty of Lausanne, which set the boundaries of modern Turkey, made no provision for a Kurdish state and left Kurds with minority status in their respective countries. Over the next 80 years, any move by Kurds to set up an independent state was brutally quashed. Due to the timelessness of the issue, which is evident cause to the latest events, regarding the significant role of Kurds to Syrian Civil War, as well as to the fight against ISIS militants, we believe that it is very important to examine what the Security Council could do in order to solve the problem and to face the hostilities among the minority of Kurds and Turkey and the case of the establishment of an autonomous state.

Suggested Bibliography

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First Committee of the General Assembly

Topic 1: Prevention of an arms race in outer space: responding to a new age of space militarization

Space militarization is not a new phenomenon: since the 1950's the world's superpowers have been using the final frontier for military operations. The international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, produced an international convention, the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space". However, a rising number of experts worldwide consider this legal text to be woefully out of date, as contemporary technology, for the first time in history, allows for what is known as "space weaponization": the ability to use military equipment from space, not solely for the purposes of intelligence or reconnaissance missions, but for the elimination of targets on Earth as well. The general provisions of the "Outer Space Treaty", limited only to weapons of mass destruction, seem to be obsolete. Space weaponization as a topic has resurfaced recently, due to President Trump's remarks concerning the establishment of a US Space Force. Moreover, there have been new developments in Earth-to-Space weaponry: in March 2019 India successfully tested an anti-satellite weapon, and so have China and the US. In light of such rising tensions, the UN General Assembly has decided to include this topic in its Agenda for the 74th General Assembly of the UN. The committee will have to consider about a new framework for the prevention of Space-to-Earth weaponry, suggest actions required by the States to avoid potential threats to international security and debate about the stance of the international community towards Earth-to-Space weaponry.

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Topic 2: The nuclear question as a paragon of instability in the Middle East: The case of Iran

The question of Iran's nuclear arsenal has dominated the international geopolitical discussion for the past years. The signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015 by the P5+1 and Iran, along with Iran's reported compliance to the deal allowed for optimism on the issue. Nevertheless, in May 2018 President Trump decided the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the JCPOA, which led to an ever-increasing amount of tensions in the area. Firstly, Iran started to back down from some of the clauses of the JCPOA, especially regarding Uranium enrichment, claiming that since the US are ignoring the JCPOA, so can Iran. The US responded with President Trump doubling down on his "maximum pressure" doctrine, even refusing to rule out undertaking military operations in the region. Moreover, Iran started to act more aggressively as a regional power, allegedly bombing two Saudi oil facilities using UAV's, leading Saudi officials to issue harsh warnings, also refusing to rule out future involvement of the Saudi military. Thus, the situation in Iran has evolved to something more than a debate about nuclear weapons: it is a broader discussion of power balance and spheres of influence in the Middle East. The committee will have to examine many more things than the JCPOA, its provisions and the American withdrawal. The delegates will also have to discuss about what a responsible role for third party countries would be like in de-escalating the issue and possible mediation opportunities.

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Second Committee of the General Assembly

Topic 1: The sustainability of crypto currencies in the global financial system: policies, dilemmas and benefits arising from its consolidation

The global financial system is changing in fast forward, in a way that enlightens the need to support innovative methods and promote new technologies for the implementation of the SDGs.

The issue of the occurrence of the so called as ‘crypto-currencies’ through new technologies as ‘block chain’ has introduced global concerns not only about the regulatory framework, but also in the fields of political decision making and the accuracy of the financial and trade system. It is urgent to promote the use of these new digital ‘money’ as an effective tool for the achievement of sustainable development goals, such as the SDG 1 and SDG 2. The international community, especially the second committee of the General Assembly should face the the imminent dominance of crypto -currencies, by finding an efficient policy of intergovernmental cooperation, and by focusing on the benefits that digital systems could possibly provide, bearing in mind the economic crisis and the lack of economic fluidity. Instead of being suspicious of change, it is highly important to create an all-inclusive operational system of international actors, beneficiaries and investors in order to facilitate and solve sustainably poverty and hunger, in the context of the discussions that are taking place in this direction. To conclude the overview, the 2nd Committee’s sessions would focus in how this newly introduced factor could be applicable and beneficial in accordance to the SDGs, in addition with the need to deal with the negative consequences of the committee’s ignorance of its importance.

