

**XXXVII**

**TECMUN**

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United Nations General  
Assembly

XXXVII TECMUN  
**Session Schedule**

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**Monday, April 15th**

Registration	8:00 – 9:00 h.
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Break	10:00 – 10:30 h.
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h.
Break	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.

**Tuesday, April 16th**

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h.
Break	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.

**Wednesday, April 17th**

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

XXXVII TECMUN  
**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo*

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

*Subsecretary of General Coordination: Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas*

*Supervisor of General Coordination for Media Content: Celic Regina Ramírez Garduño*  
*Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Samuel Alejandro Herrera Tapia*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Subsecretary General: Monserrat Ríos Fernández*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: María Fernanda García Bautista*

**United Nations General Assembly**

*President: William Vázquez Hernández*

- A)** Measures to prevent disagreements and warlike conflicts between the nations that border the Arctic Circle coming from the militarization and exploitation of natural resources as a consequence of climate change in the region of the Arctic.
- B)** Strategies to halt the violation of human rights to the Uyghur Muslim ethnic minority in the Xinjiang province in the region of the People's Republic of China with emphasis on the concentration camps referred to as vocational education centers.

**Fourth Commission of Special Political and Decolonization**

*President: Miranda Senties Carmona*

- A)** Strategies to consolidate the Independence of Western Sahara after the territorial conflict with the Kingdom of Morocco, emphasizing the maintenance of peace and the protection of the human rights of civilians.
- B)** Measures to assure the national security in New Caledonia due to the protests caused by the political instability, prioritizing its total sovereignty.

## **Sexta Comisión Jurídica**

*Presidente: María Sigaru Alcántara Nieva*

**A)** Mecanismos para contrarrestar el uso inadecuado de inteligencia artificial en los Estados Unidos de América y el Estado de Israel con enfoque en los ataques cibernéticos Stuxnet, Equifax y Solarwinds a fin de instaurar disputas legales.

**B)** Estrategias para reforzar el sistema legal internacional con el objetivo de erradicar las redes globales de prostitución de mujeres y niñas, con énfasis en la República Federal de Nigeria y la República de Níger.

## **Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos**

*Presidente: Gael Santiago Pérez Guzmán*

**A)** Medidas para salvaguardar los derechos humanos en América Latina y el Caribe, con énfasis en las recientes protestas en la República de Nicaragua, la República de Perú, la República de Colombia, la República de Chile, la República de Honduras, los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, entre otros.

**B)** Medidas para frenar las infracciones de derechos humanos en el continente africano respecto a la mutilación genital femenina, haciendo énfasis en la región de la República Democrática Federal de Etiopía.

## **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

*President: Yamir Bandala González*

**A)** Strategies to prioritize the education and health of refugees in the Near East following the Israel-Palestine conflict in Gaza.

**B)** Actions to enhance the internal infrastructure for post-pandemic established refugees in Gaza and the Near East.

## **Liga de los Estados Árabes**

*Presidente: Jorge Roel Rodríguez Alcántara*

**A)** Acciones para contrarrestar el aumento de secuestros y decesos en la República Democrática de Somalia debido a la presencia del grupo extremista Al-Shabaab, enfocándose en la protección de civiles.

**B)** Mecanismos para contrarrestar el Tráfico de Armas hacia los Hutíes con énfasis en la protección de la población de Yemen ante la aún presente Guerra civil.

### **Counter-Terrorism Committee**

*President: Aranza Rodríguez Chagoya*

**A)** Measures to halt the growing menace of attacks with chemical components in the Middle East, focusing on the Syrian Arab Republic.

**B)** Strategies to control attacks caused by cybernetic interventions in the Middle East, with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*Subsecretary General: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Emilio Guillen López*

### **Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres**

*Presidente: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate*

**A)** Estrategias para frenar la mutilación de genitales a niñas y mujeres de África Occidental a causa de la creencia de salvaguardar su castidad y reprimir su deseo sexual con énfasis en la República Democrática de Somalia y la República de Mali.

**B)** Medidas para erradicar cualquier sistema de tortura a las mujeres en el Medio Oriente con un énfasis en el Reino Hachemita de Jordania.

### **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

*President: Sofía Juanico Ocegüera*

**A)** Measurements to manage the production of narcotic drugs and alteration of fentanyl-based medication in the United Mexican States, with distribution to the United States of America.

**B)** Actions to eradicate drug trafficking in the Middle East to minimize the misuse of drugs for medical and recreational purposes.

### **Consortio Internacional contra los Delitos de la Vida Silvestre**

*Presidente: Laura mariana González Beltrán*

**A)** Estrategias para frenar la caza furtiva del elefante africano y el comercio ilegal de marfil en la Sabana africana, con énfasis en la promoción del desarrollo económico y social en las comunidades colindantes.

**B)** Acciones para frenar el comercio ilegal de especies en los Estados Unidos de América y Latinoamérica, haciendo hincapié en las especies de aves, reptiles y anfibios que habitan la región del Pacífico y la Amazonia.

### **Department of Peace Operations**

*President: Paulette Mayen Álvarez*

**Unique Topic)** Measurements to counteract violence towards the civilians from the Republic of Cambodia to safeguard them from the communist regime.

### **United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

*President: Frida Michelle Valadez García*

**A)** Measures to improve access to humanitarian aid for the communities of Ituri and North Kivu following the rising wave of violence caused by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**B)** Actions to optimize humanitarian aid intervention during epidemics in developing African countries with emphasis on the cholera infection.

