



Delhi Public School
Rau Indore

DPS RAU

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



UNHCR

Developing strategies to increase international burden sharing by improve resettlement options and facilitating the integration of refugees into host communities.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

I. STRUCTURE

The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), which created it in 1949. It began operating in 1951, and its headquarters are in Geneva. The agency currently has a national and international staff of 18,879 of whom nearly 91 per cent are based in the field. The High Commissioner is currently Mr. Filippo Grandi, who took up the position on 1 January 2016. The High Commissioner was elected by the UNGA for a five-year term and has been re-elected to serve until 31 December 2025, on nomination by the UN Secretary-General (Art. 13 of UNHCR Statute). Each year, the High Commissioner reports to the UNGA, which usually adopts a resolution in support of UNHCR.

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is composed of representatives of the 54 States that are members of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It meets every year in October and produces “conclusions” that establish the framework for UNHCR’s activities.

Since the ExCom (elected by the UNGA) represents the community of States in the exercise of its functions, States that are not party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (known as the Refugee Convention) are hence not excluded from UNHCR. For instance, India is a member of the ExCom but is not a party to the Refugee Convention. In fact, it is acknowledged that all member States of the UN recognize and accept UNHCR’s mandate.

The organization is divided into several departments (international protection, operational support, finances, inspection and evaluation, human resources), as well as regional divisions.





II. MANDATE

UNHCR's goal is to guarantee the fundamental rules accepted by all States concerning the right of individuals to flee their country and seek asylum in another. To this end, it helps States face the administrative, legal, diplomatic, financial, and human problems that are caused by the refugee phenomenon.

UNHCR has several functions:

- To promote the rights of refugees and to monitor the implementation of the Refugee Convention by its States Parties;
- To protect refugees by working with States on the examination of administrative and legal problems related to the granting of refugee status and to the defence of the right of asylum. UNHCR also works with governments to search for durable solutions for refugees. Being a refugee is a transitory condition for an individual. To protect such individuals or groups of individuals, States must grant them a stable and lasting legal status. To this effect, UNHCR favours various forms of voluntary repatriation, integration into the State of asylum, and third country resettlement.
- To provide material assistance: international solidarity—in the form of interstate cooperation and support, but also with the support of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—is necessary so as to allow for a sharing of the financial and other burdens that refugees may represent for the host State. Concretely, this support translates into assistance programs for refugees that are run by UNHCR. States contribute financially to these programs on a voluntary basis.
- To provide “good offices” services to governments to help them solve problems resulting from population movements that are slightly outside UNHCR's mandate and specially to provide assistance to groups outside its mandate (e.g., internally displaced persons), when requested to do so by the UN Secretary-General or the UNGA.

Legal Basis of UNHCR's Mandate

UNHCR's mandate is based on:

- the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adopted by the UNGA on 14 December 1950 (Resolution 428 [V]), creating UNHCR;
- the 1951 Refugee Convention, which entered into force in 1954, currently has 146



Member States (as of April 2023), and establishes UNHCR's mandate to monitor the implementation of the Convention (under Art. 35 of the Refugee Convention);

- specific requests made by the UNGA (Art. 9 of UNHCR Statute) or by the Secretary-General (UNGA Resolution 48/116 of 20 December 1993), on the basis of which UNHCR's mandate may be extended on an ad hoc basis to help States face specific refugee problems.
- the 2018 Global compact on Refugees gives UNHCR a leading role toward its implementation, follow up and review notably through development of a Comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), the monitoring and reporting on the 15 indicators of Global Compact on

Refugees (GCR) progress; innovative partnership and pledge approach, the periodic meetings of the Global Refugee Forum and the annual reporting to the UNGA.

III. MEANS OF ACTION

The legal mechanisms at UNHCR's disposal vary, depending on whether a given mission comes under the framework of its Statute, the Refugee Convention, or an ad hoc extension of its mandate. During the first years of its existence, UNHCR was not an operational agency. It did not carry out material relief actions directly for refugees—its contribution was limited to giving financial support to private organizations that carried out such tasks. Thus, its contribution to the protection of refugees focused on negotiating and obtaining legal guarantees to their benefit and facilitating administrative formalities. With the growth in the number of refugees, UNHCR turned into an operational agency that is now present in 137 countries. By mid-2022, the number of persons of concern to UNHCR had grown to 103 million, the highest number on record.

1. Legal Means Provided by UNHCR's Statute

UNHCR has a double mission: it is accountable to both States and individual refugees.

a. UNHCR's Mission with Regard to States

It must ensure and coordinate States' defence of the right of asylum and their financial burden-sharing aimed at alleviating the problems of refugees.

Resolution 428 (V), adopted by the UNGA on 14 December 1950, established UNHCR's Statute and set forth the commitments undertaken by governments to cooperate with the organization on refugee issues. Governments are invited to:



- Participate in the drafting of international conventions relating to the protection of refugees, ratify them, and adopt the appropriate measures to implement them;
- Implement measures aimed at improving the situation of refugees and reducing the number of those who require protection, by concluding special agreements with UNHCR;
- Encourage the admission of refugees onto their territory, without excluding those in the most destitute categories;
- Support the efforts of UNHCR to assist in the voluntary repatriation of refugees;
- Favour the integration of refugees within new national communities, namely by facilitating their naturalization;
- Deliver travel and other documents that would normally be provided by the refugees' national authorities;
- Authorize refugees to transfer their assets, especially those necessary for their resettlement;
- Provide UNHCR with information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories and the laws and regulations concerning them.

b. UNHCR's Mission with Regard to the Protection of Refugees

Article 8 of UNHCR's Statute states that "the High Commissioner shall provide for the protection of refugees falling under the competence of his Office." Originally, UNHCR's mandate only extended to individuals who met the definition of a refugee contained in the Statute and repeated in the 1951 Refugee Convention (detailed under the entry on Refugees). It was progressively expanded to include other persons (in particular, war refugees) by successive UNGA resolutions. The organization's mandate over internally displaced persons (IDPs) remains ad hoc, meaning that it is subject to a vote by the UNGA, or at the request of the Secretary-General, and to the approval of States concerned.

