

XXIX

TECMUN Jr.

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural  
Organization

XXIX TECMUN Jr.  
Sessions Schedule

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**Miércoles 10 de noviembre**

Ceremonia de inauguración	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Receso	10:00 – 10:30 h.
Primera sesión	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Receso/comida	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Segunda sesión	12:30 – 14:00 h.
Receso	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Tercera sesión	15:00 – 16:00 h.

**Jueves 11 de noviembre**

Ceremonia magistral	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Cuarta sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso/comida	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Quinta sesión	12:00 – 13:30 h.
Receso	13:30 – 14:30 h.
Sexta sesión	14:30 – 16:00 h.

**Viernes 12 de noviembre**

Septima sesión	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Octava sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso/comida	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Novena sesión	12:00 – 14:00 h.
Receso	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Ceremonia de clausura	15:00 – 17:30 h.
TECMUN GLOOM	17:30 – 18:00 h.

XXIX TECMUN Jr.  
**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez*

*Chief of General Coordination: Paola Ayelén Hernández Hernández*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretary General: Andrea Michelle Martínez Lozano*  
*Coordinating Supervisor: Ximena Serna Mendoza*

**Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General**

*President: Jade Artemis Gonzáles Díaz*

- A) Estrategias para contrarrestar la epidemia contra el VIH y el Sida, en América Latina y el Caribe, partiendo desde las desigualdades existentes
- B) Acciones para erradicar la esclavitud sexual de mujeres y niñas en la región de China y Birmania

**Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional**

*President: Sofía Victoria Solís Uribe*

- A) Contrarresto de la violencia cotidiana y la adulteración económica a causa del tráfico internacional de armas de fuego ilícitas entre grupos narcotraficantes de América Latina, con énfasis en la República de Colombia
- B) Fortalecimiento del desarme y desmovilización en el área del Estrecho de Ormuz, con énfasis en ataques nucleares y de fuego entre Estados Unidos de América y la República Islámica de Irán para prevenir un posible conflicto armado

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

*President: Mariana Cortés Gallardo*

- A) Strategies to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable innovation on nanotechnology in the field of healthcare to developing countries in Latin America and The Caribbean
- B) Strategies for the implementation of renewable energies in sub-Saharan Africa with emphasis on efficiency and reliability for the needs and resources of the area

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

*President: Elena Ramírez Sandoval*

- A) Strategies to cope with the massive illicit opioids trafficking in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan through the Balkan Route
- B) Measures to reduce the illegal production of injected drugs on Southeast Asia, focusing on HIV

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*President: Chiara Trejo Infante*

- A) Actions to diminish government censorship in Belarus, focusing on the restriction of information and attacks on human rights activists and opposition
- B) Strategies to prevent human rights violations in South-Central Somalia, focused on al-Shabab's attacks on civilians and blockage of humanitarian assistance

**Organización Internacional de Policía Criminal**

*President: Abraham Alejandro Carlos Mendoza*

- A) Acciones para combatir la piratería marítima en el Golfo de Guinea con énfasis en buques de carga y plataformas petroleras
- B) Medidas para combatir el fraude cibernético de suplantación de identidad con énfasis en Europa

**CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretary General: Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy*  
*Coordinating Supervisor: Anahí Amairany Pérez Escobedo*

**Counter-Terrorism Committee**

*President: Diego Márquez Sánchez*

- A) Measures to mitigate the financing of the extremist group ISIL in the Middle East focusing on the illegal distribution of petroleum in the black market
- B) Actions to counter the interventions of the terrorist group Hamás in the Belic conflict between the State of Israel and the State of Palestine with a special emphasis on the consequences for the population residing in the Gaza Strip

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

*President: Kenya Damaris Ruiz Arellano*

- A) Measures to mitigate sexual violence as a form of hatred towards women part of the LGBTQ+ community in the region of South Africa
- B) Measures to address police brutality concerning the feminist movement as a result of the past women's day protests in the region of Mexico and the Republic of Chile

**Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal**

*President: Emilio Díaz López*

- A) Medidas para prevenir los homicidios de civiles por el uso indiscriminado de armas debido a la Segunda Guerra del Alto Karabaj entre Armenia y Azerbaiyán, con enfoque en los Principios Básicos sobre el Empleo de la Fuerza y de Armas de Fuego
- B) Medidas para prevenir cualquier método de tortura y detención indefinida en la prisión de Guantánamo, bajo dirección del gobierno de Estados Unidos de America, con enfoque al respeto de las Reglas Mínimas para el tratamiento de los reclusos de las Naciones Unidas y el Derecho Internacional

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization**

*President: Paula Inclan Villamil*

- A) Actions to ensure education in areas of armed conflict generated by extremist groups of Islamic Origin with a focus on Western Asia
- B) Measures to counter the appropriation of African culture in the United States of America with a focus on capitalisation of the fashion industry

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*President: Regina Montserrat Villalpando Camberos*

- A) Strategies to face the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh, as a consequence of the extreme migratory measures taken towards the Rohingya Muslim population in Myanmar
- B) Strategies to combat the migratory crisis of refugees in Southeastern Europe due to the civil conflict against the Bashar al-Ásad government in Syria

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

*President: Yunuen Blancas Cruz*

- A) Mesures pour sauvegarder la liberté d'expression et d'information, notamment la liberté de la presse en raison de la pandémie de covid-19 dans les pays d'Europe du sud-est
- B) Stratégies pour assurer une utilisation correcte du certificat COVID numérique de l'UE et éviter les répercussions sur les droits de l'homme de la population européenne

