

**30°**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime

30° TECMUN Jr.  
**Session Schedule**

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**Wednesday, November 9th**

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

**Thursday, November 10th**

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

**Friday, November 11th**

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

30° TECMUN Jr.  
**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Ixtli Zenit Ramírez García*

**COORDINACIÓN GENERAL**

*Chief of General Coordination: Anael Oliveros Aguilar*

*Coordinating Supervisor for Media Content: Mariana Goytia López Gutiérrez*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretary General: Jade Artemis González Díaz*

*Coordinating Supervisor: Iris Giselle Balderas Arreola*

**Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General**

*President: Carmen Dannea García Aguilar*

- A) Medidas para disminuir la esterilización forzada a mujeres con VIH en América Latina y el Caribe.
- B) Estrategias para mediar el conflicto civil y crisis humanitaria en la República de Yemen causada por un golpe de estado en 2014.

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

*President: Arantxa Olivares Bocanegra*

- A) Medidas para contrarrestar el aumento de matrimonios forzados de niñas en el continente asiático, con énfasis en la República de la India.
- B) Medidas para erradicar la prostitución forzada de niñas y adolescentes en América Latina y el Caribe con énfasis en el turismo sexual.

**Comisión de Desarme de las Naciones Unidas**

*President: Gerardo Calderón Huerta*

- A) Medidas para contrarrestar la creciente crisis ocasionada por la experimentación de armas de destrucción masiva dentro del Mar del Este.
- B) Estrategias para disminuir la exportación de armas de fuego hacia la República de Yemen, así como atender sus efectos dentro de la región.

**Organización Internacional de Policía Criminal**

*President: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata*

A) Medidas para reducir y prevenir la importación y exportación de estupefacientes, con énfasis en la ruta América Latina a África Occidental.

B) Medidas para prevenir y reducir atentados por grupos extremistas activos en Asia Meridional, enfocado en la República Islámica de Pakistán, la República de la India y la República Islámica de Afganistán.

### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

*President: Dereck Zayd Ibarra Martínez*

A) Measures to tackle and halt the marketing of counterfeit and substandard medical products in the Asian Mekong region, with special preeminence on pharmaceutical online sales along with the corruption in the drug industry.

B) Approaches to prevent and counter human trafficking and sexual abuse in the Ukrainian border region, particularly among citizens who migrate as a result of the belic conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

### **World Health Organization**

*President: Aretxa Abaunza Díaz de León*

A) Strategies to prioritize mental health due to the climate change in response to the adversities caused by the crisis in Asia.

B) Measures to reduce the adverse health effects of the tobacco industry on the Republic of Zimbabwe citizens to reduce their percentage of yearly casualties.

### **CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretary General: Elena Ramírez Sandoval*

*Coordinating Supervisor: Lia Naomi Mejía Vargas*

### **Fonds des Nations Unies pour L'enfance**

*President: Edgar Arturo López Villegas*

A) Mesures pour mettre fin à l'exploitation et le travail des enfants dans l'industrie du Fast Fashion en Asie.

B) Actions pour offrir la santé aux enfants victimes des catastrophes naturelles en République d'Haïti en soulignant son manque de ressources.

### **Human Rights Council**

*President: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora*

A) Measures to curb discrimination in the European Union against Muslims with emphasis on the French Republic and the new Islamic Separatism Law.

**B)** Strategies to counter extrajudicial homicides in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with a focus on the Tigray region due to civil warlike conflict between the government and regional forces.

**United Nations Population Fund**

*President: Valeria Loera Gómez*

**A)** Strategies to provide sexual and reproductive health services and protection for women in Western Asia, under the context of the current humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Yemen.

**B)** Mechanisms to diminish obstetric mistreatment and violence towards women while receiving medical care during pregnancy and childbirth, with an emphasis on the vulnerabilities of health systems in Latin America.

**Conferencia de las Partes 25**

*President: Montserrat Gómez Montes de Oca*

**A)** Estrategias para detener la presencia de macroplásticos y microplásticos provenientes del continente europeo hacia Mediterráneo con énfasis en el daño a la biodiversidad.

**B)** Medidas para disminuir las emisiones de CO<sub>2</sub> producidas por la industria textil con énfasis en la República de la India.

**Organización Internacional para las Migraciones**

*President: Daniel Hilario Salazar Melendez*

**A)** Estrategias para promover la asistencia y cooperación internacional a la política de acogida de República de Uganda, con énfasis en la entrada segura de los refugiados y emigrantes desplazados por las milicias locales en el Éste de la República Democrática del Congo.

**B)** Medidas para asegurar la integridad de la población migrante proveniente de la zona del Cuerno de África durante su traslado hacia la República de Yemen a causa de los traficantes y contrabandistas.

**Organización Mundial del Comercio**

*President: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo*

**A)** Estrategias para mitigar la crisis de fletes y costos para la exportación de frutas y hortalizas en América Latina y el Caribe.

**B)** Métodos para la integración de las microempresas, así como pequeñas y medianas empresas del sudeste asiático en las corrientes comerciales mundiales.

**AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretary General: Diego Márquez Sánchez*

*Coordinating Supervisor: Akemi Daiana Viveros Moya*

### **Caribbean Community**

*President: Abraham Alejandro Carlos Mendoza*

**A)** Strategies to protect agriculture and counter the impact of the Ukrainian-Russian armed conflict on food systems in the Caribbean region with emphasis on food security due to the lack of resources for endangered people.

**B)** Measures to avoid the illicit trafficking of American firearms with special emphasis on the increasing violence rate and the presence of organized crime in the Caribbean region.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*President: María Fernanda González Rosales*

**A)** Strategies to prevent political and military risks to members of the Treaty regarding the development of chemical and nuclear weapons of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and their relation with the extremist group Hezbollah, who attacked the American embassy in the Republic of Iraq in 2019.

