MUN

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 forward 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 be 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.

Sincerely,
Manaswi Madichetty
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2020

MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:

Rawya Al Lakkis

Feraas Ibrahim Tayeh

Rushud Abdulsalam

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

We'd like to welcome you all to the 13th annual session of the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations! We're extremely eager to meet you all and see you discussing the topics in-depth. We hope the committee discussions will proceed in both a witty and spectacular manner that is bold as well as entertaining, while also aiming for a resolution.
To make sure that this process is as smooth as possible, we would like to extend our help in guiding you throughout the workings of Security Council.

Firstly, please be reminded that the deadline for submitting your position papers is 4th February 2019 and it is to be submitted to g00074194@aus.edu. It is crucial for you to stick to the deadline. If you fail to do so, you will not be eligible for an award, unfortunately. On that note, plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

As a delegate of Security Council, one must be highly aware of their country's stance on the topics discussed. We advise you to keep an open mind, and we encourage you all to be keen to debate and forming resolutions to the best of your ability.

We highly recommend you go through the "Delegate Handbook" on the AUSMUN website as it includes all the specific details you might require for the structure, procedure and awards information. Using laptops and tablets throughout the session is permitted and even recommended, given that it stays within research limits.
In regard to the dress code, the attire should be appropriate and deemed as formal or semi-formal throughout the conference. Please make sure to abide by the regulations present in the Delegate Handbook.

That being said, our generation is currently standing in the eye of the storm where a world of change and development is happening all around us. To adapt and keep the world going, we must develop the essential need to be mindful, adaptable and innovative. MUN has been long executing this role by providing a huge podium to reinforce these qualities in today's youth.

We look forward to seeing what this youth is able to bring on the table, and yet again, we cannot wait to meet you all.
If there are any questions or concerns you have, please do not hesitate to contact us at g00074194@aus.edu!

Sincerely,
The Security Council Chairs

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Topic I

The Situation in Kashmir; the Possible Formation of a Demilitarized Zone

1. Summary & History

The Kashmir conflict has attracted international attention due to the incessant wars between India and Pakistan concerning the borders around the Kashmir Region. The United Nations Security Council, which seeks to maintain peace, order, and security among the other roles regarding international peacekeeping, has tried to attend to the conflict with minimal success (Ankit, 2016). The Kashmir region might be on the way to becoming a demilitarized zone due to the highly disruptive military conflict between Pakistan and India where cease-fire violation and unwillingness to solve the dispute aggravates the issue further.

The region has undergone decades of persistent wars and violence since both Pakistan and India gained Independence in 1947. After the British colonialists left the region, Kashmir leaders particularly Maharaja Singh wanted Kashmir to retain its independence as a state (Ankit, 2016). Thus, the region leaders signed treaties with Pakistan while India declined to do so. Inter-country partition-related aggression between India and Pakistan resulted in both nations pressuring Kashmir to join either nation and become part of the state.

Pakistan rebels invaded and took control of a considerable portion of the western Kashmir region in 1947. Maharaja requested assistance from India, which was accorded conditionally if he would concede to join Kashmir with India. Although he agreed through the Instrument of Accession in 1947, India only granted Kashmir partial independence as part of its states since Kashmir could not enjoy some aspects like foreign affiliations and defense (Behera, 2016). However, aligning with India plunged the region into longstanding insurgency, regional conflict, and war.

2. Discourse on the Issue

Pakistan and India have constantly battled over Kashmir, with Pakistan forming the Azad Kashmir that contends against the municipal of Jammu and Kashmir from India (Fox & Sandler, 2014). All through this battling period, the Indian government has argued that India is the legal possessor of Kashmir since there was an agreement between Kashmir and India. Thus, India views the continuous involvement of Pakistan rebels in the region as hostility from Pakistan (Ganguly, Smetana, Abdullah, & Karmazin, 2019). Moreover, India considers Pakistan as an intruder into the Indian territory when Pakistan offers assistance to rebel forces in the Kashmir region.

In contrast, Pakistan considers Kashmir as having betrayed a legal agreement arising from the standstill treaty that the state agreed to sign with Kashmir while India declined. Pakistan believes that Kashmir should not have entered into any agreement with other nations since it had the binding treaty with the nation (Bhat, 2019). Therefore, according to Pakistan, the treaty for joining India was not complete and valid since Maharaja had no powers to engage in it (Fox & Sandler, 2014). Thus, the two reserved positions of the parties have pushed efforts to amicably solve the conflicts by both the UN and other international bodies towards failure.