## **AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretary General: Javier Márquez Saucedo*

### **Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*President: Andrea Burgos Mondragón*

- A) Medidas para hacer frente a la violencia en procesos electorales con énfasis en las recientes elecciones de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
- B) Medidas para frenar las injusticias socioculturales hacia los pueblos indígenas en Canadá con énfasis en el sistema jurídico

## **Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico**

*President: Valeria Loera Gómez*

- A) Estrategias para abordar la crisis social tras el golpe de Estado en la República de la Unión de Myanmar, en el marco de la represión de manifestaciones pacíficas y la ley marcial
- B) Estrategias para contrarrestar las implicaciones económicas provocadas por fenómenos meteorológicos en el Océano Índico y el Sudeste Asiático

## **Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja**

*President: Ana Lourdes García Nila*

- A) Estrategias para la localización de víctimas de la trata de personas en México con énfasis en el reencuentro de familias y la ayuda esencial
- B) Acciones para mejorar las condiciones de vida en las prisiones de El Salvador con énfasis en la dignidad de los presos

## **Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica**

*President: Ixtli Zenit Ramírez García*

- A) Medidas para controlar la producción de uranio en la República Islámica de Irán con base en el Plan de Acción Integral Conjunto de 2015 con el objetivo de prevenir el desarrollo de armas nucleares
- B) Acciones para fomentar el uso de energía atómica de forma sostenible con el fin de combatir la contaminación atmosférica por carbonización con énfasis en Asia y el Medio Oriente

## **Security Council**

*President: Gerardo Calderón Huerta*

- A) Measures to stop the criminal cybernetic groups commanded by Darkside based in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe regarding the recent attacks made to The United States of America
- B) Mechanisms to address the growing crisis regarding naval disputes located in the South China Sea region

## **International Court of Justice**

*President: Fernanda Valentina Martínez Reyes*

- A) Alleged Violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)
- B) Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

*“Yet, in the face of oppression, plunder and neglect, our response is life. Neither floods nor plagues, neither famines nor cataclysms, not even eternal wars through the ages and centuries, have succeeded in reducing the tenacious advantage of life over death”.*

- Gabriel García Márquez

For the present, the moment you read this,  
Wanting to change the world is a dreamer's idea.

The world is full of monotony, conformism and intolerance. Years of violence, corruption, discrimination, injustice and selfishness have ended up dehumanizing the individuals who make it up, turning us into nothing more than fragments clinging to a concept of life that is far removed from goodness and innocence. We turn what we condemn into our normality, to such a degree that living under the incessant sensation of fear has been the only constant over the years. Wars, crises, inequality, weapons and crimes are just some of the words that make up the topics that you will discuss over the next three days, but today, I would like to ask you that beyond clinging to your position, you become that agent of change that remembers that mistakes are human and that empathy is a concept that can only prevail if we understand that the reality of this world is not limited to a shade of gray, but to a myriad of shades.

Humanity was condemned to freedom, to the ability to have options and create a criteria about them, implying a responsibility that goes beyond our understanding, since it is not limited to the selfishness of our actions but to the repercussions of this. In a world so full of inequality, frustration and hopelessness, it is easy to forget that the capacity for change still lies in the minds and hearts of those willing to see the truth. Beyond our passion for debate, we work on this model because we are dreamers and we faithfully believe that the world can change if we all dare to rebuild ourselves under the concepts of respect, forgiveness and empathy. We seek to remind you that your voice has value, just as your actions can represent the struggle of thousands of people. After four years in this project, I would like to share with you that my true reason for fighting for a better world lies with you and the people who make up TECMUN. It is here where I have found genuine hope for a better present and future, where I learned the importance of not being indifferent to your context, where I found the strength in my voice and where I found my place in the world. I want to remind you that it is that small spark of inspiration that we find in unexpected places that usually unleashes the greatest revolutions in our hearts and minds, that pushes us to take hold of that capacity for change that we are so terrified to explore and that ends up making us raise our voices against what we believe is right.

Three days are not enough to change the world, but I hope they were enough to make you feel inspired. Don't be afraid to be a dreamer, to wish for a better tomorrow, and don't feel ashamed for being afraid to take the first step. At the end of the day, this is a path that we will walk together and never stop learning from. Today I just want to thank you for inspiring me once again and for being the reason TECMUN remains strong. *Hope*, that's what you and this model represent to me, so thank you for changing my life.



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Vanessa Arroyo Jerez  
Secretary General for the  
XXIX TECMUN Jr.

*"I am not throwing away my shot."*

- Lin-Manuel Miranda

Participant,

A couple of years ago I met someone who could talk all day about TECMUN. I didn't really get it, to be honest with you, the way she talked like it was the most inspiring and breathtaking thing ever. I didn't get it for a while, until the very first model I was a part of. Seeing rooms full of delegates, like you, taking on a posture for three days to try and solve a problematic that probably nobody else cares to solve at the moment. Their excited looks, concentrated faces, and their firmness raising their hands to speak out is something that will always stay with me. There is something truly special in the way that hundreds of young people that have never met each other in their lives share ideas and possible solutions, all for a common, incredible end: the one of helping people in need.

