

XXXI

TECMUN Jr.

United Nations
Convention Against
Corruption

XXXI TECMUN Jr.
Session Schedule

Wednesday, November 15th

Registry	8:00 – 9:00 h.
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Recess	10:00 – 10:30 h.
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

Thursday, November 16th

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h..
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

Friday, November 17th

Seventh Session	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Eighth Session	10:00 – 12:00 h.
Recess	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Ninth Session	12:30 – 14:40 h.
Meal	14:40 – 16:00 h.
Closing Ceremony	16:00 – 18:30 h.

XXXI TECMUN Jr
General Agenda

Secretary General: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo

COORDINACIÓN GENERAL

Chief of General Coordination: *Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas*
Coordinating Supervisor for Media Content: *Emiliano Avalos Hernández*

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Subsecretary General: Monserrat Ríos Fernández
Coordinating Supervisor: Juliette Abby Orihuela Núñez

Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General

Presidente: Regina Covarrubias Rosales

- A) Medidas para regular la crisis humanitaria en la República de Haití, partiendo de los desplazamientos forzados ocasionados por la violencia por parte de grupos criminales.
- B) Estrategias para regular la crisis social en la República Islámica de Irán y contrarrestar el uso de pena de muerte como medio de represión, partiendo de las protestas antigubernamentales contra las leyes de moralidad de 2022.

Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional

Presidente: Paulo Souto Núñez

- A) Estrategias para imposibilitar la posesión y desarrollo de armamento nuclear en la República Islámica de Irán garantizando la seguridad internacional.
- B) Estrategias para evitar el uso de armamento y fuerza hostil en el conflicto fronterizo entre la República de Armenia y la República de Azerbaiyán por el enclave del Alto Karabaj en el Cáucaso del sur.

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados

Presidente: Arantza González de la Peña

- A) Acciones para reforzar la respuesta internacional con el fin de garantizar la seguridad y el acceso a servicios básicos de los refugiados provenientes del llamado Cuerno de África como consecuencia de la sequía y los conflictos internos en la República Democrática de Somalia.
- B) Medidas para proteger y asegurar el cumplimiento de los derechos humanos de las personas desplazadas internamente, solicitantes de asilo y refugiados como consecuencia de la crisis social en la República Democrática del Congo.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

President: Nuri Valentina Galindo Gutiérrez

- A) Measures to guarantee the economic empowerment of women in the Middle East with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan after the ban of work for Afghan women and its consequences.
- B) Procedures to reinforce and protect reproductive rights for women in Africa as a consequence of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Presidente: Jorge Roel Rodríguez Alcantara

- A) Mecanismos para frenar la desertificación en el continente africano, con énfasis en la sequía y las prácticas agrícolas no sostenibles en la región del Sahel.
- B) Acciones para mitigar el impacto ambiental de la industria textil en países del sur de Asia, abordando la producción de moda rápida.

Histórica Organización de los Estados Americanos

Presidente: Abril Victoria Rodríguez Aguirre

- A) Medidas para conciliar la paz entre las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) y el gobierno de la República de Colombia con énfasis en salvaguardar los derechos humanos de los ciudadanos.
- B) Estrategias para frenar las hostilidades desencadenadas por el control de las islas Malvinas entre Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte y la República de Argentina con énfasis en proteger los derechos de soberanía y los intereses de los poblado.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

President: Valeria Arroyo Jerez

- A) Strategies to curb and counter migrant smuggling coordinated by criminal organizations, with emphasis on the South and Central America to North America route.
- B) Approaches to prevent and counter the spread of Xylazine and Fentanyl in North America with preeminence in Philadelphia's "Zombie zone".

CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL

Subsecretary General: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora

Coordinating Supervisor: Brenda Noreña Mejía

Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal

Presidente: Miranda Senties Carmona

- A) Estrategias para disminuir la actividad del crimen organizado transnacional en la Triple Frontera, entre la República del Paraguay, la República Argentina y la República Federativa de Brasil debido al problema del control territorial ocasionado por la insuficiencia en el imperio de la ley y corrupción.
- B) Acciones para erradicar cualquier sistema de tortura a prisioneros en los centros penitenciarios efectuado por el personal de seguridad en la República Árabe Siria.

Organización Mundial de la Salud

Presidente: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero

- A) Medidas para mejorar la salud mental en adolescentes con énfasis en la eliminación de trastornos psicológicos tras los efectos del confinamiento de la pandemia de COVID-19.
- B) Estrategias para priorizar el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual reproductiva en zonas rurales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.

Human Rights Council

President: Regina Lacorte Mariscal

A) Measures to stop the displacement of families caused by organized crime in vulnerable communities in the United States of Mexico

B) Actions to ensure the human rights of prisoners after the approval of the Exception Regime in the Republic of El Salvador, focusing on the so-called "conflict against gangs" headed by the government of Nayib Bukele.

Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico

Presidente: Giovanna Gamboa Molina

A) Estrategias para implementar un desarrollo de proyectos que aumenten el comercio e infraestructura en Asia y el Pacífico debido a que las zonas productivas se han visto afectadas por los desastres naturales.

B) Medidas para mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas de bajos recursos en las estructuras institucionales de salud y vivienda debido a los conflictos territoriales entre la República Kirguisa y la República de Tayikistán.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption

President: William Vázquez Hernández

A) Measures to reinforce and criminalize any act deemed corrupt in Latin America on the police department focusing on the systematic and police-citizens variants.

B) Measures to stop the theft of assets executed by the government in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea coming from the oil industry causing a defunding on education and health sectors.

Foro Político del Alto Nivel para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Presidente: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz

A) Medidas para detener y prevenir el impacto que tiene la moda rápida en Europa y Asia, con énfasis en las tres dimensiones de desarrollo sustentable.

B) Acciones para impulsar el turismo sostenible con énfasis en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo del Caribe.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

President: María José Parra Meza

A) Strategies to replace animal testing with new technological developments in the makeup industry in Latin America, the European Union and the People's Republic of China.

B) Measures to improve the challenges of the labor market due to new sciences and technologies, adapting workers to them with an emphasis on Europe and North America.

AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES

Subsecretary General: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata

Coordinating Supervisor: María Fernanda García Bautista

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial

Presidente: María Sigaru Alcantara Nieva

A) Medidas para reducir los efectos adversos por desastres ecológicos a causa de la industrialización química con énfasis en la República de la India, Japón y el Estado de Kuwait

B) Estrategias para impulsar el desarrollo industrial sustentable con el fin de reducir los altos índices de gases de efecto invernadero en América Latina y el Caribe

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

President: María Fernanda Vázquez Trejo

A) Measures to solve the multiple attacks of chemical weapons on the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on the chemical problem of Khan Sheikhou in 2017

B) Measures to prevent the usage of neurotoxins as weapons, emphasizing the novichok attacks led by the Russian government

International Criminal Police Organization

President: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate

A) Measures to halt the growth of human trafficking networks in Southern Asia, with emphasis on organ trafficking

B) Strategies to cope with the massive firearms trafficking in Latin America, focusing on the triple border between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina

Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja

Presidente: Silvia Alejandra Delgado López

A) Medidas para proteger a las víctimas y desplazados después de la toma de control del partido Frente de Liberación Popular de Tigré en la República Democrática Federal de Etiopía.

B) Acciones para garantizar el bienestar y salvaguardar la dignidad de los afectados por el conflicto civil en la República Árabe Siria en los campos de refugiados, así como en las rutas utilizadas.

Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte

Presidente: Paulette Mayen Álvarez

A) Fortalecimiento de estrategias para la protección de civiles en el conflicto armado entre la República de Serbia y la República de Kosovo, con énfasis en el mantenimiento de la paz

B) Estrategias para contrarrestar los ciberataques hacia la República de Ucrania en el ciberespacio; dentro de la problemática de la Federación de Rusia y sus consecuencias, con el fin de salvaguardar la información del Estado y la OTAN

Security Council

President: Yésika Pamela García Trejo

A) Actions to mitigate the crisis in Lake Chad Basin, addressing violence, economic recovery and security restoration

B) Strategies for the prevention of nuclear accidents with an emphasis on Russia, France and USA

International Criminal Court

President: Manuel Alejandro Grajales Santillán

A) The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi)

B) The Prosecutor v. Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein)

"When one does something with one's heart, one should feel proud."

-Fernando Alonso Diaz

For you:

6 years ago I was starting my adventure in the world of Model United Nations. I remember very much my first model, I was the delegate of Guinea Bissau in a UNESCO committee. We were looking for solutions for the theft of marine archaeology. That sixth grader, who almost cried his first time going to the list of speakers, today is the Secretary General of the largest Model United Nations in Latin America, TECMUN.

When I started in Model United Nations it was a world full of uncertainty, but little by little I got deeper, until I got here, it has been a long road, but it has been worth it. Along the way I have met many people who have inspired me, now it is your turn to inspire me. Thanks to you, I am still here, I want to thank you for inspiring me to continue to stand in front and follow a dream.

For you, delegation, embassy, judge, agent or defender; whether it's your first time in a model or your tenth, I hope these 3 days of debate and hard work will pay off. First of all, I would like you to feel **proud** of the work you have done, standing up in a forum is not easy, and you are the **brave** ones who do it. Feel even braver for becoming, even if only in 3 days, agents of change, for daring to raise your placard in moderate caucus, for having **initiative** to negotiate in simple caucus and for making your proposals, that, even if they sound very crazy, try to **change the world**.

I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity, to enjoy these 3 days and not to take this model as just another task or as an obligation of your school, but to **have the initiative and be brave enough to dare to change the world**.

Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo
Secretary General for the

XXXI TECMUN Jr.