**B)** Mechanisms to approve and safeguard the integration of The Kingdom of Sweden and The Republic of Finland to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, considering possible territorial and civilian repercussions due to the Russian Federation's threats pointing to increase military forces with Western borders.

### **Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos**

*President: Manuel Alejandro Grajales Santillán*

**A)** Atentado terrorista del 18 de Julio de 1994 hacia los recintos de la Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (Víctimas y familiares del atentado extremista v. República de Argentina).

**B)** Actos de violencia y hostilidad hacia la Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear desde 1990 hasta la actualidad en la República de Colombia (Miembros de la Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo v. República de Colombia).

### **Consejo de Seguridad**

*President: Paulina Moreno Rosales*

**A)** Acciones para suprimir los ataques armados generados por el despliegue de activos militares estadounidenses en el Golfo Pérsico ante la negativa de cesar las pruebas de armamentos en la República Islámica de Irán.

**B)** Estrategias para suprimir la intervención militar externa en la región de Medio Oriente y África del Norte (MENA) para evitar el resurgimiento de conflictos armados desencadenados por la Primavera Árabe.

### **Histórica Liga de Estados Árabes**

*President: Karla Isabella Juárez Zarate*

- A)** Medidas para contrarrestar el conflicto bélico de Yom Kippur, manteniendo un enfoque en los territorios perdidos de la República Árabe de Egipto y la República Árabe Siria. (1978)
- B)** Estrategias para concluir la invasión de la República de Irak al Estado de Kuwait como consecuencia del saqueo de petróleo. (1991)

*“Cuando sientas que pierdes el rumbo, recuerda para qué estás aquí y por qué lo estás haciendo.”*

*-Anonymous*

For your time,

Eleven years ago I stepped into a TECMUN debate room for the first time. That day I accompanied my brother, who was representing the Republic of El Salvador, as he debated about the homicides of rural groups in Latin America caused by drug trafficking. On the other hand, I was just admiring everything he and the delegations that made up the debate were arguing, as well as the tenacity with which they were looking for some way to help those who needed it most. They inspired me in a way that I will never forget in my life. It was then that I realized that I wanted to do it too, I wanted to become what they were at that time, agents of change. Later I had the opportunity to participate as a delegate, in my first model uncertainty and fear prevailed. I felt insecure about myself, I thought my opinion was not important and for that reason I did not express it. At that time I was regressing because I didn't feel like the agent of change that my brother once encouraged me to be. It wasn't until my second year participating in TECMUN that I discovered my potential, I questioned why I should be afraid to speak up for things that deserve to be heard. I was representing the Islamic Republic of Iraq in the Historic League of Arab States, this year I was thinking a lot about the fact that something could go wrong in the debate, that's why I started to remember the reason why I decided to participate in this model; I wanted to get out of my comfort zone. Once I was at the closing ceremony, I promised myself that I would always do my best to leave my mark wherever I went, as well as continue to learn and inspire others. For me, this model represented evolution.

I share with you a part of my story in TECMUN because just like me, you are probably looking to evolve after a period of regression. Regardless of the path you want to take in your life you should never be silent about what seems unfair, participate and give your opinion because the power of change is in the actions you decide to do or not, learn because cultivating your mind is essential to understand yourself and others, help those who need it most because you have privileges that many people in the world can not enjoy, finally try to inspire you and inspire others, you never know if you will become an example for them to follow. Do things with passion, love and purpose every day, do it for you.

Whatever the reason you decided to participate in TECMUN, take advantage of the fact that you are here today. Today you have the opportunity to expand your limits, you have the opportunity to learn, to teach and to motivate whoever needs it. Always remembering that you will have a support network that trusts you so you can achieve your goals. Be that person you always wanted to find to guide you in your learning process and trust you, because you are capable of doing it.

After 5 years being part of TECMUN and this my last TECMUN Jr., I want to thank you for inspiring me, for giving me reasons to go further and further. I thank you for being part of one of my greatest passions. I hope that after these three days nothing will be the same for you, I hope that you have made friends, that your committee has reached a resolution project, that you have found your passion, that you have enjoyed yourself and that you have learned something new. But above all, I hope you have **evolved**.

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Ixtli Zenit Ramírez García

Secretary General for the

30° TECMUN Jr.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”*

*-Nelson Mandela*

Dear participant,

Whenever I have to write a letter or a speech for you I start the same way, expressing how much I admire your presence in this model. It is not easy to talk in public, do an extensive research, defend what you believe, propose innovative and creative solutions and, above all, open your eyes to today’s world. I admire that you are willing to give your best, that you have decided to invest time and energy in seeking to solve the great unknown of today, during these three days of model, "how can I make my world a better place?"

I confess that for me, this is not just a simulation of a United Nations model. I am here, because I love to see more than nine hundred students with a smile on their faces as they enter their debate rooms, happy at the end of the day because they were able to make at least one resolution to their topic hoping one day to make it happen. That passion and dedication is the one that motivates me and that gives me faith that our world will not fall.

This work is one of the best things that has happened to me in life, it makes me feel part of the change and part of those smiles that I love so much to appreciate. I know that the Conference Officer for the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, who began with all the enthusiasm this great journey in 2020, is now proud to be something she never imagined it could be: member of the High Secretariat as Chief of General Coordination.

So from my own experience I can assure you that you can achieve the unimaginable. There will be many obstacles, stumbling blocks and difficult decisions to make but I can also promise you that with a lot of passion, dedication, patience and the support of the people you love most everything else will gradually go away.

Without further ado, I thank you for making the decision to participate in this model and I wish you to leave those rooms with a big smile as I once did.

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Anael Oliveros Aguilar  
Chief of General Coordination for the  
30° TECMUN Jr.

