

XXXI

TECMUN Jr.

United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women

XXXI TECMUN Jr.
Session Schedule

Wednesday, November 15th

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

Thursday, November 16th

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

Friday, November 17th

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

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General Agenda

Secretary General: Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo

COORDINACIÓN GENERAL

Chief of General Coordination: *Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas*
Coordinating Supervisor for Media Content: *Emiliano Avalos Hernández*

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Subsecretary General: Monserrat Ríos Fernández
Coordinating Supervisor: Juliette Abby Orihuela Núñez

Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General

Presidente: Regina Covarrubias Rosales

- A) Medidas para regular la crisis humanitaria en la República de Haití, partiendo de los desplazamientos forzados ocasionados por la violencia por parte de grupos criminales.
- B) Estrategias para regular la crisis social en la República Islámica de Irán y contrarrestar el uso de pena de muerte como medio de represión, partiendo de las protestas antigubernamentales contra las leyes de moralidad de 2022.

Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional

Presidente: Paulo Souto Núñez

- A) Estrategias para imposibilitar la posesión y desarrollo de armamento nuclear en la República Islámica de Irán garantizando la seguridad internacional.
- B) Estrategias para evitar el uso de armamento y fuerza hostil en el conflicto fronterizo entre la República de Armenia y la República de Azerbaiyán por el enclave del Alto Karabaj en el Cáucaso del sur.

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados

Presidente: Arantza González de la Peña

- A) Acciones para reforzar la respuesta internacional con el fin de garantizar la seguridad y el acceso a servicios básicos de los refugiados provenientes del llamado Cuerno de África como consecuencia de la sequía y los conflictos internos en la República Democrática de Somalia.
- B) Medidas para proteger y asegurar el cumplimiento de los derechos humanos de las personas desplazadas internamente, solicitantes de asilo y refugiados como consecuencia de la crisis social en la República Democrática del Congo.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

President: Nuri Valentina Galindo Gutiérrez

- A) Measures to guarantee the economic empowerment of women in the Middle East with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan after the ban of work for Afghan women and its consequences.
- B) Procedures to reinforce and protect reproductive rights for women in Africa as a consequence of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Presidente: Jorge Roel Rodríguez Alcantara

- A) Mecanismos para frenar la desertificación en el continente africano, con énfasis en la sequía y las prácticas agrícolas no sostenibles en la región del Sahel.
- B) Acciones para mitigar el impacto ambiental de la industria textil en países del sur de Asia, abordando la producción de moda rápida.

Histórica Organización de los Estados Americanos

Presidente: Abril Victoria Rodríguez Aguirre

- A) Medidas para conciliar la paz entre las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) y el gobierno de la República de Colombia con énfasis en salvaguardar los derechos humanos de los ciudadanos.
- B) Estrategias para frenar las hostilidades desencadenadas por el control de las islas Malvinas entre Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte y la República de Argentina con énfasis en proteger los derechos de soberanía y los intereses de los poblado.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

President: Valeria Arroyo Jerez

- A) Strategies to curb and counter migrant smuggling coordinated by criminal organizations, with emphasis on the South and Central America to North America route.
- B) Approaches to prevent and counter the spread of Xylazine and Fentanyl in North America with preeminence in Philadelphia's "Zombie zone".

CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL

Subsecretary General: Catherine Romina Espinoza Mora

Coordinating Supervisor: Brenda Noreña Mejía

Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal

Presidente: Miranda Senties Carmona

- A) Estrategias para disminuir la actividad del crimen organizado transnacional en la Triple Frontera, entre la República del Paraguay, la República Argentina y la República Federativa de Brasil debido al problema del control territorial ocasionado por la insuficiencia en el imperio de la ley y corrupción.
- B) Acciones para erradicar cualquier sistema de tortura a prisioneros en los centros penitenciarios efectuado por el personal de seguridad en la República Árabe Siria.

Organización Mundial de la Salud

Presidente: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero

- A) Medidas para mejorar la salud mental en adolescentes con énfasis en la eliminación de trastornos psicológicos tras los efectos del confinamiento de la pandemia de COVID-19.
- B) Estrategias para priorizar el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual reproductiva en zonas rurales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.