UNHCR can ensure the protection of refugees by:

1. Promoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto;
2. Promoting through special agreements with governments the execution of any measures calculated to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number requiring protection;



3. Assisting governmental and private efforts to promote voluntary repatriation or assimilation within new national communities;
4. Promoting the admission of refugees, not excluding those in the most destitute categories, to the territories of States;
5. Endeavouring to obtain permission for refugees to transfer their assets and especially those necessary for their resettlement;
6. Obtaining from governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories and the laws and regulations concerning them;
7. Keeping in close touch with the governments and inter-governmental organizations concerned;
8. Establishing contact in such manner as it may think best with private organizations dealing with refugee questions;
9. Facilitating the coordination of the efforts of private organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees. (art. 8 of UNHCR Statute)



2. Legal Means Provided by the 1951 Refugee Convention

UNHCR's mandate is limited to individuals who meet the definition of refugees set forth by the Refugee Convention. "The High Contracting Parties [...] [note] that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is charged with the task of supervising international conventions providing for the protection of refugees, and recogniz[e] that the effective coordination of measures taken to deal with this problem will depend on the cooperation of States with the High Commissioner." (Preamble, para. 6).

UNHCR is entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the application and implementation of the Convention's provisions. States undertake to cooperate with UNHCR and to provide it with all the necessary information and statistical data, especially con-



cerning refugees, the implementation of the Convention, and any other laws enacted that relate to refugees (art. 35 of Refugee Convention).

The Convention does not offer UNHCR any additional means of action to those conferred by its Statute. It does mention, however, that national authorities, or “an international authority” (UNHCR), are under the obligation to issue to refugees any administrative documents that they can no longer obtain from their own national authorities but that are indispensable for the exercise of their individual rights. This function is crucial in order to lift administrative obstacles that refugees often face. These documents include identification papers or temporary travel documents (art. 25 of Refugee Convention).

3. Legal Means Provided by the UNGA

The UNGA may request, on a case-by-case basis, that UNHCR take charge of specific refugee problems that do not come under the strict definitions established by the Refugee Convention and UNHCR’s Statute (issues concerning internally displaced persons, for instance). In such situations, UNHCR has no means of action beyond those negotiated and included in the bilateral or trilateral agreements signed with the governments of the concerned States.

The UNGA has already broadened the organization’s mandate in three different directions, with the aim of:

- Providing material assistance to refugees, and therefore of making an appeal for funds (Resolution 538B of 1952);
- Using its “good offices” in case of large-scale flows of people seeking asylum (Resolution 1388 of 1959); and
- Extending its activities to cover the case of internally displaced persons (Resolution 2958 of 1972).

□ Internally displaced persons

The mandate of UNHCR was several times broadened to cover the situation of internally displaced populations (IDPs). However, UNHCR failed to protect these populations in various instances, such as in the former Yugoslavia or in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. Indeed, UNHCR has a mandate to assist this population, but it has no legal mandate that enables it to ensure a proper protection of IDPs. In 2002, UNHCR decided to focus its action on its core mandate—namely, refugees—therefore leaving further initiatives regarding IDPs to the Office of the Coordination for



Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In 2005, the United Nations reformed its humanitarian action framework.

Since September 2005, UNHCR is part of the global approach set up by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), under the authority of the Secretary-General of the UN and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The purpose of this reform is to set up a system that coordinates UN agencies, from a financial and operational point of view, and that makes sure all the aspects of relief actions are covered. Within this coordination system, UNHCR is the lead agency for camps management and protection of IDPs in connection with a situation of armed conflict. This is not a truly protective mandate from a legal point of view; rather, UNHCR is in charge of assessing the situation, defining a strategy, and setting up partnerships with relevant actors so that needs for protection are taken into account. This experimental system started functioning in January 2006 in three pilot countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, and Uganda. The High Commissioner for Refugees explained that UNHCR's involvement with IDPs is conditioned on the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator and on the consent of the country itself. He also insisted that UNHCR's involvement with IDPs should not impinge on the right of affected populations to seek and enjoy asylum, and that funding intended for the work with refugees should not be diverted. UNHCR's initiative on internal displacement for the period 2020-2021 pledged to further concretized its engagement and support towards IDPs in nine target operations (Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Colombia) with emergency preparedness, response and solutions-oriented activities. □ Office of the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs

4. Legal Means Provided by the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees

The GCR was adopted by States under the auspices of the UNGA in 2018 (A/RES/73/151) and it is not a legally binding document. However, it set a framework improving State cooperation toward more predictable and equitable responsibility and burden sharing in the management of refugees. It provides blueprint for governments, international organisations and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities and refugees get the support they need. The UNHCR is given a central role in the implementation, follow up and review of this new international agreement. The UNHCR is notably tasked to develop a Comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), foster pledge making and voluntary funding through innovative and inclusive partnership approach; report on progress through accurate data related to the 15 indicators listed in GCR indicator framework, organise and co-chair the periodic meetings of the Global Refugee Forum and provide annual reporting to the UNGA regarding advancement and shortfalls encountered in the implementation of the GCR and in the management of refugees' situation.



5. Financial Means

UNHCR administers the funds it receives from both public and private sources for assistance to refugees. It first distributes them to the private agencies that it deems best qualified to provide such assistance. It may also, as appropriate, distribute part of the funds to public agencies. It may reject any offers that it does not consider appropriate, or which cannot be utilized—for instance, because of conditions attached to the funds (art. 10 of UNHCR Statute).

A small part of the administrative overhead costs (about 1 percent) is covered by the regular budget of the UN. The programs are financed up to 85 per cent by voluntary contributions of States and the European Union while 3 per cent comes from other inter-governmental organizations and pooled funding mechanisms and 11 per cent from the private sector including foundations, corporations, and the public. UNHCR may not appeal to governments for funds without the prior approval of the UNGA (art. 10 of UNHCR Statute).