*“Be a lover. Give love. Choose love. Always”
- Harry Styles*

Dear participant:

I hope these three days will be more than a United Nations model, you have probably heard this at TECMUN before, or if it is your first time here, prepare to hear over and over again that TECMUN will change your life, or at least the following years. Maybe the phrase sounds very cliché, or maybe you think it is not true, but let me tell you that at least for me, it did change my course. You do not realize the great impact that something has on your life until it starts to end, and this being my penultimate TECMUN after two years as part of the Secretariat, I can say that nothing would have been the same without this family.

This United Nations model goes beyond assuming the role of a delegation and maintaining a position, it is also about recognizing alternate realities to our own and being able to recognize the power we have. In such a chaotic world, it is important that we always keep in mind that not all people live in the same reality, unfortunately, some face difficulties day by day, while others live in comfort and luxuries. Today more than ever we must raise our voices as new generations, it is of the utmost importance that we fight for a better world for ourselves and for the generations to come; because this is not about being selfish and looking out only for ourselves, but also taking care of the future of the next people who will be in this world.

It is very easy to hate something or someone, hate something you do, create a hate speech, promote discrimination, but the most difficult thing will always be to love, to love what you do, to love who you do it for, or to love yourself. And when you manage to love yourself, love what you do and for whom and why you do it, then you will have won.

If there is something that I want you to take into account during these three days, I want you to know that there is nothing more valuable than fighting for what you love, be it a cause or a hobby, never allow anything or anyone to take away your love for what you are doing. From my own experience, please never give up on what you are passionate about, because for a reason you have come so far and for a reason you are putting so much effort into what moves your soul and mind every day.

I hope with all my heart that you enjoy these three days of the model to the fullest, I hope that you meet new people, realities that are different from yours, or better yet, that you find that motivation to continue wanting to change the world. Believe me, there is no more satisfying achievement than impacting those around us.

Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas
Chief of General Coordination for the
XXXI TECMUN Jr.

“Qué maravilloso es que nadie tenga que esperar ni un segundo para empezar a mejorar el mundo”

- Ana Frank

Delegation,

Let me express my gratitude for taking the time to read these words and reflect on the importance of action in our world today. In these complex and changing times, it is true that the world needs more than empty promises. We need to make the commitment to act, to take charge and make a difference. Often, we find ourselves surrounded by rhetorical speeches, but it is concrete acts that really generate an effective impact on our environment.

There may be a number of reasons why we are here, but regardless, we must take this opportunity to grow, learn and leave our mark. It is not always easy to be part of a group or community, especially when participation is low, but it is in those moments that our courage and perseverance are most relevant.

Passion is a powerful engine that drives us to give the best of ourselves. If you are passionate about this space, if you find satisfaction in debating, defending your points of view and solving problems, then you have discovered an invaluable treasure. Passion is an indicator that you are on the right path, and when we find what we like to do, the desire to create change becomes an unstoppable force. On this journey towards discovering our true vocation, we must not lose sight of the importance of our actions. Words can be powerful, but it is actions that transform the world. Each small step we take towards a goal can have a positive impact on our lives and on the lives of others. Said like this, it is an honor and a privilege to be gathered once again in this meeting that transcends borders and allows us to imagine a world more united and collaborative. TECMUN, much more than a simple academic event, is a space where passion, leadership and the genuine desire to make a difference converge. Today, I invite you to give TECMUN a chance and allow this transformative experience to touch your lives as it did mine. Open your minds and hearts to new perspectives, as this is not just an event, it is a journey towards self-discovery and personal empowerment.

Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora
Subsecretary for the Economic and Social Council
for the XXXI TECMUN Jr.

“There's nothing you can do that people won't misunderstand”

-FINNEAS

To whoever needs to hear this,

You're special. You're valuable. You matter. Your actions taken contribute to the world. Nowadays, in this constant world where people are blinded by power and ambition, there are still people who care about the future of humanity. You are one of those people. It doesn't matter if you came here for obligation or because it is something that you are passionate for; the infinite variants of reasons brought you here. It's valid to be scared, I am. It's valid to be nervous. It's also valid to be sure of yourself. What isn't valid, is to be okay with the cruelty that lurks society. For some people it is another problem for society. For others, it doesn't occur in their country. But for many others, it is their reality. Don't wait until it occurs to you or to any other relative of you. Be the change the world needs. You don't need to stand in a forum of the United Nations to do or spread the change. Start at home, school, or community along with your family, friends or any other person who shares the same purpose. Give yourself the satisfaction of saying “I'm the change the world needs”, even if it is a minimal action. Prioritize always yourself. You and only you, is the most valuable thing you will carry through all your life. Don't try to give the people around you the power to make decisions about what you think, do or feel. Before doing something, positive or negative, ask yourself “would this be going to have an impact on me?” and if you feel that the answer is the right thing for you, then do it. Live, laugh, cry, love, enjoy, feel whatever you want. All of it, it's okay. Share your achievements with the ones you love. Make memories with the ones you value. Take risks, get out of your comfort zone. Maybe, it is the thing you needed or will need to be the person you are today. Maybe it wasn't, but you learned how to manage those situations. Life is short. Don't waste it on things you will regret in the future. Live the moment, learn from the past and be prepared for the future. No one knows what is going to be waiting for us. I hope this letter has left you something to be yourself. In the end, what is life if you make everything about others and not about YOU?