Human Rights Council

President: Regina Lacorte Mariscal

- A) Measures to stop the displacement of families caused by organized crime in vulnerable communities in the United States of Mexico
- B) Actions to ensure the human rights of prisoners after the approval of the Exception Regime in the Republic of Salvador, focusing on the so-called "war against gangs" headed by the government of Nayib Bukele.

Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico

Presidente: Giovanna Gamboa Molina

- A) Estrategias para implementar un desarrollo de proyectos que aumenten el comercio e infraestructura en Asia y el Pacífico debido a que las zonas productivas se han visto afectadas por los desastres naturales.
- B) Medidas para mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas de bajos recursos en las estructuras institucionales de salud y vivienda debido a los conflictos territoriales entre la República Kirguisa y la República de Tayikistán.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption

President: William Vázquez Hernández

- A) Measures to reinforce and criminalize any act deemed corrupt in Latin America on the police department focusing on the systematic and police-citizens variants.
- B) Measures to stop the theft of assets executed by the government in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea coming from the oil industry causing a defunding on education and health sectors.

Foro Político del Alto Nivel para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Presidente: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz

- A) Medidas para detener y prevenir el impacto que tiene la moda rápida en Europa y Asia, con énfasis en las tres dimensiones de desarrollo sustentable.
- B) Acciones para impulsar el turismo sostenible con énfasis en los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo del Caribe.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

President: María José Parra Meza

- A) Strategies to replace animal testing with new technological developments in the makeup industry in Latin America, the European Union and the People's Republic of China.
- B) Measures to improve the challenges of the labor market due to new sciences and technologies, adapting workers to them with an emphasis on Europe and North America.

AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES

Subsecretary General: Bruno Ramírez Barcelata

Coordinating Supervisor: María Fernanda García Bautista

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial

Presidente: María Sigaru Alcantara Nieva

A) Medidas para reducir los efectos adversos por desastres ecológicos a causa de la industrialización química con énfasis en la República de la India, Japón y el Estado de Kuwait

B) Estrategias para impulsar el desarrollo industrial sustentable con el fin de reducir los altos índices de gases de efecto invernadero en América Latina y el Caribe

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

President: María Fernanda Vázquez Trejo

A) Measures to solve the multiple attacks of chemical weapons on the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on the chemical problem of Khan Sheikhoun in 2017

B) Measures to prevent the usage of neurotoxins as weapons, emphasizing the novichok attacks led by the Russian government

International Criminal Police Organization

President: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate

A) Measures to halt the growth of human trafficking networks in Southern Asia, with emphasis on organ trafficking

B) Strategies to cope with the massive firearms trafficking in Latin America, focusing on the triple border between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina

Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja

Presidente: Yamir Bandala González

A) Medidas para proteger a las víctimas y desplazados después de la toma de control del partido Frente de Liberación Popular de Tigré en la República Democrática Federal de Etiopía.

B) Acciones para garantizar el bienestar y salvaguardar la dignidad de los afectados por el conflicto civil en la República Árabe Siria en los campos de refugiados, así como en las rutas utilizadas.

Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte

Presidente: Paulette Mayen Álvarez

A) Fortalecimiento de estrategias para la protección de civiles en el conflicto armado entre la República de Serbia y la República de Kosovo, con énfasis en el mantenimiento de la paz

B) Estrategias para contrarrestar los ciberataques hacia la República de Ucrania en el ciberespacio; dentro de la problemática de la Federación de Rusia y sus consecuencias, con el fin de salvaguardar la información del Estado y la OTAN

Security Council

President: Yésika Pamela García Trejo

A) Actions to mitigate the crisis in Lake Chad Basin, addressing violence, economic recovery and security restoration

B) Strategies for the prevention of nuclear accidents with an emphasis on Russia, France and the United States of America

International Criminal Court

President: Manuel Alejandro Grajales Santillán

- A) The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi
- B) The Prosecutor v. Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein

"When one does something with one's heart, one should feel proud."

