

**XXXIX**

**TECMUN**

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Committee of Experts on the  
Transport of Dangerous  
Goods and on the Globally  
Harmonized System of  
Classification and Labelling  
of Chemicals.

XXXIX TECMUN  
Session Schedule

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**Tuesday, April 7th**

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

**Wednesday, April 8th**

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

**Thursday, April 9th**

Seven 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 – 13:45 h
Meal	13:45 – 14:30 h
Closing Ceremony	15:00 – 17:30 h

XXXIX TECMUN  
**General Agenda**

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*General Secretary: Abril Valdés Calva*

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

*Subsecretary of General Coordination: Mauro Carillo Gálvez*  
*Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Ana Sofía Castañeda Hornedo*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*General Subsecretary: Andrea Abigail Salazar López*  
*Supervisor of Coordination: Alexa Esmeralda Rivera Jiménez*

**Reunión de Alto Nivel Para la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Claudia Guadalupe Pfeiffer Benítez*

**Tópico A)** Medidas para frenar el reclutamiento y la utilización de niños y adolescentes por actores armados no estatales del G9 Fanmi e Alye en la República de Haití.

**Tópico B)** Acciones para frenar la producción, distribución y monetización transnacional de pornografía infantil en el Sudeste Asiático.

**Cuarta Comisión Política Especial y de Descolonización**

*Presidente: Valentina Reyes Pardo*

**Topic A)** Mecanismos para prevenir el traslado de la población Israelí al territorio sirio de los Altos del Golán debido a la ocupación militar del Estado de Israel.

**Topic B)** Estrategias para frenar la fragmentación territorial de la República del Yemen debido al control del territorio por parte del movimiento hutí Ansar Allah

**Sixth Legal Committee**

*President: Miguel Ángel Pérez Rodríguez*

**Tópico A)** Mechanisms to regulate the application of immunity of State officials in Sub-Saharan Africa, with emphasis on international criminal jurisdiction.

**Tópico B)** Measures to control and address the transboundary environmental crimes in the Amazon with emphasis on international State responsibility and due diligence obligations.

**World Health Organization**

*President: María Fernanda Dominguez Heredia*

**Topic A)** Confronting the maternal and neonatal mortality emergency in Sub-Saharan Africa, driven by fragile healthcare systems, limited medical infrastructure, and deep social and economic inequalities.

**Topic B)** Responding to the health consequences of environmental disasters, resource scarcity, and climate-driven displacement with emphasis on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

**League of Arab States**

*President: David Trujillo Loza*

**Tópico A)** Strategies to mitigate the conflict between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Extremist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in the region of the Levant.

**Tópico B)** Strategies to eradicate the attacks by the Houthies held on the Red Sea, keeping an aim on shipments from the United States of America and the European Union.

**Comité des Disparitions Forcées**

*Président: Marian Robles Ortiz*

**Subjet A)** Mesures pour cesser les disparitions forcées et promouvoir la recherche des personnes concernées aux États-Unis Mexicains provoquées par le Cártel del Noreste dans la région nord-est du territoire.

**Subjet B)** Stratégies pour arrêter la disparition forcée dans la République d'Albanie en raison de la détention arbitraire et de l'emprisonnement sans processus judiciaire sous le régime du premier ministre Edi Rama.

**Organización Marítima Internacional**

*Presidente: José Guillermo Ramírez Fulgencio*

**Tópico A)** Estrategias para contrarrestar la introducción y propagación de especies marinas invasoras a través de la bioincrustación y el agua de lastre en Asia Oriental y el Sudeste Asiático.

**Tópico B)** Medidas para el fortalecimiento de la seguridad marítima y de las operaciones de búsqueda y rescate en el Mar Mediterráneo ante el aumento de embarcaciones irregulares

**Oficina de las Naciones Unidas Contra la Droga y el Delito**

*Presidente: Diego Alejandro Salazar Náfate*

**Tópico A)** Mecanismos para frenar el desvío de precursores químicos hacia redes de drogas sintéticas operadas por la 'Ndrangheta italiana entre Asia Oriental, América Latina y la Unión Europea.

**Tópico B)** Medidas para combatir la impunidad de la violencia sexual vinculado al tráfico armado entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*General Subsecretary: Samantha Salgado Nájjar*

*Supervisor of Coordination: Arantza Estrada Rios*

**Comisión en Justicia y Prevención del Crimen**

*Presidente: Valentina Ramírez Galindo*

**A)** Estrategias para combatir la trata de personas mediante plataformas digitales en América Latina, con énfasis en la captación de menores

**B)** Estrategias para fortalecer programas de justicia restaurativa juvenil en América Latina, con énfasis en contextos de violencia comunitaria y debilidad institucional en Honduras y El Salvador

### **Historical United Nations Program on AIDS/HIV**

*President: Emiliano Bautista Sosa*

**Topic A)** Strategies to Address the Ongoing Public Health and Social Crisis Related to HIV/AIDS in Haiti, with Emphasis on Reducing Stigmatization and Strengthening Health Infrastructure beginning in 1981.

**Topic B)** Strategies to Strengthen Early-Epidemic Detection and Community Protection Mechanisms, with Emphasis on the New York HIV/AIDS Outbreak of 1981–1984.