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Topic 2: New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence: New policies on improving and investing on sustainable ways to strengthen employment rates.

In a theoretical level artificial intelligence, in addition to technological achievements and scientific applications may have a negative impact on employment rates and it is generally known that the world of manual work would be replaced with working machines and increase unemployment. The 2nd Committee’s of the General Assembly mandate indicates the need to design policies on increasing its impact on employment (SDG 8, 9), thus, it should discuss and suggest the possibility to use the benefits of the investments and financing on AI and new technologies on the field of

the labour market. AI-based technologies could possibly promote inclusion, multiply job dynamics and revive the inception of the labour market. It is possible that this kind of promotion of AI, could alter the concept of its use, and could contribute to the filling of infrastructure gaps that nowadays exist, not to mention a faster and efficient way of labour life. It is highly important to mention the fact that the International Labour Organization is therefore thinking of adopting AI technologies through micro-tasking methods, so as for these kinds of machines to facilitate special working tasks. Additionally, the discussions and final resolution on this field could actually come up with the reflection of proposals for the implementation and financing in the Least Developed Countries (LDC). There is another significant field of the labour market: the demand for appropriate skills, and this is a key factor for the role of AI and the promotion of the funding in new technologies.

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Third Committee of the General Assembly

Topic 1: Discussing the rights to abortion and contraceptive services

In 2019, the usage of internet and technologies have allowed reproductive health related information to be more open accessed, at least for modern societies. On the other hand, certain sexual health (and generally healthcare) rights, namely the significant one to (the medical procedure of) abortion has been highly ambiguous and access to it has been (generally or under certain circumstances) criminalized in various countries of the world.

In many states sexual health and contraceptive methods discussion still consist a taboo, allowing the reproduction of stereotypes that set the lives of vast amounts of people in danger, especially young and inexperienced in sexual activity people. Specifically, the intended omission of relevant information in public dialogue and education does not lead to the decrease of people engaging in sexual behavior; on the contrary, increase the chances of STD or unwanted pregnancies. On the other hand, a legal system that criminalizes abortion does not lead to lower abortion rates (as often wanted by countries that criminalize such services), contrariwise it increases illegal abortions and hence, unpredicted deaths, diseases and of course the enforcement of black market.

In the field of reproductive rights, the issue aims to examine the current situation of sexual and reproductive rights of people in reproductive age that do not always have the means or the knowledge to protect themselves or are not able to access healthcare services and products, due to the political choices of their local or national leadership. It also aims to promote the discussion and comparison of different states (western and non-western) approaches regarding abortion policy, illegal abortion rates and dangers, the rights of all sexes to a certain abortion, the access to contraception and fertility control, as well as relevant information.

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Topic 2: Tackling Contemporary forms of Contemporary Slavery and Servitude in the African Continent

Slavery as a timeless phenomenon has been affecting societies for centuries, due to its drastic way to define economic and social relations.

Starting with the 1862 Treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the Suppression of the Slave Trade and the infamous Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 in the U.S., the start was set to abolish human ownership, at least in certain parts of the world. Ever since, treaties and conventions such as the Slavery Convention of 1926 to the most recent Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 have formed the present-day legal framework against contemporary forms of illegal human servitude.

In recent times, institutions like the League of Nations and later on United Nations have actively battled ever since their creation, against exploitation of human force and enslavement. And even though nowadays slavery is considered universally as a crime against humanity, in Africa, societies have met tremendous changes and crises in social and political circumstances, governmental complicity, large scale corruption or general conflict, resulting to rather modern forms of the disastrous phenomenon of slavery and servitude. Namely we are talking about body trafficking, illegal employment, child labor, sexual exploitation, wife selling etc. To make matters more precise, the Global Slavery Index for the year 2019, names Eritrea, Libya, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo and Somalia in the 10 states taking the least action to tackle modern slavery.

The issue consists undoubtedly a significant challenge for modern international criminal law-makers and defenders of human rights, affecting both more advanced and more traditional societies. Specifically regarding the African States, the issue should evoke a heated and productive debate, with a wide range and space for action to be taken in order to condemn the phenomena under discussion.

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Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Topic 1: The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and new-emerging technologies in the rehabilitation of post-conflict zones.