I may not know you personally, but you, by reading this, have already given me hope in a better world. A world that can't only change, but that can be changed by people like you. Because, believe it or not, you have one of the greatest powers to ever exist: *courage*. Don't stick to the version of the world that has been sold to all of us. Believe in the power of a single, courageous voice that dares to defy the ones filled with indifference or that are deeply corrupted. Believe in the power of being alive, of being free, despite and *because* of the ones who are not. Be what many others can't or won't be. Believe in your own capacity, desires and goals, because when you want to be a part of change, your post doesn't matter; what matters is what you can do, want to do and dedicate yourself to do, and who you can become with all of that. I fully believe that you can grow to be and do something extraordinary, because you have taken the very first step by joining this model.

I have learned that TECMUN is not only a United Nations model; TECMUN is whatever you take from it. It can be an eye-opening place, an experience of growth, a space of support, and much more. But I can go as far as saying that it is an elemental opportunity. Many of us have gotten to know the pieces that make us up right here, and we put them together a little bit more with every day we spend being a part of it. Maybe the same will happen to you, or maybe not, but there is definitely something that you will take with you from the model.

It's time to stop waiting for the better. It's time to push away all of the doubt, and take a chance. Every single one of us, at some point, has been completely oblivious to the topics debated in this model. But, for you, that ends here and now. I have faith that the next three days will only be the beginning of a journey for you, of becoming a person who is aware of the challenges that surround millions of people in this world every day, and of wanting to do something about it. Lastly, I want you to know that, by being here, you have already inspired me in many ways. Today, at this very moment, you have taken your shot. And I know you will continue to do so.

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Paola Ayelén Hernández Hernández  
Chief of General Coordination for the  
XXIX TECMUN Jr.



*"I would like to see a conscious sense of peace and a feeling of human solidarity develop in all the people, which can open up new relationships of respect and equality for the next millennium, which should be one of fraternity and not of bloody conflict".*

- Rigoberta Menchu

Delegate,

Nothing prevails, history is ephemeral, the only thing that is intangible and ineffable is change. Nowadays any kind of news can be published and distorted, history is in the hands of repression and yellow journalism. The daily life of society is manipulated to favour a few and to prevent society from removing the blindfold they put on themselves is almost impossible. Mentality inside the box, mentality suppressed. Only those who wield power are favoured, swell their pockets while damaging the planet and every living thing that prevents them from expanding their monopolies is eliminated. It is well known that there are times when the ends justify the means, but today that has changed. The means began to be a source of massacres, violence and repression, generating Machiavellian and selfish ends. The human being is repressed and is not even aware of this, materialistic by necessity.

Mass consumption is a necessity, companies began to take over natural resources to profit from basic needs. Technology and the media encourage capitalist behaviours of consumerism and disinformation. Every piece of news, every historical event is imparted by some media outlet influenced by greed and with the sole purpose of manipulating the masses. Whoever wields this power will be able to manipulate time to his or her advantage. A power that was never intended to be in the hands of a few and to affect minorities.

He who adapts to change survives, that says one of the most important laws of evolution and has been the answer to many social problems, but today I invite you to give a historical twist to humanity. Become the change, the world is waiting for you, it is waiting for us to challenge everything we know. Don't let anyone or anything stop you, one day you will achieve the unimaginable. You are about to embark on a path of constant questioning of your ideals and the perspective of the world you live in, you will realize that it is okay to change your mind and rectify every step you take. You are about to understand that you just need to summon up the courage to say a few words and make everyone turn their eyes towards you to understand that your voice can move the masses.

Finally, I want to thank you for being part of something so meaningful to hundreds of people. TECMUN is more than a model of united nations, it is a life-changing experience. It is three days where you can show how capable you are, facing any adversity; discovering that your dreams, hopes and actions speak. Never give up, make mistakes, make decisions, fight against yourself and learn with every step you take. I am honored to be your Subsecretary and I vow that after this experience you will never be silent in the face of injustice again.

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Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy  
Subsecretary for the Economic and Social Council for the  
XXIX TECMUN Jr.

*"I go far for my dreams."*  
- *Måneskin*

Dear delegate,

We had to experience a pandemic to take into consideration social issues such as racism and its significance in our daily life. Racism is a problem that has always been present in our society. Fortunately, new generations just like you, the other delegates, and I can make ourselves heard, representing and speaking for those who cannot. I trust you will enjoy your experience as much as I have and that you'll do what you think best. TECMUN for a lot of people is just for school credit, but for some other people, this United Nations model is an introduction to their future or where they decide what they're into or what they will do in the future.

I want to thank you in advance for all the effort you're doing for these three days, and I do hope you enjoy this; you might meet your new best friend just like me or you might as well make new friends. Please remember to always follow your dreams and never let anyone or anything stop you from achieving them. Feel free to make mistakes and learn from them, always overcome your achievements. I know there is some pressure on trying to win. I've been there, but I'll never get tired of reminding you to enjoy yourselves while you're here.

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Paula Inclan Villamil  
President of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for  
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# Background

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Created in 1945, after World War II, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) motive is to encourage international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture to achieve peace among the nations which are part of it. The Constitution of the committee was signed on November 16th, 1945, so that the first session could take place on November 19th, 1946. In this conference there were representatives from 30 countries entitled to vote. UNESCO leads global efforts to get everyone quality education, some of its priority groups are indigenous people, youth, small islands developing states, and least developed countries. The other projects are based on cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Program.