-Fernando Alonso Diaz

For you:

6 years ago I was starting my adventure in the world of Model United Nations. I remember very much my first model, I was the delegate of Guinea Bissau in a UNESCO committee. We were looking for solutions for the theft of marine archaeology. That sixth grader, who almost cried his first time going to the list of speakers, today is the Secretary General of the largest Model United Nations in Latin America, TECMUN.

When I started in Model United Nations it was a world full of uncertainty, but little by little I got deeper, until I got here, it has been a long road, but it has been worth it. Along the way I have met many people who have inspired me, now it is your turn to inspire me. Thanks to you, I am still here, I want to thank you for inspiring me to continue to stand in front and follow a dream.

For you, delegation, embassy, judge, agent or defender; whether it's your first time in a model or your tenth, I hope these 3 days of debate and hard work will pay off. First of all, I would like you to feel **proud** of the work you have done, standing up in a forum is not easy, and you are the **brave** ones who do it. Feel even braver for becoming, even if only in 3 days, agents of change, for daring to raise your placard in moderate caucus, for having **initiative** to negotiate in simple caucus and for making your proposals, that, even if they sound very crazy, try to **change the world**.

I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity, to enjoy these 3 days and not to take this model as just another task or as an obligation of your school, but to **have the initiative and be brave enough to dare to change the world**.

Santiago Gutiérrez Caycedo
Secretary General for the
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“Be a lover. Give love. Choose love. Always”
- Harry Styles

Dear participant:

I hope these three days will be more than a United Nations model, you have probably heard this at TECMUN before, or if it is your first time here, prepare to hear over and over again that TECMUN will change your life, or at least the following years. Maybe the phrase sounds very cliché, or maybe you think it is not true, but let me tell you that at least for me, it did change my course. You do not realize the great impact that something has on your life until it starts to end, and this being my penultimate TECMUN after two years as part of the Secretariat, I can say that nothing would have been the same without this family.

This United Nations model goes beyond assuming the role of a delegation and maintaining a position, it is also about recognizing alternate realities to our own and being able to recognize the power we have. In such a chaotic world, it is important that we always keep in mind that not all people live in the same reality, unfortunately, some face difficulties day by day, while others live in comfort and luxuries. Today more than ever we must raise our voices as new generations, it is of the utmost importance that we fight for a better world for ourselves and for the generations to come; because this is not about being selfish and looking out only for ourselves, but also taking care of the future of the next people who will be in this world.

It is very easy to hate something or someone, hate something you do, create a hate speech, promote discrimination, but the most difficult thing will always be to love, to love what you do, to love who you do it for, or to love yourself. And when you manage to love yourself, love what you do and for whom and why you do it, then you will have won.

If there is something that I want you to take into account during these three days, I want you to know that there is nothing more valuable than fighting for what you love, be it a cause or a hobby, never allow anything or anyone to take away your love for what you are doing. From my own experience, please never give up on what you are passionate about, because for a reason you have come so far and for a reason you are putting so much effort into what moves your soul and mind every day.

I hope with all my heart that you enjoy these three days of the model to the fullest, I hope that you meet new people, realities that are different from yours, or better yet, that you find that motivation to continue wanting to change the world. Believe me, there is no more satisfying achievement than impacting those around us.

Lía Naomi Mejía Vargas
Chief of General Coordination for the
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Our life always expresses the result of our dominant thoughts.

(Soren Kierkegaard)

Since 2018, TECMUN has been a part of my life, first as a delegate, then as part of the secretariat, and now as general undersecretary. I can't describe exactly how I got to this position, mostly because it wasn't something that was part of my plans a few months ago. However, this made me realize that my effort, dedication and ability are shown in my day to day, which gives results that determine the course of my life. This is why I invite you to take advantage of the small or large opportunities that destiny gives you, in this case, this model. This is the time to be able to show what you are capable of for three days, regardless of what others say. Remember that most of the people who participate in TECMUN are in the same conditions as you, nervous, maybe being forced to participate or just wanting to have a new experience. I hope you can take from this model the best it could offer you. So take advantage of it and try to do the best you can, as many don't have the opportunity to attend events like this. I hope that you have made new friends and that you have been able to face any fear or concern related to speaking in front of an audience. I want you to have learned how working as a team can be one of the best decisions throughout your life, and how being an empathetic, respectful and dedicated person can open more doors for you than any other resource can.