Currently, major conflicts exist between the Muslim and Hindu populous that mirrors conditions of regional dispute overtime (Schofield, 2010). Kashmir is the only Muslim Indian State, the main

clashes between the two religious groups occurred in 1947, 1965, and in 1999 (Fox & Sandler, 2014). India has 45% of the disputed land while Pakistan and China control only 35% and 20% respectively (Ganguly et al., 2019). While China is relatively harmless in instigating conflicts in the land, Pakistan fuels and funds the rebel movements, which are incensed by the Indian control. The obligatory role of India in defending its land sustains the conflict as Pakistan functions as the aggressor opposing the agreement.

The intense desire by both nations to control the entire Kashmir region has failed the agreed-upon cease-fires since neither of the countries have respected the agreements. Kashmir currently faces a huge economic crisis so it relies heavily on subsidies from the Indian government. The governmental disputes between the two nations have incapacitated the region dotting it with escalating violence and making the region extremely unsafe (Bhat, 2019). Terror groups are a common sight, military combat continues and worsens the situation while ceasefires are violated shamelessly (Ganguly et al., 2019). Both the UN and the US have achieved minimal success in changing the situation. Thus, the Kashmir region might become a demilitarized zone since none of the nations are ready to accept cease-fires or any other rational solution.

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

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has constantly been involved in trying to solve global conflicts. In 1948, the council offered Resolution 47, which both countries of India and Pakistan rejected (Schofield, 2010). The 'United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan' was formed independently of the two concerned nations, to demilitarize the nuclear powers but it failed due to India's dismissal of the mediating bodies. In 2008, Kashmir conducted its elections where Omar Abdullah became the principal Minister of the Jammu-Kashmir state (Bhat, 2019).

Various developments have occurred in the region since then. October 2014 ended with a serious violation of ceasefires as Pakistani and Indian soldiers opened fire against each other injuring many civilians and evoking a strong reaction from the people within the two regions. A terrorist attack on Indian troops as seen in February 2019 and September 2016, invited retaliation from Indian troops that killed many terrorists and rebels (Ganguly et al., 2019). In 2019, the Indian government repealed article 370 that allowed Kashmir to remain as an autonomous independent state apart from engaging in international communication, foreign dealings, and defense as it had been the case since 1947 (Bhat, 2019).

The situation in Kashmir involves conflicts over the possession of the Kashmir area that began in 1947, after India and Pakistan gained independence from Britain. India maintains Kashmir in its territory since the agreement signed between India and the ruler of Kashmir in 1947. Whereas Pakistan, which had a treaty with Kashmir discounts the validity of India's agreement. Therefore, both nations continuously battle over the possession of Kashmir and Jammu. Unless Kashmir becomes a demilitarized zone, the conflict might indefinitely result in more loss of life and lead to civil unrest.

4. *Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address*

- How is the matter at hand disturbing or affecting Kashmir?
- What have other countries done and how are they helping?
- What actions or movements have been created by relevant parties?
- What are some solutions that international organizations and the united nations have suggested to resolve this issue?

5. *Suggestions for Further Research*

- What international laws and UN Charters were disrupted and desecrated thus far?
- Previous actions or movements - how were they unsuccessful and what can be done to develop and improve them?

The Situation in Colombia; Genocide of Indigenous People

1. Summary & History

For the past 50 years, the indigenous peoples of Colombia have resisted warfare, refusing to let go of their lands. The terms "genocide" and "ethnocide" have often been used to describe the ongoing targeted onslaught against the indigenous people of Colombia. Many of these homicides have been linked to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) (Quintana, 2019). The FARC is the longest standing and most significant military group of Colombian left-wing rebels. It is also among the richest guerilla militias in the world. Historically, the army can be linked back to the Liberal guerilla bands of La Violencia – the civil war between the right- and left-wing parties that began in the 1940's and 1950s (UNRIC, 2019).

In the first half of 2017, according to the Defensoría del Pueblo (People's Ombudsman, 2018), 52 social movement leaders and human rights defenders have been murdered by paramilitary groups such as the FARC, bringing the total number of deaths between January 1, 2016 and July 5, 2017 to 186 assassinations. This indicates a great and consistent increase in the number of assassinations of these people (Human Rights Watch, 2019). The report also indicates that peasants and leaders of ethnicity-based organizations aiming to protect their territorial rights are the ones with the largest number of casualties: 36% corresponds to peasants, 23% to indigenous peoples, and 7% to Afro-descendants. Additionally, among the peasants, the majority have been leaders of the legislatively mandated Communal Action Committees. Further, among the indigenous people, a majority of the cases involve attacks on territory defenders. Just North of Cauca, the Nasa people have suffered from premeditated attacks at the hands of officials responsible for maintaining territorial control and justice. 36 of the Nasa people have already been killed. Moreover, seven of them were guards or part of ancestral authorities. According to the Colombian general attorney, 43 indigenous leaders have been killed since the 1st of January, 2016 (Quintana, 2019). Additionally, according to multiple reports, around 500 community leaders and social rights activists have been murdered in the period between January 2017 and February 2019. According to ten of Colombia's most esteemed academic centers and NGOS, these campaigns have been 'selective and not indiscriminate... and affirm a process of planning.' Where the FARC has not been responsible, these homicides have been linked to competition between other illegal armed groups over the production of illegal substances, trafficking routes, and other unlawful operations (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