During an era of increasing dispute and rapid technological change, ECOSOC will focus on the impact of technology and innovation and the chances they give to the human being concerning security and safety in post conflict zones. The committee will discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics in surveillance, individual identification, and predictive analytics, aspects aiming at the improvement of the post-conflict areas and the provision of any possible dispute or attack. The Board of ECOSOC expects from the Council to discuss about the measures

with which Machine Learning (ML) and new-emerging technologies can help in the humanitarian and economic reconstruction of the societies that have suffered from armed conflicts, as well as the social integration of minorities which have been excluded due to war crimes and atrocities, such as immigrants, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). According to SDG n.16, “Promoting Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, ECOSOC’s goal shall be to examine the social aspect of the outcome of technology and innovation in the post-conflict areas. A data and technology revolution was recognized as a crucial enabler of the SDGs for the monitoring of the progress and the possible engagement with stakeholders at all levels by advancing evidence-based policies and programmes to reach the most vulnerable zones. Thus, it’s the Council’s responsibility to ensure the well-being and protection of these victims, through a revolutionary, radical new aspect.

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Topic 2: Addressing the social and economic consequences of climate change in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) according to SDG n.13 “Climate Action.”

One of the most crucial issues in modern societies is the way climate change has affected our planet. Social and economic consequences are increasingly occurring on the globe as a result of a major harmful human management. The first areas to face such consequences are the Least Developed Countries and small island Developing Countries, which lack the appropriate infrastructure and expertise to face the situation. The Committee of ECOSOC has the immediate priority of the protection of these societies as well, especially focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities and certain minorities, while promoting the protection of their rights and social integration. Furthermore, the Councils priority is to encourage the Western Countries to provide those in need through donors, financial aid and development as well as the assistance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in LDCs. In accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 13: “Climate Action”, the Committee will also aim at the protection of planet earth and will also address the economic repercussions that LDCs face due to drastic environmental changes.

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International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Proposed Claims:

Claim A: *By carrying out the cyber-attacks, the respondent has violated the principle of non-intervention and the principle of non-use of force and should be held accountable.*

The applicant state A and the respondent state B are two neighboring states in the continent Carrubia. Every two years a carrubian country is selected, in order to host the continental music contest "Carrubia can sing!", a well-known event, that is extremely beneficial for the host country's touristic growth. This year's contest was to be hosted in A, much to state's B dismay, who is an emerging tourist destination. About a month before the event, A announced that the voting procedure of the 50th anniversary contest would be conducted exclusively through A's online application for the event. Despite the initial praise concerning the initiative, tourists that were using the app, began complaining that their personal data was being stolen, that their phones were infected by a virus and other similar problems. At the same time, rumors about B's involvement in the attacks started spreading. On the night of the contest, the audience claimed that they could not vote for A's entry and it was later proclaimed that the Ministry of Culture's servers- which operated the app- were breached. Soon thereafter, the stadium, where the event was taking place, experienced a blackout. Chaos emerged, which resulted in five A's civilians being suffocated and many more injured.

The applicant argues that the cyber operations are attributed to B. The respondent has thus violated the principle of non-intervention (Article 2.3) and the prohibition of the threat or use of Force (Article 2.4 of the United Nations Charter) and shall be held responsible for its internationally wrongful act.

Case law:

- International Court of Justice, Advisory opinion of 8 June 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons
- International Court of Justice, Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America), Judgment of 26 November 1984

Bibliography:

- Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations

Claim B: *The destruction of the temple and the misappropriation of movable objects are attributed to the respondent State and they constitute a violation of international customary law, a war crime and a crime against humanity.*

A group of non-state actors (a terrorist entity) originating from the one state occupies a limited piece of a territory situated in the borders between the two countries (belonging to the other state without any dispute on this matter) where an ancient temple of high historical and cultural value as well as a place of pilgrimage and worship is situated. This temple has been designated as a World Heritage Site according to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Members of this group destroy almost completely the temple and

illicitly sell and export to third countries movable objects (such as statues and pictures) from the temple and its premises.

This claim will engage issues of state responsibility, protection of cultural property and cultural heritage in non-international armed conflict (and possibly during peacetime regarding several obligations of the sovereign State in the period before the occupation), the possibility for a State to be bound without having ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols if it can be considered as a part of international customary law, a violation of international humanitarian law due to attack on civilian objects, the viewing of the destruction of cultural heritage as a crimes against humanity and a war crime.