### **Convención de las Naciones Unidas en Contra de la Corrupción**

*Presidente: Javier Gil Rodríguez*

**Tópico Único)** Estrategias para regular la transparencia financiera y control electoral en América Latina con énfasis en el flujo de recursos económicos de origen ilícito en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

### **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

*President: Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez*

**Topic A)** Strategies to Stop the Femoral Genital Mutilation as a Mechanism of Social Control over Indigenous Girls and Women in Rural Communities of Eastern Africa with Limited State Presence.

**Tópico B)** Measures to mitigate the use of indigenous territories as sacrifice zones, focusing on extreme violence and structural failures in the protection of rights in the Darién Gap.

### **Departamento de las Operaciones de la Paz**

*Presidente: Galia Sofía López Chacón*

**A)** Medidas para la protección de civiles y el establecimiento de mecanismos operativos seguros para el acceso humanitario con énfasis en la atención a víctimas de acoso sexual, derivados del conflicto armado interno en la República de Sudán.

**B)** Medidas para la protección de la población civil y la reducción de la violencia interétnica en Etiopía del Norte, mediante el fortalecimiento de la seguridad comunitaria y la presencia operativa de las misiones de paz de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

### **Comisión Económica y Social para Asia Occidental**

*Presidente: Yarezi Benítez Mendoza*

**A)** Estrategias para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional infantil debido al uso de alimentos inadecuados y la sedación farmacológica como respuesta al hambre aguda en contextos de conflicto, con énfasis en la República de Yemen

**B)** Acciones para erradicar y prevenir la explotación infantil laboral en Asia Occidental, con énfasis en la República Islámica de Irán

**Caribbean Community**

*President: Valeria Oropeza Pérez*

**A)** Measures to reduce youth unemployment in Barbados, Guyana, and Saint Lucia through regional access to education and technical training programs, addressing economic inequality and limited workforce opportunities.

**B)** Regional cooperation to address the activities of organized criminal networks involved in the trafficking of illegal firearms affecting Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti, with emphasis on cross-border coordination and information sharing.

**Comitte of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals**

*President: Sofia Paola Jiménez de la Cruz*

**A)** Mechanisms to regulate the reception of hazardous waste in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of ensuring its correct disposal and preventing damage.

**B)** Strategies to reinforce safety standards and operational practices in the storage and distribution of refined petroleum products in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with an emphasis on reducing spills, fires, and damage caused by gasoline and diesel fuel.

**SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

*General Subsecretary: Patrick Eduardo Cunillé Paniagua*

*Supervisor of Coordination: Hannia Nieves José*

**Oficina De Las Naciones Unidas Para La Prevención Del Genocidio Y La Responsabilidad De Proteger**

*Presidente: María Fernanda López Islas*

**A)** Acciones para detener la segregación forzada y la limpieza étnica en la República de la Unión de Myanmar, con énfasis en la comunidad Rohingya.

**B)** Medidas para frenar el aumento de la violencia sistemática y el abuso generalizado contra la población civil por parte de bandas armadas en la República de Haití.

**Consejo de Europa**

*Presidente: Diego López Peralta*

**A)** Estrategias para la protección de los derechos humanos de los refugiados ucranianos desplazados por el conflicto bélico con la Federación Rusa en los Estados miembros receptores.

**B)** Mecanismos para limitar la trata de personas mediante el abordaje del contexto económico en la región de Schengen.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*President: Ingrid Carrilo García*

**A)** Actions to prevent emerging security and economic threats through multinational cooperation between NATO member and non-member allies, focusing on the Indo-Pacific region.

**B)** Actions to enhance maritime and undersea capabilities in order to protect critical infrastructure and mitigate security risks in the Baltic Sea region.

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*Presidente: Melany Fayed Cervantes Espinoza*

**A)** Measures to decrease the environmental crimes in the Amazon due to the illegal exploitation of the natural resources in order to protect vulnerable communities and preserve environmental security.

**B)** Measures to combat the trafficking of young women for sexual exploitation in the Thailand–Cambodia border region in order to protect vulnerable migrant women and dismantle trafficking networks.

### **Banco Mundial**

*President: Miguel Ander Hernández Aguilar*

**A)** Financiamiento de la infraestructura de transporte sostenible en la región Subsahariana de África.

**B)** Intervención financiera internacional en economías en crisis: el caso de la República de Cuba.

### **Security Council**

*Presidente: Mariana Méndez Cruz*

**A)** Strategies to prevent an armed invasion between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China limiting the military posturing and international involvement arising from the unresolved tension across the Taiwan Strait.

**B)** Measures to halt the emergent Kashmir dispute involving the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan centralizing on the nuclear threats, attacks and humanitarian violations.

### **Comité de Estado Mayor**

*President: Leonardo Senties Carmona*

**A)** Mecanismos de prevención de conflictos y cooperación internacional para mitigar las tensiones entre la República de Serbia y el Estado de Kosovo, con el objetivo de evitar un conflicto armado.