### **Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos**

*Presidente: Yésika Pamela García Trejo*

**A)** Acciones para mantener el nivel de empleo y el desarrollo de las fábricas automotrices de la Unión Europea reduciendo la emisión de carbono.

**B)** Medidas para regular la competencia laboral enfocado en la brecha de género situada en la República de Turquía y en los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

### **Comité de Expertos en Transporte de Mercancías Peligrosas y en el Sistema Globalmente Armonizado de Clasificación y Etiquetado de Productos Químicos**

*Presidente: Valeria Arroyo Jerez*

A) Medidas para moderar el uso de las sustancias perfluoroalquiladas y polifluoroalquiladas en las industrias Europeas debido a su impacto negativo en el medio ambiente y la salud humana.

B) Estrategias para prevenir los accidentes ferroviarios y carreteros de transporte de mercancías peligrosas con énfasis en los Estados Unidos de América.

### **Historical Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

*President: Paulo Souto Núñez*

A) Strategies to mitigate tensions between the extremist group Al Qaeda and the United States of America, following the onslaughts held against the United States of America, emphasizing on the prevention of crime through terrorist attacks. (1998 - 2001).

B) Measures to eradicate the extremist criminal behavior of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), addressing the attacks of the organization inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. (2000 - 2011).

### **SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

*Subsecretary General: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Brenda Noreña Mejía*

#### **Comunidad Caribeña**

*Presidente: María José Parra Meza*

A) Medidas para contrarrestar la violencia y salvaguardar los derechos humanos de los habitantes de la República de Haití, con énfasis en el tráfico de armas, tráfico de narcóticos y corrupción en la región del Caribe.

B) Estrategias para frenar el reclutamiento de menores para el turismo sexual con énfasis en la región del Caribe.

#### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*President: Regina Covarrubias Rosales*

**A)** Fostering defense capacity programmes for NATO's partners, such as the Republic of Moldova, emphasizing on Transnistria's occupation by Russian forces regarding the Ukrainian conflict.

**B)** Perspectives on reinforcement for seabed warfare, undersea infrastructure and security, ensuring NATO's members safeguard regarding the damage made to Finland-Estonia submarine pipeline.

### **Conseil de l'Europe**

*Président: Sofía Dominique Morin Anguiano*

**A)** Renforcement des mesures de prévention du trafic humain concernant la route du Nigeria vers l'Europe Occidentale.

**B)** Actions pour arrêter le blanchiment des moyens financiers en Europe.

### **Organización de las Naciones Unidas para Asuntos del Espacio Ultraterrestre**

*Presidente: Abril Victoria Rodríguez Aguirre*

**A)** Acciones para responder al cambio de paradigma y sistema internacional en materia de los tratados de no proliferación del armamento espacial con énfasis en las normas y regulaciones de estos con el fin de prevenir la militarización del espacio y desarrollo e implementación de armamento en el mismo.

**B)** Medidas para facilitar el acceso equitativo y sostenible al espacio y sus recursos con énfasis en garantizar la inclusión de las naciones y el aprovechamiento de los recursos y la tecnología por medio de prácticas sostenibles.

### **Security Council**

*President: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero*

**A)** Actions to stop armed attacks on civilians in the Gaza Strip due to the conflict between the State of Israel and the State of Palestine.

**B)** Measures to avoid the indiscriminate use of weapons, violent clashes and reincorporation of armed groups in the region of Tripoli after the civil conflict in the State of Libya.

### **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict**



*President: Arantza González de la Peña*

**A)** Strategies to cease the recruitment of children in armed forces in the Syrian Arab Republic as a consequence of the civil warlike conflict, as well as ensure the fulfillment of the human rights of the affected children residing in the country.

**B)** Actions to put an end to the exploitation and abuse of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to the ongoing conflict and state of anarchy in the country, while ensuring the fulfillment of their human rights and basic needs.

### **United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect**

*President: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz*

**A)** Strategies to curb incitement of genocide and inter-ethnic violence by armed groups, due to the multifaceted crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**B)** Measures to slow down genocidal practices towards the Uyghur community in the People's Republic of China, along with the repercussions it brings.

### **Corte Africana de Derechos Humanos y Personas**

*Presidente: Beatriz Mena Torres*

**A)** Dominick Damian v. República Unida de Tanzania.

**B)** Samia Zorgati v. República de Túnez.

# Background

Founded in 1945, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) granted a central position as head of deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations (UN) to give a response to political, economical, humanitarian and legal affairs on a global basis. Working under the articles on the Charter of the United Nations, the 193 Member States that constitute the Assembly collaborate on a forum of multilateral discussion regarding a wide spectrum of international concerns. Furthermore, the UNGA reviews current issues in the course of high-level thematic debates which guide a series of consultations on factual topics towards the implementation of new resolutions in cases that menaces peace, neglects peace or acts of aggression. The Assembly has set up six Main Committees that work along with it under the agenda objectives to endorse resolutions to consider and put in force.

