

**XXXVII**

**TECMUN**

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United Nations Office on  
Genocide Prevention and  
the Responsibility to  
Protect

XXXVII TECMUN  
**Session Schedule**

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**Monday, April 15th**

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

**Tuesday, April 16th**

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

**Wednesday, April 17th**

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

XXXVII TECMUN  
**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo*

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

*Subsecretary of General Coordination: Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas*

*Supervisor of General Coordination for Media Content: Celic Regina Ramírez  
Garduño*

*Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Samuel Alejandro Herrera  
Tapia*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Subsecretary General: Monserrat Ríos Fernández*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: María Fernanda García Bautista*

**United Nations General Assembly**

*President: William Vázquez Hernández*

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

**Fourth Commission of Special Political and Decolonization**

*President: Miranda Senties Carmona*

- A)** Strategies to consolidate the Independence of Western Sahara after the territorial conflict with the Kingdom of Morocco, emphasizing the maintenance of peace and the protection of the human rights of civilians.

**B)** Measures to assure the national security in New Caledonia due to the protests caused by the political instability, prioritizing its total sovereignty.

### **Sexta Comisión Jurídica**

*Presidente: María Sigaru Alcántara Nieva*

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

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

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

*Presidente: Gael Santiago Pérez Guzmán*

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

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

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

*President: Yamir Bandala González*

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

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

### **Liga de los Estados Árabes**

*Presidente: Jorge Roel Rodríguez Alcántara*

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

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

### **Counter-Terrorism Committee**

*President: Aranza Rodríguez Chagoya*

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

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

### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*Subsecretary General: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Emilio Guillen López*

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

*Presidente: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate*

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

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

### **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

*President: Sofía Juanico Ocegüera*

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

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

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

*Presidente: Laura Mariana González Beltrán*

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

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

### **Department of Peace Operations**

*President: Paulette Mayen Álvarez*

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

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

*President: Frida Michelle Valadez García*

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

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

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

*Presidente: Yésika Pamela García Trejo*

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

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

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

*Presidente: Valeria Arroyo Jerez*

- A) Medidas para moderar el uso de las sustancias perfluoroalquiladas y polifluoroalquiladas en las industrias Europeas debido a su impacto negativo en el medio ambiente y la salud humana.
- B) Estrategias para prevenir los accidentes ferroviarios y carreteros de transporte de mercancías peligrosas con énfasis en los Estados Unidos de América.

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

*President: Paulo Souto Núñez*

- A) Strategies to mitigate tensions between the extremist group Al Qaeda and the United States of America, following the onslaughts held against the United States of America, emphasizing on the prevention of crime through terrorist attacks. (1998 - 2001).
- B) Measures to eradicate the extremist criminal behavior of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), addressing the attacks of the organization inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. (2000 - 2011).

**SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

*Subsecretary General: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Brenda Noreña Mejía*

**Comunidad Caribeña**

*Presidente: María José Parra Meza*

- A) Medidas para contrarrestar la violencia y salvaguardar los derechos humanos de los habitantes de la República de Haití, con énfasis en el tráfico de armas, tráfico de narcóticos y corrupción en la región del Caribe.
- B) Estrategias para frenar el reclutamiento de menores para el turismo sexual con énfasis en la región del Caribe.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*President: Regina Covarrubias Rosales*

- A)** Fostering defense capacity programmes for NATO's partners, such as the Republic of Moldova, emphasizing on Transnistria's occupation by Russian forces regarding the Ukrainian conflict.
- B)** Perspectives on reinforcement for seabed warfare, undersea infrastructure and security, ensuring NATO's members safeguard regarding the damage made to Finland-Estonia submarine pipeline.

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

*Président: Sofia 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 Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (UNOGP) has a crucial role in promoting the efforts to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, massive human rights violations, and other crimes against humanity (atrocities), as to their incitement at the national and international levels. The Office was established with the support and collaboration of two Special Advisers, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, both with a common methodology of early warning, assessment and evaluation of mass atrocities. The United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention was approved by the United Nations (UN) in 2004, subsequently in 2005, all Heads of State and Government added the “responsibility to protect” to avoid past defeats in genocide prevention and to take political commitment against persecution. Furthermore, the Office focuses on the promotion of the Responsibility to Protect as a principle that seeks international action and provides training on the UN’s capacity to respond to hideous crimes.