I wish you much success now and always,

Montserrat Ríos Fernández
Subsecretary for the General Assembly for the
XXXI TECMUN Jr.

What truly matters in life are not the goals we set for ourselves, but the paths we follow to achieve it.” Peter Boom

Dear delegate,

It is a pleasure for me to be able to live with you the beginning of this wonderful stage and this new challenge that was imposed on me. I want to tell you that I am already proud because you have made the decision to participate in this great model, the world sometimes needs people like you who aim to achieve magnificent things while learning and experiencing incredible values and moments. I really hope that from this model you can learn to persevere and to overcome the challenges that may come your way in the best possible way through the challenges that you set for yourself. Each one is different, therefore, each one decides how far they want to limit themselves when following the path towards their goal, so practice to be able to go so far that you surprise yourself, be prepared to give a great effort to everything you consider.

I must tell you that I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to learn from you and from this model, and I am also looking forward to learning from you too. I consider it relevant to thank you for being part of such a diverse and formidable team, I fully trust you that you will put all your effort, love, strength and tenacity so that together we can achieve the joy and beautiful coexistence of a unique, amazing and fascinating experience.

Nuri Valentina Galindo Gutierrez

President of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for
the XXXI TECMUN Jr.

Background

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was created in July 2010 by the blend of the Division for the Advancement of Women, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and United Nations Development Fund for Women organisms to approach the gender inequality defiances and the female empowerment, likewise is committed to step up the evolution of global needs. UN Women is composed of 41 members, from five different territorial distributions, as well as contributing countries. This committee works through establishing laws, programs, and services with the government's help and civil society.

Faculties

Having the objective to improve their presence, leadership, and empowerment, besides, ending the violence against women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

- Offers inter-governmental support helping member states create laws and worldwide standards through investigations, assistance, and implementation of norms over the country's programs;
- Manages, regulates, and improves accountability in the UN system while it impulses the integration of gender context;
- Cooperates with member states for the suitable application of economic, technical, and programmatic aid using the UN system coordination, private sector, and mobilization of civil society.

Topic A

Measures to guarantee the economic empowerment of women in the Middle East with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan after the ban of work for Afghan women and its consequences

*By: Nuri Valentina Galindo Gutiérrez
Ana Paula García López
Paola Isabel Arana Campuzano*

Introduction

Recently, the empowerment of women has gained significant recognition all over the world as an important aspect of achieving gender equality and inclusive economic growth. The Middle East has been focused on increasing female economic participation. Since the early twentieth century, the legal status of women in the modern Middle East has been in transition. Women are affected to different extents by traditional and reformed versions of Islamic laws¹ as well as imported European laws, in the various Middle Eastern legal systems. In general, females of this area have legal equality with men in political life, education, professional prospects, and income. Furthermore, Islamic law has always provided full legal competence once girls reach puberty. However, in the context of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the ban on work for Afghan women has posed significant challenges to their economic empowerment and financial fairness, delaying all the progress that was already made regarding the rights of Afghan people since prior to the outbreak of this proxy warlike conflict. In fact women were protected under law and increasingly afforded rights in society.

Since the arrival of Taliban² in August of 2021, Afghan women had been put under harsh restrictions in their lives that attest against their human rights. It was December of 2022 when this movement banned women from working in any national or international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Before the ban, about 40% of women were working for NGOs and in turn the vast majority were the main source of income in their families (Uk Parliament, 2023). At first, this restriction was temporary, but after nearly two years of Taliban's arrival there is no sign of quitting this prohibition, claiming that this

¹ **Islamic law:** The diverse legal systems that have been and continue to be produced with the objective of being in accord with the Islamic faith.