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## Faculties

The United Nations General Assembly taking note on any issue that jeopardizes the agenda's objectives to maintain world's peace, gives a clearer and effective solution by:

- Examine and ratify the UN's budget and financial appraisal of each Member State;
- Take note and endorses on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament; and on any inquiries within the scope of the Charter or acting on the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Implement studies to foster international political collaboration, the development and codification of international law, the accomplishment of human rights and elemental

freedoms and cooperation in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health sectors;

- Inspect and consider documents from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

## Topic A

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Measures to prevent disagreements and warlike conflicts between the nations that border the Arctic Circle coming from the militarization and exploitation of natural resources as a consequence of climate change in the region of the Arctic

## ***Introduction***

The region of the Arctic is a centrally located ocean surrounded by low land and high mountain ranges and narrow straits in the northernmost area of the Earth. Which is bordered by littorals<sup>1</sup> of Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Finland, Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United States of America. Likewise, the zone receives the name of the Arctic Circle since it represents the imaginary shape around the Earth that is parallel to the equator. In spite of the dearth towards technologies, the polar climate, the difficulties that entails its exploration and the lack of attention from the nations that border the area; it has become a political ambition to scout the territory for the abundant presence of natural resources, uses and benefits they can bring to it. Furthermore, another topic regarding within the area, is the usage of it for military purposes, which include the upgrading of abandoned military bases, setting up special-purpose arctic brigades; and in the maritime counterpart, the implementation of modern ballistic submarines, testing of naval weapon systems and the nuclear-powered icebreaker fleet. One of the main causes that are laying the basis for future disputes that can escalate into warlike conflicts is the defrosting of the ice basin from the Arctic ocean as a consequence of climate change, that facilitates the acquisition of the natural resources.

Despite the toils from nations around the globe to conquer the Arctic's territory to leverage its benefits, the situation has been occurring for decades with periods of time where the focus of attention withdraws depending on political and economical factors. The first historical event dates back to World War II, where the Arctic was highly used by the Axis Powers<sup>2</sup> to travel through water as it was the shortest maritime route between the United

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<sup>1</sup> **Littorals:** the part of a river, lake, or sea close to the land. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

<sup>2</sup> **Axis Powers:** Coalition headed by Germany, Italy, and Japan that opposed the Allied Powers in World War II. (Britannica, 2023).

States of America and the Russian Federation, and the Allies by using it as well as a route designated as the “*Arctic Convoys*” to supply arms to the Soviet Union. Even in the aftermath of the warlike conflict, the United States and Canada assembled defense projects to anticipate perceived Soviet threats. The second time the region played a crucial role was in the Cold War, where the US and the Russian Federation used the area as a strategic planification for constructing military bases, with the purpose to monitor nuclear submarine movement, confrontations between their military forces and routes to move their defenses if it might be necessary. After those events, the interest on the region was eventually decaying but no regional treaty, political agreements or legal structural mechanisms were made to regulate the activity inside the zone.

In the 21st century, the emergence of new technologies allowed the exploitation of natural resources to be easier and more efficient to increase the economic value of the region. The race to gain sovereignty<sup>3</sup> over the Arctic resurfaced as a topic of relevance for the countries bordering it, dating back to 2007, when the prime minister of Canada at that time, Stephen Harper, announced the construction of a military port, along with a speech of defense and control over the region. In response, the vicepresident of the Russian parliament, Arthur Tchilingarov, put a titanium’s flag of the nation claiming that the Arctic has always been Russian, arousing the attention of the other Arctic states into the zone. Moreover, the absence of legal regulations within this area and the consequences of climate change has permitted an easier access to exploit the natural resources and the implementation of military bases to keep innovating, developing and performing tests on heavy armament.

### ***The militarization within the region of the Arctic***

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<sup>3</sup> **Sovereignty:** the power of a country to control its own government. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

According to many researchers and historians around the globe from high-recognized institutions like the U.S Naval War College, the Arctic Institute and the BBC news, the vestiges of the Cold War have paved the way for the newest and recent competition mainly between the Arctic states and other countries around the world such as People's Republic of China, French Republic and the Republic of India that claim the polar territory as theirs or are making use of its resources to prove their sovereignty over the region to demonstrate their power over other nations. Following the event of the placement of the Russian flag in 2007, the Arctic step from being an afterthought to a central front in the geopolitics<sup>4</sup> of the modern world; even though the zone was already disrupted by the technological innovations, military development and economic growth of some emergent powers so far this century. The Arctic Military Activity Tracker is a database created by the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) alongside the collaboration with the Europe, Russia and Eurasia<sup>5</sup> Energy Security and Climate Change Program to provide analysis and policy recommendations on challenges in the Arctic. The database also contains a report pointing out the tension between the Russian Federation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members, the United States of America, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Finland that have caused that each one of them increase their military capabilities including: exercises and training to their military forces, deployments, patrols, missile tests, overflights and naval incidents.

As technology evolves, the presence of different countries around the world testing their weapons and other military activities is more present inside the region, which share a common purpose such as development over their state, extend their networks for commerce and other primary activities that include import and export of national products to strengthen

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<sup>4</sup> **Geopolitics:** the study of the way a country's size, position, etc. influence its power and its relationships with other countries. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

<sup>5</sup> **Eurasia:** geological and geopolitical term that relates to the single enormous landmass composed of the continents of Europe and Asia. (Britannica, 2023)

their international relations to ensure their own political, economical and influential benefit. An example of it is the People's Republic of China, which has proclaimed itself as a near Arctic state to be considered as a crucial role for the governance over the territory. It also has shipped research expeditions for finding a place to establish mining and gas operations, describing itself as an active builder and contributor to the Arctic concerns. The country has made partnerships with mineral operations in Greenland and Alaska to invest in rare earth minerals that turned out in possible interests of military installations. Moreover, the Chinese military forces see the Arctic as a strategic zone for conflict and competition between the nations interested in a future.