*"We are travelers on a cosmic journey, stardust whirling dancing in the vortices of infinity. Life is eternal, but expressions of life are ephemeral, momentary and transitory".*

*-Deepak Chopra*

It all started in 2018, when like you, the delegate reading this, I had the courage. I ventured out of my comfort zone and signed up for a United Nations model that I didn't really understand, what was I supposed to do? What was it all about? Speak in front of how many people? These are just some of the many questions that went through the mind of the German Federation, the country I represented for three days during my first model, although my delegation did not do well, because I even received a warning, nothing of the above had any relevance because the following year I returned, but now more prepared, finally knowing what it was all about, but now in a committee that I had not asked for, in a language that made me feel more nervous than usual, but all that changed when I had my first participation in the speakers list, when I could finally release all that adrenaline that my body had been saving during the hours prior to the first session, without a doubt this time and despite the inconveniences I mentioned, the Canadian delegation, my delegation, this time was really passionate about the topic that was discussed in the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women committee and this was reflected in my performance during the model days but even more when at the closing ceremony, I was mentioned as the best delegate, at first I didn't believe it, because how could the delegate who a year ago knew nothing about this model now has been named and had to receive an award in front of approximately 300 people?. I don't know if it was my pride, my ego or love but from that moment on I knew that TECMUN had to be part of my life, I couldn't allow myself to move away from what made me feel so many things in just three days. I started high school, and it was clear what I wanted, to be part of TECMUN secretariat, it was, it has been, and it is. I still don't know if it was the best decision I could have made, but as far as 17 year old Jade who is writing this, it is. Every day, TECMUN gives me a reason to put dedication and a lot of love into this project that a few years ago came to transform my life and the way I see the world. Delegate if you have come this far, I hope from the bottom of my heart that during these days TECMUN will also transform you, no matter how it does it, but I hope that it will not let you return home in the same way you arrived and that from now on you know that the simple action of leaving your comfort zone can change your life, your way of seeing the world, and can even help you make the best decision of your high school (or your life).

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Jade Artemis González Díaz  
Subsecretary of the General Assembly  
30° TECMUN Jr.

*“If something excites you, you don’t need explanations. In case of a contrarium, there is no explanation that excites you”*

*- Federico Fellini*

One of the most significant things I’ve ever accomplished was getting here, and thinking about what we can achieve together amazes me because I truly believe we can make a difference, no matter how cliché it sounds. One person can save the lives of so many more, one person can lead a country to its greatest, with the voice power of just one person you can do the most amazing things, with just one person. Anyone can just go to the search bar and enroll, but the fact that you are here, reading this, shows that you are not like anyone else, it shows how unique and capable of doing wonderful things you are. So first of all, let me congratulate you, because I don’t even know you, but I definitely know and I’m aware of who you can achieve to become.

Today’s out world crisis is a really hard situation, and there’s no difference in the field of drugs and crime. Every day, many horrible situations evolved into belic conflicts and horrific events. Security and preventions are necessary to aid in everyday difficult environments and even though, we can’t give our direct support, the only way we can accomplish it, is by trying to do our best to fight it. I consider myself as someone who cares about others and enjoys working in this environment, which is something that I just love doing, and as how my initial quote says, you don't need any justifications if something truly excites you. Here in TECMUN, everyone wants to achieve the creation of a better world, would you like to join us?

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Dereck Zayd Ibarra Martínez

President of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the

30° TECMUN Jr

# Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was founded as the unification of the United Nations Drug Programme and the Center for International Crime Prevention in 1997, with 27 active Member States. It collaborates with governments and civil societies to ensure access to security by promoting the ratification and implementation of international treaties and institutional reforms to carry out technical cooperation projects. The UNODC is determined to guarantee welfare and justice by confronting drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption, and extremism across the globe. Therefore, it expands the governmental information base necessary to make informed decisions about how to successfully advance safety deterrent measures.

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## Faculties

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is entitled to:

- Implement field-based programs, legislative measures, and international legal instruments to combat radical groups, providing effective prison management, rehabilitation, and social reintegration;
- Ratify and implement conventions against corruption, enhancing international cooperation on extradition, anti-corruption policies, and legal assistance;
- Reform criminal justice systems by implementing crime prevention strategies, fair criminal justice, offering practical assistance, and encouraging transnational approaches to fulfill systems for drug control treaties;
- Addresses, disseminates, and reports new data by finding emerging forms of crime

and trafficking of drugs, weapons, humans, and cultural properties to help counter them.

## Topic A

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Measures to tackle and halt the marketing of counterfeit and substandard medical products in the Asian Mekong region, with special preeminence on pharmaceutical online sales along with the corruption in the drug industry

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*By: Dereck Zayd Ibarra Martínez  
Sofía Cervantes Godínez*

## ***Background***

Since the late 1990s, substandard<sup>1</sup> treatments against malaria have been found in Southeast Asia, including products that were fraudulently<sup>2</sup> mislabelled<sup>3</sup> with respect to their identity and source. One main factor that contributes to this issue is the high demand for pharmaceutical products for illnesses, which are easily infiltrated by established narcotics networks, as well as the lack of effective border controls. The wide circulation of counterfeit<sup>4</sup> medicines throughout several countries in the Mekong region, a territory that encloses the People's Republic of China, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; has strongly increased and intensified public health concerns. The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has taken actions to treat the increase of falsified medicines, including the strengthening of laws and the creation of new ones, such as the Law on Drugs and Medical Products, which aims to regulate the management of drugs and medical products of good quality and with appropriate prices. In addition, the vulnerability of the government and drug industry systems to corruption has led to the expansion of the illicit trade in substandard and falsified (SF) medicines.

Along with the growth of international trade in falsified pharmaceutical products, the sale of fake medicines through online pharmacies has severely increased. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has offered technical support to reform drug policies, such as the Law on Drugs and Medical Products, by strengthening the institutional capacity

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<sup>1</sup> **Substandard:** below standard or less than adequate (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> **Fraudulently:** in a way that intends to deceive by doing something dishonest and illegal (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> **Mislabelled:** to attach the wrong label to something (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> **Counterfeit:** made to look like the original of something, usually for dishonest or illegal purposes (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

of Southeast Asian countries. According to researchers from American institutes, 25 % of surveyed general practitioners from the Food and Drug Administration reported that they had cared for individuals who had experienced secondary effects from medication ordered online. This leads the Mekong Region to face a high demand for medicines, such as those for malaria, cancer, and particularly those to treat COVID-19.