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## Faculties

The United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect aims to prevent any kind of crimes against humanity, therefore is entitled to;

- Provide advice and technical assistance to UN Member States with Action Plans, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for atrocity crimes, as well as the coordination of international organizations to improve their capacities on conflict prevention and human rights protection;

- Collect and analyze fundamental information on situations that could lead to genocide, to generate recommendations for preventive, diplomatic and humanitarian action to confront these situations;
- Identify and evaluate the risks of potential threats of genocide or other mass atrocities with the use of an early warning tool, such as the Framework of Analysis, to establish risk indicators and alert mechanisms;
- Create educational and training programs aimed at government officials, security forces and other relevant actors to help strengthen government policies and institutions, as well as facilitate the negotiation of agreements between parties in conflict;
- Resort to military intervention as a last resource to arrest cases of genocide in progress or to protect the civilian population, respecting the principles of international law and the consent of the affected State, through humanitarian interventions, development of peacekeeping forces and protection measures.

## Topic A

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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

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*By: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz, Daniela Alexa Alcántara Sosa, Karen Cervantes Fernández, and Amaya López de Uralde Argüelles*

## ***Introduction***

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has crossed through numerous armed conflicts since 1885, the most recent dispute in this territory started in 2021 and continues to the present, turning it one of the main focal points of genocides on the African continent. Those continuous genocides have caused serious consequences within the communities living there, such as human rights violations, massive deprivation of life, expansion of hate speech and violence between ethnicities. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, the United Nations (UN) Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, has stated on numerous occasions that to this day there continue to be civilians who are massacred because of their cultural and ethnic identity. These ongoing ethnic tensions in the region are intensified by the struggle for control of abundant natural resources, including copper, uranium, gold and diamonds. The series attacks are carried out by armed groups involved, such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Mai-Mai Militias, the Alliance of Patriots of Sovereign Congo, etc. Government instability and corruption, foreign intervention and massive population displacement, have further aggravated instability and precariousness in the region.

The continuous conflicts and problems that the region of the Democratic Republic of Congo has several causes, that is the reason why it becomes a multifaceted dispute. However, there are some main factors that have been causing genocides, mainly the fight for the control of natural resources by armed groups with the aim of illegally exporting and trading minerals, some of them being the Democratic Forces of the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Mai-Mai Militias. On the other hand, ethnic tensions and manipulations by the armed forces have also been a crucial cause for fomenting violence and genocides, in order to divide Congo's population and facilitate recruitment. Consequently, reinforcement of negative stereotypes, use of hate speech and propaganda have led to extreme acts of violence among

groups like the Hema, Nade, Hutu, Yansi and Yaka communities. The previous disturbances have caused large numbers of people to look for the alternative of displacement and creating precarious living conditions and social tensions, for instance in January 2023 more than 52,000 people were displaced.

Illegal operations, the exploitation of natural resources and political instability have contributed to a landscape in which gross human rights violations and humanitarian tragedies have emerged. As part of these tragedies, experts have described certain events as silent genocides and explained that they are a humanitarian catastrophe which is not talked about or discussed. The silent genocide in the DRC is associated with a lack of willingness, fueled by commercial and economic interests, on the part of the international community. For decades, the country has endured overlapping crises and, nowadays, the humanitarian crisis is being undetermined. Despite this, global indifference, encouraged by interests that thrive on the perpetuation of violence, seems to have little to contribute to the silent genocides.

### ***Background***

The strifes in the DRC territory have been influenced by a conjunction of some ethnic, political, economic and social factors, in particular, the exploitation of natural resources, the political instability, outbreaks of political violence and government repression. Those are some of the deep and complex roots that continue to fuel conflicts, fomenting rivalries, violence, genocides and their consequences, causing the persistence of the residues of warlike disputes that have occurred in the territory mentioned. One of the main battles which marked the beginning of the ongoing genocides was during the colonial period at the end of the 19th century, when the Free State of Congo was colonized by the Kingdom of Belgium. Under the control of King Leopold II who created a genocide by brutally exploiting resources and forcing the Congolese population to work in inhumane conditions, leading to ten million

causalities, which caused ruthless exploitation that laid the foundation for economic and social inequalities. In addition, Belgian colonization implemented policies that exacerbated existing ethnic divisions and created artificial tensions between groups, this administration favored certain ethnic groups, creating resentments that continue to the present.