² **Taliban:** A Muslim fundamentalist group in Afghanistan. (Dictionary.com., n.d.).

measure was supposedly imposed because women did not wear the traditional Afghan outfit correctly.

Historical background

In the past, Amanullah Khan, who was in power from 1919 until 1929 along with his wife Queen Soraya, promoted reforms where he sought to guarantee the rights of women in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. During this time, women held the center stage in his socio-political and economic reforms which brought on huge changes in their lives. New schools for boys and girls were opened, strict dress rules for women were banned, polygamy³ was discouraged and abolished, forced marriages were prohibited and the minimum marriage age was raised to 18 for women and 21 for men. Despite this, Amanulá's modernizing reforms provoked several disagreements among people with more traditional and conservative thoughts.

Then, Amanullah was overthrown and almost immediately Muhammad Nadir Shah who was a military that was first appointed Commander-in-chief in 1914, then Minister of War in 1919 and lastly Afghan minister in 1924, proclaimed himself king in 1929 and in a short time abolished most of the reforms that Amanullah had promulgated, setting women's rights limited again. This era, however, did not last long since Nadir Shah was deprived of his life in 1933, and many of Amanullah's initiatives were re-implemented during the long reign of Nadir Shah's son, Muhammad Zahir Shah, the last king of Afghanistan who lasted in power forty years, from 1933 to 1973. During this time, schools for girls were re-established, a new university was founded and a new constitution was instituted. Finally, the Taliban ruled

³ **Polygamy:** The fact or custom of being married to more than one person at the same time

for the first time in 1996 where the rights of women to education and employment were suspended.

Current situation

Nowadays, women of Afghanistan went from existing as part of society and being part of all aspects of life as doctors, judges, nurses, engineers, women who run offices, among other professions, to being excluded and belittled. Everything they had, the basic right like being able to attend school, was taken from them. Adding that in May of 2022, the Taliban decreed that women and girls must wear face coverings (burka) in public and they must stay home except in cases of necessity, they can not travel long distances without escort or accompaniment of a man. Despite initially promising that women could exercise their rights within the limits of sharia that Muslims follow to live moral lives growing close to God and the Islamic law that includes the right to work and study, the Taliban have systematically excluded women and girls from public life.

On the other hand, as reported by the World Bank in 2022, women moved into self-employed activities, such as farming, piece work or repairing clothes, although contributing to household income and preventing female employment from falling even more. These activities are typically home-based, given the systematic exclusion from social activities. After everything, the employment situation for women remains critical and was aggravated further by a recent decree banning them from working in national and international NGOs. Also, the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), Achim Steiner said that “denying women and girls their fundamental rights will also accelerate Afghanistan's slide back into extreme poverty and keep it in a state of economic loss and social imbalance that would take decades to reverse”, emphasizing that

over a billion dollars in income for households across Afghanistan are from varied areas of female work, and being the main source that gives a crucial home safety net.

Impact on NGOs agenda after the ban of work for women

Since the Taliban government imposed the prohibition in December, organizations all around the nation have been frantically adjusting the way they operate. For those attempting to aid millions of Afghans in need, the government's order has forced difficult decisions. The majority of international NGOs paused their work, claiming that suspending operations was the best chance of convincing Taliban to lift the restriction. However, thousands of Afghan women employed by regional businesses are trying to continue working remotely from their homes, figuring out the best strategies. The ban's effects go far deeper than the confines of NGOs. Although it could have technically maintained female employees in the workplace, it was concerned that this might still damage its humanitarian activities.

Numerous Afghan women who operate national NGOs or supervise assistance distribution programs spoke to the newspaper, *The New Humanitarian*, in January and February, have been able to make concessions that allow them to carry on with their work. Several organizations have criticized the suspensions, most recently the International Crisis Group, which claimed that by halting activities or limiting help, donors and international Non-Governmental Organizations were worsening the humanitarian disaster. Foreign assistance institutions operating in Afghanistan are quick to emphasize that they continue to try to help where they can even while the restrictions persist.

