



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# 2020

# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Ahmad Mhanna**

**Zain Hussein**



**Souha Dhaouadi**

**Zainah Omar Almuhairi**

Dear delegates!

It is our honor to welcome you to the thirteenth annual AUSMUN, and our committee the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). And It is our utmost pleasure to serve as your chairs. We are eagerly awaiting our interaction, cooperation, and communication during and before our committee's debate.

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance, it will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics. After this short letter that gives us a chance to Welcome the delegates a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue will be presented, and at the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research and references they can use for further relevant information. However, it's not sufficient to cover the required amount of information for the conference.

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. We help countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships, and institutions so they can sustain their progress. We will be tackling two extremely important issues which are: Using technology to predict and prevent crisis and Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding in Developing Countries. These issues should be comprehensively and properly addressed.

We are all aware of the frustration that comes with being a delegate. Debating can be nerve-wracking and researching will seem like it never ends. However, everyone involved in the organization of AUSMUN2020 has worked extremely hard to ensure that this experience is as fruitful as possible. Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the following email: [undpausmun2020@gmail.com](mailto:undpausmun2020@gmail.com). Moreover, if there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact us through the given email.

Sincerely,  
The UNDP chairs.



**UNDP**

**The United Nations Development Programme**

# Topic I

## Using Technology to Predict and Prevent Crisis

### 1. Summary & History

Using technology to predict and prevent a crisis should be the first logical step to a suitable and timely multi-step response. This is starting to be placed into action, however, what usually occurs is a response to relieve the disaster that just occurred. A crisis is a time of great difficulty or danger where important decisions need to be made to take preventative measures, or for recovery and damage control. Crises vary depending on the country and its situation as the crisis could be anywhere from famine, to a financial crash as well as natural disasters.

The technology entailed for prediction and prevention such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), better known as drones, are being made in fields like information communication technology (ICTs), artificial intelligence (AI) and other robotics fields. This is because these fields center around the formation of robotics that can gather masses of data, process and analyze it to give useful information that can benefit us socially and economically. (Camino Kavanagh, 2019) This is necessary as crises affect populations of people, not just small groups.

People, however, don't completely abide by this use of technology as it requires heavy surveillance. The ease of access to some equipment and algorithms is discussed as being 'vulnerable to exploitation and disruption' (Camino Kavanagh, 2019, para.3). Thus, it has become a controversial issue where public safety and national security are concerned.

This type of vulnerability isn't localized and would affect other countries and industries worldwide. Some measures have been posed but prove to be challenging and are under debate. These include classifying values such as equity, transparency, accountability, whether the information gathered, and how much of it, should be public, restricting certain forms of research, creating suitable regulations and ensuring they're fit for purpose and finally whether they should be coordinated nationally or internationally.

New technology and innovation progress as the need for its rise. For example, the Second World War and the financial crash of 2007-2008 are two of history's biggest financial crises (Nageswar Cherukupalli, 2018, para.1). Advances are made to prevent crises like those from reoccurring. As of July 8, 2015, "The importance of quality data and cutting-edge information communication technologies (ICTs) is increasingly critical to the shaping of the future sustainable development agenda, the head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) confirmed today." (UN officials spotlight data and technology as key to sustainability, 2015). In addition, the UN GGEs have restated the applicability of international law, including the UN Charter, to cyberspace as well as recommending "nonbinding political norms aimed at encouraging states to use ICT responsibly...to promote restraint and best practices" (Camino Kavanagh, 2019). Other measures taken by the UN were in Kenya: UNDP helped establish a toll-free SMS-based service that allowed citizens to report perceived threats to security. At a central level, SMS messages were analyzed and verified and responses initiated through partnerships between civil society groups and police. This gave police and other responders a level of localized information that was previously inaccessible. (New technologies can help tackle violence, study says, April 2013)

These are only a few of the many practices put into place to utilize the advanced technology we have.

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

The United Nations Development Program aims to incorporate technology into the fight against crisis and disaster, by using technology to predict upcoming disasters and hence widening the time period in which preparations can be made for a crisis. This will result in a lesser loss of life, as well as a decrease in damages and will ease the recovery process in turn. UNDP helps governments prevent conflicts and disasters enabling them to achieve their own national development priorities. Disasters put hard-won development achievements at risk, reversing economic growth and progress towards the elimination of poverty; cause environmental damage; and result in human suffering.