William Vázquez Hernández

President of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption
for the XXXI TECMUN Jr.

Background

The General Assembly created the first edition (55/61) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2000 as an instrument to fight back corruption, which later it would have new editions with new Party members and signatories. Subsequently in 2003, the edition 58/4 was adopted by the United Nations with 189 Parties and 140 signatories and on December 14th, 2005 was put in force as stated in Article 68. Their main goals are to foster and reinforce ways in which it could be prevented or eradicated in an efficacious system, pave the way for international cooperation and technical assistance with an emphasis on asset recovery and have an adequate management for public property and affairs as well as the promotion of accountability and integrity. The Convention enfolds the previous mentioned areas so as to halt different ways concerning corruption including bribery, trading in influence or abuse of functions.

Faculties

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption aims to prevent and eradicate any branch of fraud along with the cooperation of the nations involved to ensure the development and accomplishment of the strategies presented. Moreover, the exchange of information to facilitate the creation of further plans. The UNCAC as a way to give a clearer response to this global problematic, supervises:

- Creation of anticorruption bodies to amplify transparency in campaigns or political parties and collaborating with international programmes pursuing deceit as measures to end corruption aimed at both public and private sectors.

- Establishment of a wide range of crimes considered as corrupt alongside the attachment of new ones to investigate and act against the lawbreakers under domestic law.
- Generation of agreements between nations for international cooperation including exchange of information, prevention, investigation and prosecution of offenders if the Party State requires it.
- Return the asset to the legitimate owner providing veracious information to prove the ownership or for victim's compensation, granting recognition to the damage it has caused, if the state requests it with the jurisdiction made under domestic law.

Topic A

Measures to reinforce and criminalize any act deemed corrupt in Latin America on the police department focusing on the systematic and police-citizens variants.

*By: William Vázquez Hernández
Mateo Flores Rodríguez*

Introduction

The emergence of democracies among many countries in Latin America has released a chain of components which make up a country, that are correlated with aspects needed by the population. Security is one of the most important components of it, consisting in maintaining stability and welfare to the dwellers¹ of the nation to keep the continuity and progress of the State and its society. The Police Department is in charge of guaranteeing the Public Order and security to its citizens according to their domestic law², preventing and fighting crime to lower felonies and keeping streets safe, alongside the participation of the Public Ministry which is in charge of leading the investigation of crimes and dictating the pertinent sentence. The implementation of these institutions across the territories has its roots in the XIX century to the end of the XX century, when most Latin American countries were gaining their independence through groups of people with military capacity to fight back dictatorships or internal armed conflicts that later it would evolve in a general decision for all nations to relocate their tasks to citizenship matters. Furthermore, the execution of these institutions were applied as the percentage of offenses increased because of the development of the country. The military and repressive focus they have, created a security vision in all the region, acquiring power, influence and a trustable environment with the citizens that as the years pass by, the main goals of the department are diverted by the phenomenon of corruption.

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) defines corruption as “an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies.” (United Nations, 2004). The correlation between police institutions and corruption is described as an

¹ **Dweller:** A person who lives in a city, town, cave, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

² **Domestic law:** All applicable laws of any national, provincial or municipal authorities or of any political subdivision or governmental agency of a country. (Law Insider, 2013).

inappropriate and illegal behavior that aims to have a benefit for themselves or for another one; is presented in communities in which the fulfillment of the law is indifferent for the people or in places where these policies don't exist. Is categorized in two big variants, systematic and police-citizen. The systematic occurs in police institutions and includes: the allocation in important charges inside the institution instead of making the correct process of hiring, this with political purposes, the payment to employees coming from people with political influence that don't assist to work but receive it because they are on the payroll. On the other side, the variant police-citizen consists of the precise moment when a police officer arrests or fines a citizen, but this one offers them some economic resources in exchange for not getting a ticket or being arrested.

At present, the magnitude of the problem has been increasing in the region; according to a survey conducted by the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) in Latin America and Caribbean published by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Transparency International (TI) to 20 countries of the region in 2016, around 47 % of the people surveyed think that the police alongside the politicians are the most corrupt sectors affecting the situation on their countries. Another research made by TI reveals that countries such as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the United Mexican States and Dominican Republic are reported to have the highest percentage of police corruption in 2019. The results show that in most of the cases the type of offense committed is bribery³, including different ways in which it is done like: payment for the service provided, police officers asked to get paid or a payment that it isn't asked for but they expect citizens to do it. The rate of criminality within this institution has been increasing faster, which eventually would cause the elimination of it to be harder in future years.