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## Faculties

In order to contribute to scientific and sustainable development, the consolidation of peace and the preservation of cultural heritage in the world, UNESCO has the following faculties:

- Develop programs and projects that promote research and international scientific cooperation that ensure the conservation of the cultural heritage of all countries through the development of specialized programs.
- Advising member countries in areas such as the correct use of new technologies, as well as helping them to invest in science, technology and innovation and to develop.
- Train and provide education to strengthen education systems around the world.
- Develop national scientific policies, in addition to collaborating with the States in the creation of agreements and regulatory frameworks to promote the development of new technologies and cultural pluralism.

# Topic A

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Actions to ensure education in areas of armed conflict generated by extremist groups of Islamic Origin with a focus on Western Asia

## *Introduction*

The Salafi-Jihadist movement and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have a radical ideology that propounds violent goals and encourages its followers to come up with strategies to achieve them, since then their success and popularity has grown. A part of this success was facilitated by the tactical alliance with former Iraqi insurgents and former members of the Ba’thist regime of Saddam Hussein. The international community is worried by the potential threat posed by the Islamic State and the other extremist or militant groups. Groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf (AS) in Asia sought<sup>1</sup> to mimic them by launching daring and bloody attacks within their own territories. United Nations (UN) reports show that most of the group’s working force are young people, with roles ranging from cooks to armed fighters. Extremist groups are believed to recruit<sup>2</sup> their young working force from schools, meaning children are forcibly<sup>3</sup> recruited from their learning places that are under attack.

A research made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) shows that half of the world’s primary-aged children who are out of school, live in conflict-affected states, and most never get the chance to complete their education. The research shows most of the attacks ranged from the bombing or burning down of schools to ending lives, injuring, kidnapping or illegally arresting, detaining or torturing students, teachers and academics. UNICEF noted that the deliberate attacks on schools, students and teachers, deny children their right to learn and leave them, along with their communities, in fear of their future. According to last year’s report more than 22,000 students, teachers, and

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<sup>1</sup> **Sought:** Past tense and past participle of “seek”. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d)

<sup>2</sup> **Recruit:** A person newly enlisted in the armed forces and not yet fully trained. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>3</sup> **Forcibly:** Using force or violence. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

academics were injured, or harmed in attacks and armed casualties. Numbers of attacks on education remained alarmingly high, as an example, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic each experienced over 500 attacks on schools; The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) found the widespread<sup>4</sup> use of explosive weapons during targeted and indiscriminate attacks on educational institutions.

The 2014 Annual Report of the United Nations Special Representative for the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict lists seven state armies and fifty non-state armed groups that currently recruit and use children in fourteen countries around the world. Children are used deliberately as a combat tactic with strategic advantages and as such their recruitment must be recognized not only as a social and economic issue, but also as a security concern with lasting implications for peace and stability. Schools and the education system are central to shaping the hearts and minds of the next generation. The indoctrination<sup>5</sup> that begins in schools intensifies in training camps, where children between the ages of 10 and 15 are instructed in shari'a<sup>6</sup>, desensitised<sup>7</sup> to violence, and are taught specific skills to best serve the state and take up the banner of jihad.

While an armed conflict gives rise to children joining militant and radical groups, armed conflicts also create certain push and pull factors that draw children into armed groups. Some factors include the desire to escape difficulties at home or at school, often as a result of insecurity, boredom, and conflict-induced monetary problems. The concurrent pull factors

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<sup>4</sup> **Widespread:** Affecting or including a lot of places, people, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d)

<sup>5</sup> **Indoctrination:** The process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>6</sup> **Shari'a:** Code for living that all Muslims should adhere to, including prayers, fasting and donations to the poor. (BBC News, 2014)

<sup>7</sup> **Desensitised:** Make (someone) less likely to feel shock or distress at scenes of cruelty, violence, or suffering by overexposure to such images. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

can be the promise of food, the chance to fight for an ideology, acquire<sup>8</sup> an income, seek social credit, obtain protection, and to find entertainment. There are also instances where the child is forcibly recruited through threats or abduction. Thus, the prolonged exposure and desensitization to violence that children experience affects their physical and psychological well-being, both in the short and long term.

### ***The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Origins***

The creation of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) started in the Jamaat al-Tahwid wa-i-Jihad organization founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Historically, it has been known by various names, from Jamaat al-Tahwid wa-i-Jihad, al-Qaeda in Iraq, Majlis Shura al Mujahedin, Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham/Levant to the present Islamic State. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is a transnational armed group and Sunni Islamist insurgent group that caused instability and insecurity mainly in Iraq and Syria; it attracted international attention due to its devastating attacks and operations. But the group is more than an armed group because it is a politic-military club that embraces a radical version of Islam as a political idea and seeks to impose that worldview by might on Muslims and non-Muslims in an identical manner. By 2015, its objectives were partly realized in Iraq and Syria where it conquered large parts, declared a caliphate<sup>9</sup> and temporarily ruled according to its dictates and radical interpretation of Islamic law-Sharia. This was achieved as a result of several factors which embody the pull out of the United States of America (USA) from Iraq, the group's leadership change that led to the rise to power of Al-Baghdad, and the Arab Spring which culminated in the outbreak of the Syrian civil armed conflict.

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<sup>8</sup> **Acquire:** To get or by something. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d)

<sup>9</sup> **Caliphate:** The rule or reign of a caliph or chief Muslim ruler. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

Jemaah Islamiyah has been one of the organizations involved in the global jihad<sup>10</sup>, considered one of the most dangerous organizations, they aspired and fought for a region-wide Caliphate. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) has a powerful structure based on a solid ideology, close contacts with Al Qaeda, and dedicated recruitment and training policy; The core of the organization had a crucial experience during their pass through the Afghan Camps. On those camps the future cadre<sup>11</sup> of the group would establish close links with most of the regional extremist groups. The clash with another radical group, Abu Sayyaf which is a small Islamic group founded in the 1990s that championed the cause of establishing an Islamic state. It belongs to the religious current called Salafism in its most extreme version, which is one that advocates a return to Islam from the early days making use, if necessary, of violence. The creation of Abu Sayyaf represents the radicalization of the Philippine Muslim separatist movement.