### ***The Mekong's socioeconomic and political framework***

The People's Republic of China, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam form the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Relying on their related heritage<sup>5</sup> and their connectivity with the Mekong River, the six nations began a program of subregional economic cooperation in 1992. Through enhanced connectivity, higher competitiveness, and a stronger sense of community, the initiative is assisting the participating nations in achieving sustainable development goals as well as balanced growth with the aid of the Asian Development Bank and other development agencies. With the promise of economic growth and better living conditions, there has been a growing demand to use the Mekong River and its tributaries as a source of electricity during the past decades.

Such a strategy, however, has to take into account how local communities perceive these complicated developments. The displacement and relocation caused by these massive infrastructure projects, large dams<sup>6</sup>, and their reservoirs, is a normal social concern. Social and cultural difficulties related to dams in the Mekong Region have surfaced, despite the fact that these effects continue to be of major concern. Of all the significant initiatives, often

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<sup>5</sup> **Heritage:** features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages, or buildings, that were created in the past and still have historical importance (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> **Dam:** a wall built across a river that stops the river's flow and collects the water, especially to make a reservoir (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

linked to economic growth, dams have likely sparked the most worries about what is happening to indigenous people and many other minorities.

In parallel to the integration of lawful economies between the nations in the Mekong, transnational illicit economies grow. In East Asia, there are opportunities for cross-border commerce in illegal products, and in recent years, the global criminal supply networks have expanded. This surpasses not just the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a number of those states, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Union of Myanmar, but also their combined GDPs. Cross-border crime is changing due to infrastructure investments and regional integration throughout Asia, including through bilateral agreements, GDP programs, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It also demands a thorough grasp<sup>7</sup> of local interests and perceptions that are stated effectively.

Despite the fact that the high demand for pharmaceutical products and deficient regulatory systems have been the main contributing factors in the majority of circumstances, the complex interaction of influencing variables that contribute to the high demand for substandard and counterfeit medicines in specific areas remains unclear. Particular cross-border movements of people and goods, well-established drug trafficking networks that can make it easier for illegal medication to enter the regional market, and the absence of efficient border control mechanisms to address these issues are all likely to contribute to widespread<sup>8</sup> availability in the Mekong region. Significantly, border regions that are susceptible to the flow of subpar goods have reported clinical evidence of drug-resistant malaria, including the Thailand-Myanmar and Thailand-Cambodia borders. In the Mekong region, there are also gaps<sup>9</sup> in healthcare services, which may lead patients to depend on

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<sup>7</sup> **Grasp:** to understand something, especially something difficult (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>8</sup> **Widespread:** existing or happening in many places or among many people (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>9</sup> **Gap:** an empty space or opening in the middle of something or between two things (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

unlicensed private sector providers. The sale of substandard medications especially concerns in remote rural areas where infectious diseases are more prevalent and the availability of public health centers or licensed pharmacies appears to be more limited. In these situations, patients frequently self-diagnose, self-medicate, and buy their medications from unlicensed stores where quality checks are infrequent and the sale of illegal goods is more prevalent.

### ***Counterfeit and substandard pharmaceutical products and the health hazards***

One of the most serious global health concerns is the problem created by subpar<sup>10</sup> medications. The active substance<sup>11</sup> may be absent, present at insufficient levels, or present at subpar levels together with potentially hazardous<sup>12</sup> chemicals. The significant risk to human lives and the potential to increase medication resistance makes it difficult to control infectious diseases globally. It also represents a problem in terms of governance, since faulty production procedures, bad circumstances for transit and storage, or outlaw falsification can all lead to defective medications. In the area, subpar antimalarial medications had been discovered, along with supplies that had been unlawfully labeled.

Generic medications are those for which patent protection has expired and which are made by producers apart from the innovator firm; falsified medications, are imitations of legitimate medical products that infringe property rights<sup>13</sup>. Both branded medications and their less-priced generic analogs are subjected to counterfeiting. The widespread usage and adoption of unlicensed pharmaceuticals may be limited by the fact that generic drugs are occasionally mistaken for counterfeit medicines. For instance, it is believed that certified

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<sup>10</sup> **Subpar:** something that is below average, or below what is expected (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>11</sup> **Active substance:** substance or microorganism that has an action on or against harmful organisms (other than by physical or mechanical action (EcoMundo, 2022).

<sup>12</sup> **Hazard:** something that is dangerous and likely to cause damage (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>13</sup> **Property rights:** the rights of people and companies to own and use land, capital, etc. and to receive a profit from it (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

generic drugs are currently used to fill 50 % of all prescriptions in the People's Republic of China, with costs expected to be in the billions. The pharmaceutical industry in the Mekong area, where generic medications are produced, faces these specific difficulties. Furthermore, any effect on the usage of generic drugs might have a wide-ranging<sup>14</sup> effect.

### ***Illicit online sales and the distribution networks for fraudulent drugs***

The proliferation of substandard and falsified (SF) pharmaceutical products in developed countries was facilitated by the commercialization of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as the increase in internet usage and online medical product sales derived from the COVID-19 pandemic. SF medical goods exacerbate global criminal networks and have a harmful impact on health worldwide. The SF medical products ranged from non-life-saving items to a wide variety of pharmaceuticals. The selling of counterfeit medications through online pharmacies and the international distribution of counterfeit medications in Mekong nations with regulatory laws were factors in the overall increase of drug trafficking over the past ten years.

National and worldwide research on SF medical products is crucial to assist in the struggle for SF medical products. Governmental rules for screening<sup>15</sup> and detecting reported products are needed to lead to a future trafficking halt<sup>16</sup>. An internet connection is required to access online pharmacies that offer falsified drugs. The nation's healthcare system and consumers need to properly monitor and regulate online drug sales and pop-up window marketing on social media. Websites in charge of the online distribution of prescription drugs must be frequently checked and assessed.