Around 94% of the examined national organizations either completely or partially stopped activities. Of these national NGOs, 64% claimed that the prohibition directly affected more than 70% of their operations. The ban's effects were felt right away and in many

different humanitarian sectors. Activities related to child protection and gender-based violence, such as managing cases and psychotherapy for women who have experienced abuse, have been most negatively impacted. These results highlight the critical importance of full and equal participation of women for efficiency and effectiveness across the spectrum of humanitarian relief delivery given the direct impact of the absence of female employees across all operational areas.

Humanitarian crisis

Since the return to power of the Taliban and the prohibition of work for women, the economy of Afghanistan has been greatly affected, there is an increase in food and fuel prices, adding that around 95% of Afghans are at risk of suffering from a lack of natural and economic resources this year, while more than a million of children under the age of 5 are already severely malnourished. This is why the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) mentions that the crisis in the health system made it difficult for women and girls to access reproductive health services, especially for the more than 9 million people who live in low-income areas. As a result, UNFPA provided reproductive health services to more than 4.3 million people, distributed essential medicines and supplies to hospitals to ensure safe deliveries, and menstrual hygiene supplies to hundreds of thousands of women and girls. Prohibiting women from working delays the development of the Republic of Afghanistan, being a country that needs everyone's support to contribute to regional stability⁴.

Afghanistan has been suffering decades of ample conflicts, climate disasters, dreadful protection, especially for girls and women and economic catastrophes. The decayed economy has lost incomes and increased debts six-folding estimating that 21% of the rural population

⁴ **Regional stability:** situation in which a country does not show large variations in its main macroeconomic indices. (Economipedia, 2019).

lives in conditions of extreme poverty where women are specifically involved because of the labor market challenges. According to data from the World Bank, Afghanistan is one of the countries with the most absence of resources in the world today caused by huge droughts, raising food insecurity and altering the livestock health, adding that the World Food Program (WFP) has said that half of its more than 42 million habitants suffer from serious nutritional problems and 86% of them go hungry. On the other hand, the Human Development Index (HDI), indicates that Afghans are among the inhabitants with the worst quality of life. The Gross Domestic Product⁵ (GDP) per capita of Afghanistan in 2021 was 312 euros, which would be 141 euros less than in 2020.

Exclusion of women and girls from education

After the Taliban took power, universities created separate classrooms and entrances by gender, likewise, female students could only be taught by female professors or older men. The Taliban are a group that defends a vision of Islam⁶, in which they promised to apply a vision of Sharia or Islamic law, which is the set of laws that apply to the Muslim. In this way, the Taliban sought to guarantee peace and security once established in power. But it was not like that since a large part of the female teaching staff that was still working did not receive their salary for months. By depriving women and girls of their right to education, the de facto authorities deny the contribution of half the Afghan population to the national development, economic growth and stability of the country. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) pointed out that the exclusion of women and girls from education increases the risks of forced child marriages, as well as violence and abuse towards them.

⁵ **Gross Domestic Product:** Set of goods and services produced in a country during a period of time. (Britannica, 2023).

⁶ **Islam:** Major world religion promulgated by the Prophet Muhammad in Arabia in the 7th century. (Britannica, 2023).

Without educated women, there will be fewer professionals to care for the citizens and move Afghanistan forward.

In the same way, they pointed out that female doctors are necessary to provide women with adequate medical care as the de facto authorities restrict male doctors from treating them. According to the government, 3.5 million children do not attend school, and of this number, 85% are girls and only 37% of adolescents are literate. Educating women and girls lay the foundations for women's economic autonomy and is essential for them to have access to well-paid jobs and achieve gender equality. Therefore, the lack of access to education by Afghan girls can cause them not to be part of the decision-making processes that affect both their current and future lives. Within the prohibitions towards studies, extensive restrictions were imposed on the subjects that could be studied in careers such as veterinary science, engineering, economics, agriculture, and journalism is severely restricted. The United States of America and other Western countries have made improvements in female education in Afghanistan as a condition of formal recognition by the Taliban government.