### ***Extremist groups that recruit children/teenagers***

The cost of extremist violent encounters<sup>12</sup> has been present in children's basic human rights. This has direct effects on human rights, with devastating consequences for the victims and their families. In addition, extremist attacks can destabilize governments, undermine<sup>13</sup> civil society, endanger peace and security, and threaten social and economic development. In recent years, however, the very measures required by states to contain extremist attacks have

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<sup>10</sup> **Jihad:** The spiritual struggle within oneself against sin. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>11</sup> **Cadre:** A small group of people specially trained for a particular purpose or profession. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>12</sup> **Encounters:** Occasion when two teams play against each other. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d)

<sup>13</sup> **Undermine:** Lessen the effectiveness, power, or ability of, especially gradually or insidiously. (Oxford Languages, n.d)



often posed serious challenges to human rights and the law. Because of this, more and more radical organizations are recruiting children.

In the past, children were mostly prohibited from actively participating in armed conflicts. Now the number of child soldiers and children in armed organizations, gangs<sup>14</sup> and guerrilla groups has grown enormously. Children are also being used more and more directly in armed clashes. In the Middle East, all parties involved in current conflicts have been accused of using child soldiers, especially those forcibly displaced at risk. Documented cases include Shiite militias in Iraq, anti-regime rebel groups such as the Free Syrian Army, pro-regime Syrian militias, as well as Afghan Shiite units recruited under Iranian supervision and even with Lebanon's Hezbollah. Child soldiers also participate in the conflict in Yemen, and they are recruited in addition to the Kurdish Workers' Party (PTK) in The Republic of Iraq and the People's Protection Units (YPG) in the Syrian Arab Republic.

According to a report presented by the Organization's Security Council, the group used 24 schools and hospitals as training grounds and 14 schools as ammunition depots. Almost 40 % of the minors recruited are girls, 20 of them under 15 years of age. In addition, boys received military training and girls fought in the armed conflicts. However, since the late 1980s, the Internet has proven to be a highly dynamic medium of communication, reaching a growing audience around the world. The development of increasingly sophisticated technologies has created a network with a truly global reach and relatively low barriers<sup>15</sup> to access. According to an UNESCO report made after the some research, the reduction of impact measures could include building schools out of concrete instead of wood and straw,

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<sup>14</sup> **Gangs:** A group of people who go around together and often deliberately cause trouble. (Collins English Dictionary, n.d)

<sup>15</sup> **Barriers:** Obstacles that prevent movement or access. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

or providing two points of exit for each classroom, so that students and teachers or academics have a chance to escape if militants or soldiers that try to enter a classroom to recruit them for their groups to continue to fight for the cause or spread it.

Extremist groups and their supporters can also use the Internet to finance, spread or carry on with their activities. The way they use the Internet to raise funds and resources can be classified into four general categories: direct fundraising<sup>16</sup>, electronic commerce, use of online payment services, and contributions to charities. Explicit threats of violence, even in relation to the use of weapons, can be spread over the Internet to cause fear or panic in a population or a sector of it. Young people and children are the most vulnerable population to this threat, not only to be attacked by these groups, but to be recruited and help promote or spread the message.

### ***Children and teenagers' situation in armed conflicted areas***

Verification of the use of children as foreign fighters has increased significantly, involving 18 reported cases of children as young as 7 years old, as executioners. In Iraq, in two incidents in June and September 2015, more than 1,000 children were reportedly abducted by ISIL from Mosul district. While the lack of access to areas in conflict undercuts<sup>17</sup> the possibility to gather precise data, it is known that recruited children were used to act as spies and scouts, to transport military supplies and equipment, to conduct patrols, to man checkpoints, to videotape attacks for propaganda purposes and to plant explosive devices, as well as to actively engage in attacks or combat situations. According to a report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, some boys have been forced to attack their own

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<sup>16</sup> **Fundraising:** Seeking to generate financial support for a charity, cause, or other enterprise. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>17</sup> **Undercuts:** Offer goods or services at a lower price than a competitor. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

families to demonstrate loyalty to Boko Haram, while girls have been forced to marry, clean, cook and carry equipment and weapons.

Children who have been recruited and exploited by armed and violent extremist groups are victims of violence at multiple levels. They are often victims of extreme violence during their association with the group; which includes ferocious recruitment methods, enslavement, sexual exploitation, exposure to constant fear, indoctrination and psychological pressure. They are often injured or deceased in combat. At the same time, because of their young age and psychological malleability, such children may become particularly dangerous instruments of the groups that recruited them. Thus, children may be recruited to commit criminal offenses including, in certain cases, acts of extreme violence, or crimes against humanity.