Main case-law:

-International Court of Justice, Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand) Judgment of 15 June 1962

-International Criminal Court, The ICC Prosecutor Vs. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi,, Trial Chamber VIII, Judgment of 27 September 2016

-International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia jurisprudence:

1. Dusko Tadic (IT-94-1)
2. Kordic & Cerkez (IT-95/14/2)
3. Milutinovic (IT-05-87-T)
4. Krstic (IT-98-33)
5. Miodrag Jokic (IT-01-42/01)
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Bibliography:

- Craig Forrest (2010), *International Law and the Protection of Cultural Heritage*, Routledge, New York

- Ana Filipa Vrdoljak (2007), *Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage and International Law*

Claim C: The chosen means and methods of warfare violate the underlying principles of international humanitarian law enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols and the use of nuclear weapons contravenes the law of self defence.

The applicant claims that the methods used by the concurring state violated the underlying principles of the law governing war. Firstly, State B did not respect the principles of humanity and military necessity. According to International Humanitarian Law, the use of force which allows infliction of suffering, injury or destruction unnecessary to win the war and which does not respect the limits concerning expenditure of life and resources is illegal. Military necessity has to be balanced with humanitarian considerations and as a result, proportionality, ability to distinguish civilians from military personnel and precaution ought to constitute main considerations when methods and means of war are chosen by one party. Secondly, it has to be noted that the issue of the legality of nuclear weapons in a circumstance of self defence also rises as State B proceeded to the use of such force as a response to hostilities induced by the applicant.

More specifically, it is to be debated initially whether weapons such as blinding laser weapons and drone swarm technology with nuclear delivery systems- both aerial and underwater- violate the principles of distinction and proportionality and whether they cause unnecessary suffering. IHL treaties containing rules applicable to such questions are protocols I and II of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Moreover, it has to be clarified whether the legality of use of nuclear power in such unmanned aerial or underwater vehicle could be considered lawful according to IHL principles, especially in cases of self defence- if indeed article 51 of the UN charter on self-defence can be called upon.

Case law:

-International Court of Justice, Advisory opinion of 8 June 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons

- International Court of Justice, Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo v. Uganda), Judgment of 19 December 2005

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Human Rights Council (HRC)

Topic 1: Safeguarding human rights from the illicit regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms

The use –but most importantly- the misuse of firearms, a type of weaponry that usually applies to light weapons and small arms, is an issue that has multiple aspects. With the extent regulation of them and given their violent nature, firearms have a major negative aspect on the protection of human rights, namely civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The misuse of these weapons does not only increase crime rates and establishes a state of fear for civilians, but is also used for the promotion of violence towards minorities, such as indigenous people, refugees, women and children, increasing social injustices and criminality towards these people. An issue, which concerns greatly not only the Human Rights Council’s mandate, but United Nations as a whole, given the great differences between states’ national policies and the lack of consensus on what can be considered as a light weapon, the regulation of firearms and the protection of human rights is a topic that is being currently discussed. Even though, it is a complex issue, delegates will be able to perform a concrete research thanks to the extended bibliography and to the answers states recently gave to a relative UNHRC Questionnaire during the last months. Given the wide variety of policies on the topic, fiery debates and interesting deliberations will take place inside the committee, while due its nature, it is a topic that can pinpoint a good participant and give him adequate space to propose new, original solutions.

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Topic 2: Safeguarding the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals

The matter of transgenderism constitutes -contrary to popular belief- an ancient anthropologic intercultural phenomenon and not a matter of the modern age. To be more precise, gender identities have deviated from the traditionally defined gender binary in multiple cultures and civilizations across the globe. Such individuals often held a ceremonial and leading role in their respective communities. However, following the promotion of the mainstream western civilization across the globe, the religious and ceremonial social role of the gender deviating individuals was deprived of them thus leading them to social exclusion and isolation. Nowadays transgender individuals are facing a shocking variety of human rights' abuses such as but not limited to matters of legal recognition and subsequent unemployment and social exclusion, transphobic violence and an overall unprecedented amount of social rejection fostering a mental health pandemic among transgender individuals. To be more precise approximately 2000 transgender individuals are being killed in transphobic attacks every year, whereas 78% of transgender students are being tormented by suicidal thoughts. The UN have responsibly taken the role of the initiator of international progress on the field of transgender rights by producing a joint declaration with all other UN entities calling for the immediate amelioration of transgender people's living condition, while at the same time on an act highly symbolic the World Health Organization removed from its mental conditions' list what was until then described as 'gender identity disorder'. It comes with no question that the UNHRC must canonize a dialogue of immense diplomatic and political significance, thus fulfilling its sole existing purpose, the promotion and safeguarding of every human right.

