

XXXVII

TECMUN

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

XXXVII TECMUN
Session Schedule

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

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: Sofia 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

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established by Resolution 302 (IV) of the United Nations General Assembly on December the eight, of 1949, to carry out direct aid programs and works for Palestinian refugees after the Arab Israeli armed conflict of 1948. The committee began its operations on May the first, 1950 and its contributions have been focused on the provision of education, medical care, social and relief services, infrastructure and camp improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance, even in times of armed conflict in the territories of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Faculties

The committee's framework aims to address the needs of Palestinian refugees by providing essential services and support:

- Extends social assistance and services and implements programs supporting communities, encompassing economic aid, and employment initiatives.
- Manages schools for Palestinian refugee children, providing educational programs spanning from primary to secondary levels.
- Offers primary healthcare services and grants access to health facilities for Palestinian refugees.
- Collaborates on housing and shelter initiatives for Palestinian refugees.
- Administers humanitarian assistance during crisis and emergency scenarios, such as conflicts or natural disasters.

Topic A

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

By: Yamir Bandala González, Leonardo García Mercado, and Leonardo Senties Carmona

Context of the Israel-Palestine refugees

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognizes the right of every child to education, and the liberty of every child to get the highest standard of health and to facilities for the rehabilitation of health and treatment of illness. According to Article twelve of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the right of health recognizes the entitlement of every individual to achieve the highest possible standard of physical and mental health. On October the seventh 2023, a Palestinian attack that deprived 1,200 Israelis of life was released. Since then, the State of Israel has been launching attacks on Gaza, which have taken the life of at least sixteen thousand Palestinians, over 40 percent of them children. According to the Israeli prime minister's office, at least seven thousand people have been injured since this attack.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel arises from the persecution of Jewish people for their religious beliefs starting in the fifteenth century. In 1897, the Zionist¹ movement was created, driven by the need to unite the Jewish people in a single geographical area. This movement, which sought to create a homeland for the Jews, was the origin of geopolitical² struggles that have repercussions to this day. The resulting conflict was characterized by tensions between countries such as the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the State of Israel. During the 20th century, the conflict intensified and was characterized by guerrilla warfare, territorial disputes, and unresolved political negotiations. This comes from the displacement of Palestinians, following the 1948 ethnic cleansing³ and further leading to the creation of Gaza,

¹ **Zionist:** someone who belongs to or supports a political movement that had as its original aim the creation of a country for Jewish people, and that now supports the state of Israel (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

² **Geopolitical:** connected with political activity as influenced by the physical features of a country or area, or with the study of a country's size, position, etc (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

³ **Ethnic Cleansing:** the use of violence to force people of a particular ethnic group or religion to leave an area (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

and the West Bank; a landlocked territory near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea divided in areas, displacement that led to extensive refugee issues.

According to the United Nations (UN), there are still generations of Palestinians living in refugee camps who are enduring deprivation of appropriate housing, food access, clean water, basic health services and limited educational opportunities. The education system in the State of Palestine faces an incremental vulnerability since around 18 schools in Area C in west bank have been demolished by authorities from the State of Israel while the Education Cluster estimates that approximately 59 schools in the West Bank, with 51 in Area C and eight in East Jerusalem are at risk of demolition or have stop-work orders, which has led to the disruption of studies for seven thousand Palestine refugee minors. The socioeconomic spiral in Gaza was evident in declining gross domestic product⁴ (GDP) per capita and a staggering increase in access to healthcare, education, economic resources, and food security, affecting 96 percent of the population by the time of the war. The UN has informed that, as of November the tenth eighteen out of thirty-six hospitals and forty-six out of seventy-two primary care clinics had to close due to damage from attacks and a lack of essential resources like electricity and fuel. The ongoing attacks on medical facilities in Gaza have caused severe damage to infrastructure⁵, resulting in critical shortages of medical supplies, equipment, and essential items.