The active participation of the Russian Federation inside the land has increased the tension between it, the NATO members and the United States of America, which has caused their military activity to increase and expand their areas of operational use in naval forces on the Arctic ocean. They have also introduced the regular practice of single and group cruises by ships and supply vessels, as to maintaining the nuclear-powered multipurpose submarines of the US Navy and had increased the training and combat activities of the US strategic bombers. In response of this, Admiral Yevmenov, the Russian Defense Ministry's department on Information and Communication, declared that the military and political stage in which the Arctic is characterized at the moment is due to growing negative trends in regional security as a result of the expansion of NATO's block and aggressive policies from a set of Western countries<sup>6</sup> against the Russian Federation. The minister also pointed out that in recent years, countries within and out of the area are working on doctrinal documentation<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> **Western countries:** includes Europe as well as any countries whose cultures are strongly influenced by European values or whose populations include many people descended from European colonists. (World Population Review, 2023)

<sup>7</sup> **Doctrinal documentation:** a document related to a principle or set of principles that are followed by a particular group or in a particular situation. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)



that include the national control over some areas in the territory. Later on, in 1996, the Arctic Council was formed by the signing of the *Ottawa Declaration*, counting with 8 permanent states and 38 observers; which is an intergovernmental forum to discuss the cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States to ensure the peace and stability of indigenous people and measured usage of the land, as well as addressing environmental issues concerning the region.

### ***Exploitation of natural resources***

Natural resource exploitation is defined by the digital resource Mother Earth and Resource Extraction (MERE) as the use of natural resources for economic growth; which is a direct factor linked to climate change since the extraction and processing of these materials contribute to making up half of the global greenhouse gas<sup>8</sup> emissions while making up more than 90 % of water stress impacts and global biodiversity loss; along with a negative connotation affecting the biodiversity and resources coming from the region that is being exploited that accompanies environmental degradation. Due to overpopulation, the demand from natural resources increased in order to make food, fuel and raw materials for the production of goods. The answer to this necessity relies on the search of new places for exploration to obtain them; thus, many nations across the globe have been eyeing the Arctic as the solution due to the ice basin defrosting. According to an overview made by the US Geological Survey in 2008, the polar region houses around 22 % out of the whole undiscovered oil and natural gas in the world; in which there are already three main regions in the area where the oil corporations are extracting it: the *Beaufort Sea coast* in Alaska and

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<sup>8</sup> **Greenhouse gas:** a gas that causes the greenhouse effect, especially carbon dioxide. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

the Mackenzie Delta of Canada; *Nunavut* in the Canadian Arctic; along with *Barents Sea and West-Siberia* in the northwest Russia.

The Arctic represents a vast deposits of economically valuable mineral resources such as natural gas and oil, which attracts nations in a competition to achieve the extraction for those minerals. Nonetheless, the extraction of these materials are extremely difficult owing to many reasons such as the amount of time taken to travel to the zone, unstable investments, technological and climatic challenges, and the area is on the edge of irrevocable changes if numerous countries move into the region, since it is still free from full-on exploitation of its resources by humans. According to the Global Citizen Organization (GCO), one of the most exploited natural resources are sand, water, fuel, oil, gas, rare metals and fishing resources, which puts the Arctic zone as a target for providing these materials. As a consequence, many organizations look after the conservation towards the environment and its natural resources, like the Arctic Council, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Resources for the Future (RFF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The area has different types of minerals within it, even some of them are critical for humans, that includes lithium and manganese which are used to fabricate electrical batteries and solar panels to function. Most of these minerals are potentially beneficial to human life but their extraction can put in danger the indigenous communities and environment, disrupting ecosystems and their culture. Some of the deposits discovered inside the area are a big input into the country's economy as there are resources with high economic value inside the market; some examples of it are the wide deposits of uranium in the Canadian Arctic that is used to increase the nuclear energy to replace the electrical energy generated by fossil fuels; the American Arctic which is located in Alaska, houses around 49 deposits of minerals; and the European Arctic that include all European Arctic States who are planning to invest in

mining, shipping and fishing within the region to address their climate and security goals. This competition to produce more products coming from these resources has led to raise concern among the indigenous communities that live in the surroundings of the deposits since it puts at risk the ecosystem. One of the main objectives of the Arctic Council is to supervise and give further revision to environmental issues with their official document, the *Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy*, established in 1991 to solve and protect the environment's region. However, it is important to highlight that the council does not count with a financial source, all the projects stipulated are financed by the Arctic States or other entities; it can not implement guidelines, assessments or recommendations, they must be put into force by the States or international bodies; and lastly, as stated in the Ottawa Declaration, it explicitly excludes military security.

In recent years, the loss of sea ice due to the increase of temperatures in the polar region as a consequence of climate change has brought many consequences along with it, which is an international concern but also an attraction for nations that are looking forward to exploiting its natural resources. The phenomenon known as *Arctic Amplification* means that the temperature in the area is increasing at a faster rate than others in a lower latitude, which fuels the progress of climate change inside the zone, melting the ice surface of the ocean. Other consequences within the region include the rise of the sea level across the world, stronger winds and currents, the warming of the oceans and a quick shoreline erosion in the Arctic communities. The defrosting of it has become a magnet for the countries bordering it to claim the territory to take advantage of all the natural resources that exist beneath the ice cap to strengthen their economies.