**B)** Acciones de contención del conflicto armado en la región de Chechenia y la Federación de Rusia

### **Corte Internacional de Justicia**

*Presidente: Mariana Dueñas Salgado*

**A)** Aplicación de la Convención de la Prevención y la Sanción del Delito de Genocidio en relación a la población Palestina en la Franja de Gaza (República de Sudáfrica vs Estado de Israel).

**B)** Incumplimiento de la Convención de Viena sobre relaciones diplomáticas con respecto al asalto a la embajada de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos en Quito (Estados Unidos Mexicanos vs República del Ecuador).

*“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt*

Dear reader,

Today, after six years at TECMUN, my story here comes to an end. What once began as a moment filled with uncertainty has transformed into one of the most defining journeys of my life. This path has demanded more from me than I ever imagined — countless hours of work, unwavering commitment, silent sacrifices, and yes, even moments where tears spoke louder than words. But within every challenge, I discovered something far greater: the strength to rise, the courage to be heard, and the realization that my voice is not only valid — it is powerful enough to create change. TECMUN did not just shape the way I speak, it shaped the way I believe in myself.

My journey in TECMUN has never been easy, but it has been deeply meaningful. Along the way, I was never alone. I was surrounded by people who believed in me when I struggled to believe in myself — people who guided me, supported me, and reminded me why I started. For them, for you, for every advisor who trusted me, and above all, for my Secretariat, I gave my absolute best in everything I did. This last year, especially, challenged me in ways I never thought I would face. It pushed me beyond my limits, forced me to confront my fears, and taught me that growth is never comfortable — but always worth it.

Never stay silent in the face of injustice. Speak up, act, and make choices — because the power to create change lies both in the decisions you take and in the ones you choose not to. Educate yourself, because nurturing your mind will help you understand yourself and others. Help those who need it most, because you hold privileges that many people around the world do not — and using them to serve others is one of the noblest forms of leadership. Do everything with passion, with love, and with purpose — every single day, for yourself and for others. Inspire and be inspired, because you never know if your words or your actions might be the push someone needs to believe in themselves.

Everything I have lived through here has taught me that leadership is not about titles, recognition, or standing at the front of a room — it is about impact. It is about choosing to show up, even when it is hard. It is about lifting others as you grow, and understanding that the greatest legacy you can leave behind is not what you achieve, but who you inspire along the way. And that is what I hope to leave with you, dear reader: the certainty that your voice matters, that your actions carry weight, and that you are far more capable than you think.

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Abril Valdés Calva  
Secretary General for the  
XXXIX TECMUN

*“Peace is not something you wish for; it’s something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away.” — John Lennon*

Dear Reader, today you are here, ready—or perhaps not so ready—to spend the next three days discussing, debating, upholding, and, above all, dreaming about your stance on a global issue that disrupts the peace not only of certain nations, but of the life of every citizen on Earth. Today marks my sixth model within TECMUN, and after each one, I have learned extraordinary lessons that have changed my life in every aspect; however, the lesson they all share, and the one I consider fundamental, is this: courage, effort, and patience will always show you why they were worth it. My journey in TECMUN has not been easy; it has brought much work, time, dedication, and a few tears, but above all, it taught me that my voice has power. Today, to you—delegate, magistrate, judge—I invite you, even if it may be terrifying, to raise your placard, express that opinion, idea, or proposal that could be the key to a successful model, show that you can transform those nerves, that you have the courage, and decide to change the world from right here. Remember that your voice is a superpower, the greatest of all and with it, you can become a transformative agent of our current world, and you have the power to maintain that much-needed peace. I remind you that the greatest difference starts here and prevails in your day-to-day actions and decisions. Welcome to this new TECMUN. Live it to the fullest: raise your placard, build friendships, defend your stance, and forge new relationships; this is a place to grow, transform, and experiment. Congratulations. You now have a small piece of the world in your hands, and it is up to you to decide what you will do with it. We trust in you.

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Samantha Salgado Nájjar

Subsecretary for the Economical and Social Council

for the XXXIX TECMUN

*“What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?”*

*-Vincent Van Gogh*

Dear Delegate:

Today you are taking a big step, whether it is your first or fifth model. Speaking up is an act of courage, and sometimes the biggest changes come from small actions. By raising your placard, asking questions, and listening to opinions different from your own, you are making a difference. Your role in this committee is essential, and all your opinions and ideas matter. TECMUN is more than just a competition; it is an opportunity to collaborate, challenge yourself, apply your knowledge, and acquire new skills. During these three days of the model, allow yourself to be inspired by others, to speak even if you feel nervous, to debate respectfully, and, above all, to grow and to become more aware of what is happening in the world around you.

For me, TECMUN has had a very significant impact on my life and has helped shape who I am today. I used to be afraid of trying new things, speaking in public, or making mistakes, but TECMUN taught me to trust myself, share and defend my ideas, and learn from every experience, whether bad or good. It has also allowed me to meet wonderful people who have become great friends and have made my high school experience more enriching.