The global program budget is divided into four pillars: Global refugee program, Global statelessness program, Global reintegration projects and Global IDP projects. In 2021, largest component of the budget for programmed activities was afforded to pillar 1 (Refugee program) with 76.2 percent. UNHCR global data recorded 103 million of persons forcibly displaced in 2022. Among these persons of concerns for UNHCR, 32.5 million were refugees, 4.9 million asylum seekers, 53.2 million were IDPs and the remainder were in need of international protection.

According to UNHCR's 2022 Global planning figures, 72 per cent of these people of concern comes from only five countries: the Syrian Arab republic, Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan and South Sudan. The largest requirements were in the Americas for 25 per cent and the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region for 16 per cent equalled with the Middle East and North Africa region for also 16 per cent.

□ Despite its humanitarian mandate, UNHCR is an organ within the UN system. This means, for instance:

- Its actions depend on the content of agreements it negotiates with the governments concerned in each situation. They also depend on the voluntary financial contributions from States.
- It is directly subject to the consequences of national asylum policies, which have become increasingly restrictive over the years, and of budgetary limitations. In 2021, there were 89.3 million forcibly displaced people of concern to UNHCR worldwide, of whom 21.3 million were refugees and 53.2 million were IDPs.



- UNHCR's activities are founded on very diverse legal bases. Some of the operations it carries out—its good office's actions, for instance—include almost no rule governing the protection of individuals. UNHCR's legal capacity to protect individuals must be examined closely in each of its interventions.
- It is not UNHCR but the governments concerned that choose whether to grant refugee status to an individual or group. UNHCR monitors and participates in the proceedings, and individuals may submit their cases to it.
- When a State refuses to grant refugee status to individuals who have fled en masse, UNHCR is responsible for ensuring that they are not forced to return (refouler) to a country where their lives would be threatened. UNHCR also ensures that such persons are granted temporary asylum at the very least. Such individuals are known as refugees de facto.

The High Commissioner must report on the funds once spent. Consequently, he enjoys an important margin on appreciation. The revised budget for 2023 was \$10.211 billion USD, of which \$42.2 million came from the UN regular budget.

5. Relations with NGOs

UNHCR's primary role is not an operational one. In addition to its function as legal counsel (pressuring and assisting governments in their admission of refugees), UNHCR has undertaken increasingly concrete assistance and protection operations for refugees, often in partnership with NGOs. UNHCR can sign operational partnership contracts with NGOs (arts. 8 and 10 of UNHCR statute) so as to coordinate the funding of such actions.

NGOs thus defend the rights of refugees through their assistance activities, and they therefore carry a share of the responsibilities in protecting these populations. Through their very presence at the refugees' side, NGOs are in a privileged position to evaluate, for instance, the refugees' physical safety, the quality of assistance they receive, and the different pressures they face in making certain decisions—namely, in cases of repatriation—and to report this to UNHCR.



Refugees



The definition of a refugee is someone who:

“owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”

At the end of June 2023, 110 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced from their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order.

Among those were 36.4 million refugees, (30.5 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate, and 5.94 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate). There were also 62.1 million internally displaced people, 6.08 million asylum seekers, and 5.6 million Venezuelans refugees or in need of international protection . There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

During the first half of the year, approximately 90% of newly displaced individuals glob-



ally resulted from seven significant displacement situations. These situations consist of both ongoing and new conflicts and humanitarian crises in various countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latin America and the Caribbean nations, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Ukraine.

There are diminishing prospects for refugees when it comes to hopes of any quick end to their plight. In the 1990s, on average 1.5 million refugees were able to return home each year. Over the past decade that number has fallen to around 385,000, meaning that growth in displacement is today far outstripping solutions.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

People fleeing persecution and conflict have been granted asylum in foreign lands for thousands of years. The UN agency that helps refugees is UNHCR (also known as the UN Refugee Agency), which emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict.

UNHCR was established on December 14, 1950 by the UN General Assembly with a three-year mandate to complete its work and then disband. The following year, on July 28, the legal foundation of helping refugees and the basic statute guiding UNHCR's work, the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, was adopted. So instead of ending its work after three years, UNHCR has been working ever since to help refugees.

In the 1960s, the decolonization of Africa produced the first of that continent's numerous refugee crises needing UNHCR intervention. Over the following two decades, UNHCR had to help with displacement crises in Asia and Latin America. By the end of the century there were fresh refugee problems in Africa and, turning full circle, new waves of refugees in Europe from the series of wars in the Balkans.

UNHCR in the field

The UN Refugee Agency has its Headquarters in Geneva, but about 89 per cent of staff are in the field. Today, a staff of more than 18,000 people in 135 countries provides protection and assistance to nearly 59 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people. The largest portion of UNHCR staff are based in countries in Asia and Africa, the continents that both host and generate the most refugees and internally displaced people. Many are in isolated locations where staff work in difficult - and often dangerous - conditions.

As of mid-2023, the top five countries of origin for refugees and individuals in need of international protection are Syria (6.5 million), followed by Afghanistan (6.1 million),



Ukraine (6 million), Venezuela (5.6 million) and South Sudan (2.2 million).

Nansen Refugee Award

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award is given to individuals, groups, and organizations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to protecting refugees, displaced and stateless people.

The award was established in 1954 to honor the legacy of Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian scientist, polar explorer, diplomat, and the first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations.

The first Nansen Refugee Award was presented in 1954 to Eleanor Roosevelt, the first Chair of the UN Human Rights Commission and First Lady of the United States alongside President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Since then, over 60 individuals, organizations or groups have been honored with the Award, for their exceptional work and service towards people who are compelled to leave their homes.

Global Compact on Refugees

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly approved the Global Compact on Refugees, a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation.

The four key objectives of the Global Compact are:

- Ease the pressures on host countries
- Enhance refugee self-reliance.
- Expand access to third-country solutions.
- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The 2023 Global Refugee Forum, an event designed to support the practical implementation of the four objectives and the world's largest international gathering on refugees, resulted in more than 1,600 pledges in support of refugees and their host communities, including 43 multi-partner commitments led by governments.