***Geopolitics of the Arctic zone related to natural resources and militarization***

The correlation that exists between the exploitation of natural resources with the usage of the region for military purposes has put international security into the spotlight; hence, it menaces peace and influences the governments to take actions to govern over the territory. The thawing of the ice causes multiple factors such as new maritime routes for commerce and communication or the discovery of oil and natural gas that lead to clashes between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China which are the main participants in conquering the territory. The growing tension between nations create a geopolitical scenery that obliges the actors participant to take a position within the area, establishing two sides towards the emergent disagreements; the first one includes the Russian Federation which is in a privileged position owing to the access and exploitation of natural resources as well as the north maritime route, along the participation of a non-arctic state such as People's Republic of China in the last years; the second side is compound by the Western arctic states, particularly the United States of America who has taken more participation inside the region. The imbalance caused by climate change has led to consequences and implications linked to individual interests from the States that rather than being cooperative they have become in a competition and confrontation.

According to multiple geopolitical analysis proposed by Alfred Mahan or Nicholas Spykman, the Arctic was never considered as an essential territory for economical, military or political matters, not even a threat for warlike conflicts if it was the case. This idea eventually changed when the zone gained popularity for its advantage in two historical events to implement systems of aerial and marine defense to be prepared for any attack from other nations. After those conflicts, the region started to lose relevance among the Arctic States so that it became a place for cooperation and protection to address issues regarding the area, mainly environmental issues, which are one of the main concerns threatening it.

Nevertheless, the consequences of higher temperatures have changed the path for interests of many countries, mainly the generation of new sea routes such as the route of the North, also known as Northeast, which is parallel to the Russian coasts; the Northwest Passage in the north coast of the Canadian islands; and the Transpolar route which is between the Bering strait and the GIUK gap.<sup>9</sup> These sea routes will allow the dominion over the territory from the nations interested and use it for many economical and military activities to keep growing their development and become one of the main superpowers.

### ***Measures taken to prevent disagreements and warlike conflicts on the Arctic***

The nations bordering the Arctic Circle have noticed through different statistics the increasing numbers towards climate change and resource exploitation such as the information published by the National Centers for Environmental Information that points out, that 1.4 degrees was above the average temperature compared to the last decades. Consequently, non-gubernamental organizations like the Arctic Institute, Arcticnet or The Gordon Foundation and the Arctic states have taken operations and changes in order to decrease the damage towards biodiversity. According to the World Wildlife Fund, its goal is to ensure the region's adaptation regarding climate change; consequently, this fund has an extensive amount of options in order to improve the Arctic's protection, reducing gas emissions and a slow climate change. Other alternatives taken include protecting the ice areas as an enduring home for ice-dependent species, oil and gas development to reduce spills as a risk to marine ecosystems, building renewable energy capacity for habitat-friendly energy such as wind and solar, promoting better shipping practices to reduce harmful underwater noise and pollution, sustainable arctic fisheries, Arctic marine priority areas for conservation and the seek for the creation of a network of protected areas to help cope with challenges that the region is facing.

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<sup>9</sup> **GIUK gap:** the area of the Atlantic ocean bounded by Greenland, Iceland, and the United Kingdom. (Oxford Reference, 2023)

In consequence, the status of protection for the region doubled from 5.6 % to 11 % including the decreased signs of a warlike conflict between the nations around the Arctic Circle due to the success of the actions taken in order to prevent and restore the damage already made in the biosphere and the different ecosystems in which species were affected.

Regarding the changes and improvements made, there are still aspects that need to be addressed such as the natural resources which are being exploited in the past years by the legally unmeasured exploitation done by the nations within their exclusive economic zones. According to the PBS news, this kick starts a race for potentially priceless materials between the countries, which will bring alarming consequences to the environment of the region and the indigenous communities. In consequence, non-gubernamental organizations such as the Natural Resource Defense Council, are still looking for solutions communicating with the region in order to be able to administrate, supply and conserve these resources, and prevent the destruction of the ecosystems due to the extraction process. After accomplishing different types of research, new solutions and attention will be needed to achieve and prevent major conflicts in the future. Nonetheless, there are a few legal documents such as the Law of the Sea to use it as a reference to delimitate the marine space of the nations who border the area or the specific designated code inside the Arctic to regulate maritime traffic by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that implement and guarantee the protection regarding the region of the Arctic.

At the beginning of the XXI century, the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway agreed that the ocean needs international laws and regulations with the purpose to stabilize their economies. Therefore, both nations accepted the regulatory framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to solve bilateral disputes. Later on, in 2008, the Russian Federation, Canada, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of

Denmark and the United States signed the *Ilulissat Declaration* at the Arctic Ocean Conference which stated that there would not be tolerated any action of sovereignty over the region and the lack of necessity to create an international legal regime. Additionally, other intergovernmental bodies are involved in the regulations inside the area like the Law of the Sea Treaty, an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization looking after freedom and controlling militarization; and the Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement, a treaty stipulated by the Arctic Council that states the delimitation of search and rescue regions is not related to and should not prejudice the delimitation of any boundary between states constituting the treaty or their sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction. These agreements are signed by the Arctic nations setting a measurable control regarding the interests concerning the potentially-damaged region.