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<sup>14</sup> **Wide-ranging:** to cover many subjects (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>15</sup> **Screening:** a test or examination to discover if there is anything wrong with someone or something (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>16</sup> **Halt:** to (cause to) stop moving or doing something or happening (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

The 1996 Law on the Management of Pharmaceuticals in Cambodia offers a comprehensive framework for pharmaceutical management issues; under this law, the Ministry of Health is granted the power to issue directives and regulate operations involving medicines. The People's Republic of China's Drug Administration Law, amended in 2001, provides detailed and precise guidelines for the management and regulation of pharmaceutical issues; Article 48 forbids the manufacture, including dispensing, and distribution of fake medications. Any modern or conventional medicine that is a fake or an imitation of a drug that is produced, disseminated<sup>17</sup>, and legally registered is considered a counterfeit drug in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, according to the Law on Drugs and Medical Products that was promulgated in 2000. The long-standing Drug Law of 1967 in Thailand now serves as the legal basis for drug control; it forbids the manufacturing, sale, and importation of counterfeit medications; inferior drugs; deteriorating pharmaceuticals; unregistered drugs; and drugs whose license has been revoked for more than six months. The current pharmaceutical law in Vietnam, which was adopted in 2005, defines a substandard drug as one that does not meet the quality standards listed by the competent authorities; and defines a fraudulent medicine as a product that is intentionally and fraudulently made in the form of a drug.

### ***Crime and corruption in the drug industry***

The causes of the spread of subpar and counterfeit medications vary, although they frequently overlap<sup>18</sup>. In general, both accidental and intentional violations of acceptable manufacturing processes fuel the distribution of inadequate medications, while drug fraud has its origins in crime and corruption. Because of the inconsistent supply and continuing demand for

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<sup>17</sup> **Disseminated:** to spread or give out something, especially news, information, ideas, etc., to a lot of people (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>18</sup> **Overlap:** the amount by which two things or activities cover the same area (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

medications, as well as flaws in the regulatory system, both kinds of drugs are in circulation. The issue is exacerbated by the public and health professionals' ignorance of this.

The creation of falsified medication is a simple procedure, using open-market purchased empty capsules or a hand-held pill crusher and any powder to pour into it. The cost of making counterfeit medications is minimal. Additionally, there is a strong chance of evading the law since uncontrolled marketplaces mix the supply chains of legal and illegal products. Low- and middle-income nations are disproportionately responsible for the global burden<sup>19</sup> of counterfeit and subpar pharmaceuticals. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that criminals commonly target low-cost anti-infectives, mostly since the majority of the general population buys them often. Therefore, the UNODC considers producing falsified drugs an “opportunistic crime, emerging where regulatory capacity is low, not where profits would be highest” (UNODC, 2010).

Pharmaceutical crime, according to the International Criminal Police Organization, is "the manufacturing, trading, and distribution of counterfeit, stolen, or illegal drugs and medical devices" (Interpol, 2012). Theft, trading, and the use of money laundering by criminals to hide their identities are all examples of pharmaceutical crime. Criminal officers are ingrained<sup>20</sup> in the government structure, and corrupt government officials are frequently bought off with money from the black market pharmaceutical industry. Members of organized crime, who frequently work in fake pharmaceuticals, are the ones who use threats and bribes<sup>21</sup>. According to the International Criminal Police Organization data, international crime organizations are both involved in the trafficking of fake narcotics.

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<sup>19</sup> **Burden:** something difficult or unpleasant that you have to deal with or worry about (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>20</sup> **Ingrained:** firmly held that they are not likely to change (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>21</sup> **Bribe:** money or a present that you give to someone so that they will do something for you, usually something dishonest (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

### *Mekong's diseases and COVID-19 scenario*

The Mekong Region has become a significant target for vector-borne<sup>22</sup> and infectious diseases as a result of the rapid urbanization, significant development, economic growth, and socioeconomic factors including the increase in migration and urban lack of resources. Furthermore, malaria has been historically a major public health concern in the region and is a challenge owing to multidrug resistance to antimalarial medicines. The Thai-Cambodian border has been the epicenter of this dilemma, exacerbating the acceleration of population movements and leading to conditions which promote disease transmission. The difficult access to treatment and health facilities also impacts trade, affecting distinctly remote and ethnic minorities.

Illnesses such as avian influenza and malaria require essential medicines for their treatment, some of which include anti-malarial, anti-tuberculosis, anti-retroviral, and antibiotics. All along, epidemics in recent years are looming<sup>23</sup>, and the counterfeit drug issue is expanding, mainly in areas like the Mekong Region where many resistant strains are prevalent and many substandard antimalarial drugs have been found since the late 1990s. Data provided by the United States Pharmacopeia Medicine Quality Database, an organization dedicated to helping improve global health through standards-setting in compounding, biologics, and pharmaceutical manufacturing, has proved that with a 12 % failure rate, antimalarial are the most insufficient drugs, followed by antibiotics with a 6 % deficiency, and 1.4 % of anti-tuberculosis medicines which did not pass the good quality test. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, organized crime networks have exacerbated the issue of illicit trade. Subsequently, the rise of e-commerce, in addition to the high demand for

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<sup>22</sup> **Vector-borne:** Zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted directly or indirectly between animals and humans. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>23</sup> **Looming:** about to happen soon and causing worry (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

medical products, has risen the use of online channels as a favorable way to continue profiting from the sale of illegal goods. The evasion of traditional ways of smuggling<sup>24</sup> heightens the chances for consumers to be the aim of scammers<sup>25</sup> on the web.