Since the revolution in the early 1990's quality in education hasn't improved and still has problems with a big proportion of untrained teachers, yet West Asia has posted the most rapid improvement in access to pre-primary education in the world since 2005, including increases in enrolment of 19 and 14 percentage points respectively during a six-year period. According to the report Children battling to go to school, shows that 19% of the 28.5 million children affected live in South and West Asia. The 95% live in low and lower-middle income<sup>18</sup> countries. Girls, who make up 55% of the total, are the worst affected, as they are often victims of rape and other sexual violence that accompanies armed conflicts. The EFA Global Monitoring Report concluded that many countries surrounded by conflict are overlooked in

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<sup>18</sup> **Income:** Money received, especially on a regular basis, for work or through investments. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

the international aid structure, with their education systems receiving neither long-term development assistance nor short-term humanitarian aid.

### *International Community and UNESCO's response*

The 2011 Global Monitoring Report examines the damaging consequences of conflict for the Education for All goals. It sets out an agenda for protecting the right to education during conflict, strengthening<sup>19</sup> provision for children, youth and adults affected by conflict, and rebuilding education systems in countries emerging from conflict. The Report also explores the role of inappropriate education policies in creating conditions for violent conflict. Drawing on experience from a range of countries, it identifies problems and sets out solutions that can help make education a force for peace, social cohesion and human dignity. Armed conflict is robbing 28 million children of an education by exposing them to widespread sexual violence, targeted attacks on schools and other abuses. A report by UNESCO, calls for tougher action against human rights violations, an overhaul<sup>20</sup> of global aid priorities and more attention to education's potential to foster peace.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), thousands of children under the age of 18, have been abducted, recruited, used, or otherwise associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups in recent years. These children have been subjected<sup>21</sup> to violence at multiple levels, and, at the same time, have the potential to become particularly dangerous instruments in the hands of those exploiting them and/or instrumentalising them for committing criminal and radical-related offences. Countries are

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<sup>19</sup> **Strengthening:** Make or become stronger. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>20</sup> **Overhaul:** To examine thoroughly. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>21</sup> **Subjected:** Bring a person or country under one's control or jurisdiction, typically by using force. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

increasingly facing challenges in achieving effective prevention and responses to violence perpetrated<sup>22</sup> against children, while at the same time providing adequate accountability mechanisms to preserve public safety. The current wave of returning foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) also poses emerging threats and challenges for law enforcement and judicial authorities dealing with child returnees<sup>23</sup> from conflict zones.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides guidance to Member States on how children involved with terrorist and violent extremist groups should be treated by national authorities. This guidance is provided with manuals such as The UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System, and the three UNODC Training Manuals. These provide coherent and consistent guidance regarded three interconnected<sup>24</sup> areas that are prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration, and justice for children in the context of counter-terrorism. This project contributes to assisting countries in reaching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably, Goal 4 aimed at achieving “quality education”. The project is being implemented thanks to the monetary contributions by the governments of Austria, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Japan, Sweden and the Swiss Confederation.

In the International community, child protection has evolved as the area of intervention has developed, but one recent and comprehensive definition has emerged from the Care and Protection of Children in Crisis Affected Countries Project (CPC Project). The CPC is an

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<sup>22</sup> **Perpetrated:** Carry out or commit usually a harmful, illegal, or immoral action. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>23</sup> **Returnees:** Person who returns to a place, especially after a prolonged absence. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>24</sup> **Interconnected:** Having all parts linked or connected with each other. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

initiative undertaken<sup>25</sup> through Columbia University's Program on Forced Migration and Health. Education is of particular value in zones of armed conflict; it is widely recognized that education, and school in particular, provides a crucial element in the protection of children. That's why it has been recognized in UN Security Council Resolutions 1261, 1314 and 1379 on Children and Armed Conflict (CAC) which mandate international action to protect the security and rights of children in situations of armed conflict. Education is included in each of these resolutions. Resolution 1379 (2001) requests UN agencies to devote resources to counseling, education and vocational opportunities for children affected by armed conflict as part of their rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

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<sup>25</sup> **Undertaken:** Promise to do a particular thing. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

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## Topic B

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Measures to counter the appropriation of African culture in the United States of America with a focus on capitalisation of the fashion industry

## ***Introduction***

While the early days of trade opened the door to cultural exchange, expanding commerce, bringing exotic textiles to new markets, and allowing new styles to inspire designs, it simultaneously made way for cultural appropriation. Clothes, hats, shoes, and accessories as “fashion” expressions involve an element of irregularity. At the same time, they may constitute the “identity” element of a certain community. Cultural appropriation may be summarily described as the taking, by a member of a dominant culture, from a minority without consent, attribution or compensation. Looking at the elements of the definition, two characteristics emerge: a change of traditional context and a power imbalance between the dominant culture and the minority community’s owner of the designs. Fashion’s borrowing of stylistic elements from the African culture is a common practice, and it can be offensive to Africans and African American people that are trying to embrace<sup>26</sup> their origins; even if unintentional, misinterpretation<sup>27</sup> or disregard for the significance of a traditional expression, can have drastic consequences.

Over the last two decades, the fashion industry, ranging from luxury designers to mainstream retailers<sup>28</sup>, have developed a noticeable appetite for all things traditional, ethnic or folkloric<sup>29</sup>. Many of the fashion designers partaking<sup>30</sup> this trend sources their inspiration from the diverse cultures of native African people from around the world and incorporates

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<sup>26</sup> **Embrace:** Accept or support a belief, theory, or change willingly and enthusiastically. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>27</sup> **Misinterpretation:** The act of forming a wrong understanding of something that is said or done, or an example of a wrong understanding (Cambridge dictionary, n.d)

<sup>28</sup> **Retailers:** A person or business that sells goods to the public in relatively small quantities for use or consumption rather than for resale. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>29</sup> **Folkloric:** The traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>30</sup> **Partaking:** To become involved with or take part in something (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

stylistic elements, such as patterns or design features, into their creations. These elements often fall under the concept of traditional expression, but most of the time, fashion designers use these elements from foreign cultures in ways that disregard the significance and their origins. The fashion industry has faced several accusations of cultural appropriation over the past decade. Centrally, several concrete policies, legal and practical solutions can be developed at the international level to put an end to cultural appropriation; the intellectual property system can be adapted to offer adequate protection for traditional expressions. Awareness can be raised among fashion designers and consumers alike to deter cultural appropriation, and initiatives can be carried out to strategically support African fashion designers.