An estimated \$2.2 billion in new financial commitments were announced by States and other actors, with some \$250 million pledged by the private sector. These outcomes offer a source of hope for the more than 36 million refugees displaced worldwide.



UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), was mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1949 to provide services to registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East. When the Agency began operations in 1950, it was responding to the needs of about 750,000 Palestine refugees.

UNRWA is a direct service provider, delivering primary and secondary education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, and emergency aid to Palestine refugees, now numbering almost 6 million, in the Agency's five mandated areas of operation: the Gaza Strip, West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

UNRWA mandate

Definitions of refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and of Palestine refugees per the UN General Assembly are complementary.

For UNRWA's mandate, 'Palestine refugee' relates to people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between 1 June 1946 and 15 May 1948 and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. Palestine refugees and their descendants can register with UNRWA to receive services in UNRWA's mandated areas of operation.

The Member States, through the UN General Assembly, have tasked UNRWA to provide assistance and protection to Palestine refugees until a just and lasting political solution is found that addresses their plight.

Aftermath of 7 October 2023 attack

Since the beginning of the Israeli military operation in Gaza in response to the attack on Israel by Palestinian armed groups, more than one million people have been internally displaced in Gaza and over 60% of the housing units have been either destroyed, or partially damaged preventing people from returning home

Following allegations that 12 UNRWA staff were involved in the attacks, the Secretary-General opened an investigation. The decision by various Member States to suspend funding to UNRWA over the allegations prompted a statement by the heads of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN System's highest-level humanitarian coordination forum, warning that "pausing funds from UNRWA will have catastrophic consequences for the people of Gaza".



Descendants of refugees retain refugee status

Under international law and the principle of family unity, the children of refugees and their descendants are also considered refugees until a durable solution is found. Both UNRWA and UNHCR recognize descendants as refugees on this basis, a practice that has been widely accepted by the international community, including both donors and refugee hosting countries.

Palestine refugees are not distinct from other protracted refugee situations such as those from Afghanistan or Somalia, where there are multiple generations of refugees, considered by UNHCR as refugees and supported as such. Protracted refugee situations are the result of the failure to find political solutions to their underlying political crises.

Support for refugee camps



UN peacekeepers are often there to protect the camps in which refugees must live. When they are left without access to such basic necessities as food, water, sanitation and health care, the UN family provides it. Much of this support is provided through the United Nations humanitarian action machinery. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), through its “cluster approach”, brings together all major humanitarian agencies, both within and outside the UN system, for coordinated action.



UNHCR is the lead agency with respect to the protection of refugees and the internally displaced. Along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), it is the lead agency for camp coordination and management. And it shares the lead with respect to emergency shelter with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has twice been the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize — in 1954 and most recently in 1981.

Climate change, natural disasters and displacement

In addition to persecution and conflict, in the 21st century, natural disaster (sometimes due to climate change) can also force people to seek refuge in other countries. Such disasters – floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, mudslides – are increasing in frequency and intensity. While most of the displacement caused by these events is internal, they can also cause people to cross borders. None of the existing international and regional refugee law instruments, however, specifically addresses the plight of such people.

Displacement caused by the slow-onset effects of climate change is largely internal as well. But through its acceleration of drought, desertification, the salinization of ground water and soil, and rising sea levels, climate change, too, can contribute to the displacement of people across international frontiers.

Other human-made calamities, such as severe socio-economic deprivation, can also cause people to flee across borders. While some may be escaping persecution, most leave because they lack any meaningful option to remain. The lack of food, water, education, health care and a livelihood would not ordinarily and by themselves sustain a refugee claim under the 1951 Convention. Nevertheless, some of these people may need some form of protection.

All of these circumstances - conflict, natural disasters, and climate change - pose enormous challenges for the international humanitarian community.

Climate change and conflict

An increasing numbers of people fleeing persecution, violence and human rights violations linked to the adverse effects of climate change and disasters require international protection.

In 2022, 84% of refugees and asylum seekers fled from countries highly vulnerable to climate change, whereas it was only 61% in 2010. The possibility of finding long-term solutions for these refugees is becoming increasingly limited. In 2020, only 1% of refugees were able to return home, which is a worrying trend, as the impact of cli-



mate change worsens the living conditions and opportunities for development in their countries of origin.

Moreover, a considerable percentage of forcibly displaced and stateless people are currently living in the most climate-vulnerable environments across the world. These people, along with their host communities, lack the resources and resilience necessary to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Women, girls, and other groups with specific needs often face greater challenges and burdens from the effects of climate change, due to existing cultural norms, roles, and responsibilities

Events

As proclaimed by the General Assembly, World Refugee Day is observed annually on 20 June.

The UN General Assembly hosted a high-level meeting on 19 September 2016 to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach.



Refugee Statistics

More than 114 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record



Global Trends At-a-Glance

By the end of 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. This includes:

- 35.3 million refugees
- 62.5 million internally displaced people
- 5.4 million asylum seekers
- 5.2 million people in need of international protection, a majority from Venezuela

As of May 2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide. This marks the largest ever single-year increase in forced displacement in UNHCR's history, propelled by the war in Ukraine and other deadly conflicts.

Noteworthy Facts and Statistics by Region/Country

Sub-Saharan Africa

- The East and Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes region hosted nearly 5 million refugees at the end of 2022.
- The region hosts 20 percent of the global refugee population and almost 85 percent of all refugees in the region live in Chad (592,800), Cameroon (473,900) and Niger (255,300).
- Conflict in Sudan, beginning in April 2023, displaced 2.6 million people within Sudan and 738,000 others who fled to neighboring countries by July 2023.

Central America and Venezuela

- In recent years, Honduras has experienced an increase in violence by organized criminal groups, locally called maras. El Salvador has seen decreased organized violence.
- The number of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad grew in 2021, reaching 5.2 million by the end of the year.
- By the end of 2022, an estimated 968,300 people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were internally displaced or sought asylum in neighboring countries or countries in the Americas, as did 241,900 people identified as populations of concern

Europe

- By the end of 2022, Europe hosted 1 in 3 refugees in the world (36 percent). The number of refugees hosted in Europe rose from 7 million at the end of 2021 to 12.4 million at the end of 2022.