Displacement effects on Gaza's and Lebanese's health system

After up to thirty-four thousand Palestinians have been displaced because of the attacks on Gaza this year, hospitals are struggling to function without necessities like anesthesia,

⁴ **Gross Domestic Product:** the total value of goods and services produced by a country in one year (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

⁵ **Infrastructure:** the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

medications, gloves, and other crucial medical supplies. As a result, the lack of adequate health services in Gaza due to the conflict has led to the displacement of individuals and families who sought refuge in countries like Lebanon. Because of this migration flow, the Lebanese government has struggled to provide adequate healthcare to the refugee population, due in part to a lack of funding and resources. Additionally, several refugees are unable to afford the excessive cost of healthcare in Lebanon, ineligible for government-sponsored healthcare.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the health care system in Gaza is collapsing due to overcrowded hospitals and few medical supplies. MSF was forced to stop providing support to Martyrs and Beni Suhaila clinics in southern Gaza due to evacuation orders from Israeli forces. Displaced individuals face barriers in accessing healthcare facilities due to their new locations, lack of transportation, and financial constraints. Healthcare facilities in Gaza and Lebanon struggle to meet the increased demand for services, which has led to shortages of medical supplies, medications, and overall healthcare personnel. It is estimated that 54 percent of the refugees from the State of Palestine rely on services coming from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

A third of the three and a half million registered Palestinian refugees reside in fifty-eight official refugee camps, among the host nations communities. According to the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health, most mental disorders originate during adolescence and childhood; A study from the non-governmental organization Basic Mission Capable (BMC), directed to the areas subjected to ongoing military violence in Gaza as important areas of the strip such as Rafah, Deir al-Balan, and Khan Younis showed high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anxiety in both adults and minors with exposure

to armed conflict trauma in the recent years which can lead to long term implications as social distance and substance abuse, also having impact on future generations. According to this study, 77 percent of children were likely to have PTSD, while 60 percent of the tested parents were likely to have PTSD with potential clinical significance. Equivalent results were given among teenagers, as it was determined that 69 percent of the tested teenagers had PTSD, 40 percent of them had moderate to severe levels of depression, and 95 percent of them had severe anxiety.

Displacement impact on refugee education

According to data from the Badil Resource Center for the State of Palestine Residency and Refugee Rights, almost half of the Palestinian children are also refugees and lack the particular protection afforded under international refugee law; law that outlines the rights and protection of refugees. After the creation of an environment of fear, insecurity, and instability, these events disrupt the general access to education, healthcare, and basic necessities, denying minors a normal childhood and prospects for a better future, being an infraction and a failure to comply with the previously mentioned rights. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified vulnerabilities, leading to increased limited access to learning resources and resulted in an increased resource shortage among vulnerable families, pushing some children into begging, early labor, and/or early marriage. The refugee enrolment in education varies by education level in the near east, with thirty-eight thousand people in pre primary level, sixty-five thousand in primary, forty-one thousand in secondary, and six thousand in tertiary. Despite being unable to meet all the educational needs, UNRWA provides a complete school system for refugees in the Middle East, playing a crucial role in the education of 550 thousand Palestinian children.

132 UNRWA schools were subjected to violence in the past eighteen months, thirty-eight incidents of violence were recorded in UNRWA schools in the West Bank, leading to school closure or evacuation; The cost of transportation in Lebanon has increased by over 500 percent. In Syria, many children coming from the State of Palestine were forced to leave their refugees due to the economic crisis. In Jordan, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic was endured by the most vulnerable children, who were not able to access face to face or remote classes for eighteen months while schools were closed. The child population in Jordan constitutes about 40 percent of its total population, refugees make up 48 percent of the entire population. Refugee children face difficulties accessing education as a constant lack of economic resources affects about one in five children, with rural areas experiencing an increase to two in five children. Most of these refugees reside in concentrated areas like Amman, Zarqa, and Irbid. The ongoing blockade⁶ led to limited access to economic resources, high unemployment rates, and a struggling economy, restricting the movement of imports, and exports of goods.

Humanitarian crisis and health impacts

Constant lack of fuel has led to the shutting down of desalination plants, increasing the risk of bacterial infections like meningitis, gonorrhoea, and salmonella spreading as people consume contaminated water; It has also disrupted all solid waste collection, leading to the proliferation of living beings that transit and carry diseases. These shutdowns present a risk to almost two million displaced refugees across Gaza, especially those living in overcrowded shelters in areas with poor access to hygiene facilities and safe water as Rafah and Deir al-badan present an increasing risk of infectious diseases transmission like impetigo, cholera,

⁶ **Blockade:** the situation in which a country or place is surrounded by soldiers or ships to stop people or goods from going in or out (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

hepatitis, and malaria. WHO, UNRWA, and the Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that since October 2023, over thirty-three thousand cases of infectious diseases have been reported in the Gaza strip. Over 50 percent of these reported cases correspond to children under age five.