The question of cultural appropriation generates antithetical<sup>31</sup> positions because it is influenced by an abundance of very diverse political and legal issues. In multicultural societies, it is important to safeguard the principle of freedom of expression and not to hinder<sup>32</sup> cultural exchanges and interactions. Therefore, curbing cultural appropriation in the world of fashion does not amount to a total and unqualified restriction of all uses of traditional cultural expressions. The diversity of cultural influences is what makes fashion evolve and thrive<sup>33</sup>, and a respectful interpretation of world cultures can allow all to grow within each other and bring genuine benefits to society.

Through the ages there have been a lot of cultural appropriation cases, from brands to designers, even celebrities. One of them being the Jean Paul Gaultier's Fall 2005 Haute

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<sup>31</sup> **Antithetical:** Directly opposed or contrasted; mutually incompatible. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>32</sup> **Hinder:** Create difficulties for someone or something, resulting in delay or obstruction. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

<sup>33</sup> **Thrive:** To grow, develop, or be successful (Cambridge dictionary, n.d)

Couture collection, in which the tribute to the African culture went far to the point of being disrespectful. They decided to paint the faces of some models with clay, thus emulating<sup>34</sup> the customs of the Maasai people. Though some people continue to mistakenly praise his “cultural appreciation” efforts as “creative genius,” a rising number of fashion devotees have begun to condemn these designs as acts of cultural appropriation.

A clear more recent example of cultural appropriation and that is constant in the world of fashion and celebrities of the moment, is the Kardashian-Jenner influencers. This family, made up of influencers and socialites, on multiple occasions have used the traditional braid hairstyle known as cornrows but not calling it by their name. Using messages such as Birthday Braids or Boxer Braids in the publications with the cornrows, which are not the name of the hairstyle, besides of course not giving self recognition to the origins of the hairstyle. These facts, among other complaints from different cultures, expose that the Kardashians have used elements of their culture out of context and without giving it the value it deserves. Resulting in multiple complaints and angry comments on social networks from people who ask for respect and consideration for such important accessories and cultural elements.

Even today, prestigious and international brands such as Nike, have participated in the phenomenon of cultural appropriation. In 2013, when the Nike company printed patterns of the traditional Samoan male tattoo called pe'a on women's training tights. This traditional tattoo that has its origin in the mythology of Samoa, represents courage and manhood and the process to earn it is quite long and painful. Stamping this sacred male virility design on a garment for female use, completely ignoring its meaning and being disrespectful to the

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<sup>34</sup> **Emulating:** Match or surpass a person or achievement, typically by imitation. (Oxford Languages, n.d)

people of Samoa, generated public discontent. Following a public outcry denouncing the derogatory and offensive use of pe'a<sup>35</sup>, Nike withdrew the tights from sale and officially apologized.

### ***Commerce role in African cultural appropriation***

Influences from African cultures were present in European fashion since the opening of the silk trade, dating back to the fourth century. Fabrics and spices are among the products of the first routes of commerce of the age that even began to travel between countries before men. Cultural influences spread out, involving not only the trade of goods and materials but also of styles, shapes and beauty ideals. “Design appropriation” can be documented in the past, already many centuries ago.

Through long and intriguing travels around new continents, crossing the harems<sup>36</sup> and different lifestyles of North Africa and America between others, they obtained a new paradise not influenced by Western civilization with a completely different culture. Thanks to the West’s fascination with and assimilation of the ideas and styles of the East, West fashion lived a period of great vivacity at the beginning of the XXth century, with the expansion of Colonialism<sup>37</sup>. The fascination with the East brings changes in a lot of fields but one of the most important is in fashion with a lot of fashion designers that inspire their work in another culture and make collections with mixed elements of styles and origins. Nowadays, textiles and designs are not easy to culture-classify with certainty when considering their movements and appropriations, and rarely contain any concrete or definitive indication of their origin.

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<sup>35</sup> **Samoan Pe’a:** A traditional tattoo that represents part of the Samoan men identity. (Samoa History Page, 2020)

<sup>36</sup> **Harems:** Especially in the past in some Muslim societies, the wives or other female sexual partners of a man, or the part of a house in which they live (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

<sup>37</sup> **Colonialism:** The belief in and support for the system of one country controlling another (Cambridge dictionary, n.d)

These days, countries like the United States of America have a lot of accessories, clothes and beauty tendencies that are used by any person without knowing and appreciating their origin. For example, acrylic nails date all the way back to origins in Ancient Egypt and were first seen on the cover of a magazine being worn by an African American woman. Or the hoop earrings originated in Nubia, an ancient civilization that is now known as northern Sudan and southern Egypt, and they were popularized in the '70s by prominent African American figures such as Nina Simone and Angela Davis. And even close and patterned braids, whose origin can be traced back 5000 years in African culture to 3500 BC when they were very popular among women, but it was not just fashion, because this kind of braids was especially used as hair protection, a medium of art and communication. Braids that nowadays African American descendants use proudly as a connection with their origins.