Furthermore, another important event in understanding the challenges facing the DRC is its independence in 1960 when Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister in the region, was deprived of his life under controversial circumstances, triggering periods of inadequate governance and political vulnerability. Subsequently, power struggles and corruption weakened government institutions, promoting foreign intervention, especially from the Kingdom of Belgium and the United States of America, which contributed to political instability. Such an unstable governance contributed to decades of armed problems and violence in communities, leaving millions of people at the mercy of violations of international humanitarian law. Moreover, the continued plunder and social injustice suffered since colonial and post-colonial oppression, the grievances<sup>1</sup> of the local population against the new settlements, the pressure and competition for land ownership have contributed to the negative development of the region, mainly generating genocides.

### ***Struggle for control of abundant natural resources***

The DRC is characterized as a country rich in natural resources both in terms of quantity and quality, the most important resources are minerals containing cobalt, copper, uranium, gold, diamonds and coltan. This region is responsible for the global production of eight and twenty percent of tin and tantalum, respectively and the gold production is less than one percent of global production but is a crucial source of income. Nevertheless, these resources have been

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<sup>1</sup>**Grievance:** a complaint or a strong feeling that you have been treated unfairly. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

exploited and smuggled<sup>2</sup> by armed groups, criminal networks and law enforcement with the aim of taking them to the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates. In Eastern Congo, armed groups control mines and transit routes, triggering violence that has inevitably turned into atrocities, including the torture of thousands of Congolese civilians and unavailable to access to humanitarian aid..

In the country, armed actors carry out the most shocking atrocities in the bloodiest conflicts since World War II to control the region's most valuable mines and take huge profits from the mineral trade. The ways in which equipped groups benefit from mineral trades are by controlling the mines, through the forcing of miners to work in desperate and dangerous conditions, and demanding taxes from local and international transporters. According to UN experts estimates that Bunia, the capital of Ituri, remains a hub for gold trading and smuggling, adding that is estimated of: "a minimum of 1,100 kilograms of gold had been purchased and smuggled out of Congo in 2019 from Ituri alone, which could have generated up to \$1.88 million in taxes if it had been legally exported" (Ari Hashomer, 2020). Meanwhile, the exploitation and smuggling of minerals found in Eastern Congo is largely driven by the huge international demand of electronic products, which require components made from these materials to function.

### ***Expansion of hate speech and violence between ethnicities***

Historically, the Democratic Republic of Congo has experienced ethnic tensions which have contributed to the spread of hate speech in certain situations, the country's ethnic and cultural diversity has been exploited by political leaders or armed groups to promote divisions and animosities. This is why hate speech has led to genocides by desensitizing<sup>3</sup> people to certain

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<sup>2</sup>**Smuggled:** to take things or people to or from a place secretly and often illegally. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

<sup>3</sup>**Desensitizing:** to cause someone to experience something, usually an emotion or a pain, less strongly than before. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

groups, making them appear inhuman and social exclusion, this as a method of mobilizing groups and societies against each other and provoke a potential influence on people to accept, condone or commit violence. For the past thirty years, the DRC has faced an socio-political conflict that has resulted in discrimination and disinformation, where ethnic groups throughout the country are being violated and verbally threatened. The UN and the UN Commission on Human Rights are strongly alarmed by the rising tensions in the east of the country, declaring themselves deeply concerned about the growing spread of hate discourse in some of the country's ethnic communities.

Tensions are aggravated by ethnic, religious and political divisions, being exploited to incite hatred between the DRC and the Republic of Rwanda by stirring mutual accusations where the Congolese government has labeled the March 23 Movement (M23) as an extremist organization and charged the Republic of Rwanda with supporting it. The Congolese government has also accused the other territory of shooting down a Congolese fighter jet, while the Republic of Rwanda argues for airspace violations. Due to the dispute between groups in Rwanda and the DRC, the government forces and armed groups have led to the casualties of at least 1,300 people since October 2022 and forced more than 300,000 civilians to leave their hometown. Conversely, Rwanda accuses of aggression and collusion with members of the Rwandan Hutu rebellion of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) acting as remnants of the Interahamwe militia and former Rwandan soldiers, as well as combatants not involved in later genocides and many of them too young to have participated. In the midst of these tensions is a weak and underdeveloped media environment, the situation has been further complicated by the lack of knowledge and tools for content moderation on local media and journalists working on both sides of the border.

***Humanitarian consequences as a result of genocides***

The decades-long combats in the DRC have caused deep serious consequences for the Congolese, making the humanitarian condition almost impossible to live in. Some of these consequences involve displacement, food shortages, malnutrition, lack of medical services and loss of economic resources, as well as sexual harassment, extreme insecurity and severe restrictions to humanitarian space. Some of the most affected provinces currently are Ituri, Tanganyika, and North and South Kivu which are ravaged by violence and appealing life quality. This humanitarian crisis has claimed over six million lives, with an average of 1200 casualties happening daily according to the International Rescue Committee. Across the country over 26 million people are in need of humanitarian aid, which is extremely limited due to roadblocks and obstruction in major routes around the republic, not only preventing the delivery of aid but also increasing the vulnerability of displaced populations leaving them without resources and protection.

The displacement of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been affecting the country since 1885 when the Congolese genocide occurred. Subsequently, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), displacements increased starting in June 2019 forced to move due to armed groups that began to emerge in the Ituri and Kivu region of the north. From 2019 to 2023, 5.8 million displaced people have been registered in the eastern region of the country, according to the UNHCR, mainly because of the repeated and massive force resulting from armed confrontations. The main factors leading to displacement are often interconnected and begin with armed conflicts, which led to increased rates of violent crime and clear violations of human rights. The persistence of struggles between communities is because the north Kivu and south Kivu has generated tensions and violence due to disputes over the use of land and the exploitation of natural resources, in addition to the presence of armed groups. As consequences of this

displacement, the international and social pressure that the host countries have since they are at the limit of their strength and capacity.

On the other hand, refugees and the population, hunger is the main problem that these people have when they are displaced. In this way, they finally decide to return to their places of origin, subjecting them to even greater pressure and exposing them to more violence by guerrillas and armed groups. In addition, the destruction of more than 52 schools, establishments and homes in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which were destroyed by organized crime, as it took over the region. The aforementioned points have been an important trigger in the displacement of all these families belonging to communities such as North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika, since insecurity and gender violence have forced them to take this exit, in search of a more enjoyable and safe quality of life.

#### ***Actions of the United Nations to intervene in the genocides***

The UN has taken several steps to face the current violence and genocides that has been affecting DRC in different fields. Among these efforts are investigations into attacks with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, welcoming the country's government decision to investigate recent attacks allegedly committed by the M23 armed group. The UN has also implemented support for the efforts of the government through the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). The main impacts these actions have had are initiatives to carry out investigations into attacks which have contributed to accountability and justice within the country furthermore, diplomatic pressure led by the Secretary General has placed to pressure on armed groups and the government to seek peaceful solutions. However, these are hampered by the need for cooperation from all

parties involved, logistical and security challenges in conflict zones, as well as the political and ethnic complexity of the country.

It is crucial to emphasize that one of the tasks of the Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (UNOGP) is to promote greater understanding of the root origins and dimensions of genocides. This is why as a method of preventing genocide and protecting populations at risks, the office has implemented a UN initiative that focuses on preventing and responding to mass atrocities. Besides that, the Responsibility to Protect is involved in monitoring the situation in Congo, working with local governments, international organizations and civil society to identify possible risk factors, promoting awareness and mobilizing resources to prevent and respond to mass disasters. On the humanitarian and civilian protection side, the facilitation of human aid was also on the agenda of the UNOGP and the Secretary General with a call on all parties to facilitate humanitarian access to affected communities and ensure the protection of civilians and respect for their rights.

## References

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## **Topic B**

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

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## ***Introduction***

The Uyghur community is a native and culturally affiliated group with Central and East Asia, this minority is recognized as the national titleholder of Xinjiang in the Northwest of the People's Republic of China. The Uyghur group began to gradually Islamicize<sup>4</sup> in the 10th century but it was not until the 16th century when most of them identified themselves as Muslims, since that moment Islam has had a significant importance in the Uyghur culture and identity. The ideological preferences of the Uyghurs have become one of the main reasons why this group is being subjected to heavy repression by the Chinese authorities. On the other hand, the Han community is an ethnic group from East Asia originating in the People's Republic of China that has been modifying the population distribution and the ethnic composition in Xinjiang due to the migration. The Uyghurs constitute 45 % of the population in Xinjiang, while the Han community have been the majority with 55 % of the populace who have inhabited this place since 2006 b.C, therefore it has been achieving power in the region. Xinjiang is highly militarized and Uyghurs are constantly under surveillance, strongly discriminated against and excluded because of their physical features, language and cultural expressions.

The beginning of the genocide of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang is the result of a series of repressive policies and actions implemented in the early 2000's by the Chinese government, those policies were established under the guise<sup>5</sup> of combating separatism and religious extremism. However the policies have led to widespread human rights violations and suffering significant increase in repression and the implementation of draconian<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>**Islamicize:** connected with the Muslim religion, or with people or countries who follow it. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024).

<sup>5</sup>**Guise:** the appearance of someone or something, especially when intended to deceive. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

<sup>6</sup>**Draconian:** draconian laws, government actions, etc. are extremely severe, or go further than what is right or necessary. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024).

measures by the government. The main reasons behind the genocide is the political and ethnic control in the region to maintain firm control over the region because of natural resources such as oil, natural gas and minerals, also its geographic location makes a key connecting point in trade and connectivity routes. Moreover, the previous policies have created that micro genocides are detected in the region, which refer to systematic and deliberate destruction of a specific group of the population.

According to fourteen international media, one of them the newspaper *EL PAIS*, have shared various reports and accusations which specified signs about ongoing genocides that the Muslim minority suffer. That documentation derives from the Chinese police archives and identifies the purpose of the genocidal activities that have been carried out against the Uyghur people in the region. The main activities that are specified in the documents are the detentions that the People's Republic of China have made to members of the community in internment camps, in addition to the treatment in that places where it is reported of systematic torture, forced labor and sexual harassment. Furthermore, the continued forced sterilizations to Uyghur women that have affected the families and the separation of children from their parents were exposed in those documents. The People's Republic of China has denied the allegations and maintains that the practices respect and guarantee religious freedom and these are aimed at combating extremism. However, the charges from the fourteen international averages indicates otherwise as The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights who established in a report that the ongoing genocidal practices are part of crimes against humanity

### ***The impact of hate speech in the community***

Hate speech is an attack on tolerance, inclusion, diversity and the essence of human rights norms and principles. Promotes social cohesion, eliminates shared values and lays the

foundation for violence, setting back the cause of peace, stability, sustainable development and the fulfillment of human rights for all, according to the UN Secretary General. The message that the Uyghurs are different from the rest of the population, which is a hate speech, has been transmitted through the Han majority segment of the population and has been the driving force behind the violation of the human rights that are being committed against the Uyghurs, for instance, tortures, sexual harassment, forced sterilizations and forced re-education. The central government has encouraged hate speech by stating with Uyghur followers who have promoted a violent initiative, the main objective of creating an independent state, through the planning of actions, such as the planting of explosives, acts of sabotage and generating social unrest through conspiracies.

Seeking to push hate messages beyond Chinese borders, the government has openly presented the Uyghurs as helpers of al-Qaeda, which is an extremist group that is dedicated to attacking western interests around the world, accusing them of having received military training from Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Invalidating the ideals of this ethnic group, through the message that is propagated about them, the Chinese government began re-education in their fields to be able to convert them and vindicate them to a new culture, traditions and customs. Hate speech is often related to Chinese government policies towards Uyghurs, such as mass detention in reeducation camps, extreme surveillance, and suppression of Uyghur culture and region. Furthermore, this kind of message has been of international concern due to the reports of human rights abuses such as religious persecution, arbitrary detention and mass surveillance.

### ***Internment Camps in Kashgar***

The creation of around 347 internment<sup>7</sup> camps in Xinjiang since 2016 made by the Chinese government have caused half a million people to be prosecuted, the camp located in Kashgar has the largest number of residents which is an important factor in carrying out micro genocides. These camps have functioned as reeducation centers generating an impact on the Muslim ethnic minorities in the region, seeking to change the religion of this sector with the justification of avoiding extremist ideas. This includes factors such as the loss of cultural identity, restriction of freedom and individual autonomy of the population. The creation of these camps has been justified by Chinese officials, who are concerned that Uyghurs might hold extremist and separatist ideas, and they viewed the camps as a way of eliminating threats to China's integrity without considering that the majority of detainees are regular civilians without any kind of political ties. Reports have found patterns of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment in the camps; involving detainees to pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party and renounce to Islam, as well as sing praises for communism and learn Mandarin. Some people reported prison-like conditions, stories of torture and being subjected to sleep deprivation during interrogations, and many women have described being sexually harassed.

There are no official records or numbers given by the Chinese government since they deny any kind of violent attitude, and maintain that these camps are only used to reinforce and educate minorities. In Kashgar, a city on the east of Xinjiang has become known for having an unusual amount of internment camps, also named educational camps, some being undercover or with signs that claim to be educational centers. The uncertainty of the amount of active camps in this city gives the necessary explanation on the current situation. Patrick Poon, reporter of International Amnesty has given a statement on the situation: "Mass

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<sup>7</sup>**Internment:** the act of putting someone in prison for political or military reasons, especially during a war. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024).

internment camps are places of punishment and torture, not of learning, there have been repeated reports of beatings, food deprivation and solitary confinement. This is having a devastating effect on the lives of up to a million people.” (Poon, 2018). The records show that the persecution of the Uyghurs is the second biggest religious persecution after the Jewish in World War II.

### ***Discrimination due to physical features, language, and culture***

Since 1949 the Uyghurs have been in complete control of China’s Communist Government which targets them in view of the fact that they practice the Muslim religion, speak other languages and dress dissimilar to the average Chinese population. More than 12 Million Uyghurs inhabiting the region of Xinjiang are prosecuted, arrested and deprived of their life by the People’s Republic of China government allegedly because of their connections with extremist Muslim ideologies and groups. Any form of religious expression is condemned by the government, mosques have been demolished, the translation of Arabic texts is now a crime, Uyghurs can’t speak their native language or maintain contact with people living abroad. Employment discrimination is a challenge of this community that faces structural disadvantages in obtaining and retaining non-agricultural employment, also in labor Uyghurs suffer from labor rights abuses.

In view of the People’s Republic of China government, Uyghurs are considered dangerous and extremist, everything related to their religion and culture has been prohibited, changed and intended to be eliminated. Reeducating programs and camps for the Uyghurs have been built by the government where Uyghurs are sent, violated, forced to change their ideologies and sometimes deprived of their lives. In the public eye the People’s Republic of China has been accused by several countries like the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of genocide and crimes against humanity

supporting the statement that: “China is trying to eradicate Uyghur culture” (BBC News, 2022). The Government aims to end the Uyghurs and religious diversity in the country, violating several human rights and destroying an important part of the People’s Republic of China culture and its people.

### ***International response on human rights violations and challenges against genocides***

The European Union, the United States of America, human rights organizations and political leaders have publicly condemned the Chinese government actions in the Xinjiang region against the Uyghur population. Those have urged the People’s Republic of China to stop the human rights violations and allow international observers to investigate the complaint, also they have imposed sanctions or laws on Chinese officials and entities involved like asset freezes or travel restrictions. One of them being the signing of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act into the United States of America law in June 2022, aimed at addressing massive genocides to Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. Nevertheless, the global reaction has been uneven due to different factors such as economic interests, political alliances and the resistance of some countries to intervene in China’s internal affairs, which has led to diplomatic tensions between nations. In addition, the efforts and condemnations have faced challenges due to the lack of coordinated actions and access to the region, as well as the absence of UN concrete actions given as a result of geopolitical tensions and resistance from China’s allies.

The ethnic and religious tensions destabilize peace in and around the Xinjiang region, providing breeding ground for wilder conflicts. The consequences of the genocidal practices against the community and the impact on regional peace and stability has been noted, that is why the international community fears that ethnic and religious tensions in the region could trigger wider conflicts and affect global security. The heightened concern for global security

lies in the potential possibility that tensions in Xinjiang could spread and impact international relations, regional stability and world peace, being the reasons why the international community has sought to address the Uygur crisis in a variety of methods. The approaches adopted by the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada are a more confrontational stance with sanctions, whereas the Russian Federation and Asian countries have taken a more cautious lead with quiet negotiation rather than open confrontation because of diplomatic or economic considerations. Otherwise the UNOGP, has been taking several steps in response to the current genocides all around the world, being the public statements the most crucial ones in the face of ongoing genocides, also it has been launching action plans to count hate speech and the incitement of micro genocides. Additionally to the several high-level events that have been organized by the committee, the most important one to religious leaders being the Interfaith Declaration on ISIL Victims and Survivors on July 16, 2022 .

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## Glossary of Forbidden Words

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### *Forbidden Words*

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

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>8</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black <sup>9</sup>	African American

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<sup>8</sup> The word war can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

<sup>9</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



