



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.

Sincerely,
Manaswi Madichetty
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2020

MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



Faisal Alali



Nariman Elewa

Hind Alhalyan



Leena Moeel



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2020! It is our honor to welcome you to the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (GA-6). This committee, also known as the Legal Committee, is the primary panel for the discussion of legal issues and consideration of international law within the UN. The General Assembly and its body committees were established in 1945, under the Charter of the United Nations, as the preeminent policymaking element within the UN.

GA6 serves as the premier platform for the deliberation of all international legal issues that are covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Under Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, and by extension its subcommittees, has the authority to «initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of: (a) promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification”. In recent years, the committee’s attention has turned to international drug control, promotion of justice, the accountability of the United Nations and its internal justice matters and combatting international terrorism.

This background guide serves as the first step of your research before the conference. You are highly encouraged to use the suggested research topics for further guidance. If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at GA6.AUSMUN2020@gmail.com. Also, please send your position papers to this email. We are looking forward to meeting you all in February.

Sincerely,
GA-6 Chairs.



GA-6

**The 6th Committee of the United Nations
General Assembly**

Topic I

Rights and Limitations of Digital Citizenship

1. *Summary & History*

According to the International Society for Technology in Education, digital citizenship is defined as “the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level.” Digital citizenship as a notion, has progressed and advanced to include behaviors and characteristics that harness the benefits and opportunities the internet offers, while simultaneously building flexibility and resilience to potential harms. Digital Citizenship is a term used to describe the appropriate and responsible use of technology among users. Mark Ribble developed three principles which are supposed to help digital users learn how to responsibly use technology in order to become a digital citizen. His three principles include: respect, educate, and protect, where each principle contains three out of the nine elements of digital citizenship. Firstly, “respect” which refers to the “elements of etiquette, access, and law which are used to respect other digital users.” Secondly, “educate” which is concerned with the elements of “literacy, communication, and commerce are used to learn about the appropriate use of the digital world.” And finally, “protect” deals with the “elements of rights and responsibilities, security, and health and wellness are used to remain safe in the digital and non-digital world” (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Within the bounds of those three core principles, we also have to consider the nine elements in regards to digital citizenship. These nine themes include digital access, commerce, communication, literacy, etiquette, law, rights and responsibilities, health, and security. To begin with, digital access is considered one of the most important aspects to being a digital citizen; however, some individuals may not have that luxury due to their location, socioeconomic status, or some other disability. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Furthermore, digital commerce refers to the user’s ability to identify that most of the economy is controlled and managed online. It also refers to the user’s understanding of certain dangers that accompany online buying and using credit cards online. In terms of legal activities, there are dangerous actions that include illegal downloads, drug deals, gambling, and plagiarism which digital commerce also encompasses. Moving on to digital communication, which entails the user’s understanding of a variety of online communication mediums such as Facebook messenger, email, instant messaging, and a variety of apps. It also includes understanding the etiquette associated with using each medium. Likewise, digital literacy deals with the user’s understanding on how to use the different digital devices such as using various online logs, and how to search for something on a search engine in comparison to a database. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

Moreover, digital etiquette relates to the third element, digital communication, as it is the understanding of the etiquette that is required from various mediums, since certain mediums demand more appropriate behaviour and language than others. Similarly, digital law is where users face enforcement for plagiarizing, creating viruses, illegal downloads, hacking, cyberbullying, sending spam, and identity theft. Next, digital rights and responsibilities deals with the set of rights that digital citizens have such as the right of privacy and the right of speech. Moving on, digital health is concerned with the awareness of the physical stress that is placed on the user’s bodies as a result of internet usage, such as eye strain, headaches and stress problems.

Finally, digital security simply highlights that users must take certain measures to ensure their safety such as setting difficult passwords, backing up their data, and having virus protection. (Digital Citizenship, 2017).