The origin of fashion designing dates as far back as 1826. Charles Frederick Worth is believed to be the first fashion designer of the world, from 1826 to 1895. Charles, who was earlier a draper<sup>38</sup>, set up a fashion house in Paris. It was he who started the tradition of fashion houses and telling his customers what kind of clothing would suit them. During this period, a number of design houses began to hire the services of artists to develop patterns for garments. Patterns would be presented to the clients, who would then place an order if they liked them. It was during this timeframe that the tradition of presenting patterns to the customers and then stitching them began, instead of the earlier system wherein the finished garments<sup>39</sup> would be presented to them. Towards the mid-20th century, fashion garments began to be mass-produced. The bulk of production increased, and people began to have

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<sup>38</sup> **Draper:** Someone who, in the past, owned a shop selling cloth, curtains, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

<sup>39</sup> **Garments:** A piece of clothing, like a dress (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)



more choices of garments. Towards the end of the 20th century, people started to recognize styles and they began choosing clothes for themselves based on comfort and their own style, instead of choosing the trends in the market. Through the pass of the time, fashion industry was growing up like one of the richest industries and with more employment in the world and big cities with international traffic, quickly became fashion centers. New York City for example, is considered by many to be the fashion capital of the world ahead of Paris, Milan, and London. According to the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), an estimated 900 fashion companies have their headquarters in New York City; the city is the largest retail market in the country, generating more than \$15 billion in annual sales.

### *Consequences suffered by the African descendant community and their position*

The African community encourages people to educate themselves to know why they have worn the things they have in the past; thus, people would understand more. For many African and African descendant individuals, watching fashion trends come onto the scene can be incredibly frustrating because their community was often the one to wear an item first. Also, many African designers are not at all as widely praised<sup>40</sup> or recognized as their white equivalent when it comes to designing the items. While the idea of cultural appropriation is often a difficult topic for a lot of people, when it comes to fashion, most individuals just want everyday people to have a better understanding of where their clothing comes from. Cultural appropriation not only dismisses their beliefs, but also the way the African community expresses themselves through their clothes.

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<sup>40</sup> **Praised:** To express admiration or approval of the achievements or characteristics of a person or thing (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

The fashion designers that paved the way<sup>41</sup> through fashion for Africans and the community such as Ann Lowe, one of the first African American women to own a very well-known cloth store. Willi Smith, the pioneer of streetwear fashion is also an African American man. LaQuan Smith, Victor Glemaud, and Stella Jean are African designers and creators, among others. All of them encourage African kids, teenagers, young adults, adults and seniors to embrace their community and their culture because of their historical battles to counter cultural appropriation. According to Bethann Hardison, founder of the Diversity Coalition, there were more high-profile African descendant designers in the 1970s than there are today, further stating that instead of making progress, it's going backwards.

***Measures previously taken by the United Nations and the international community***

During the 60's and 70's African descending men and women were encouraged not to bleach their skin or straighten their hair, re-empowering the Afro as a symbol of political activism. In the 80s and 90s, hip-hop started to take effect on popular culture, accessories popularized in African culture during this time. Black History Month continues to gain momentum, last February the fashion industry communications and products associated with the event increased by 68 %. Black cultural trends have long been included in the base of global fashion, and brands can no longer afford to capitalize<sup>42</sup> on this culture. A lot of African descending influencers and activists have recommended certain actions to educate the rest of the world, such actions include watching documentaries or reading about how cultural appropriation can be countered and avoided.

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<sup>41</sup> **Pave the way:** If something paves the way for/to something else, it makes the other thing possible. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

<sup>42</sup> **Capitalize:** To supply money to a business so that it can operate or develop, or to get enough money to do this (Cambridge dictionary, n.d)

Cultural appropriation is located in a gray area where permissible inspiration can be confused with appropriations. Cultural appropriation is related to the fact that traditional expressions do not maintain a completely harmonious relationship with the international system of Intellectual Protection (IP), which is why the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the United Nations (UN) of 2007 protects your intellectual property. In general, existing IP laws exclude the protection of traditional expressions do not maintain a completely harmonious relationship with the international system of Intellectual Protection (IP), which is why the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the UN of 2007 protects your intellectual property. In general, existing IP laws exclude the protection of traditional expressions. Therefore, in order to end cultural appropriation in the fashion sector, it is necessary to thoroughly examine how to optimize IP law.

Given the legal impossibility of properly addressing this issue, there is the possibility of reaching consensus based on private policies that resemble the role of the State in matters of legislation, enforcement and jurisdiction. Some brands and designers have started to develop Codes of Conduct and Ethics in order to regularly balance relationships with racialized communities. In addition, some business associations in the fashion industry have developed standards of conduct for businesses and consumers, as well as certifications for due compliance. Moreover, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has presented two initiatives in these areas, “Designers meet Artisans” and the “Traditional Knowledge World Bank” of Traditional Knowledge. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Organization for Intellectual Protection (IGC) is currently negotiating an international legal instrument to provide balanced and effective protection through IP to traditional cultural expressions. Until then, much remains to be done

to make fashion designers and the general public aware of the demystification<sup>43</sup> of the concept and alert them to the damage that cultural appropriation can cause.

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<sup>43</sup> **Demystification:** To make something easier to understand (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

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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. It 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