### ***The response of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime***

The trend of increased drug use, the establishment of illicit trade networks, and the social welfare of citizens have promoted the cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) along with other organisms like the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. An instance, is the implementation of the Mekong Memorandum<sup>26</sup> of Understanding (MOU) on Drug Control, which aims to bring together the Mekong countries to address the threat of illicit drug production, trafficking, and usage. The strategic line that guides the MOU process is the Sub-regional Action Plan, which provides action-oriented programs that help governments, individually and collectively, to address illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse. The last revision of SAP adopted recommendations that are intended to be aligned with the 2016 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mekong River in the Golden Triangle, which crosses Lao PDR, the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand, has been heavily used as a location for drug trafficking. In an effort to deal with illicit trade, UNODC has enforced maritime laws and security agencies, including the Royal Thai Maritime Police, the

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<sup>24</sup> **Smuggling:** the act or process of taking things or people to or from a place secretly and often illegally (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>25</sup> **Scammer:** someone who makes money using illegal methods, especially by tricking people (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>26</sup> **Memorandum:** a short written report prepared specially for a person or group of people that contains information about a particular matter or an informal legal agreement (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

extended transnational networks have made UNODC increase the regulatory pressure on territories within the People's Republic of China, such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Union of Myanmar, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Additionally, "Mekong MOU negotiations tend to formulate a strategy to increase cross-border investigations and operations through border liaison offices" (UNODC, 2021).

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## Topic B

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Approaches to prevent and counter human trafficking and sexual abuse in the Ukrainian border region, particularly among citizens who migrate as a result of the belic conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine

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*By: Dereck Zayd Ibarra Martínez*

## ***Background***

Ukraine has evolved into an insecure territory, beset<sup>27</sup> by belic conflicts and nationalist resentments sparked from beyond its boundaries. Since October 2013, Ukraine has become a focus of Russian foreign policy and the source of a severe diplomatic, commercial, and economic struggle with the United States of America and Europe as a result of the intern activist protests in the country as a result of not signing the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement, deciding to forge deeper connections with Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union instead. The main goal of the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, was to invade Ukraine and topple<sup>28</sup> its government, thereby putting a stop to Ukraine's aspirations to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). After a month of setbacks, he abandoned his attempt to conquer Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, and focused his efforts on the country's East and South, aiming to demilitarize and De-Nazified it. An estimated 12 million Ukrainians have fled<sup>29</sup> their homes, seeking safety in the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic. *Émigrés*<sup>30</sup> were exposed to a vulnerable and dangerous situation, exposing them to the danger of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and exploitation perpetrated by smugglers<sup>31</sup> and Russian soldiers in the zone.

The Ukrainian authorities warned that smugglers would target the belic conflict refugees at the overburdened land borders between Ukraine and its European neighbors. But they are not just exposed to human trafficking; Russian military forces have used their authority and dominium position to take advantage of and sexually abuse them. A member of

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<sup>27</sup> **Beset:** having a lot of trouble with something, or having to deal with a lot of something that causes problems (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>28</sup> **Topple:** to force a leader or government out of power (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>29</sup> **Flee:** to escape by running away, especially because of danger or fear (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>30</sup> **Émigré:** someone who has had to leave their country permanently, usually for political reasons (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>31</sup> **Smuggler:** someone who takes goods or people into or out of a country illegally (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

the Ukrainian parliament established that "sexual assault is used as a tool of crime in Ukraine to break people's spirits, to humiliate them, and to show them that they can be helpless to protect their women, children, and their bodies" (Rudyk, K. 2022). As Russian forces have withdrawn from towns, *émigrés* have come forward to report crimes committed by Russian soldiers to the police, media, and human rights organizations.

### ***The human trafficking risk of Ukrainian émigrés***

The Ukrainian refugee crisis has multiplied *émigrés'* vulnerability to suffering from violence, sexual abuse, family separation, psychological trauma, and human trafficking. All of those risks can be led to the criminal networks that attempt to take advantage of their susceptible condition with promises of transportation, accommodation, lodging<sup>32</sup>, employment, or any other kind of assistance. According to La Strada, an international non-governmental organization that fights against the trafficking of human beings in Europe, these emigration scenarios have opened up new opportunities for sexual and labor exploitation (La Strada, 2022). According to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime research released in 2018, the vulnerabilities of citizens to trafficking arise from the conflict itself, as a result of a lack of opportunities for income generation, disruptions in the provision of essential services such as health and security, issues with the rule of law, and the risk of exploitation in armed conflicts. Negative coping mechanisms may be used by people living in conflict zones to acquire access to food and other supplies, as well as for their own protection and security. The Ukrainian *émigrés* are fleeing, seeking international shelter in neighboring nations and beyond.

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<sup>32</sup> **Lodging:** a temporary place to stay (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

By March 2022, 3.6 million citizens had fled Ukraine; yet, due to the displacement background and attendant vulnerabilities throughout the journey and upon arrival in a destination country, these people are still exposed to various types of smuggling. Each migrant who flees Ukraine faces a unique set of vulnerabilities and protective needs. Children constitute 50 % of those fleeing, women constitute 40 %, and men constitute 10 % as a consequence of the male population between the ages of 18 and 60 not being permitted to leave the country, evoking that women and children make up the majority of those who seek refuge abroad. Before the outbreak of the conflict, Ukraine had a population of 44 million citizens, nevertheless, according to the United Nations, 12 million citizens are in need of humanitarian assistance and 6.5 million citizens are uprooted<sup>33</sup>. Many *émigrés* use social media to advertise housing and job opportunities; these platforms can assist traffickers in identifying and luring potential victims.

The Temporary Protection Directive, which provides temporary safeguards and rights to people entering the EU, has been activated. However, human trafficking, smuggling, and illicit adoption continue setting people in danger of violence and abuse. Even before the conflict, Ukrainians were among the most common victims of human trafficking into the EU, carried out by criminal networks working between Ukraine and European and Central Asian countries. Furthermore, the large number of orphans and infants born through surrogate<sup>34</sup> mothers in Ukraine who have not been picked up by a family are at risk of being abducted or forcefully adopted.