### *Recommended material*

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## Topic B

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Strategies to halt the violation of human rights to the Uyghur Muslim ethnic minority in the Xinjiang province on the region of People's Republic of China with emphasis on the concentration camps referred to as vocational education centers

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*By: William Vázquez Hernández, Ana Mercado Garduño, and Kirsten Luna Valladolid*

## ***Introduction***

The *Uyghurs* are an ethnic group minority coming from the northwest of People's Republic of China, settled down in the province of Xinjiang and officially recognized as the Xinjiang *Uyghur* Autonomous Region (XUAR). The *Uyghurs* share similar characteristics in their culture and religion with other ethnic groups in Central Asia like the Uzbeks and Kazakhs belonging to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan; and speak a related language to Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz from the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkish. The group is denominated as Muslim group as they practice Islam, which is a monotheistic<sup>10</sup> religion that is an essential part of their identity, and is one of the main factors for the repression experienced inside the area for a long time. The Chinese government has implemented concentration camps referred to as vocational education centers to detain and re-educate *Uyghurs* from their customs and traditions, to avoid the phenomenon acknowledged as islamic fundamentalism.<sup>11</sup> Xinjiang has been targeted by Chinese authorities as a region that holds extremist and separatist<sup>12</sup> ideas, and the establishment of camps was viewed as a measure to eliminate any threats from China's territorial integrity, government and population. In 2022, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), determined that the measures taken by People's Republic of China were interconnected patterns of serious and extreme restrictions on a vast range of human rights and comprise crimes against humanity.

The province of Xinjiang has been under countless attempts from different leaders of empires and nations to gain sovereignty over the region; that goes from the Manchu Qing Empire; the last imperial dynasty of China, the East Turkestan Republic (ETR) backed up by

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<sup>10</sup> **Monotheistic:** belief that there is only one god. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

<sup>11</sup> **Islamic fundamentalism:** expression of Islam that stresses strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles. (Britannica, 2023)

<sup>12</sup> **Separatist:** member of a particular race, religion, or other group within a country and who believes that this group should be independent and have their own government or in some way live apart from other people. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)



Soviets, and People's Republic of China. In 1949, the province was officially annexed<sup>13</sup> to China and in 1955 the XUAR was established by the *Uyghurs*; however, after its settlement, numerous Han or ethnic Chinese, migrated to the area as an outcome of the Beijing policy of large-scale migration. A document released by Human Rights Watch, reviewed that the percentage of ethnic Chinese went from six % to 41.5 % between 1949 to 1976, where a cultural and religious crash occurred, as a result of the coexistence of both cultures within the region. Nevertheless, the traditional Chinese culture was seen and considered superior over the *Uyghur* culture, which goes back to the beginning of the group's repression for their practices and customs. After the demise of Mao Zedong, first president of People's Republic of China, in 1976; the beginning of the 80's was a period of freedom for the *Uyghurs* as a result of the *Opening and Reform* policies, implemented by Deng Xiaoping for greater autonomy<sup>14</sup> in the province, including: respect for determined cultural and religious practices, restoration of ancient mosques<sup>15</sup> and the construction of new ones, reappearance of cultural traditions and individual economic activities. Nonetheless, in the 1990s, Beijing launched an ambitious plan to incorporate Xinjiang with China by making it a major economic growth zone, which benefited mostly ethnic Chinese; thus, an Islamic-inspired insurrection<sup>16</sup> led the country to initiate a long-term plan to strengthen control over *Uyghur* society.

Since the incident in the 90s, *Uyghur* activism of separatist type gained strength, which put Xinjiang as a national challenge for being a possible threat to the country that led to a chain of violent actions and repressive campaigns to silence the community. In the last semester of 2017, the OHCHR started to receive various allegations from different civil

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<sup>13</sup> **Annex:** to take possession of an area of land or a country, usually by force or without permission. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

<sup>14</sup> **Autonomy:** the right of an organization, country, or region to be independent and govern itself. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

<sup>15</sup> **Mosque:** a building for Islamic religious activities and worship. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

<sup>16</sup> **Insurrection:** organized attempt by a group of people to defeat their government and take control of their country, usually by violence. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

society groups about the detention of people belonging to Muslim ethnic minorities, predominantly members of the *Uyghurs*. A year later, satellite images taken by the BBC News, revealed that on the west deserts of China there was an enormous facility inside the area, which later on would be known as the concentration camps of Muslim detainees. According to a report published by Reuters, about one to two million people were detained between 2017 to 2018, and 39 concentration camps discovered have tripled its size. Following news around the education centers, Xinjiang's governor declared in late 2019, that all of the hostages had graduated; therefore, some of the camps were closed, but a year later, researchers from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) found that centers were re-opened.

### ***Measures taken by the Chinese government against the Uyghurs***

Chinese authorities viewed the province as a threat for the nation itself, justifying that the reasons behind their repressive campaigns have its roots from their activism in the last decades, and to prevent the influence of extremist and separatist ideas that may fall into terrorism. Thus, the implementation of concentration camps was one of the measures taken to combat these ideas by making it a program of vocational training inside the region; where the authorities stated that only people condemned by these types of felonies were being re-educated inside these centers. The revolts around this measure and headlines around the world while publishing articles about the problematic, obliged the government to deny the existence of them and emphasized that within Xinjiang, there exist policies that guarantee and respect religious freedom. In the last decades, the Chinese government has strengthened their policies and regulations by making forced migration, to ensure and propitiate stability to the region, and promote a diverse ethnic culture to decrease menaces from radical groups. Other measures were guided by 3 fundamental pillars: the suppression of any type of *Uyghur*

activity on the sidelines of the State, the promotion of *Uyghurs'* assimilation and their progressive sinicization<sup>17</sup>, as for the implementation of large socioeconomic development projects, including forced labor.