2. Discourse on the Issue

Discourse on the issue
The atrocities held in Columbia violate numerous basic rights including the Charter of the United Nations, Chapter IX, article 55.c, which reads as follows: "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in article 2 as well, reads: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, proper-

ty, birth or other status" (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples).

Colombia's actions break the previous two statements and it is clearly seen where the inequality is reflected by how indigenous people cannot own lands nor resources within those lands. They do not even have access to the rights for healthcare and education, the latter including education of their own history and culture.

As an attempt to save indigenous people all around the world, The UN developed a declaration called United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) on Thursday, 13th September 2007. Since then, it's been implemented by a majority of 144 states, with 4 votes against (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine).

Ever since taking on the Declaration, the 4 countries against this deposition have all withdrawn their stance for the UNDRIP and instead supported it.
Samoa and Columbia were two nonparticipants who have also accepted the Declaration. However even though it accepted the Declaration, Columbia keeps on breaking its articles with the treatment towards their indigenous people. (Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge In The Context Of The Un Framework Convention On Climate Change.)

3. *Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments*

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007. Today, the Declaration is the most all-encompassing international framework that serves to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. It sets in place an international standard of minimum requirements for the dignity and well-being of indigenous people around the world ("United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous People").

Additionally, the UN mission initiated in Security Council Resolution 2261 in 2016 was part of a "tripartite mechanism", with the government and FARC, which aimed to both observe and verify the ceasefire, termination of hostilities, and handover of weapons. It worked as a hierarchy, with a national board for resolving disputes that cannot be solved locally, eight regional offices, and a presence at each of the 28 cantonments. However, this resolution has yet to be effectively implemented, as the killings of 43 indigenous leaders as well as over 500 community leaders and social activists since 2016 clearly indicates.

 Precautionary measures that have been taken have yet to become effective in protecting the rights of indigenous populations. For instance, in 2009 the Constitutional Court of Colombia declared the Siona people as a group at risk of disappearing. As a result, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) gave a warning to the Colombian state in order to tighten protection against the various militia groups linked to the disappearances. However, since delegates of the state institutions involved in the meeting had no decision-making powers that would force commitments according to the IACHR's decision, there has yet to be any progress in even the most basic demands such as the protection of the right to live (Quintana, 2019).

As the Security Council of the United Nations, we must continue to exercise our power to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments, and to recommend what actions should be taken to combat any potential disturbances or threats to peace.

4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address

- How is the issue at hand affecting world affairs?
- Which countries are acting on the issue, and which are not?
- What previous resolutions have been formulated in discussion so far?
- How can we solve or get around this issue?

5. Suggestions For Further Research

- What international laws and UN Charters were violated thus far?
- Previous actions - how have they failed and what can be done to improve them?

References

Ankit, R. (2016). The Kashmir conflict: From empire to the cold war, 1945-66. London: Routledge.

Behera, N. C. (2016). The Kashmir conflict: Multiple fault lines. Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs, 3(1), 41–63.

Bhat, S. A. (2019). The Kashmir conflict and human rights. Race & Class, 61(1), 77–86.

Fox, J., & Sandler, S. (2014). Religion in world conflict. New York: Routledge.

Ganguly, S., Smetana, M., Abdullah, S., & Karmazin, A. (2018). India, Pakistan, and the Kashmir dispute: unpacking the dynamics of a South Asian frozen conflict. Asia Europe Journal, 17(1), 129–143.

Human Rights Watch. (2019, August 8). The War in Catatumbo: Abuses by Armed Groups Against Civilians Including Venezuelan Exiles in Northeastern Colombia. HRW. Retrieved from https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/08/08/war-catatumbo/abuses-armed-groups-against-civilians-including-venezuelan-exiles.

Schofield, V. (2010). Kashmir in conflict: India, Pakistan and the unending war. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Quintana, F. (2019, September 3). A warning about the indigenous genocide in Colombia. Popular Resistance. Retrieved from https://popularresistance.org/a-warning-about-the-indigenous-genocide-in-colombia/

United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) (2019). The guerrilla groups in Colombia. UNRIC. Retrieved from https://archive.unric.org/en/colombia/27013-the-guerrilla-groups-in-colombia