The International Organization for Migration issued a warning about the high risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation among the displaced population. As well as the financial insecurity faced by unaccompanied minors and women who have been distanced

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<sup>33</sup> **Uproot:** to remove a person from their home or usual environment (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>34</sup> **Surrogate:** someone that replaces or is used instead of someone else (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

from their partners and support networks. Many children don't have parental care, although the donated transportation and lodging are welcome, local organizations are calling for a coordinated effort to notify, register, and accompany them, as well as verify potential hosts. Traffickers also target *émigrés* with a lack of resources who refuse to be recruited.

### ***Sexual abuse crimes in the Ukrainian-Russian conflict***

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion, Ukrainian officers have documented several cases of the Russian military sexually abusing women, children, and men, alleging that forced sex and other sexual assaults are being used as a tool of fear. The remains of women and girls scattered<sup>35</sup> nude in the streets, as well as women and children slaughtered<sup>36</sup> while attempting to flee to safety, are proof of this struggle. Acts of sexual assault, reports of mass abuse, sexual groping<sup>37</sup> in front of relatives, sexual assault at gunpoint, women who have become pregnant as a result of the abuses, and reports of refugee women and children getting exploited by traffickers and sexual predators who see this turmoil<sup>38</sup> not as a tragedy, but as an opportunity to victimize the vulnerable *émigrés* have been reported in the region, according to public testimonies. Multiple reports have surfaced of Russian forces smashing down the doors of basements and cellars where women were sheltered to sexually assault them. Some women were abused in front of their children, and Russian soldiers are accused of filming and posting these crimes on porn sites. The Russian army is ravaging<sup>39</sup> the population into submission through indiscriminate killing and sexually assaulting.

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<sup>35</sup> **Scattered:** occurring or found at intervals or various locations rather than all together (Oxford Learners Dictionaries, 2022).

<sup>36</sup> **Slaughtered:** deprive someone of their life in a cruel or violent way, typically in large numbers. (Oxford Learners Dictionaries, 2022).

<sup>37</sup> **Sexual groping:** to touch someone's body in order to get pleasure, usually when the person does not like it (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>38</sup> **Turmoil:** a state of confusion, uncertainty, or disorder (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>39</sup> **Ravaging:** to cause great damage to something or someone (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

Although the exact scope of these atrocities is unknown, reports reveal that sexual abuse is being perpetrated in many combat zones around Ukraine. Soldiers have been seen with narcotics, Viagra, and several condom packages, raising doubts about whether these products were purchased independently or were supplied. It has been impossible to objectively verify these accusations and stories of sexual abuse and other crimes against civilians because of current hostilities and the isolation of many seized towns and cities, with most telecommunications down. Civilians who have succeeded to evacuate as well as survivors from recently freed regions have reported all this. Others have been revealed when the Ukrainian Security Service intercepted discussions between Russian troops and family or friends in Russia in which they boasted<sup>40</sup> about forced sex events.

The military leadership in both nations supported and engaged in patterns of sexual assault against the enemy populations with violent intents during these conflicts. Using patriarchal notions of women as keepers of honor and biological and cultural reproduction, this assault has been utilized to divide and enslave the enemy population by sexually attacking their civilians. Torture against men and adolescents in such situations may be extremely fetishized and focused on injuring genitals. Men and boys are also sexually assaulted, sometimes as part of a public performance aimed at intimidating and subduing them. Sexual abuse used as a military tactic is perhaps not as simple as a heteronormative patriarchal narrative claims, arguing that it is always intended to elicit absolute surrender by humiliating both the community and the individual.

### **The conflict in Ukraine previous the Russian invasion**

Armed struggles<sup>41</sup> began in eastern Ukraine after the Russian Federation's takeover of Crimea

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<sup>40</sup> **Boasted:** to speak too proudly or happily about what you have done or what you own (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>41</sup> **Armed struggle:** protracted hostilities in which a rebel or activist group uses arms in an attempt to gain political rights or overthrow a government (Oxford's reference, 2022)

in early 2014. Protests over Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to reject an agreement for closer economic integration with the European Union (EU) were met with a brutal crackdown<sup>42</sup> by state security forces. The necessity to preserve the rights of the Russian people and their spokespersons in Crimea and southeast Ukraine was the main goal of Russian President, Vladimir Putin. After a controversial local referendum<sup>43</sup>, Crimeans decided to join the Russian Federation, legally seizing<sup>44</sup> control of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

The crisis increased ethnic tensions, and pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions conducted a referendum to proclaim independence from Ukraine. An armed conflict between the Russian and Ukrainian military forces erupted soon in the region, getting innocents involved. Despite reports of Russian troops and military equipment stationed in Ukraine and NATO, Moscow had denied any military involvement. Following Russia's annexation of Crimea, there was cross-border firing nearby. Regular shelling<sup>45</sup> and skirmishes<sup>46</sup> were carried out in order to bring the conflict to an active stalemate<sup>47</sup> along the front line that divided Russian and Ukrainian-controlled border regions in the East of Ukraine.

The Minsk Accords, effected in 2015, were an attempt by the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine to restart discussions and mediate a cease-fire. The framework deal includes stipulations for an immediate stop, the removal of heavy armament, and complete control of the combat zone of the Ukrainian

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<sup>42</sup> **Crackdown:** an action by an authority to stop something (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>43</sup> **Referendum:** a vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political question (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>44</sup> **Seizing:** to take using sudden force (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>45</sup> **Shelling:** the act of firing shells, containers full of explosives, at something (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>46</sup> **Skirmishes:** a fight between a few soldiers that is usually short and not planned, and happens away from the main area of fighting in a belic conflict (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>47</sup> **Stalemate:** a situation in which neither group involved in an argument can win or get an advantage and no action can be taken (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

government. However, the efforts to negotiate a diplomatic settlement and a suitable resolution generally failed. NATO announced in April 2016 that four battalions were sent to Eastern Europe, rotating soldiers through the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, and the Republic of Poland to prevent future Russian interventions.