The restriction of education for women and girls creates a risk in the Republic of Afghanistan, as no country or nation can advance if half of its population is prevented from receiving an education or participating in public life. Education is the authentically real force of people and governments because education means growth, development and progress in the physical, social, psychological, speculative, mental and technical capacity of human beings. The right to education is a way to develop people's economic and social rights since education is very important for access to a better standard of living, the disappearance of the lack of resources, the reduction of child labor and the equality of the generation. For this reason, the education of women is important since it helps them to fully participate in the

social and political life of the country, as well as to help them in accessing healthcare, their economic growth, and a progressive social development.

Attempts to approach the conflict

Given the situation of the crisis and inequality in Afghanistan, UN Women in cooperation with the UN system, governments, and civil society, performed premeditated programs for its member states. Aiming to reinforce anti-violence norms and political women's participation, developing their proficiency and leadership skills, this way, guaranteeing gender equality opportunities by integrating them into national projects and budgets which are based on strategies and plans to fortify female movements and institutionalize practices among groups to implement them. This is essential to safeguard that level playing field approach for security policies and protocols, also to improve critical services for women in areas experiencing conflict.

UN Women also proposes to reconstruct the Afghan female acts, recognizing them as equivalent partners, which is facilitated by vital Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Afghanistan, providing financial support in innovative initiatives. Besides, the committee assists humanitarian services for women by women, with the objective to satisfy Afghan women and girls needs, it requests the expansion and security of safe areas to access vital servants. Finally, the organization recommends creating an autonomous human rights verifying program to manage investigations and collect female freedoms data to guarantee responsibility regarding women's civil rights.

Notwithstanding UN Women efforts, and thanks to low-income and middle-income countries, poverty continues to be uplifted, added to the ban on work that affects the indispensable female population's role in incomes all over Africa. This leads to their

limitations of opportunities forcing them to labor precariously and with deficient wages. On the other hand, democratic elections on the continent have extended, actually there is a record in conditions of the number of seats of parliamentarians in the representative chambers engaged by female staff. Nonetheless, election-related extreme force is a developing consideration.

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Topic B

Procedures to reinforce and protect reproductive rights for women in Africa as a consequence of the HIV and AIDS pandemic

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Introduction

Africa has been suffering from a pandemic of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which started decades ago in the city of Kinshasa, now the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. HIV/AIDS is a disease that spreads through bodily fluids from an infected person, such as blood, semen, or vaginal secretions, that can also be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy. Some exposure factors are having sexual relationships without a condom, suffering from other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), sharing infected injection material, performing medical procedures that involve cutting or drilling with non-sterile instruments, among others.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than two-thirds of the African population has been suffering from HIV and AIDS since decades ago. The propagation of the virus has increased due to gender inequality in Africa, as a consequence, it can advance disease rates and decrease the capacity of women and girls to face the contagion since they do not have the necessary education about the disease and possess less resources to use preventive methods and procedures. In 2022, the United Nations not only warned that inequalities are preventing the end of AIDS but also conducted an analysis showing how unequal and damaging gender norms are drastically impacting the AIDS pandemic impacting essential gender programs that have decreased in many parts of Africa.

Taking the above into account, women have multiple exposures to HIV and AIDS because of family violence that includes physical attacks by intimate partners, sexual abuse, marital abuse⁷, genital mutilation, and other destructive common procedures against the

⁷ **Marital abuse:** A pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. (UN, n.d.).

female population. On the other hand, they can also be victims of disturbance in society and suffer from gender-based violence perpetrated as part of forced sex by government forces members in armed conflicts, involuntary sterilization and assault perpetrated by officials. In relationships where there are unequal rights and decision-making, women do not have the opportunity to discuss the use of condoms or other secure sexual practices products, this can influence them into drug use or unhealthy sex practices, such as sexual relations in which there are discrimination and violence. Its consequences are the contraction of HIV or AIDS, STIs, infertility, unintended pregnancy, sexual dysfunction and harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The obstacle also alters the infrastructure of health in the country, highlighting that a short quantity of donated blood is subjected to adequate tests, which increases the risk of transmission of the virus through transfusion⁸.