Many countries worldwide, such as the United States, India, and China suffer from natural disasters, statistically speaking, hundreds of millions of people globally are in one way or another affected by natural disasters, with a lesser amount ending up as fatality to such disasters. Hence it is a goal within the UNDP to lesser the amount of people affected by disasters by using technology to foresee and prevent a crisis. More than 700,000 people died as a result of disasters between the years 2005 and 2014. Technological innovation is bringing digital solutions to sectors that have previously lacked access to technology, including the non-profit community. The rapid pace of this change suggests that one of technology's most meaningful benefits for society may lie in the humanitarian sector, which must reach large numbers of people, in remote and dangerous locations, to provide critical resources fast and efficiently. Today, through the proliferation of mobile and social media solutions, relief communications have evolved to the benefit of all. This includes the development of a feedback loop through which information collected is applied to develop a deeper and more real-time understanding of both sector and service user needs, leading to faster, more efficient responses which ultimately supports beneficiaries.

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

In order to combat famine, the UN, World Bank, International Committee of the Red Cross, Microsoft, Google and Amazon partnered together to release the Famine Action Mechanism (FAM). It is the first worldwide technology combating famine. The main issue with famine is that response to it is typically too late and arrive after the loss of life, however, the FAM aims to eliminate a high percentage of death as well as cost by predicting and preventing as early as possible. Millions of people, especially ranging from Africa to the Middle East are affected by famine. The FAM will build on existing famine early warning systems to enhance the capacity to forecast areas most at risk of famine. The FAM will seek to make financing more predictable and strategic by linking, for the first time, famine early warnings with pre-arranged financing to ensure that funds are released before a crisis emerges. It also will seek to tackle the root causes of famine and help build livelihoods, safety nets and stronger coping skills of local communities. Additionally, the FAM will seek to ensure that resources are channeled to the most effective and well-coordinated interventions and will work with existing systems to build upon the good and ongoing efforts taking place at the country- and global-levels. The FAM will be rolled out initially in five countries that exhibit some of the most critical and ongoing food security needs and ultimately will be expanded to provide global coverage.

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

- Is technology so necessary for the prevention of crisis?
- What are the implications (positive and/or negative) caused by using technology for prevention of crisis?
- Where should crisis preventing technology be field-tested and later deployed?
- How will the funding for such technology be carried



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

Anything from the United Nations or trusted sources is deemed worthy and good research, focus on both aspects of the topic, which include

- a) Technology and
- b) Crisis

# Topic II

## Democratic Governance and Peace-building in Developing Countries

### 1. Summary & History

Strengthening good governance and promoting democracy are important constituents of the initiatives the UN as presented to build peace after conflict. Democratic governance refers to a variety of activities such as ensuring the rule of law, separation of powers, and allowance of a very active media without undue interference from any governmental institution. This certifies that individuals get the opportunity to live as freely as concerned in the constitution of their country. This system aims to allow for several political parties and accepts the opinions and views of its citizens while still upholding the rule of law. Peace-building, however, refers to placing preventive measures that can help check the initialization of any conflicts in a society. It also refers to all measures that are used to bring any conflict between parties to a peaceful resolution and therefore making sure that the conflict is discontinued permanently. Many countries, more than ever before, are working to build democratic governance. The UNDP ensures comprehensive and effective democratic governance. The UNDP advocates, advises, and fosters unbiased spaces for discourse, to achieve consensus and build foundations.

UNDP seeks to aid the growth and development of civil societies. On UNDP's home page, the Organization states, "UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results" (UNDP, 2019). UNDP helps governance organisations in countries to bring legitimate reforms, organize elections, reinforce parliaments, and address policy and official selections for peace, risk-reduction and development through reconciliation, empowerment and inclusion (UNDP, 2019).

UNDP aids governments in strengthening their public organizations, to help countries fight corruption and advocate wide-ranging participation to ensure that no one is left behind. Some of its key engagements include "civic engagement and electoral cycle support in close cooperation with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; parliamentary development and supporting the advancement of women's equal participation and decision-making in political processes and institutions" (UNDP, 2019).

The UNDP has played a major role at the critical juncture relating peacekeeping to sustainable development. In the UNDP's efforts to ensure that societies experience democratic governance and peace-building, it has also united with various institutions to provide positive influences on the development of societies through measures that are planned and programmed in a way that makes it possible for them to advance positively. Throughout the past three years, UNDP has focused its efforts in accordance with the 2014-2017 Strategic Action Plan. However, a year later, the 2030 Agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals were introduced, with marginal different objectives than the previous document.