³ **Bribery:** An attempt to make someone do something for you by giving the person economic resources, presents, or something else that he or she wants. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

Police Institutions in Latin America

The creation of bodies to guarantee security and protect the citizens of each country has been a challenge, not only to act against corruption but to prevent it and establish a culture of peace and ethic to eradicate it. Developing countries have faced problems implementing efficacious systems of security, having its roots in weakened democracies as a consequence of the impunity⁴ lived in the region causing the rate of criminality to be higher. Therefore, governments of each nation have decided to implement different types of police institutions according to the actions taken to prosecute crime. In Latin America, there are 3 types of it: National Police Forces, Regional Police Forces and Local Police Forces.

The National Police Forces, is in charge of performing an exclusive monopoly⁵ of competences in the country, including: the guarantee of security throughout activities to prevent and eliminate any felony⁶ committed by citizens, with a close relation with the community which is the case of the Republic of Chile (Chilean Carabiners); keep the necessary conditions for an environment of public rights and liberties and guarantee a place to live in peace for the citizens in the Republic of Colombia (National Police of Colombia); and the *Policia Nacional Civil* (PNC) guard the security, public order, peace and calm of the citizens of the Republic of El Salvador in both urban and rural areas, attaching to a strict code of respecting human rights under the supervision of civil authorities. Secondly, the Regional Police Forces are derivatives of federal governments divided in two sections: the federal jurisdiction group, which consists of a set of people with knowledge and the capacity to apply the law; and the police officers that belong to each town of the country. These institutions are

⁴ **Impunity:** freedom from punishment or from the unpleasant results of something that has been done. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

⁵ **Monopoly:** complete control of the supply of particular goods or services, or a company or group that has such control. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

⁶ **Felony:** serious crime that can be punished by one or more years in prison. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

in charge of the fulfillment of the law in determined regions, so their actions reach up at the limits of the region. These are the cases of police institutions in countries like the United Mexican States, with *la Guardia Nacional*; the Federative Republic of Brazil with the Federal Police and the Republic of Argentina with the Federal Police of Argentina, all of them divided in other sub-institutions in charge of specific areas or places. The problem of these institutions relies on the lack of coordination on the realization of designated tasks or the empowerment of some institutions when other states are unbalanced in comparison with others. Lastly, the Local Police Forces are sub-institutions in both national and regional institutions that can or are co-existing at the same time, responsible for performing exclusive tasks that go from judicial investigations to some determined types of felonies with various levels of authority and action, present in countries such as the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Peru, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Paraguay.

Corruption Within the Police Department

The presence of corruption within the police department is due to the handling of economic resources and the ambition of police officers exposed to situations in which they possess the capacity to extort⁷ citizens, seeking rewards to let them evade the infractions or crimes they have committed. The fight that has been existing against corruption in the police sector has not been easy for governments to eradicate and prevent it. On one side, police officers must have a certain degree of freedom to act quickly, especially in cases in which the crime requires it; additionally, they face lucrative⁸ criminal activities which increase the risk to commit them. On December 9th a survey was submitted on the internet for all the population of Latin America, the results show how people link corruption to institutions belonging to the State, including the police department which is responsible for the security of the people.

⁷ **Extort:** To get something by force or threats, or with difficulty. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

⁸ **Lucrative:** Producing a lot of economic resources. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

According to another survey conducted in Latin America by the Global Corruption Barometer in 2013, the police rank second after political parties among public organizations considered most corrupt.

This situation has been in Latin America as one of the main concerns of the population, for its daily incidence and for its economic and political consequences. The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) together with the Economic and Development Report (RED, 2019) found that 51 % of Latin America citizens consider corruption to be the main problem in their country, above their economic situation and insecurity. Even 23 % of citizens report that a police officer asked for a bribe in the last 12 months. This reality has led Latin American governments to respond, mainly by introducing legal instruments and strengthening judicial systems on all the departments responsible for carrying out any public service. In addition, some countries are taking steps to increase transparency⁹ and accountability¹⁰ through systems of public accounts and publishing social networks on how they carry out public tasks, but in most cases these measures are still not making any change since they are inefficient for their compliance and are evaded easily as a consequence of police officers having direct contact with citizens. This ends up affecting the population's trust, since the salary of police officers is obtained through different taxes that are paid and the job they perform to make the country free of corruption and safer for the people instead of getting more economic resources through illicit activities.

Relationship Between Systematic Corruption and the Police

Public sectors play an important role inside any country whether the service they give due to the important supplies they provide to satisfy the needs of the population. The high amounts

⁹ **Transparency:** A situation done in an open way without secrets, so that people can trust that they are fair and honest. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹⁰ **Accountability:** A situation in which someone is responsible for things that happen and can give a satisfactory reason for them. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

of economic resources that are destined to them beside the opportunities to put people in charge for their own benefit, it's the moment when these institutions or even the government take advantage of to commit activities related to crime causing an alteration on the institution's effectiveness and diverting it from its purpose, making the public's opinion to be changed and have a mistrusted perception of it. This event is known as systematic corruption and is presented in societies where the levels of it are high, permitting different people with power over the country to act whether it's the public or private sector to keep the conditions for corruption to flow and use the benefits to their own interests. Police institutions belong to judicial power, which is a factor that contributes to the problem and involves them in corruption networks.