- Turkey continues to be the world's largest refugee-hosting country, home to 3.6 million refugees or 10 percent of all people displaced across borders.
- Germany hosted nearly 2.1 million people, 6 percent of all refugees globally.
- In 2022, more than 159,000 people risked their lives trying to reach Europe by land and sea; more than 2,439 are dead or missing.
- In response to the enormous scale of displacement by the war in Ukraine, EU member states and other European states granted temporary protection to millions of refugees from Ukraine.

Iraq

- As of May 2023, nearly 1.2 million Iraqis continue to be internally displaced and the country also hosts 273,700 refugees from other countries.
- Although Iraqi IDP returnees, around 4.8 million as of May 2023, consistently outnumber those who are internally displaced, many struggle to reintegrate and still require humanitarian assistance.

South Sudan

- By the end of 2022, there were around 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees.
- As of April 2023, more than 97 percent of South Sudanese refugees are hosted in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Outbreaks of violence led to 282,000 new internal displacements in 2022, increasing the total number of IDPs to 2.26 million as of April 2023.
- Refugees from South Sudan continued to constitute the largest groups of returnees, with 151,300 returning in 2022.

Syria

- Conflict in Syria reached its 12th year in 2022, over a decade.
- Syrians accounted for almost 1 in 5 refugees globally, with 6.5 million hosted in 131 countries.
- There are 13.5 million displaced Syrians, representing more than half of Syria's total population, with 6.8 million internally displaced by late 2022.
- Over three-quarters of refugees, 77 percent, resided in neighboring countries including Türkiye (3.5 million), Lebanon (814,700) and Jordan (660,900).

Rohingya Refugee Emergency

- The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority in Myanmar. The vast majority of Rohingya refugees are women and children, including newborn babies. Many others are elderly people requiring additional aid and protection.



- 1.2 million stateless Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar since the start of violence in 2017.
- 90 percent of Rohingya refugees live in Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Ukraine

- The war in Ukraine has captured global attention with more than 5 million Ukrainians displaced within their country and an additional 6.3 million displaced across borders as of June 2023.
- More than 17 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance inside Ukraine.

Yemen

- Fighting in Yemen, already one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, has severely compounded needs arising from long years of poverty and insecurity.
- In 2022, the internally displaced population in Yemen reached 4.5 million people, with displaced families facing an acute risk of famine.
- Natural disasters have exacerbated conflict in Yemen, forcing Yemenis to flee multiple times.

52%

of all refugees and other people in need of international protection come from three countries: Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.

Education

General Trends for 2022:

- At all levels, refugee enrollment is lower than that of non-refugees. As refugee children get older, they are at greater risk of being left behind.
- Close to half of all refugee children – 48 percent – remain out of school.
- Refugee learners lost an average of 142 days of school up to March 2021 because of school closures.
- Even before COVID-19, young refugees were around 30 percent less likely to complete primary school, and half as likely to complete lower-secondary school.

Primary, Secondary and Higher Education:

- Data collected from 40 countries shows that pre-primary enrollment rates for refugees is 42 percent.



- At primary level, UNHCR data suggests that 68 percent of refugee children are enrolled in school.
- By contrast, only 37 percent of refugee children are enrolled in secondary school.
- The enrollment level for higher education in college or university has risen to 6 percent, up from 1 percent in recent years.

Gender Gap:

- At primary level, global gross enrollment rates for refugees were at 68 and 67 percent for boys and girls respectively;
- At secondary level, the rates were 36 and 34 percent.

Key challenges

UNHCR's operational environment is characterized by four main trends. These are:

- A decreasing number of refugees;
- Increased internal displacement;
- Growing numbers and complexity of irregular and mixed migration movements; and
- A pressing need for reform across the humanitarian response system.

The number of refugees has fallen steadily, and is the lowest in almost a quarter of a century. This is partly due to the fact that there have been fewer refugee-producing crises and several conflicts have come to an end or diminished in intensity, allowing refugees to return home. In 2005, an estimated 1.1 million refugees returned to their countries of origin. Over half returned to Afghanistan; other countries of large returns included Angola, Liberia and Burundi.

On the other hand, internal strife and civil wars have triggered fewer refugee exodus-es, but have provoked more displacement. Internal conflicts, and a declining respect for human rights and humanitarian law, have resulted in increased attacks on civilian populations and on those trying to assist and protect them. For example, in Africa, in three countries alone – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Sudan – conflicts have led to the internal flight of some nine million people. In many areas, security has deteriorated to such an extent that humanitarian work has been impossible and past successes, including repatriation and successful reintegration, are now jeopardized.

Another important trend has been the increase in irregular and mixed migration movements, in particular, but not exclusively, to industrialized countries. In the face of barriers to immigration, some economic migrants have tried to use the asylum door, which



has led to many calls for restrictive asylum policies in an effort to curb “bogus” asylum claims, and to the perception that refugees and asylum-seekers are only after a better life. Asylum systems have become discredited, but rather than making procedures more effective, many States have resorted to restricting access to asylum, thereby depriving refugees of the protection to which they are entitled.

Yet, the number of asylum-seekers has been steadily declining in the past years. Some of the causes most commonly attributed to this decline are the increasingly restrictive measures imposed by States in an attempt to curb irregular migration and because of national security concerns; as well as growing xenophobia and intolerance.

At the same time, reform processes within the United Nations, particularly with regard to responses to humanitarian concerns and notably to situations of internal displacement, require UNHCR to adopt new methods of work and new approaches in order to become a more flexible, efficient, reliable and integrated partner within the broader UN system

This context presents UNHCR with several challenges. Some of the key issues are outlined below.