As your president, I seek to share with you the love I have for this model and to make it a great experience for you, as it has been for me. My main purpose is to guide and support you in every step and in every proposal. I invite you to approach this committee with an open mind and a willingness to listen. Remember that diplomacy is not only based on solid arguments, but also on building agreements through empathy and teamwork. Trust in your preparation and do not be afraid to make mistakes; everything leads to a lesson. Whether you are here by choice or not, try to do everything with passion and dream big. I am sure that each of you will contribute something valuable to this committee and that together, we will make this an unforgettable experience.

Enjoy and remember that you have the power to make a change.

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Sofia Paola Jiménez de la Cruz

President of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

for the XXXIX TECMUN

# Background

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS) was created in 1953, in the context of the expansion of international trade, with the objective of ensuring the safe transportation of dangerous goods by classifying them, ranking their level of risk, and simplifying their documentation. In 1999, the Committee's functions were expanded through a reorganization that implemented a unique global system, known as the Globally Harmonised System (GHS), to classify and label chemical substances, aiming to promote regulatory harmonization among countries by allowing them to apply similar rules. As a result, in 2001 the committee adopted its actual name and was divided into two subsidiary bodies; the sub-committee of Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and the sub-committee of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), which jointly work together to create international recommendations that seek to ensure the safety of the population and the environment. The Committee is composed of 40 member countries and meets every two years at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

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## Faculties

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals using the best practices, data, and expert analysis to develop regulations that prevent accidents and environmental damage, is permitted to:

- Develop, review and approve international recommendations for the safe transport of dangerous goods in all modes of transport;

- Apply and maintain up-to-date regulations in the globally harmonized system, considering the need for changes that ensure its relevance and utility;
- Provide technical and practical guidance on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of classification criteria;
- Promote understanding and use of existing manuals, regulations, and systems, and encourage feedback to improve their implementation internationally;
- Submit reports and work programs with recommendations for governments and international organizations, based on new scientific evidence, new substances, and changes in international transport and trade.

## Topic A

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Mechanisms to regulate the reception of hazardous waste in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of ensuring its correct disposal and preventing damage.

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*By: Sofía Paola Jiménez de la Cruz y  
Daniela Michelle Guzmán Torres*

## ***Introduction***

Hazardous waste<sup>1</sup> is defined as waste that contains properties that could be harmful to human health or the environment; it can come from industrial, chemical, biomedical<sup>2</sup>, or electronic sources, and is classified as dangerous if it is flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. In recent years, the cross-border<sup>3</sup> transport of these materials has increased significantly, whether by road, rail, or ship and are mainly exported by developed and industrialized countries to developing countries with less resources and limited protocols for their reception. A large amount of this waste is stored in landfills<sup>4</sup> that are not designed for this purpose or that are not properly managed, or end up in inappropriate places. Causing improper recycling and repercussions that, in the long term, cause difficulties for the receiving countries and the global commerce.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, this is particularly problematic as it has become an increasingly frequent destination and is turning into the new destination for global waste. However, this issue involves multiple actors, such as exporting countries that send their toxic waste abroad in order to avoid the high costs of processing it in their own territory, transit countries with weak border controls, and receiving countries that accept these shipments with inadequate mechanisms and often under false labels of recyclable materials. This fact makes the transport of hazardous waste a problem that transcends several nations through environmental damage, marine pollution, risks to public health, and disruptions to international trade routes. As a result, there is a clear and urgent need for strict regulatory measures to supervise the transport and labeling of hazardous waste from the moment it is packaged until it is disposed of, international guidelines like those created under the

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<sup>1</sup> **Hazardous waste:** Waste that may be harmful to health or the environment (Collins Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>2</sup> **Biomedical:** Relating to biology and medicine (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>3</sup> **Cross-border:** Between different countries, or involving people from different countries (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>4</sup> **Landfills:** The process of getting rid of large amounts of rubbish by burying it, or a place where rubbish is buried (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System (TDG-GHS), can promote safer and more consistent transportation practices among nations.

### ***Background and current challenges***

The current situation in Latin America and the Caribbean is the result of historical patterns of failure in the transport of these materials. It began in the 1980s when waste management<sup>5</sup> was included as one of the three priority areas in the first Montevideo Environmental Law Program of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), after developed countries tightened their environmental laws, making it very expensive to dispose of toxic waste<sup>6</sup> in a legal form. This resulted in many companies exporting their waste to developing countries under the name of “raw material” or “aid” due to the fact that there were no laws or controls. These systemic failures gave rise to several incidents that forced the international community to recognize their impact and the urgent need for regulatory norms. Simultaneously, they revealed systemic deficiencies in global waste governance, as the countries assumed the environmental and social costs were determined by their economic power and regulatory capacity.

Among the most relevant examples is the case of the *Khian Sea* ship in 1986, a loaded ship with 14,000 tons of toxic ash with high levels of arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, and other toxins originating from the city of Philadelphia in the United States of America, which sailed across the Atlantic for 14 months in search of a place to unload its cargo, but was rejected by all countries because of its contents. It was not until December 1987 that a large part of the ship’s content was finally discharged on a beach near the city of Gonaïves, in the Republic of Haiti, after the government was informed that the cargo was fertilizer, but as expected, when the Haitian government found out it was industrial ash, it ordered it to be

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<sup>5</sup> **Waste management:** The activity of dealing with waste (Collins Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>6</sup> **Toxic Waste:** Waste material that can be harmful or deadly to living creatures and the environment (Collins Dictionary, 2026)

reloaded, but the ship escaped, leaving the waste in the island. The ash remained in the Republic of Haiti for more than 10 years during which residents of nearby areas reported skin lesions, eye irritation, vision problems, and chronic respiratory diseases due to prolonged exposure to toxic dust that reached homes or was ingested through contaminated food, until 1999, when the ashes were accepted for return to the United States. The remaining 10,000 tons were discharged into the Atlantic and Indian oceans after no destination could be found, which constituted a violation of the law and an environmental crime.