Since December, the tenth, the cases of diarrhea in children under age five, increased to a 66 percent, translated to almost sixty thousand and increased by 55 percent for the rest of the population, according to data from WHO. The Ministry of Health and UNRWA reported almost nine thousand cases of lice and scabies⁷, a thousand and five cases of chickenpox, twelve and a half thousand cases of skin rash and almost fifty-five thousand cases of upper respiratory infections like laryngitis, pharyngitis and common cold. Disrupted vaccination routines as well as the constant lack of medicines, increase the risk of accelerated respiratory disease spread. The UN Health Agency cautioned that the authorities did not provide the full picture due to a lack of complete information while services as the public health system in Gaza are at elevated risk of collapsing.

The head of the pediatric ward at Nasser hospital in Khan's Younis hospital "Nasser" in southern Gaza named Ahmed al-Farra, explained how the hospital's pediatric ward was overrun with children suffering from extreme dehydration, causing kidney failure in some cases, while the cases of severe hygiene related diseases were four times higher than normal. He also mentioned there were between fifteen to thirty cases of hepatitis A, in Khan Younis "The incubation period⁸ of the virus is three weeks to a month, so after a month there will be an explosion in the number of cases of hepatitis A." (Ahmed al-Farra, 2023). During its latest report, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said WHO

⁷ **Scabies:** a skin disease that causes your skin to become rough and uncomfortable (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

⁸ **Incubation Period:** the period of time between harmful bacteria or viruses entering a person's or animal's body, or entering a plant, and the effects of a disease appearing (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

reported various cases of chickenpox, meningitis, jaundice (a medical condition characterized by the yellowing of the skin) and upper respiratory tract infectious diseases such as influenza, tuberculosis and pneumonia; It was also informed that thousands of refugees were found sleeping in the open with little access water to bathe, and clean toilets. Twenty-one of Gaza's 36 hospitals are closed now, where eleven of them are partially functional and four are minimally functional according to WHO figures from December the eleventh. This insufficient personal protective equipment does translate as healthcare workers acquiring and transmitting infections while providing care to their patients.

UNRWA's role and challenges

Most Palestinian fatalities occurred in the context of military and law operations coming from Israeli Security Forces, specifically, in and around State of Palestine refugee camps. Since 1949, the UNRWA has taken the role of being the principal contributor in education, health, social services, medical assistance, and the improvement of infrastructure in refugee camps where up to four generations of Palestinians have lived. The European Union economically supports UNRWA since the year 2009 and after October twelve, the European Union allocated one million euros to UNRWA to protect threatened Refugees from the State of Palestine who suffered from forced displacement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. On October 27th, the United States of America stated it will continue to offer its support to UNRWA with the aim of reaching close to two hundred thousand refugees in the West Bank and East Jerusalem through hundreds of advocacy⁹ interventions. Since the year 2018, the United States has funded the UNRWA's Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU), which is aimed to provide economic assistance support and psychological first aid among other complimentary services destined primarily for individuals threatened by forced displacement, demolitions,

⁹ **Advocacy:** public support for an idea, plan, or way of doing something (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

and other forms of violence such as blockades, military attacks and human right abuses. With funding received through the European Agency during the first half of 2023, UNRWA provided vital emergency food assistance without interruption to more than a million refugees in Gaza, also, its logistical support for food distributions helped over 38 thousand vulnerable individuals in Bedouin¹⁰ and communities in Area C in the West Bank in the second quarter of 2023.

Almost 20,000 full time equivalent jobs were created during the first half of 2023, thanks to its constant support and the UNRWA Health Program in Gaza, funded primary health care to Palestine refugees through its 22 health centers in the State of Palestine; Medical assessments were carried out at these UNRWA schools and as a result, over six thousand students received assistive devices, mainly hearing aids and glasses. To mitigate the adverse effects of multiple stressors that affect students' learning, UNRWA provided after school activities to seventeen and a half thousand students in fifty-five locations throughout the Gaza Strip. UNRWA continued providing mental health and psychosocial support services for refugees of all ages who are experiencing psychological trauma due to conflict related violence in the Gaza strip. These psychological support services were funded by the European Union and focused on individual counseling, including support for female survivors of gender-based violence. Despite the industrial action that impacted UNRWA, operations in the West Bank were able to proceed with emergency educational and food distributions. Hence, its main objective of reaching more people, and being able to provide them with all the social services they need and deserve while also being able to create awareness through advertising campaigns, and micro financialization for programs related to emergency assistance, with the purpose of develop an infrastructure that is capable of giving

¹⁰ **Bedouin:** a member of an Arab people living in or near the desert (Cambridge dictionary, 2023).

a shelter to everyone who had to leave the State of Palestine during the times of armed conflict.