Preserving the asylum space



The increasingly restrictive asylum policies and measures imposed by governments are essentially a response to concerns of their own citizens for whom the issues of economic migration and asylum have become blurred. Fuelled by some sections of the media and politicians with an anti-foreigner agenda, many citizens, in particular in



the industrialized world, have come to believe that most, if not all, asylum-seekers are in fact economic migrants, seeking better opportunities in a richer country, threatening their jobs and eventually their livelihoods. Asylum-seekers, including children, are frequently detained, and many are even prevented from gaining access to territory and returned, often to insecure places.

In 2007, UNHCR will be active on several fronts in order to preserve the asylum space. First and foremost, it will seek to establish respect for international law, providing support to States to ensure that they have the adequate legal frameworks and administrative capacities to ensure compliance with their international protection obligations under the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and/or related international and regional standards.

Key to preserving the asylum space is the identification of those who are in need of protection. UNHCR will collaborate with States to ensure the provision of protection, especially by building the capacity of law enforcement officials, border guards and those in charge of identifying and determining who is, or may be, a refugee.

In order to reinforce public awareness and create a climate of tolerance for refugees, UNHCR will also redouble its efforts to advocate for refugees, counter misperceptions and misinformation and offer real solutions to the problems that may arise.

Addressing the protection concerns in mixed population flows

Another key challenge for UNHCR is to ensure refugee protection in migration-focused responses to mixed population movements. Faced with restrictive policies and obstacles to entry into territory, asylum-seekers and refugees have been resorting increasingly to illegal means, often using the same routes and smugglers as those migrating for other reasons. While illegal migration is a legitimate concern for States, policies to combat it should distinguish between those seeking better economic conditions and individuals in need of — and entitled to — international protection. The Office fears that increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees are being treated as if they were illegal migrants, and in the process their right to international protection is violated.

UNHCR aims to create an environment where those in need of international protection can be identified and given protection. The Office is committed to increasing its capacity in relevant countries to provide practical support to States, providing country-of-origin information, building national capacities and using its good offices to foster collaborative partnerships or to obtain resettlement in appropriate cases.



Burden-Sharing

The concept of international solidarity and burden-sharing in relation to refugees, has been present since the inception of UNHCR. Its documented origins are found in Paragraph 4 of the Preamble of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which expressly acknowledges that “the grant of asylum may place unduly heavy burdens on certain countries, and that a satisfactory solution of a problem of which the United Nations has recognized the international scope and nature cannot therefore be achieved without international cooperation.”

Since that date, the international community has continuously stressed the fundamental importance of the above-mentioned concept. In recognition of the foregoing, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) has included this issue in its agenda for its Fifth Annual Plenary Meeting, and has requested a submission from UNHCR thereon. The paper examines the legal/normative basis for the concept, its various aspects, the implementation of this concept and precedents in this regard. Further, it proposes recommendations regarding this concept in the context of the Asia-Pacific region.

A. The legal basis for this concept

(i) The regional context: In addition to the reference to international co-operation that is included in the Preamble to the 1951 Convention, the concept of burden-sharing is included in many regional instruments as well. The phenomenon of large-scale influx of refugees in Africa, arising from the process of decolonization in the 60's, led to the first substantive regional formulation of this concept in the refugee context. Article II(4) of the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problem in Africa states that “where a Member State finds difficulty in continuing to grant asylum to refugees, such Member State may appeal directly to other Member States and through the OAU, and such other Member States shall in the spirit of African solidarity and international cooperation take appropriate measures to lighten the burden of the Member State granting asylum.”

A number of European Union texts have also referred to the need for international solidarity and burden-sharing, such as the 1995 European Council Resolution on Burden-Sharing with Regard to the Admission and Residence of Displaced Persons. With respect to the Asian region, this concept is included in Paragraph III of the 1987 Addendum to the 1966 Bangkok Principles Concerning the Treatment of Refugees, adopted by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC). The Paragraph reads: “The principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing should be seen as applying to all aspects of the refugee situation, including the development and strengthening of standards of treatment of refugees, support to States in protecting



and assisting refugees, the provision of durable solutions and the support of international bodies with responsibilities for the protection and assistance of refugees.” This issue was also discussed at the seminar held in Manila in 1996, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Bangkok Principles.

(ii) National responsibilities in refugee situations: Under the terms of international law, primary responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees lies with the host countries. This is clearly spelt out in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. While regional and international burden-sharing initiatives may be needed to assist host States, this does not diminish their responsibility in regard to the refugees on their territory. Burden-sharing has three components: national, regional and international. The two latter components should support and complement national responsibilities. Even in situations where regional or international actors participate in burden-sharing activities, there should be full recognition of the heavy burden that is placed on host States, particularly during the initial emergency phase of large-scale influxes and refugees or returnees, or where refugee situations are prolonged.

B. The need for burden-sharing



(i) Rationale: The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme (ExCom) has elaborated several Conclusions, which either focus on, or draw attention to, the issue of burden-sharing. Amongst these, the ExCom Conclusion 22 (XXXII) of 1981 relating to the Protection of Asylum Seekers in Situations of Large-Scale Influx, is particularly important, inasmuch as it explains the need for this concept and provides



certain parameters for the implementation thereof. It notes the following rationale for burden-sharing:

- A mass influx may place unduly heavy burdens on certain countries, and a satisfactory solution could not be achieved without international cooperation.
- States should, within the framework of international solidarity and burden-sharing, take all necessary measures to assist, at their request, states that have admitted a mass influx of refugees.

(ii) Consequences of refugee and returnee movements: Both mass influx as well as mass return may require international solidarity and burden-sharing arrangements to address the humanitarian consequences, and to enable the respective countries of asylum or origin to meet their obligations. However, it is important to recognize that the primary burden is usually borne by the host countries and communities. There is increasing recognition of the extent to which large refugee/returnee populations may impede or jeopardize the development efforts of developing nations. Some of the largest refugee/returnee concentrations are found in countries that already suffer from weak economies and poor infrastructure, as well as widespread poverty. National and local authorities in these countries are often compelled to divert considerable resources and manpower to deal with issues relating to these populations, detracting from the pressing demands of their own development.