This and other incidents, prompted the creation of the Basel Convention, an international agreement created in 1989 with the aim of protecting human health and the environment by pressuring countries to generate as few hazardous wastes as possible, promoting the disposal of wastes in the country of origin, and, if they need to cross a border, ensuring that this is strictly regulated. A key addition to this framework was the Ban Amendment, adopted in 1995 but entered into force in 2019; it seeks to strictly prohibit developed nations from exporting waste to developing nations. However, there have been some difficulties for its correct implementation and it is shown in the way the transport of dangerous waste in Latin America and the Caribbean is handled, with an absence of specialized protocols that were exposed following the ban on imports of plastic and hazardous waste by the People's Republic of China in the year of 2018, a country that for decades was the world's main recipient of waste. Unable to send waste to the People's Republic of China, developed countries sought new destinations, turning the United Mexican States, the Republic of Ecuador, and the Caribbean into destinations for their shipments. This transition has multiplied these nations' imports and has left them in a vulnerable situation, unable to manage it.

### ***Gaps in regulation and enforcement***

Despite the existence of various international agreements and treaties, the lack of rectification<sup>7</sup> from the countries involved, the weak enforcement<sup>8</sup> to regulate the correct transport of dangerous waste, and gaps that facilitate misleading<sup>9</sup> labeling, continue to allow commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean to persist, often, without previous agreements. The continuous failure of frameworks endangers countries with a lower management capacity and limited resources, the issue arises when hazardous waste gets mixed with non-hazardous waste, turning both into hazardous and making it difficult to tell apart without proper equipment that most Latin American and Caribbean ports do not have. The mix of substances can provoke volatile<sup>10</sup> reactions like fires, explosions or release of toxic gases if there are vibrations or a change of temperature during transport, it is more challenging to prevent these incidents if companies continue to misdeclare dangerous waste. Another significant point to highlight is the lack of supervision at customs<sup>11</sup> and ports, many countries do not have sufficiently trained staff nor detection technology to properly inspect the arriving shipments, as a result, the entry of dangerous waste becomes an uncomplicated process.

The Basel Convention allows the movement of waste if it is for recycling, that is why enterprises send full containers of waste labeled as material for recycling. Something similar occurs with electronic waste, that is classified as second-hand goods, but once it reaches its destination, it is discovered that much of it does not work. Current treaties include certain limitations in their enforcement measures, although the violations are recognized, severe penalties are not imposed to the corresponding countries or businesses in most cases. This causes international policies to lose efficiency, and upon seeing that there are no

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<sup>7</sup> **Rectification:** The act of correcting something or making something right (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>8</sup> **Enforcement:** The process of making people obey a law or rule, or making a particular situation happen or be accepted (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>9</sup> **Misleading:** Causing someone to believe something that is not true (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>10</sup> **Volatile:** Likely to change suddenly and unexpectedly, especially by getting worse (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>11</sup> **Customs:** The place at a port, airport, or border where travellers' bags are looked at to find out if any goods are being carried illegally (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

consequences, countries send waste with even less caution. Also, for many developing countries, accepting these shipments seems like an opportunity for economic growth or job creation in recycling plants, but there are more disadvantages than benefits for workers and citizens.

Complementing the regulation frameworks, the Rotterdam Convention plays an essential preventative role, it aims to warn importing countries about the risks and precautions in order to grant full consent about the danger of these chemicals before allowing their entry into their countries. Although this convention does not directly control the waste spread, it addresses the commerce of harmful substances that eventually turn into hazardous waste. This treaty comprises similar impediments to the Basel Convention, it does not prohibit nor limit the commerce of these substances, but rather seeks to regulate them. The effectiveness of all of these treaties is often limited by insufficient transparency, emphasizing the need for their review and monitoring.

### ***Socio-economic and environmental impact***

The storage of hazardous waste in inappropriate locations results in adverse effects on the environment, health, and the economy. These materials can often end up in residential areas, public spaces, farmland and water features if proper handling, containers and packaging are not implied in their distribution. The leak of these materials can directly affect citizens' daily life as they can easily pollute drinking water or seep into rivers and streams, causing communities to lose their natural resources on which they rely on for consumption and basic tasks. Additionally, these chemicals harm marine wildlife, the presence of waste in inhabited territories and highly frequented watercourses can alter whole ecosystems and harm several key ecological functions that affect the surrounding flora and fauna, and led to the disappearance of habitats and the beginnings of impact from contaminants in food chains. For

example, when waste is discharged into bodies of water and absorbed by fish, it can make these creatures lose their ability to reproduce, limiting by consequence human consumption,