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Topic B

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

Current status of the State of Palestine's economy

According to the latest update of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) website, 81.5 percent of individuals in Gaza live under the national lack of economic resources, and 64 percent are in a situation of food insecure. In the Middle East, the overall youth unemployment rate is 64 percent for the refugees provenient from the State of Palestine, while the Israeli government's decision to cease water supply to Gaza post-October 7th has exacerbated the situation. Despite a partial supply from the Arab Republic of Egypt, more than 96 percent of Gaza's water supply is recognized by the United Nations as "unfit for human consumption". Wastewater facilities were closed due to fuel and electricity shortages in October and have remained inactive since then, according to the Palestinian Water Authority.

This meant a shortage of national production in; the agriculture industry, healthcare costs, development constraints, and generated partial economic dependency. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Palestinian Gross Domestic Product¹¹ (GDP) growth was 3.9 percent, between 2022 and 2023, but real GDP per capita was still 8.6 percent below the levels recorded before the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019. Unemployment continued to rise steadily, being reflected in rising rates of 24 percent in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and 45 percent within the Gaza region, with women and people under 30 years of age being most affected. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the poverty rate also increased, affecting 40 percent of the Palestinian population in need of prior humanitarian assistance. The economic dependence of the Palestinian State economy on the State of Israel was evident, as its total trade was reduced by 90 percent in 2023, reflected in the loss of what amounted to 72 percent of total Palestinian trade in 2022. The lack of a

¹¹ **Gross Domestic Product:** the total value of goods and services produced by a country in one year (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

national currency and reliance on the shekel¹², as well as high housing costs and dependence on middlemen, significantly reduced the overall national earnings of the State of Palestine.

COVID-19 and its relation with the Palestinian internal economy

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19), of the 2019 pandemic, was a global outbreak of coronavirus, an infectious disease caused by the acute¹³ respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The pandemic meant a significant economic turmoil in the Near East region through simultaneous drops in domestic and external demand, a reduction in trade, disruption of production, and the tightening of financial conditions. The oil prices fell by more than 50 percent since the beginning of the public health crisis, and the interconnected impacts negatively influenced the economic activity of the region as potentially lasting consequences such as weakened infrastructure and well-being impacts. At the beginning of the pandemic, the UNRWA launched a 94.6 million dollar COVID-19 appeal, funding aimed to mitigate the most unfavorable impacts of the pandemic on 5.6 million registered refugees provenient from the State of Palestine in the Middle East until the end of December 2020, with focus on health, economical resources assistance and education.

The year 2023 highlighted an unfavorable economic outlook in the State of Palestine, characterized by a remarkable increase in political tensions due to increased dependence on Palestinian economic support coupled with a stalled resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinian economy has been operating below capacity ever since, facing persistent problems, such as loss of economic resources, a generalized shortage of economic resources, reduced external support from Asia and Africa; growing internal, private and external debt. However, 95 percent of Palestinian refugees in the Syria Arab Republic rely on

¹² **Shekel:** the standard unit of money used in Israel (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

¹³ **Acute:** If a bad situation is acute, it causes severe problems or damage (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

UNRWA's aid for survival, with 60 percent of them having experienced displacement during the pandemic. Furthermore, in the republic of Lebanon, a high percentage of Palestinian refugees live in a lack of economical resources as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened their situation.