The impact of these populations is notably felt in four areas: economic, environmental, socio-political, and in the domain of peace and security.

Economic: The presence of large refugee/returnee populations leads to substantial demands on food, energy, transportation, employment and public services such as education, health and water facilities. The financial costs have to be seen in the context of structural adjustment programmes being implemented simultaneously in many of the developing countries.

Environmental: Sudden influxes of large refugees populations often lead to serious, uncontrolled environmental imbalances which can affect entire eco-systems. Refugees also often create an unexpected and massive demand for scarce natural resources such as land, fuel, water, food and shelter materials, with long-term implications for their sustainable regeneration.

Social-political: The impact in this domain is notably felt when refugees or returnees are from different cultural, ethnic, religious, or linguistic groups from the local population, leading to an exacerbation of social tensions.

Peace and security: The presence of large refugee/returnee populations can have



serious implications for internal security, particularly in situations where the ratio of these populations to the local populations is high. It can also have implications for regional stability, as recent experiences in West Timor, Indonesia have shown. The problems of the politicisation and militarization of refugee camps and settlements are well known. As a result, substantial demands are often put on police and armed forces of countries of asylum and countries of origin in order to ensure the security and stability of areas affected by large refugee/returnee populations

(iii) The phenomenon of irregular movement: It has also been noted that the phenomenon of irregular movements of refugees and asylum seekers is more likely to occur from countries which host large refugee populations or which face protracted refugee situations. Such movements generally cause problems for the irregular movers themselves as well as for the receiving countries, since they frequently indebted themselves to people smugglers and are often compelled to employ clandestine and sometimes dangerous methods of travel. Receiving countries that wish to return such persons to their countries of first asylum, often face difficulties in establishing readmission agreements. Countries of first asylum are, in general, reluctant to enter into such agreements in view of the large numbers of refugees that they already host on their territory.

What is resettlement?

Many refugees cannot go home because of continued conflict, wars and persecution. Many also live in perilous situations or have specific needs that cannot be addressed in the country where they have sought protection. In such circumstances, UNHCR helps resettle refugees to a third country.

Resettlement is the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State, that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent residence.

UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of the three durable solutions. Resettlement is unique in that it is the only durable solution that involves the relocation of refugees from an asylum country to a third country.

Providing for effective reception and integration is beneficial for both the resettled refugee and the receiving country. Governments and non-governmental organization partners provide services to facilitate integration, such as cultural orientation, language and vocational training, as well as programmes to promote access to education and employment.



The Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) mandated the development of the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (the Strategy) a key vehicle for achieving one of the four GCR objectives, the expansion of third country solutions. The multi-stakeholder Strategy, which was launched in June 2019, established a three-year framework and laid out an ambitious long-term plan for the systematic expansion of third-country solutions. It represented a unique opportunity to translate the aspirations of greater solidarity and responsibility-sharing into tangible results in the form of protection-led solutions for refugees. A report detailing the Strategy's achievements as well as unmet goals was released in March 2022.

In June 2022, the Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030
Link is external

Was launched and builds on the Strategy - focusing on transitioning from foundation building to implementation and significant scaling of third country solutions The guiding principles of protection, durable solutions, responsibility sharing, additionality of complementary pathways, non-discrimination and family unity will continue to guide future ambitious efforts.

Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP)

The Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP) was a multi-stakeholder and global mechanism which aimed to support States and relevant stakeholders to grow resettlement programmes and advance complementary pathways. It provided targeted capacity building such as training, technical assistance, and deployment of experts. The CRISP was developed jointly by UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and was launched in January 2020.

This initiative is a direct outcome of recommendations made by resettlement States and key stakeholders during the Three-Year Strategy consultation process and it has been recognized as a critical tool to support the expansion of third country solutions both under the Strategy and under its next phase, the Third Country Solutions for Refugees Roadmap: 2030. The CRISP Initiative came to an end in December 2022.

UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, will continue to work with countries and operations on capacity building activities started under the CRISP and will support a wide range of actions to expand refugees' access to third country opportunities, protection, and solutions, in full alignment with the Roadmap 2030.



Roll Call

A committee meeting begins with a roll call, without which quorum cannot be established. A debate cannot begin without a quorum being established. A delegate may change his/her roll call in the next session. For example, if Delegate answers the Present in the First session, he can answer the Present and vote in the next session when the roll call occurs.

During the roll call, the country names are recalled out of alphabetical order, and delegates can answer either by saying Present or Present and voting. Following are the ways a roll call can be responded in -

Present - Delegates can vote Yes, no, or abstain for a Draft Resolution when they answer the Roll Call with Present;

Present and voting - An delegate is required to vote decisively, i.e., Yes/No only if they have answered the Roll Call with a Present and voting. A Delegate cannot abstain in this case.

Abstention - The Delegate may abstain from voting if they are in doubt, or if their country supports some points but opposes others. Abstention can also be used if a delegate believes that the passage of the resolution will harm the world, even though it is unlikely to be highly specific. A delegate who responded with present and voting is not allowed to abstain during a substantive vote. An abstention counts as neither “yes” nor “no vote”, and his or her vote is not included in the total vote tally.

Quorum

In order for the proceedings of a committee to proceed, quorum (also known as a minimum number of members) must be set which is one-third of the members of the committee must be present. Quorum will be assumed to be established unless a delegate’s presence is specifically challenged and shown to be absent during the roll call. The Executive Board may suspend committee sessions if a quorum is not reached.



General Speakers List

After the agenda for the session has been established, a motion is raised to open the General Speaker's List or GSL. The GSL is where all types of debates take place throughout the conference, and the list remains open throughout the duration of the agenda's discussion. If a delegate wishes to speak in the GSL, he or she must notify the Executive Board by raising his or her placard when the Executive asks for Delegates desiring to speak in the GSL. Each country's name will be listed in the order in which it will deliver its speech. A GSL can have an individual speaker time of anywhere from 60-120 seconds. Following their GSL speech, a Delegate has the option of yielding his/her time to a specific Delegate, Information Points (questions) or to the Executive Board.