2. Discourse on the Issue

Digital citizenship affects the majority, if not all, of anyone who spends any time online (Council of Europe, 2016). With the rise of the internet, there was a need for proper education on digital citizenship, its components and how to practice it. Cases of stolen identities, cyberbullying, harassment, disinformation and blackmail are on the rise. At the core of all these crimes, is the misuse of internet access; and combatting this front is a keystone in digital citizenship. Moreover, not only does this affect the users of the internet, but it also affects other individuals such as artists, writers and creators, whose work is very frequently subjected to illegal downloads and usage without permission or citation. Children are usually one of the easiest targets in regards to cyber bullying and harassment, which makes education on this matter of extreme importance (Aho et al., 2017). They very easily fall for the traps set online which include entering personal information and opening videos, which subjects them to viruses and malware that continue to harass them for more information. Being unaware and uneducated about matters of security, rights, and limitations causes users to fall victim to illegal downloads, plagiarism, gambling, and in extreme cases, questioning from legal authorities. Other forms of cybercrime include, ransomware, spyware and viruses, all of which pose a threat to digital citizenship in terms of security (PanEu Youth, 2015).

Freedom of information and speech is also key in one becoming a good digital citizen. Internet users have the right to unrestricted access to all information which is beneficial for a number of reasons such as enhancing their ability to make informed decisions. In addition, they also have a right to publish information as they see fit. These two issues both raise questions of harassment and disinformation. Understanding where one's rights ends and where another's security and privacy begins must be highlighted and understood (Aho, Lyly, & Mero, 2017).

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

There is a myriad of international organisations contributing to the discussion on digital citizenship and working towards its overall betterment and enactment. Organisations such as the International Society for Technology in Education and the Digital Citizen Fund are at the forefront of efforts to make digital citizenship societal norm. Through education and research, these organisations, in collaboration with UN bodies and governments, aim to further the mandate of digital citizenship and to ensure that all those with access know how to be a good digital citizen. Moreover, they also aid governments in establishing a digital framework (data protection and encryption and unfettered access to the internet) to help uphold the nine elements of digital citizenship (Aho et al., 2017).

In addition, several nations around the globe have adopted legislation in accordance with the directives of digital citizenship. In 2010, the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications stated that by July of that same year, every person in Finland would have access to a broadband connection and by 2015, that connection would be even faster and stronger (from 1 Mbit/s to 100 Mbit/s). Countries such as the UK and Australia have included digital citizenship courses into the curriculum taught at schools (Aho et al., 2017).

As digital citizenship is a relatively new concept, substantive action and resolutions on the issue are lacking. Moreover, the topic is one more discussed within governments as it relates more to individual country legislation, more than it is an international issue (Council of Europe, 2016). Even so, collaboration on the part of governments may be vital in securing certain aspects of digital citizenship.

4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address

- What are the ways in which the rights of a digital citizen could be violated?
- Who are most likely to be victims of inappropriate use of the internet and what are the consequences that could arise?
- How can digital citizenship progress?
- How does the legislation of individual countries affect the overall issue?

5. Suggestions for Further Research

- The digital rights of every individual.
- The stances of committee member states.
- Punishments handed out to violators.
- The impact of digital identity and digital footprint.
- The importance of data protection and encryption in digital citizenship.

Topic II

Securing Right for Illegal Immigrants

1. Summary & History

According to the United Nations, human rights are basic civil rights regardless of sex, race, religion, language. Human rights include having the right to life, liberty, freedom from being a slave, freedom of opinion as well as expression. It also includes the right to education, and work, these rights are entitled to every single human being, with no discriminations. There is also a law that addresses international human rights, which has laws that are laid down by international governments in order to help promote and secure the freedoms of individuals and groups ("Migration", 2019)

There are several international human rights that not a single human being can be called "illegal" or does not account under the protection of the laws and regulations. Even though there are established rules, discrimination does arise. The United States government policies still continue to sanction violations against migrants as well as immigrants. The federal immigration enforcement policies include enforcement measures through customs and border protection. This led to an increase in racial profiling, border killings, and denial of process rights. Immigrant workers are often abused, manipulated, and have become victims of racism and stereotyping. (American Civil Liberties Union, 2019)

In terms of the United States, even if a person is in the US without permission or (legally) without immigration papers the 14th amendment clearly states that "No state shall . . . deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." (Legal Rights of Undocumented Immigrants, 2019). The American Civil Liberties Union or (ACLU)'s immigrants' rights project is aimed to help expand the civil liberties as well as the civil rights of immigrants that have been taken away from them. The ACLU protects the right and liberty of the immigrants. There has been a struggle on behalf of the immigrants because there are challenges that deny access to courts. (American Civil Liberties Union, 2019)

2. Discourse on the Issue

Immigration is prevalent, and wide-spread across the world. There are approximately 215 million immigrants globally, nearly half being women (World Bank, 2011). Irregular migration; however, is extremely difficult to quantify. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 10 - 15 % of the aforementioned number of immigrants in 2010 were undocumented (IOM, 2013). In addition, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approximates that one-third of all international immigration that flows in under-developed regions were undocumented (Bongaarts, 2010). Unfortunately, irregular migration is necessary for many escaping from dire living conditions in their countries. On an international basis, the most pressing incidences of irregular migration are on the US-Mexico border, and the across the European borders. Across the world, irregular migrants are subjected to great difficulties and dangers during their quest to safety. Indeed, irregular migrants face dangers such as: human trafficking, rape, and death. In Africa, it was recently reported by the IOM and the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime that irregular migrants to Europe escaping from war, prosecution, or economic dysfunction were

being trafficked and sold in an underground Libyan black market. The regional spokesperson for UNHCR, Carlotta Sami notes that migrants are “not only facing inhuman treatment. They are being sold from one trafficker to another” (Baker, 2019). Furthermore, The U.N.’s International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are three times more people falling victim to modern-day slavery today than during the 350-year duration of intercontinental Atlantic slave trade. “The new slavery” takes in 15 million in forced marriage, most of them being under-age (Baker, 2019).

In addition, many irregular migrants are subjected to sexual assault, harassment, and rape during their journey to safety. Abusers are often individuals in power, such as: smugglers, gang members, UN personnel, or government officials. Sexual assault is often perpetrated as a “price” for the smuggling of migrants. Irregular migrants often find difficulties reporting rape and assault incidences as their rights are not given by countries of asylum. Amnesty International reported in 2013 that 60% of Mexican migrants to the US are exposed to assault during their journeys (“Migrants in Mexico: Invisible journeys”, 2013). Similar trends in data can be seen in Europe, and the Middle East migrant crises.

Once irregular migrants arrive at their asylum countries, their human rights under the Geneva Convention are often denied or limited by asylum countries. According to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR, n.d.), migrants are denied basic healthcare, housing, and education.

3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments

There is a global organization for migrants, known as the IOM (International Organization for Migration), established in 1951. IOM aims to help secure humane management to help promote international collaboration on the migration problem while also providing assistance to refugees in need, as well as displaced citizens. The United Nations and the IOM came to an agreement, with IOM becoming one of UN’s specialized agencies in order to help stimulate diversity as well as include the migrants. The IOM has created a program known as “I am a migrant”, where individuals speak about their journeys and experiences with migration from different backgrounds. There are many people that were raised in a country other than their own. It has reached a point where the UN members created the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”. The New York Declaration aims to provide sustainability, while also ensuring that the migrants receive the basic rights of every human irrelevant of their location or migration situation. According to the UN, the UN secretary-general selected the Louise Arbor of Canada as his representative for the IOM to help with all the migration related issues (“Migration” section, 2019).

4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address

- Should irregular migration be regulated, and how?
- Does rejection and deportation of irregular migrants violate their human rights?
- How can GA6 respond to the underground slave market in Libya?
- How can GA6 respond to allegations, and incidents of sexual assault reported by irregular migrants against smugglers, UN personnel, governments officials, and others?
- How can the UN take action against governments denying refugees basic human rights such as: education, housing, and healthcare?

5. Suggestions for Further Research

- The stances and policies of member states on irregular migration
- Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) on rights of migrants
- The International Organization of Migration (IOM)

- The African slave markets

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