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

As ongoing efforts to the development of human rights are incremented, the United Nations Development Programme, through the efforts of article 16 of the Agenda of 2030 hopes to encourage countries to undertake democratic values and forego differences in the aim of demonstrating a clear front to the development of humanity. Loss of peace-building also entails the creation of poverty, political differences and societal insecurity which decrees the topic's importance to the UNDP.

Presently, clear violations of article 16 exist in countries that are promoting violence by causing political, social and economic differences and enforcing strictly autocratic values ergo ditching efforts of building peace. A paradigm of the aforementioned is the rise of militant Islamist agendas in Syria and Iraq specifically occurring by the Islamic State terrorist group which is currently rebuilding networks in both countries. Another example is the Iranian backed Hezbollah forces terrorizing middle eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, this group has been utilising extremist attitudes to enforce a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran hence creating a rift between both countries. Furthermore, are the Chinese debt-trap loans which causing poverty in developing South Asian countries by using interest backed loans that are creating a Chinese creditor agenda. More notably, the United States' international political sanction war specifically lead against Turkey and the European Union hence utilising scare tactics for political gain and finally are the international militant displacements in Ukraine caused by Russia for the gain of resources.

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

### **European Union**

An ongoing Partnership by the United Nations Development Program and the European Union involves the advancement of fair administration by the recovery of credit commendable and straightforward elections in an offer to avert debasement caused by Brexit. Furthermore encouraging developing nations to grasp democratic qualities and maintain human rights as a vital necessity, partly enforced because of the Agenda of 2030. It likewise incorporates the advancement of fringe control to guarantee security on all finishes, as a method for harmony working between nations. Additionally, helping said nations confront decentralization and nearby administration to guarantee that people can have an impact in their societies and that they have a say in their development

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

N-Peace is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance the WPS movement; women, peace, and security. It supports women's leadership for conflict interference, resolution and peacebuilding, and promotes the implementation of UN Council Resolution (UN-SCR) 13251, and therefore the broader WPS agenda.

N-Peace rests on the belief that if a targeted population amplify measures supported with hyperbolic investments in capability and skills, then they'll be ready to produce institutional and social shifts to prioritize the inclusion and authorization of women and alter the discourse on the role of women in peacebuilding. Rolled out in 2010, N-Peace is highly-active in Asian countries but specifically: Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Afghanistan. Its members represent civil society, government, non-government organizations, academia, UN agencies, and therefore the media. N-Peace is managed by UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub through UNDP Offices within the higher than countries, in partnership with the Institute for comprehensive Security.

## **African Union**

Africa has demonstrated the organization is progressing and ensuring community benefits such as individual stipends all thorough as maintained inside the continent's Union Agenda 2063, Africa's short-and day's end improvement destinations. This censures the customary impression of Social Security subsidizing. In fact, another report on "The State of supplementary benefit in Africa", discharged recently by the global organization Development Program (UNDP) and African Union (AU), as a team with the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The report shows that family financing for social confirmation, by and colossal, outperforms that of headway associates. for instance, between 2013-2015, family responsibilities to exchange move programs impressively misrepresented out Zambia and expanded in Rwanda, Kenya, and the Republic of Ghana. According to the report, high spenders among African countries, everything thought of, submit concerning US\$16,000 yearly per person and yet, despite the fact that residential finance is developing, this must altogether increment. For instance, low spenders submit close to US\$4 yearly per indigent individual and this incorporates the authoritative expenses of running the social assurance programs. The report on these lines concerns development, extension of assessment base through dynamic aggregation, and controlling of unlawful financial stream, as bound methodologies for raising state limit with relation to finance social facilitate with Africa. Which indicates a need for an increase of government spending towards social welfare to ensure optimal conditions for peace-building.

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

- How can unions tackle their individual conundrums by the efforts of unionizing their efforts?
- Why is peace-building integral to the global economy?
- Should Developed Nations encourage countries following an autocratic organizational model to consider more democratic efforts such as elections in favour of the right to rule? Why or why not?
- Is Agenda number 16 in the United Nations Development Program's Agenda of 2030 ineffective in encouraging peace-building?
- Is the encouraging of women's rights (a common theme in peace building) provocative to the Middle East? How can you encourage the Arab league to be more inclusive?

### **5. Suggestions For Further Research**

Anything from the United Nations or trusted sources is deemed worthy and good research, focus on these aspects

- a) integrating piece-building with world counties and
- b) encouraging countries into these

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