A civil servant or police officer, in this context, gains duties and positional obligations when they voluntarily accept to perform a role in a regulatory system. These positional obligations are according to the position they occupy inside the institution, accepting and performing any duty under domestic law that entails the charge. As an institution that provides security to the citizens, it has been established since a long time ago that it's a measure to take control over dwellers to ensure the submission of them to community standards. Within societies, it has been standardized the use of legitimate¹¹ force as the main method implemented by the police with the purpose of applying it or threatening to use it against citizens that commit any offense.

The police department can and is obligated, in case the situation requires it, to use the force to fulfill their tasks attached to certain circumstances and conditions to avoid trespassing a barrier between their work and situations that put the integrity of the people in danger. On the contrary, if this barrier is trespassed, the institution is considered to be abusing

¹¹ **Legitimate:** Allowed by law. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

and exceeding the power they have. The lack of organization and strategies in the administration of police officers has curbed the development of it to improve the performance and accomplishment as an institution. For instance, the perception of the population about the sector can be mistaken as a direct consequence of the deficiency of the system.

Presence of Corruption in the Population

Within the framework of corruption, there exist different branches of it which include either the citizens or the authorities as victims. According to a BBC News report in 2017, 84 % of the victims of this phenomenon are citizens and the remaining 16 % are authorities. Furthermore, the statistic shows that most of the effects are towards the citizens. There are three different types of corruption recognized by *la Universidad Panamericana*, which are favoritism, authority and the acquisition of economic resources.

Favoritism consists in letting some acts pass despite the kind of offense it is, in order to free a person for whom there is preference to have in exchange a personal benefit. The second type is by authority, this happens frequently due to the hierarchical order that exists inside departments of the government. It occurs when a position of maximum authority is given to a person with intentions apart from the institution's purpose, in turn all the positions that come off of that maximum authority tend to be corrupt. In most cases, the people who perform other duties tend to work under those intentions to avoid questioning the head of the institution and lose their jobs.

The most common type of corruption is the one that includes the acquisition of economic resources, which can be presented in lots of scenarios. In particular, extortion is the subtype that is applied in many cases either to free some infraction or pressure citizens to have the expected result, evading some processes dictated by the manual of crimes and infractions. On the other side, citizens are involved in this situation under the manipulation of

police officers in order to avoid the felony they have committed and not be arrested. This interaction is known as the police-citizen variant.

Other ways in which police officers are involved in this variant is when police departments ask them for some economic resources to meet their quotas¹² for the use of facilities: vehicles and security systems. There are cases in which they don't raise enough economic resources that they choose to threaten citizens by putting them in infractions to expect some bribery to avoid it and in this way they comply with their quotas. This ends up being an endless problem for the reason that police officers commit illicit activities and the citizen does not refuse to participate. For instance, the problem never stops because the two elements either citizen or official, refuse at first but by necessity end up agreeing. Likewise, there exist cases in which police headquarters and their staff implement strategies to create new infractions or felonies to frighten citizens in order to achieve some benefits. Hence, this presents a problem to the population as they are completely unaware of their rights and the different regulations of public safety allowing the accomplishment of criminal activities and keeping an environment for police corruption to flow.

¹² **Quota:** A number, amount, or share that is officially allowed or necessary. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

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Topic B

Measures to stop the theft of assets executed by the government in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea coming from the oil industry causing a defunding on education and health sectors.

By: William Vázquez Hernández

Introduction

Across the African region, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea occupies the 6th place in producers of crude oil barrels and the 34th place worldwide, positioning the country in one of the main exporters in the continent. The economy of the nation is based on the income generated by this industry that represents 95 % of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which consists of measuring the value of assets¹³ and services provided, generally in one year; and 99 % of the income in exports¹⁴. The government has the obligation to use the economic resources earned from their industries to satisfy the needs of the population to keep the quality of life thriving; although, these have been diverted for years inside the country with other purposes for their own personal benefit. The situation has led to many consequences such as an increase in the rate of lack of resources, mortality, and insecurity due to the lack of economic resources in public sectors such as health, education and security during the term of the president Teodoro Obiang Nguema.

In 1979, a coup d'état¹⁵ occurred in the territory against the president Francisco Macías Nguema, led by his nephew Teodoro Obiang Nguema as a consequence of many years under a repressive authoritarian regime. The citizens thought that after the defeat of Francisco, the situation inside the country would finally get better under the lead of Teodoro; indeed it did, schools were reopened and public sectors and roads were restored. Obiang was elected for the first time in 1989, who promised the people the implementation of a democracy along with all the things that entails it during his term of presidency. The problems started to emerge when in 1995 they found an oil deposit responsible of almost all

¹³ **Asset:** Something that is owned by a person, company, or organization, such as economic resources, property, or land that generates an economic income. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹⁴ **Export:** To send goods to another country for sale. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹⁵ **Coup d'état:** Sudden defeat of a government through illegal force by a small group, often a military one. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

of its economy that later it would bring other problems to the country; in addition, by the time when his presidency was coming to an end in 1996, he was reelected by 98 % of the votes after other parties withdrew¹⁶ their candidature, lifting up suspicions about the elections.