Subsequently, it extends to the economic sphere, reducing commercial activity and causing economic instability that may lead to a reduction in property values and decreased agricultural productivity as a result from the high costs of maintenance and environmental restoration, thereby influencing areas that often face the challenge of gathering investors or tourists to develop a cycle of reduced investment and economic decline. In the field of public health, prolonged exposure to toxic environments to which residents of affected areas are exposed to is linked to higher health risks, stress and anxiety in societies, especially among vulnerable groups that face more limited access to proper care and treatment. Studies conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) have shown that the presence of heavy metal residues such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, which are common in electronic and industrial waste, causes irreversible neurological damage, respiratory diseases, and increased cancer rates. Long-term health challenges, less work capacity, and higher healthcare demands result from this.

The presence of hazardous waste in populated areas and weak ecosystems build a complex challenge, and its effects do not limit to natural deterioration, but also affect social and economic stability of certain communities. Furthermore, they can generate diplomatic tensions between the countries involved, and these disputes undermine confidence in international frameworks. The continuance of these contaminants confirms that the damages will just keep expanding geographically if no actions are taken in this regard, and consequently, exposed regions will have to face the approaching repercussions that jeopardise their proper development, growth and future sustainability, these impacts generate increasing pressure on area-based resources and public networks, which keeps intensifying day by day.

The lack of environmental recovery can contribute to long-term regional fragility and possibly fewer opportunities for resilient development. Limiting the ability of affected communities to adapt, attract investment, and grow.

### ***The role of the TDG-GHS***

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS) is responsible for periodically updating the Orange Book, a guide covering the principles for the transport of dangerous materials, their classification, substance identification numbers, and packaging standards. As well as the Purple Book, which standardizes criteria for classifying substances and labeling them using a universal safety language, it focuses on the product throughout its entire life cycle, from production and use to disposal. By standardizing the criteria for what substances are considered hazardous, the committee enables border inspectors around the world to identify the risks of a shipment regardless of the language used. Its role is to define the specifications that exporters must comply with before hazardous waste reaches the departure port.

For vulnerable regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, the committee represents a necessary technical reference for combating misleading labeling. The rigorous adoption of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) will allow importing countries to insist that all products are shipped with standardized and verifiable safety data cards. Still, the challenge remains in moving from global standards to local implementation, which often slows down because of a lack of infrastructure and specialized training at regional customs offices. The committee's work can become inefficient if countries do not have the means to verify that what is stated in the technical documents matches reality.

Although the committee does not have legislative authority, its ability to bring

systematic improvements comes from the technical authority of its recommendations. Its purpose is to provide the necessary guidelines in its manuals so that States pay special attention to its criteria for chemical safety and risk control in a unified manner. The importance of these recommendations lies in their potential to be integrated into real protocols, transforming them into an important tool for regulating the transport of hazardous waste. The committee serves as a fundamental pillar to ensure that global trade in waste does not compromise any aspect of the well-being of the receiving nations.

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## Topic B

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Strategies to reinforce safety standards and operational practices in the storage and distribution of refined petroleum products in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with an emphasis on reducing spills, fires, and damage caused by gasoline and diesel fuel.

## ***Introduction***

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has one of the largest oil industries on the African continent, and a significant part of its economy depends on the distribution by land of refined petroleum products, such as gasoline and diesel. During the first quarter of 2024, the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that oil represents 80% of the value of the country's exports and generates approximately 65% of government income. These products are mainly transported from ports, refineries and storage facilities to consumption centers, using extensive logistics corridors that have to deal with heavy and constant traffic. Poor infrastructure and unsafe operational practices have contributed to a high number of spills, fires, and explosions during the transportation and storage stages. During 2020, there were a total of 1,531 fuel tank accidents that resulted in 535 casualties (The Guardian Nigeria, 2025).

Refined products are mixtures of volatile hydrocarbons<sup>12</sup> characterized by their low stability and high combustibility<sup>13</sup>. According to the United Nations' (UN) recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG), these substances are classified as Class 3 flammable<sup>14</sup> liquids, a classification that warns of a serious risk of flammability due to static electricity or external sources during transport. For this reason, their transport requires special containers capable of withstanding changes and preventing these loads from becoming susceptible to failure in the case of impact or leakage. If incidents continue as a frequent event in the region, they not only pose an immediate risk to local populations but also cause structural damage to roads, significant economic losses, and environmental pollution that extends to surrounding countries. Furthermore, the lack of transport security can disrupt

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<sup>12</sup> **Hydrocarbons:** A chemical combination of hydrogen and carbon, such as in oil or petrol (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>13</sup> **Combustibility:** The quality of being combustible (= able to burn easily), or the degree to which something burns easily (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>14</sup> **Flammable:** Something that is flammable burns easily (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

regional trade routes outside the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and cause instability in their industrial development. It is essential to take actions based on the understanding of current transport logistics and previous failures.