Two American military tank brigades<sup>48</sup> were also sent to Poland in September 2017 to boost NATO's presence in the region. In January 2018, the United States of America placed fresh sanctions on twenty-one people and nine entities tied to the fighting in eastern Ukraine, including a number of Russian officials. The State Department approved the supply of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine in March 2018, the first such shipment since the crisis began. In October 2018, Ukraine took part in a series of large-scale air drills in western Ukraine along with eight other NATO members. In September 2018, Russia's greatest yearly military exercises since the breakup of the Soviet Union occurred.

### ***The invasion of the Russian Federation and the displaced civilians***

The Russian Federation began mobilizing troops and military equipment near the border with Ukraine in October 2021, reigniting fears of an attack. More than 100,000 Russian troops were already stationed near the Russian-Ukrainian border in December 2021, and armor, rockets, and ordnance<sup>49</sup> were seen traveling into Ukraine, with no official justification. American intelligence sources warned that Putin may have launched an assault in early 2022. The Russian foreign ministry presented a series of demands in mid-December 2021, requesting that the North Atlantic Alliance suspend all military activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, pledge no further NATO expansion toward their country, and prohibit Ukraine from joining the organization in the future. The United States of America and the

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<sup>48</sup> **Brigades:** one of the groups into which a military force is divided, consisting of more than one battalion (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

<sup>49</sup> **Ordnance:** military supplies, especially weapons and bombs (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

treaty organization rejected these requests and warned the Russian Federation that if it attacked Ukraine, it would face dire economic penalties.

Joe Biden, President of the United States of America, authorized around 3,000 troops to deploy to the Republic of Poland and Romania in early February 2022 to confront Russian military forces stationed near its frontier with Ukraine. The negotiations between the United States of America, the Russian Federation, and other European countries failed to reach an agreement. On February 24, Putin deployed soldiers to the rebel areas of Luhansk and Donetsk, which are partly held by Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine, stating that the forces were needed to maintain peace. The United States of America then imposed sanctions on the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, as well as on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. While at a United Nations Security Council meeting aimed to discourage Russia from striking, Putin declared the start of a full-scale land, sea, and air assault on Ukraine, targeting Ukrainian military installations and towns across the nation. Biden and his European allies have subsequently imposed harsh penalties.

The United States of America continues to provide military aid to Ukraine, committing 3.4 billion dollars in security support, which includes heavy weaponry and artillery, raising the number of soldiers in Europe substantially; pushing the total to over a hundred thousand. The United Nations, the Group of 7<sup>50</sup>, and the EU have condemned Russian activities and backed up Ukrainian forces. On March 2nd, 141 of 193 members of the United Nations voted in an extraordinary session to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and urge it to immediately halt<sup>51</sup> its attack.

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<sup>50</sup> **Group of 7:** an organization of the world's seven largest economies, which dominate global trade and the international financial system; Canada, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (BBC, 2022).

<sup>51</sup> **Halt:** to stop moving or doing something or happening immediately (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

Russia declared in late March 2022 that it would decrease military intervention near Kyiv and Chernihiv. Long-range missile attacks inflicted severe damage to Ukrainian military equipment, urban populated neighborhoods, and transportation and communication infrastructure as the Russian assault halted. Shelling and bombing assaults were also carried out on hospitals and residential buildings. Due to the unsuccessful effort to conquer Kyiv, Russian soldiers bombarded the city with airstrikes, killing hundreds of people.

The combat has taken the lives of 3,000 civilians and displaced more than seven million people since Russia began a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Another five million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries as a result of the fighting, the majority of whom have settled in Poland. Furthermore, the crisis in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for future collaboration on vital problems like weapons control, cybersecurity, nuclear nonproliferation<sup>52</sup>, energy supplies, counter-extremism, and political solutions. It has generated massive humanitarian, migratory, and refugee crises and increased the risk of human trafficking and sexual assaults.

### *UNODC's response*

According to UNODC research, people escaping war are more vulnerable to human trafficking “The longer a conflict lasts, the more vulnerable they can become as they struggle to start a new life” (UNODC, 2022). Immediate and effective action is needed to safeguard individuals and keep them from becoming victims of traffickers. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations’ principal agency oriented to combating human trafficking, is assisting nations affected by the refugee crisis in identifying prospective victims and developing short and long-term plans to prevent the crime. By coordinating

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<sup>52</sup> **Nonproliferation:** the effort to stop the increase in nuclear weapons (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

responses and informing other UN entities and international bodies, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement authorities about the dangers.

According to the UNODC Global Database, Ukrainian victims were trafficked to 29 countries in 2018. Over half were found in the Russian Federation, while a quarter were discovered in Poland. Ukrainian victim trafficking is already a well-established illicit sector, with organized crime operating between Ukraine and European and Central Asian nations. Therefore, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic, the principal countries affected by the refugee crisis, and the UNODC prevention experts are assisting Non-Governmental Organizations, border control, and law enforcement officials by strengthening anti-trafficking efforts, which include the early detection and prevention of related crimes such as sexual abuse and forced adoptions, as well as the identification and protection of victims.

Orders outlawing<sup>53</sup> sexual abuse and other sexual assault should be issued immediately through their respective command structures, along with specific, time-bound preventative measures. The United Nations is enhancing protection and emergency services for survivors and victims of sexual assault, especially for their requirements regarding sexual and reproductive health, in order to meet the urgent needs of the impacted communities. These programs were developed and are being offered with the assistance of Ukrainian civil society, particularly regional women's groups. All solutions must be survivor-centered, guaranteeing that the security and welfare of survivors come first.

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<sup>53</sup> **Outlawing:** to make something illegal (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022).

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**Glosary 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 proyects.*

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.	Miember of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>54</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist <sup>55</sup>	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>56</sup>	African American

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<sup>54</sup> The word war can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc.

<sup>55</sup> Only the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Histórica Liga de los Estados Árabes, can make use of the term terrorist and its variants.

<sup>56</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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***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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***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