In 1996, a campaign executed by the authorities of the country titled *Strike Hard* was put in force, which consisted in the application of strict security operations inside the civil population, usage of advanced technology for espionage, and authoritarian police interventions, that included arrests and repression in case of any suspicious action. A year later, a report published by the CNN pointed out that a bomb attack occurred in the capital of the region by extremist groups; it was controlled under the policies of the campaign and parallel to it; provoked the government to establish regional actions to avoid operational links between extremist organizations that adjoin the border of Xinjiang. Afterward, in 2001, China led an initiative to create the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a collective security organization in charge to combat the cross-borders threats, religious fundamentalism and drug trafficking in Central Asia, making reference to the previous attacks by *Uyghurs* groups. The Chinese government has taken advantage of the SCO, as a tool to control them under the premise of combating terrorism; in addition to extending its influence and margin of action to other Asian countries. The number of attacks increased between 2001 and 2014 despite the interethnic violence of containment actions, which led the government to find a legitimacy shield to the international community and a global justification to increase the use of force, and other methods of violence.

Following the appliance of these regulations and the establishment of the educational centers, in 2016 Chen Quanguo, responsible of stabilization policies within the province, increased the police and espionage technologies budget to eliminate the privacy of the

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<sup>17</sup> **Sinicization:** The action or process of making something Chinese in character or form, or of bringing somewhere under the cultural, economic, or political influence. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2024)

community; likewise, the policies against *Uyghur* cultural and religious representations became stricter. Additionally, there have been eliminated safe spaces to promote their culture, imprisoned and disappeared academics, who foster their language and traditions; causing marginalization that leads to isolating people who do not speak Mandarin, due to the higher education and government procedures being made in the native language. Moreover, analysis made by specialists on human rights on the conflict of Urumqi; the capital of the region, affirmed that official policies privilege one part of the population living inside the province, including: obtention of better jobs, access to basic services, boost on their political agenda, and high costs due to the region's industrialization make life for *Uyghurs* harder. The use of *hijab*<sup>18</sup>, long beards and any other traditional elements of Muslim clothing in public spaces are motives of detention by the local police. As to, new technologies play an important role in favor of the regulations executed in Beijing; for example, the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP), is a digital system that takes information from security cameras, cellphones, financial and family planning records, to make a list of possible arrest suspects.

### ***Concentration camps referred to as vocational education centers***

The situation happening inside the camps is considered inhumane for many institutions across the world for the treatments given to the community and the precarious<sup>19</sup> conditions within; thereby, an investigation made by Amnesty International, reveals information from victim's testimonies. People who have managed to escape or have been freed, declare that in most cases they are apprehended since they are classified as untrustworthy, extremists or on a basis of guilt by association. Other causes of detention include: living, traveling or studying in foreign countries, as well as having contact with people doing these activities, the use of

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<sup>18</sup> **Hijab:** the head covering that some Muslim women wear when they are outside. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

<sup>19</sup> **Precarious:** in a dangerous state because of not being safe or not being held in place firmly. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

forbidden technologies such as softwares or communication media, and having in possession pictures or videos of religious thematic related to Islamic beliefs. After their admittance in the internment camps, they are forced in a continuous indoctrination program including physical and psychological torture; besides getting a special ill-treatment. *Uyghurs'* lives are systematized and disciplined from the moment they enter a camp, losing their autonomy along with any aspect that made it up; even so, if any detainee diverge from the prescribed routine by the camp authorities, they will be physically punished.

Hostages lack privacy, they are always monitored at their cells and on their daily activities including eating, sleeping and even going to the restroom; where they have cruel and extreme conditions. It is unauthorized to talk with other people inside, and if it is allowed they must need to speak in Mandarin, which is a problem mainly for elderly people who do not understand the language; if by any matters they are surprised talking in their native language, it will be accredited to a punishment. There are inadequate conditions of food, water, exercise, healthcare, sanity and hygienic ambience. They are subjected to harsh schedules organized in three to four hours of classes, breakfast; and lunch along with a short time for resting where *Uyghurs* are dictated to sit on a stool or lay their heads on the desks; after it, another set of hours for studying traditional Chinese culture and lastly, dinner accompanied by hours of kneeling and reviewing the day's material learned or watching educational videos. During classes they are forced to recite and memorize *red songs*<sup>20</sup>, and is primarily to teach them Mandarin, assist to a combination of history, law and ideology classes referred to as political education and are indoctrinated about the wickedness of Islam and the good and prosperous effects the nation, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and President Xi Jinping are to them.

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<sup>20</sup> **Red songs:** revolutionary songs that praise the Chinese Communist Party and People's Republic of China. (Amnesty International, 2017)

The initial process of detention is operated mainly outside the scope of Chinese criminal law justice or any domestic law; moreover, there are not transparent criteria and legal assistance or protection for people living in Xinjiang. After their release, they are forced to sign a privacy document that excludes them from talking to any regional and international media about their experience inside the camp, with a warning of re-interning them or family members if they violate this policy. Other detainees are transferred from the camps to prisons to receive their pertinent sentence according to the authorities inside. In recent years, the Chinese government is enacting strict policies of behavior for those members of Muslim ethnic minorities who are not in concentration camps and even the ones who have already been released.