Economic context of the Gaza strip

In Gaza, restrictions on the movement of medical personnel and the difficult procurement of common goods during the coronavirus pandemic, combined with constant military operations and a sea and air closure, have diminished the area's economy by 5.1 percent according to the International Monetary Fund. Gaza's investment and real GDP per capita, declined sharply between 2019 and 2023, and restrictions limited access to essential services, leaving the population struggling in areas such as health, water and employment. The region also faces various economic challenges due to the blockade imposed by the state of Israel, which restricts the movement of goods, imports and exports within the Palestinian territory. Moreover, the destruction resulting from the recurrent conflicts since October 11, has caused a wide range of damage to the territory's infrastructure, the disruption of 60 percent of local businesses and the weakening of the economic base.

The aforementioned blockade has limited the ability of the Gazan government to rebuild and invest in the health, education and damaged infrastructure sectors, perpetuating a cycle of economic hardship and instability seen since the middle of the last decade. The economic struggles in Gaza along with the imposed restrictions hindering economic development and prosperity in the region are deeply intertwined with the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its evolution through 2023. The Gaza region has experienced economic slowdown for nearly two decades, due to periodic conflict and Israeli State

restrictions on movement and the pandemic proved to have exacerbated Gaza's economic situation, by reducing it to 18 percent in the first months of 2019. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the economic cost of the Israeli-Palestinian War in Gaza to neighboring Arab countries, such as the Republic of Lebanon, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, amounts to at least ten billion dollars. In addition, the World Bank has been providing aid to the Palestinian territories, including Gaza, since 1992 to support development and economic growth.

Contemporaneous resilience and preparedness of the Near East healthcare

According to the International Organization for Migration (OIM), the number of hospital beds in the Near East available for Palestinian refugees varies between four and 32 per each 10 thousand inhabitants in the territories within, being a direct limitant for emergency and regular health access. The provision of adequate health services in this context is also obstructed by the lack of emergency, contingency, and case management guidelines. As well as inadequate national infection prevention and control programs, including inconsistent water and electricity sources access within the territories of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Palestine, due to a combination of factors, including conflict, outdated infrastructure, economic constraints, and management challenges. In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) led systematic review of hospital disaster preparedness in the region, found that the lack of contingency plans and insufficient availability of resources likely threatened hospitals' readiness to respond to anticipated COVID-19 outbreaks. The lack of hospital preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks at the facility, system, and country level was reflected in the beginning of 2020, leading to delays and inefficiencies on a larger scale as well as a higher rate of contagion of COVID-19. Since then, difficulties in hospital operations were reported

to be compounded by problems in human resource management, funding and supplies constraints, and inadequate clinical management.

Refugee-driven strategies of UNRWA's health services

In 2023, the armed conflict between Palestine and Israel resulted in the destruction of 10 UNRWA health facilities within the Near East, and the abandonment of two others in Jordan and Lebanon. Before the start of the conflict, the local UNRWA office in Gaza provided services to 527,000 refugees, using 23 primary health care centers. According to UNRWA, the current Palestinian refugee population in Yarmouk in the Syrian Arab republic is over 4,000 people and 1,200 people who were subjected to recurrent violent clashes with minimal access to basic services such as food and water, limited transportation, and damaged public infrastructure. According to UNHCR, around 1.2 million refugees have looked for shelter in Europe, the Republic of Lebanon, the Republic of Turkey and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as of December 2023.

UNRWA's healthcare system currently includes psychosocial support along with an expansion of reimbursement to include necessary prosthetic devices to support patients suffering from belic-related injuries, a service provided primarily at the Central Office in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan. UNRWA has also developed a phased response plan for Yarmouk to provide basic and emergency services to incoming Palestine refugees in the short, medium and long term. UNRWA is working in collaboration with the Humanitarian Team of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank, and identified Yarmouk as one of the priority areas for the Area-Based Return Support plan. In February 2023, UNRWA received approval from the UN and the national governments to conduct a multi-sector assessment of the needs of returnees in the camps of; Yarmouk, Marka in the Hashemite Kingdom of

Jordan, Beddawi in the Republic of Lebanon, Askar in the West Bank and Deir al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, showing their results during the first half of 2024. Also, according to UNHCR, despite a 3.5 percent increase in staff capacity within shelters and health centers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a country with 760,000 refugees, staff deployment in hard-to-reach areas remained lacking.

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Glossary of Forbidden Words

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.

Forbidden Words	Permitted equivalents
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War ¹⁴	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 ¹⁵	African American

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

XXXVII TECMUN
Glossary for Resolution Projects

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

XXXVII TECMUN
Glossary for Resolution Projects

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