Before the discovery of the oil deposit in national territory the country was in a situation of extreme lack of resources. The discovery of the natural resource created a vision of prosperity for the guinean citizens that could fix the situation of the country; however, the opportunity also brought other problems along. The rapid increase of the GDP and its relatively low number of citizens created an expectation of a role model country in development; nevertheless, the progress of the nation that was expected has not been accomplished because of the mismanagement of the government. In 2009, a report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) showed that the Republic of Guinea Equatorial occupied the 3th place with the biggest difference between its GDP and their score in the Human Development Index (HDI). The government took the opportunity to use the oil industry and divert the earnings to its own benefit, causing a defunding in public sectors and projects destined to the nation that up to date the consequences aren't solved.

The Oil Industry

The discovery of oil in the region permitted the flourishing of the country as well as new opportunities to make easier international relationships with world superpowers for the exportation of a valuable natural resource in the market. The multiple benefits that surged from the oil brought as many good as bad consequences to the nation, dividing it in two groups: the Obiang family along with its allies and the guinean population. The benefits for the country included the enlargement of commerce across the world, leaving behind the

¹⁶ **Withdraw:** To take something back, or to remove something. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

exportation of coffee, wood and *cacao* and prioritizing barrels of crude oil. Therefore, the income earned was at first designated to public infrastructures like airports, roads, ports and bridges, but the government took those economic resources and used it to benefit themselves, leaving behind the guinean population and suffering from the lack of services.

An opportunity for the government to generate more economic resources came in 1995 with the industry; as a consequence, the GDP was growing parallel to it. The percentage of Gross Domestic Product had a significant growth from 11 % to 80 % between 1993 to 2000 and grew even more in 2006 to 94 %. According to the World Bank, between 1993 and 2000 the income went from 3 million dollars to 190 million, to have a peak at 3 billion dollars in 2006. Across the African region there exists many oil deposits, the main producer of barrels in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is the first one discovered in 1995 named the Zafiro Field which produces 371,000 barrels per day; the Ceiba Field, is the second producer of barrels with 50,000 barrels per day and the Alba Field occupies the third place in production of barrels with 65,000 to 75,000 per day. There exist 5 more deposits that are still developing machinery to start them up; their production together is estimated to make 100,000 barrels per day.

At present, many experts around the globe point out that the country has already reached its highest amount of production and affirm that it will decrease as the years pass by. According to the data made by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the nation has lost around 6,000 barrels per day in the last years. During the pandemic of Covid-19 and even after it, the industry has presented a decrease in the production of barrels up to a point that the OPEC has suggested cuts in the production of it. This would be a major

problem in the future for the economy, as it's decreasing significantly and the wealth¹⁷ of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea depends on it.

The Management of the oil industry

The situation of corruption lived in the nation is not a current problem, it has been existing for a long period of time and has been affecting the citizens; as it keeps going, the illicit activities continue to be committed and the fight against them becomes bigger and more difficult. The bad management of the industry, particularly the administration of economic resources coming from it, has had a negative impact in the use of it for the development of the country and the perception of the population in the trustworthiness¹⁸ of the government. The different ways corruption is practiced inside the territory includes: embezzlement¹⁹ of economic resources coming from the oil deposits, nepotism²⁰, relatives of the president Obiang in control of companies and people in important positions for public institutions and the appropriation of lands owned by public workers. The majority of these activities are committed by the government itself, including the participation of international companies that are benefited by this corruption network.

Throughout the years, the country has been involved in many situations of criminal activity, including the purchase of houses, cars and luxury jewelry; the administration of companies under Obiang's relatives; and the participation in illicit activities of international companies along with the guinean government, having as a consequence the quality of life from the citizens to be affected. Inside the country, the majority of public institutions and companies are owned by members of the Obiang family or allies of the government to use

¹⁷ **Wealth:** A large amount of economic resources and other valuable possessions. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹⁸ **Trustworthiness:** The quality or fact of being able to be trusted. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹⁹ **Embezzlement:** The crime of secretly taking economic resources that are in your care or that belongs to an organization or business you work for. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

²⁰ **Nepotism:** The use of power or influence to get good jobs or unfair advantages for members of your own family. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

their power in favor and have controlled the people as well as the economic resources coming from those sectors. The hiring process for these institutions is usually made under verbal contact instead of having a document, only the oil companies contracts are made on paper but these are executed by intermediary sub-institutions in charge of this process. The prosecution of the Obiangs has been a heavy task for many international organizations in which the government has been involved for felonies such as bribery and extortion in their countries, but it seems that this process is evaded by paying the debt or returning the asset.

The degree of corruption in the nation has reached not only regional levels but internationally by being involved in illegal processes with companies around the globe, making those nations take actions to fight them back. The number of cases with corrupt actions in which members of the Obiang family are involved, has increased drastically. The eldest son of the president, Teodorín Obiang, is the member who has been involved in most of the cases of economic resources embezzlement in the last few years coming from the oil industry into bank accounts in other countries such as the United States of America and the French Republic and using it to buy luxuries inside the nations. The brother of Teodorín Obiang, Gabriel Mbega Obiang, Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons is also accused of diverting millions of economic resources coming from construction projects alongside other corrupt actions which include bribery and extortion.

The repercussion on Health and Education Sectors

Many international experts and organizations expected that the situation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea could have changed after the discovery of the multiple oil deposits across the country; knowing that the income of this industry is bigger than any other that they possessed by the time it was discovered. On multiple occasions, the president promised the population an improvement on health and education sectors to prioritize the basic needs of

the guinean people and make progress in the country's situation. Nevertheless, those promises were never accomplished, instead, the government used those economic resources destined to each sector to use it on infrastructure with the excuse of having a modern economy. This situation of corruption has caused a defunding of each sector that led to serious problems in the nation, such as inequality among the citizens, dividing them into two different groups; the rate of mortality to increase and the inefficient and lack of personnel as well as the access in the education system.

After two decades of the improvement in the economy and the GDP of the country, the government has wasted the opportunity to flourish the social indicators several times, unlike other countries with the same income of their GDP, having as a consequence a bad quality of life. On the health sector, they had the opportunity to improve the provision of drinking water, a situation that has been affecting the region since a long time ago and that has not even changed after the emergence of the oil industry in 1995; an adequate sanitation infrastructure, keeping on mind the deficient personnel, long wait periods of time to be assisted, lack of medicines and basic medical material and frequent mistakes in diagnosis; the necessary supply to combat infectious diseases; and the strengthening of the healthcare system attention, focusing on the situation of inequality coming from the funding of new and modern hospitals named *La Paz* in the region of Malabo and Bata that offer attention to the elite of the nation instead of the population. In the case of the education sector, the government has relegated²¹ this ambit up to a point of being noticed by the precarious²² situation because of the deficient system the schools provide and the bad conditions the school furniture is. In 2012, 42 % of primary school age children did not attend school,

²¹ **Relegate:** To put someone or something into a lower or less important rank or position. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

²² **Precarious:** In a dangerous state because of not being safe or not being held in place firmly. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

positioning the country in the 7th place with the worst schooling rate in the world, as a consequence of the low income the government designated to primary schools and prioritizing the funding on college education.

The situation in developing countries is more difficult to fight when there exist many factors that affect the process of improvement; it should not be the same case in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea as they relatively enhance the situation in their country with the oil industry. The lack of information many international organizations possess about the government budgets the nation designates to each sector, makes the comparison between years and the progress they have achieved year by year more difficult. In fact, the only information possessed shows that after the peak of the oil, the education and health sectors have had negative results according to each one. In 1997, the government organized a conference with the purpose to let the guinean people know the designated public spending on each sector: 40 % to the social sector, 15 % to the education and science sector and 10 % to the health sector; however, those goals were never accomplished, having as an excuse a new goal of an emergent economy by 2020.

Measures taken to stop the flow of corruption in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

Aside from the problems that the different branches of corruption have caused in the country, there are international organizations that point out that the government must take actions to combat this plague and stop it from continuing to affect its society. The high levels of poverty, the violation of human rights, the shameless habits the guinean elite lives under coming from the earnings of the oil industry, the authoritarianism lifestyle the citizens live and the censorship of freedom of speech are the main reasons why these organizations are making a call to stop it. On several occasions, Obiang has stated that he compromises to have a more transparent government along with the prevention of any type that came with any

illicit activity. In 2011, Obiang established some constitutional reforms that gave him some limits in the actions taken during his presidency.

There are some actions that highlight the process of the nation to eradicate any form of corruption inside it. The improvement of the first law by the Prevention and Fight against Corruption in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which is a document that includes the motives why the situation needs to be attended along with commitments that the nation commits to accomplish to stop the flow of corruption and their adherence to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2018. The government accepted many recommendations formulated by the results of the test based on the situation of human rights in the country made by an intergovernmental²³ organism of the United Nations: Human Rights Council (HRC). Other organizations asked the government to reinforce: transparency and accountability in tax matters, making public some reports on the income, bills and budgets of the government; take actions against corruption between officials and justify the use of public funds coming from natural resources, as well as the removal of obstacles that prevent the participation of the citizens before the nation re-enters the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an international organization in charge of give information of the income of industries like oil, gas and mining; increase the budgets for health and education sectors, along with actions to eradicate poverty; and the authorization for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and members of the United Nations to make an independent work without the fear of being repressed or censored by the authorities of the country.

²³ **Intergovernmental:** Between two or more governments. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

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