### ***The violation of human rights as a crucial actor***

Recent investigations made by the BBC News and reports published by the UN human rights institutions, have proclaimed *Uyghurs'* repression as a serious and urgent situation of human rights violation. As an illustration, since 2017, a systematic assault has been unleashed, involving arbitrary<sup>21</sup> detentions, enforced disappearances, surveillance, cultural persecution, family separation, forced labor, and reproductive rights violations. The Foreign, Commonwealth, Development Office (FCDO) identified several types of violations against the community, including restrictions on freedoms such as expression and religion; additionally, the 2022 Amnesty International's report, concluded that the human rights situation in People's Republic of China continued to decrease and deteriorate, covering forced sterilization, coerced abortions, human trafficking, and violence against minority groups focusing on domestic and international repression. According to reports done by the BBC News in collaboration with international researchers, the routine officers have been

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<sup>21</sup> **Arbitrary:** based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

following is being provided with firearms, execution policies for escapees, and the destruction of religious sites. Likewise, people who have decided to escape are forced to pledge loyalty, renounce their religion, and suffer psychological effects. This extends to children of detained parents forced into state-run orphanages, not letting them have direct contact with their parents or a legal tutor.

Aside from putting people belonging to Muslim ethnic minorities into vocational centers, the Chinese government is constantly jailing members of it for expressing their right to religious freedom. Although some of them get the opportunity to receive a trial, the process is just to adjust to the formality of the detentions and cover the allegations against the corrupt jurisdictions; as the detainee's fate has already been decided. Other ways in which their human's right have been deprived is by torture, in which Amnesty International report, points out that within the camps, there exists two categories of practiced torture. The first category includes physical and non-physical violence as a result of their daily life inside, leading into mental illnesses for their loss of control and personal autonomy; the other category includes only physical aggression during interrogations and have a misconduct, including beatings, electric shocks, stress positions, the use of restraints, sleep deprivation, being hung from a wall, being subjected to extremely cold temperatures, and solitary confinement. There are also systems of mass surveillance that infringe on people's right for privacy, freedom for movement and expression; that is made up by: biometric data collection; including iris and facial scans, invasive government interviews, and homestays from government employees who are assigned to live with targeted ethnic families.

The restrictions imposed by the Chinese authorities are examples of violations to many articles under the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* such as the Article 3, 5, 7 and 9, that state the rights to be treated with dignity, have protection and not being arbitrarily

arrested or exiled. These measures allow the government to have detailed information and track actions from other ethnic groups living in Xinjiang. However, it is a challenge for people from Muslim groups to flee from the province as they had their passports taken between 2016 and 2017, according to investigations made by the BBC News. International analysis alluded that perpetrators are acting on behalf of the Chinese state to plan a massive and organized attack on the civilian population living in Xinjiang.

### ***Global response to the Uyghurs' ethnic minority repression***

In spite the efforts of the Chinese government to control the conflict happening within Xijiang and keeping an image of stability to the international community, many countries as the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Australia, among human rights organizations, including the United Nations (UN), have expressed their concern regarding the vulnerability of the *Uyghurs*. Lawmakers in countries around the world, including Canada and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have proclaimed that China is committing genocide<sup>22</sup> to the Muslim minorities, and are sanctioning Chinese officials and entities connected to human right abuses. In 2019, 22 countries signed a letter urging the People's Republic of China to end their massive arbitrary detentions and other related violations to human rights, as well as making a request to Beijing to allow the intervention of UN officials and specialists. Otherwise, countries that have a major Muslim population have remained silent given the situation, and others have supported the measures taken by Beijing. Moreover, four days after the submission of the letter to the UN, 37 countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation and North Korea complimented China's achievements in the concentration camps. Foreign countries have inflicted restrictions regarding forced labor inside the region;

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<sup>22</sup> **Genocide:** the crime of intentionally destroying part or all of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, by killing people or by other methods. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)



specifically the US by banning all the imports from the region through the enacting of the *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*, and the United Kingdom by proposing measures to fine enterprises that do not guarantee their supply chains are not using forced labor, while the European Parliament approved a resolution, in 2022, to exhort the European Union (EU) countries to forbid imports made with forced labor of China.

Other measures taken in response to this problematic is the creation of the China's Transnational Repression of *Uyghurs* Dataset, by the joint of the *Uyghur* Human Rights Project (UHRP) and the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs, that complies the function of collecting incidents of repression by China since 1997, through the revision of reports published by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), World *Uyghur* Congress (WUC), and UHRP. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) presented evidence in 2018, about the systematic violation of human rights in XUAR, which attracted the attention of international mass media and other organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights. A joint letter from 39 countries was sent to the Human Rights Council (HRC) expressing their concern on the abuse of *Uyghurs'* human rights as a response to the accomplishment of the Chinese government on blocking all the resolutions from the HRC, in 2020. Canada along with the US, the UK, and the EU correlated economical and territorial sanctions on perpetrators through visa bans and financial assets freezes to four Chinese officials and Xinjiang's police department. The German government's Commissioner for Global Religious Freedom, expressed consternation regarding the prosecution of Muslim minorities based on the leaked Chinese documents known as *The Xinjiang Papers*, and announced it will halt deportations of people belonging to these groups to China. In 2021, the Lithuanian

Parliament voted to condemn to China's systematic transgression against humanity, and calls the UN to start a legal examination on the *Uyghur* genocide.

### *Recommended material*

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XXXVII TECMUN  
**Glossary of Forbidden Words**

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***Forbidden Words***

*Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects.*

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>23</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black <sup>24</sup>	African American

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<sup>23</sup> The word war can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

<sup>24</sup> The word black, with regard to race, is not forbidden but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as African American or Afrodescendants.

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**Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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***Preambulatory Phrases***

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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**Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts