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Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)

Topic 1: The question of sexual violence, abuse and harassment against persons with disabilities; enhancing the implementation of the articles 12,13 and 16 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As a populace, the persons with disabilities experience the highest rates of sexual assault in many countries around the world, and shockingly this community is hardly included in any conversations surrounding sexual violence and abuse. To top that off, more than 40% of women with disabilities are likely to experience sexual assault, physical violence or any kind of harassment in their lifetimes, while more than 90% of persons with developmental disabilities will experience sexual assault according to studies by the University of Michigan. At the same time it is acknowledged by various national Justice Departments that gather data on sex crimes, that people with intellectual disabilities, both women and men, are seven times more likely to fall victims of sexual violence and assault than people without disabilities. At this point, we can point out that an abuser can make use of the person's disability to further exert control and power over the victim, making persons with any kind of disabilities much more vulnerable than those without

any form of disability. Another aspect we aim to cover in this topic are the challenges in reporting such occurrences, mainly because people with disabilities are often stereotyped as “not being sexual”. On that note, there are a great many more of these challenges to cover, such as having the persons with disabilities to rely on their perpetrator for care or support, and, depending on the severity of the disability, not having the adequate resources to report the assault. In any case, sexual violence is an issue that has began to gain more recognition during the past years within the global community, but, oftentimes, persons with disabilities are excluded or ignored from the conversation entirely.

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Topic 2: Raising social awareness for the issue of invisible disability.

By presenting this topic as part of our agenda, we aim to encourage the participating delegates to, both fully apprehend the depth of this growing concern and familiarize themselves with the term ‘invisible disability’. The term ‘invisible disability’ refers to symptoms such as debilitating pain, fatigue, dizziness, cognitive dysfunctions, brain injuries, learning differences, and mental health disorders, as well as hearing and vision impairments. These are not always obvious to the onlooker, but can sometimes or always limit daily activities, range from mild challenges to severe limitations, and vary from person to person. Through the investigation of this multilayered topic, we aspire to have our delegates diligently explore the hidden impact of invisible disabilities on each state's sociopolitical dynamics, in addition to their workforce. Changing attitudes, raising awareness and finding new ways to educate people on the matter of invisible disabilities are understood to be extremely important and some of the main objectives of the topic in question. Participants will be required to make numerous suggestions about the approaches, tools or methods that could be used to communicate a change of order to the citizens of the world in the interest of making lasting cultural changes.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic 1: Building effective capacity to challenge the impacts of Climate Change to cultural heritage

Climate Change presents a borderless and intergenerational phenomenon with diverse and far-reaching impacts across the global community, thus it more than clear why it dominates the agenda of today's world. Research and policy on adaptation and mitigation have largely focused on aspects of such as the threats to livelihood and the costs of impacts on sectors of economy. No less important, however, are the cultural dimensions of climate change and its impacts to cultural heritage.

Climate Change impacts affect both tangible (e.g. buildings, monuments, landscapes, works of art etc.) and intangible culture (e.g. traditions, languages, indigenous knowledge etc.), while they, also, disrupt the enjoyment of the economic, cultural and social rights of humans (ICESC 1976). The impacts, on the one hand, include, inter alia, the erosion and destruction of monuments and sites, as they were designed for a specific local climate, while, increasing sea levels, fire quakes and floods consist a threat to manysites. On the other hand, effects like desertification, ice melting and global warming are changing the way communities live, threatening their own existence and culture; especially indigenous people like the Samis of northern Europe and the Berbers in Morocco, to name but a few, are experiencing the adverse effects of climate change very keenly.

Nevertheless, global community owns the means to mitigate the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage through, climate education, culture and indigenous people's knowledge; indigenous people have learnt the art of adapting to any changes in their climate and this knowledge or skill can help present generations. Also, new and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence can have a significant impact on the efforts to curb the impacts of climate change. All in all, it is of utmost importance to use all means possible to build our capacity to tackle the effects of climate change in every aspect of our lives, as the future of our generation is in risk.

This topic area is proposed under the scope of SDG Number 13 "Climate Action".

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Topic 2: Ensuring safety of journalists and media workers against all kinds of criminal acts as a fundamental step towards preserving freedom of expression

Nowadays, even more journalists are under attack, with an increasing number of criminal acts against them taking place every day. Violence against journalists and, in general, media workers has been taking many forms, such as murders, abductions, threats, illicit arrests etc. It is also usual that female media workers are victims of more attacks than their male colleagues, which is yet another form of gender-based violence. Such incidents have taken place both in conflict and non-conflict zones and are perpetrated both by non-state and state factors. The fact that most of those acts remain unpunished is very alarming, as it shows tolerance to such behaviors and encourages the spread of such phenomena. It is obvious that the safety of journalists is essential in order to preserve their fundamental right to freedom of expression, without which citizens are not able to access quality information. As a result, fundamental values of our society such as democratic governance and battling injustice will be at risk.

Ensuring the protection of journalists is a vital part of UNESCO's strategy of support to press freedom. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to discuss the causes of this phenomenon, to examine the measures already taken and to provide new solid ideas towards achieving maximum safety of journalists all over the world and minimizing impunity for such acts, by acting both preventively and restoratively, which will reinforce the right to freedom of expression and will ensure media polyphony.

This topic area is proposed under the scope of SDG Number 16, target 10 stipulating "to ensure public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms".

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International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Topic 1: Enhancing the Role of IMO in the Implementation of Strategies and Security Measures Concerning the Rapidly Rising Piracy Related Incidents in the Strait of Malacca

In recent years pirates and other criminal groups have not only changed their tactics but also their targeting lists. One of the most dangerous naval sectors in terms of criminal activities is today the area near the Strait of Malacca. There pirates target unsuspecting ships carrying very precious cargo like petroleum. As a result it can be easily speculated that a few attacks can cost millions of dollars to the involved states and enterprises. It is even speculated that employees of these same companies are in league with pirate groups in exchange for a cut in the theft's profits. It is thus a responsibility for the IMO to assist states and companies in the region enhance their capacity building mechanisms in order to combat this threat. By assisting them in the implementation of effective security measures the IMO can transform this sector from a highly dangerous and unstable region into a safe and hospitable maritime environment where companies and states can conduct their businesses safely. This is no doubt a task that will face a lot of difficulties but the IMO has the necessary capacity to protect the international seas and assure that the maritime sector can thrive under the United Nations protection.

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Topic 2: Endorsing Alternate Ways to Power Maritime Vessels: The Importance of Nuclear Energy for the Future of the Naval Shipping Industry

Nuclear power has proven extraordinarily *controversial* over the decades. Nuclear powered ships use nuclear marine propulsion which consists of heat provided by a nuclear power plant. Compared to oil or coal fueled ships, nuclear propulsion offers the advantages of very long intervals of operation before refueling. Nuclear ships are much faster, need to carry much less fuel, and do not need an oxygen source. However, the low fuel cost is offset by the high operating costs and investment in infrastructure, so nearly all nuclear-powered vessels are military ones. It is mostly used for submarines, but its ranges from icebreakers to aircraft carriers. In the future, constraints on fossil fuel use in transport may bring marine nuclear propulsion into more widespread use. So far, exaggerated fears about safety have caused political restriction on port access. Furthermore, nuclear ships are environmentally friendly and through the usage of the newest technologies, good training programs, and high levels of standardizations nuclear powered propulsion is one of the safest means of transportation. Nuclear powered ships are much more expensive than those with conventional sources of power (petroleum based), and especially during peace times, it is not entirely clear which technology is cheaper in the long run. To conclude, subjects about nuclear energy seem to be appreciated by the delegates and lead to fruitful and productive debates.

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North Atlantic Council (NATO)

Topic 1: Achieving security, stability and economic development in Eastern Mediterranean

Eastern Mediterranean is a region hit by conflict, economic collapse and failed states.

- First of all, in the latest years there is a turmoil between the Greek-Turkish relations especially due to Cyprus and the existence of TRNC, which Turkey uses as an excuse to be able to extract oil from the region. This phenomenon definitely undermines NATO's cohesion.
- China's influence is rapidly increasing because of the establishment of Belt and Road. China is, also, a key player in the conflicts emerging in the MENA region, such as but not limited to Palestine, Syria and Libya.
- Eastern Mediterranean is a region of high importance in the energy sector, as well. There's the triangular strategic partnerships between Greece-Cyprus-Israel and now Jordan, that NATO can take advantage of in order to stop Russian Federation's expansion in the field of energy.
- Lastly, NATO can act as a stability force in post conflict countries of this area, such as Libya and cover the power-vacuums, tackle terrorism and terrorist groups more effectively and contribute to the economic growth and trade in the region.

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Topic 2: NATO and its Asia-Pacific strategy

After 70 years of existence, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sees new challenges emerging around the world. One of them is the rise of China as economic, political and military powerhouse in global stage. China's rise leaves NATO to handle three important issues: significant projection of power in a military and an economic level in the Asia-Pacific region, increasing presence in the Middle East and Africa and continuing economic and technological development that exceeds the European counterparts in many levels. Only a few countries of the Alliance have increased relations with China and are active in answering the Asia-Pacific issues. A possible discussion of this topic in the committee can help find concrete NATO policy in the different aforementioned levels, since the member-states have diverse priorities. NATO can respond not only in the high tensions and security issues in the South China Sea and the surround areas, but likewise it can offer solutions for economic gains for the European allied members, Canada and the US. In addition, it can provide a stepping stone to cooperate more closely with other partners in the region, as Japan and Australia. In whole this topic is of major importance for the organization in order to provide a corresponding, all-inclusive and policy on the China issue.

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Council of Europe (CoE)

Topic 1: Supporting Sustainable Return and Reintegration of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Today, the world faces the highest levels of displacement ever recorded. In fact, more than 68.5 million people have left their homes due to violence, 24.4 of them are considered as refugees while another 3.1 million hold the status of asylum seekers. In addition, the conflicts nowadays along with their effects have contributed to these large-scale migrations; therefore, it is essential to consider ways for global support, protection and assistance of these particular populations. We suggest return and reintegration since they constitute two of the most viable and durable solutions and we consider them as essential means in order to achieve the transition from conflict to peace. Furthermore, their effective return and reintegration are able to contribute to the reconstruction and sustainable development of our societies while they could promote improved living conditions and human rights not only for returnees but also for the entire community.

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Topic 2: Integration of Digital Technologies in Industry: Adopting Regulatory, Legal and Ethical Frameworks

Europe is in the midst of a digital transition driven by consumers and some world-renowned companies. But digital transition is also about how and which industries invest and use digital. European industries are in a good level, therefore need expansion and, of course, regulation, as ethical and social issues arise as a result. Digitization is based on six dominant technologies; Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, biometrics, persuasive technology, virtual and augmented reality and digital platforms. IoT and robotics are mainly involved in our material world and in industry, in fact in production process. Internet of Things is a system of interrelated computing devices and digital machines, objects, people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human interaction. In Europe stats show that the uptake of digital devices by industries and businesses is increasing. The economic value of IoT in Europe will reach \$1.2 trillion in 2020.

IoT and digital technology offers an abundance of advantages to industries all over the world. Digital themes include smart operations, transparent supply chain, digital customer experience, new smart products. The aim is to speed up the company's transformation to a new era, through increased productivity and competitiveness, good production rate, high quality environmental performance and cost-efficiency. Several indexes show that the most digitally developed economies in the world are all European, with Denmark, Sweden and Finland topping several categories, concerning integration of digital technology by society and industries.

However, as a result of digitization, numerous ethical and social issues arise. The digitization of industries and life in general is putting pressure on public values such as privacy, autonomy, security, human dignity, justice and balance of power. At the same time it affects the industrial field as industries face challenges concerning human resources, lack of expertise and plan, lack of strategy and limited budget. Supervision has been developed in some fields. For other ethical issues legal and regulatory framework should be under discussion as the supervision is not well organized.

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