### ***The evolution of the oil industry***

In 1956, the Dutch company Shell D'Arcy, one of the largest oil companies in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, now known as Shell Petroleum Development Company, found the first viable oil field for extraction in Oloibiri, a community located in Bayelsa State, in the Niger Delta region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This marked a transition from agricultural exports to fossil fuels exports. The biggest rise came in 1971, when part of the industry was nationalized<sup>15</sup>, meaning that the government began to keep most of the direct profits. In addition, the country joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an organization that brings together the main oil-producing and exporting countries, and that granted international recognition.

Although there were many beneficiaries who consolidated an immense amount of wealth, the socioeconomic benefits did not reach the local populations. The rapid industrial expansion in the Niger Delta proceeded with no environmental oversight, the constant burning of gas caused frequent oil spills that contaminated water resources and soils. That caused discontent among residents and environmental organizations, who later protested against the environmental degradation. An incident that particularly provoked public debate and indignation was the military government's execution in 1995 of the activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who had led peaceful protests against Shell for the destruction of the Ogoni people's land and was unfairly punished.

This and the fact that there were no benefits of any kind for the inhabitants shattered

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<sup>15</sup> **Nationalized:** (of a government) to take control of a business or industry (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

trust in the region and led to resistance groups sabotaging oil infrastructure, such as pipelines<sup>16</sup>, which directly forced the industry to rely on road transport for fuel distribution, despite the security risks. Despite the conflicts, oil companies continue to extract a significant portion of crude oil. However, the structures are old and have not been maintained since the 1970s, causing frequent breaks and leaks during national and cross-border transport. Today, the lack of attention and regulations for the transport of these substances, particularly given the current situation and characteristics of the nation, poses preventable challenges and crises.

### ***Distribution and storage practices***

The current storage and transportation system of gasoline is predominated by the use of large storage tanks, tanker trucks or maritime transport, which makes the mobility of these fuels from refineries to consumption centers more practical. For the assembly process, extensive sealed containers designed to support pressure and prevent any type of leaks are implemented for all transportation methods. Mobility is mainly carried out by road using tanker trucks, although maritime transport is also widely used for extended distances. In order for this to occur, specific operative procedures must be employed, considering the volume and temperature of each substance. Thereafter, fuels are transferred to distribution facilities to be later delivered to the final consumers such as factories and transportation companies.

During the sealing procedure, the failure to properly implement previously set measures can cause various unforeseen situations that affect the systems' sequence. Some of the most common include the use of damaged tanks, valve deficiency and insufficient oversight on fuel tankers. In some cases, several deficiencies are revealed in the used vehicles during the transit phase such as inadequate restraint systems and the absence of continuous technical revisions. This increases the possibility of accidental releases associated with the

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<sup>16</sup> **Pipelines:** a very long large tube, often underground, through which liquid or gas can flow for long distances (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

handling of gasoline and diesel deriving from the very beginning of the supply chain. Non-compliance with safety guidelines leads to mishandling of gasoline over the course of transportation, while the absence of monitoring systems during the route hinders the early detection of any malfunction that can affect the course later on. Journey duration may vary due to traffic congestion or poor road conditions, in addition to the fact that excessive load and an inefficient distribution of weight deeply affect the vehicle's movement and stability.

In the particular case of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in view of the incidents and risks involving road transport, the government has prioritized the use of pipelines and their expansion throughout the country. Nonetheless, investment has not been sufficient for their maintenance, and there are a large number of sections with pipelines that were installed more than 50 years ago, and have exceeded their useful life, making them unstable. The climate of the Niger Delta has also contributed to the corrosion<sup>17</sup> and oxidation<sup>18</sup> of the materials. Another aspect that poses a challenge and requires additional measures is vandalism and sabotage, these are frequently motivated by the theft, refining<sup>19</sup>, and illicit sale of oil, also known as *bunkering*. Multiple companies take advantage of the situation to report corrosion spills as sabotage and avoid compensation payments to victims.

### ***Community and environmental implications***

Toxic leaks and explosions from transport vehicles affect communities that happen to be in the way during border transport just as much as communities living near the Niger Delta, where any pipeline rupture is released directly into the soil of nearby villages and forests. Rainfall in the region causes oil to be swept into rivers, streams, or swamps; this is particularly dangerous due to the high benzene content in gasoline, which is carcinogenic<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> **Corrosion:** The process of corroding, or metal that has been corroded (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>18</sup> **Oxidation:** The process of a substance or chemical element oxidizing (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>19</sup> **Refining:** The process of making different products from a basic product, usually oil or sugar (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>20</sup> **Carcinogenic:** Causing cancer, or relating to things that cause cancer (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

and reaches drinking water and affects the marine ecosystem. Local fishermen say they have to travel more than four hours to find an area where there is a higher fish population and pollution is minimal, and even then, the fish they catch smell like crude oil or taste like kerosene<sup>21</sup>, and are not safe for consumption. Likewise, it is now difficult for the population to produce foods typical of their culture due to soil contamination.

Responsible companies often use contractors<sup>22</sup> to clean up spills, but they attempt to solve the problem by burning the oil. When gas is burned, it releases nitrogen and sulfur acids into the air, which later creates acid rain that corrodes the rooftops of houses and destroys farm crops. The risk is physical as well as chemical, the heat damage from frequent tanker explosions on roads causes melting asphalt and compromises the structure of electricity grids and bridges, representing a high need of resources for reconstruction. These consequences have also shown damage to health due to inhalation of toxic gases or contact with contaminated water. Data compilations from the National Library of Medicine (NIH) have found frequent asthma, respiratory complications, itchy eyes, skin lesions and digestive problems in exposed communities, with infants being the most vulnerable ones.