Speakers List will be followed for all debate on the Topic Area, except when superseded by procedural motions, amendments, or the introduction of a draft resolution. Speakers may speak generally on the Topic Area being considered and may address any draft resolution currently on the floor. Debate automatically closes when the Speakers List is exhausted.

Yield

A delegate granted the right to speak on a substantive issue may yield in one of three ways at the conclusion of his/her speech: to another delegate, to questions, or to the Director. Please note that only one yield is allowed. A delegate must declare any yield at the conclusion of his or her speech.

- Yield to another delegate. When a delegate has some time left to speak, and he/ she doesn't wish to utilize it, that delegate may elect to yield the remaining speaking time to another delegate. This can only be done with the prior consent of another delegate (taken either verbally or through chits). The delegate who has been granted the other's time may use it to make a substantive speech, but cannot further yield it.
- Yield to questions. Follow-up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the Director. The Director will have the right to call to order any delegate whose question is, in the opinion of the Director, rhetorical and leading and not designed to



elicit information. Only the speaker's answers to questions will be deducted from the speaker's remaining time.

- Yield to the EB. Such a yield should be made if the delegate does not wish his/her speech

to be subject to questions. The moderator will then move to the next speaker.

Motions

Motions are the formal term used for when one initiates an action. Motions cover a wide variety of things.

Once the floor is open, the Chairs will ask for any points or motions. If you wish to bring one to the Floor, this is what you should do:

- Raise your placard in a way that the chair can read it
- Wait until the Chair recognizes you
- Stand up and after properly addressing the Chair("Thank you, honourable Chair" or something along these lines), state what motion you wish to propose
- Chairs will generally repeat the motions and may also ask for clarification. Chairs may do this if they do not understand and may also ask for or suggest modifications to the motion that they feel might benefit the debate.

Every motion is subject to seconds, if not otherwise stated. To pass a motion at least one other nation has to second the motion brought forward. A nation cannot second its own motion. If there are no seconds, the motion automatically fails.

If a motion has a second, the Chair will ask for objections. If no objections are raised, the motion will pass without discussion or a procedural vote. In case of objections, a procedural vote will be held. The vote on a motion requires a simple majority, if not otherwise stated.



While voting upon motions, there are no abstentions. If a vote is required, everyone must vote either “Yes” or “No”. If there is a draw on any vote, the vote will be retaken once. In case there are multiple motions on the Floor, the vote will be casted by their Order of Precedence. If one motion passes, the others will not be voted upon anymore. However, they may be reintroduced once the Floor is open again.

During a moderated caucus, there will be no speakers’ list. The moderator will call upon speakers in the order in which the signal their desire to speak. If you want to bring in a motion for a moderated caucus, you will have to specify the duration, a speakers’ time, a moderator, and the purpose of the caucus. This motion is subject to seconds and objections but is not debatable.

In an unmoderated caucus, proceedings are not bound by the Rules of Procedure. Delegates may move around the room freely and converse with other delegates. This is also the time to create blocks, develop ideas, and formulate working papers, draft resolutions, and amendments. Remember that you are required to stay in your room unless given permission to leave by a Chair.

During the course of debate, the following points are in order:

- **Point of Personal Privilege:** Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort which impairs his or her ability to participate in the proceedings, he or she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. While a Point of Personal Privilege in extreme case may interrupt a speaker, delegates should use this power with the utmost discretion.
- **Point of Order:** During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper parliamentary procedure. The Director may rule out of order those points that are improper. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may only interrupt a speaker if the speech is not following proper parliamentary procedure.
- **Point of Enquiry:** When the floor is open, a delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the EB a question regarding the rules of procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker. Delegates with substan-



tive questions should not rise to this Point, but should rather approach the committee staff during caucus or send a note to the dais.

- **Point of information:** After a delegate gives a speech, and if the delegate yields their time to Points of Information, one Point of Information (a question) can be raised by delegates from the floor. The speaker will be allotted the remainder of his or her speaking time to address Points of Information. Points of Information are directed to the speaker and allow other delegations to ask questions in relation to speeches and resolutions.
- **Right to Reply:** A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may submit a Right of Reply only in writing to the committee staff. The Director will grant the Right of Reply and his or her discretion and a delegate granted a Right of Reply will not address the committee except at the request of the Director.

Draft Resolution

Once a draft resolution has been approved as stipulated above and has been copied and distributed, a delegate(s) may motion to introduce the draft resolution. The Director, time permitting, shall read the operative clauses of the draft resolution. A procedural vote is then taken to determine whether the resolution shall be introduced. Should the motion receive the simple majority required to pass, the draft resolution will be considered introduced and on the floor. The Director, at his or her discretion, may answer any clarificatory points on the draft resolution. Any substantive points will be ruled out of order during this period, and the Director may end this clarificatory question-answer period' for any reason, including time constraints. More than one draft resolution may be on the floor at any one time, but at most one draft resolution may be passed per Topic Area. A draft resolution will remain on the floor until debate on that specific draft resolution is postponed or closed or a draft resolution on that Topic Area has been passed. Debate on draft resolutions proceeds according to the general Speakers List for that topic area and delegates may then refer to the draft resolution by its designated number. No delegate may refer to a draft resolution until it is formally introduced.



Amendments

All amendments need to be written and submitted to the executive board. The format for this is authors, signatories and the clause with mentioning the add, delete and replace. There are two forms of amendment, which can be raised by raising a motion for amendment and approval of the chair

Friendly Amendments: Amendment, which is agreed upon by all the author's does not require any kind of voting

Unfriendly Amendments: Amendments that are introduced by any other need not be voted upon by the council and are directly incorporated in the resolution. You need a simple majority in order to introduce a normal amendment.

BODY of Draft Resolution

The draft resolution is written in the format of a long sentence, with the following rules:

- Draft resolution consists of clauses with the first word of each clause underlined.
- The next section, consisting of Preambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the draft resolution, and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
- Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses are all with the present tense active verbs and are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.