Environmental destruction, health implications, and employment reductions have forced entire communities to adapt to limited resources or to move away from their places of origin because they are no longer habitable. A case for understanding the implications is the case of the Bodo community, which today continues to confront the repercussions of infrastructure failure. In 2008, there were two massive spills in a creek in Bodo, Ogoniland, caused by bad conditions in Shell's oil pipelines. The spills lasted at least five weeks in each case until the company blocked the passage, and it was not until 2015 that Shell admitted that

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<sup>21</sup> **Kerosene:** A clear liquid with a strong smell made from coal or petroleum and used as a fuel in jet engine (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>22</sup> **Contractors:** A person or company that signs a contract to supply materials or workers to perform a service or a job (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

the spills were caused by its operational failures and agreed to pay \$82.2 million in compensation to families. Families who depended on fishing had to adapt to the only remaining edible species in the village, the bigaro, a small snail that has become increasingly difficult to collect. Furthermore, collecting them involves a risk, as they are found on the seashore, which is still contaminated by oil, increasing the risk of sinusitis<sup>23</sup> if there is contact. The pollution of mangroves<sup>24</sup> and rivers persist despite the passing of time and cause problems in the quality of life of residents.

Overall, failures in oil storage and transportation have caused significant economic losses. The country has lost approximately \$300 billion due to measurement failures and security issues that allow oil theft. Over 12 years, 619.7 million barrels of oil valued at \$46.16 billion have been lost (Business Insider Africa, 2025). In response, major oil companies have sold their assets<sup>25</sup> and sought to move production to other locations to avoid dealing with sabotage, legal costs, and infrastructure payments. This decrease in investment is a problem, as it leaves the State entirely responsible for the deterioration of infrastructure that is now more difficult to afford. These conditions indicate a growing risk in systemic collapse if restructuring measures are not adopted and international transport safety standards are not strictly respected.

### ***International consequences and global response***

The inefficient operative practices during the storage and distribution of gasoline in the Federal Republic of Nigeria do not only affect the country itself, but also the countries bordering it. Fires and leakages resulting from supervision and structural failures have

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<sup>23</sup> **Sinusitis:** Inflammation of the lining of the sinuses (= hollow spaces in the bones of the face) especially around the nose (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>24</sup> **Mangroves:** A tropical tree, found near water, whose twisted roots grow partly above ground (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

<sup>25</sup> **Asset:** Something valuable belonging to a person or organization that can be used for the payment of debts (Cambridge Dictionary, 2026)

resulted in critical environmental degradation in different zones, like the previously mentioned Niger Delta and the coastal areas connected to the Gulf of Guinea and the Coasts of Cameroon. Historical dependence from the importation of gasoline and diesel and the constant disruptions caused by accidents, fires or sabotage jeopardize the energy stability both at global and regional levels. These obstacles cause imbalance in fuel markets and alter the distribution all throughout West Africa and can be questioned by commercial associates in the reliability of the Nigerian energy system.

To address these implications, international communities have generated pressure through various institutional mechanisms. Nigeria is a member of international frameworks such as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC), promoted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which establishes cooperation commitments and aid assistance in case of oil spillage. These agreements have been helpful to use as a reference to align national actions with global standards in a security and prevention matter of accidents related to hydrocarbons. International organizations and associations related to civil society have stated the importance of the states and companies' responsibility to prevent and deal with damages, as well as amend the ones already made. These interventions have not only been a cause of review and inspection world-wide, but have reinforced the expectations for the compliance of technical and environmental boundaries.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has established cooperation agreements with foreign agencies to ensure rapid response to any type of incident, therefore strengthening their capacities for proper detection, maintenance and management of emergencies. Moreover, the nation adapted international protection and safety guidelines to regulate the handling of hydrocarbons. This includes adjusting national regulations with better known technical frameworks such as those from American Petroleum Institute and American Society of

Mechanical Engineers. Through these measures, The Federal Republic of Nigeria intends to improve regional coordination, by guaranteeing that cross-border impacts of all kinds are managed accordingly. By combining transnational assistance and compliance to protocol standards, it aims to enhance operational safety, protect the environment and safeguard the continuity of petroleum trade.

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XXXIX TECMUN  
**Glossary of Forbidden Words**

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***Forbidden Words***

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

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay <sup>26</sup>	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>27</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual abuse
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>28</sup>	Afrodescendant

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<sup>26</sup> The word Gay is replaced by a more inclusive term, recognizing that not all people within the LGBTIQ+ community identify in the same way.

<sup>27</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>28</sup> The word Black, in reference to ethnicity, is not prohibited but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as a dark-skinned person or afrodescendant as the case may be.

XXXIX TECMUN  
**Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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***Preambulatory Phrases***

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

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

XXXIX TECMUN  
**Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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***Operative Clauses***

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

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