Historical background

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) started the African Children's Charter (ACRWC) which is an initiative that was adopted in 1990 and came into force in 1999, the African Committee of Experts monitored its implementation on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which developed a Plan of Action for orphans and vulnerable children. The Plan of Action emphasized the full implementation of children's programs, enhancing the life chances of minors, the prevention of HIV and AIDS to ensure children's development and survival, developing the potential of kids by realizing their right to education, and ensuring the participation of them. It is important to educate children in order to promote young people with the information of HIV and AIDS which they seldom get from their parents or senior family members. The right to education includes the right to knowledge and skills needed for

⁸ **Transfusion:** The direct transferring of blood, plasma, or the like into a blood vessel. (Dictionary.com, n.d.).

sexual health and virus prevention and care. Then, the Security Council resolution 1308 was adopted in 2000, which accentuated the HIV and AIDS-related responsibilities of international peacekeeping operations. Later, the Maputo Protocol signed by the member states of the African Union (AU) on women and girls rights was adopted in 2003 and came into force in 2005. This protocol recognizes more supervision over the commitments that African states have made in relation to the respect of women.

In July 2004, AU adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality as the reaffirmation of their commitment to gender equality, parity and monitoring of the rights of women. After this, the African Youth Charter was adopted in 2006 in response to the need to prioritize youth development and empowerment. It reiterated the need to protect the fundamental rights of young people and girls to education, information, communication and awareness on HIV and reproductive health, searching for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, harmful cultural practices and violence against adolescent women and protection of their rights, by ensuring equal access to healthcare and economic opportunities. The 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS recognized the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Afterwards, in 2009, the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) was adopted by the AU as a response to the crisis of high maternal deprivation of lives. Later on, the African Women's Decade (AWD) was launched by AU in 2010, advancing gender equality by accelerating the implementation of global and regional commitments and decisions regarding gender equality and women and girls empowerment.

Human Rights Council resolutions on the protection of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS, were adopted in 2011, which pointed out the availability, accessibility and affordability of medicines and healthcare services for HIV-positive pregnant women, and

called for establishing or expanding gender-sensitive national virus policies and programmes. In 2015, AIDS-related illnesses were one of the leading causes of casualties for women of reproductive age in Africa. According to 2021 data from the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD) and the AU, approximately 86% of all children newly infected with HIV in 2018 were in sub-Saharan Africa, where the HIV epidemic is mostly concentrated, women between the ages 15 to 24 accounted for almost half of the new infections in the year despite being only ten percent of the population. Around 2018 and 2019, 10,000 women living with HIV directly benefited from UN Women's support, resulting in increased advocacy and leadership skills, expanded participation in decision-making spaces in the HIV response, and increased access to services.

Current situation

One of the most critical health crises the world is currently dealing with is the HIV pandemic according to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 2010, around 34 million people were living with AIDS. Women continue to bear a disproportionate share of the burden of new infections and diseases because they develop more strength adaptive immune responses to viral infections than men. Antiretroviral⁹ medications are now widely available and used, which has altered the HIV/AIDS landscape and changed how they are perceived, from a fatal, incurable disease to a chronic, manageable condition. This ideal view of development is not the case in many regions of the world where there is still a long gap in information and

⁹ **Antiretroviral:** treatment of people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) using anti-HIV drugs. (Dictionary.com, n.d.).

services for society. Fortunately, people in Sub-Saharan Africa¹⁰ (SSA) maintain healthier lives as effective therapies become available.

Additionally, there has been an upsurge in advocacy for the healthcare system's capacity to deliver the sexual and reproductive health services that people living with AIDS in Africa severely need due to the strong sexual infection pandemic. Particularly in developed nations, such as Egypt, this decade has seen increased attention to various sexually transmitted disease connections and sexual and reproductive health because of the high morbidity, mortality and impact on the national and individual health economy and the loss of productivity associated with these infections in developing countries. Reproductive technology, like sexual protection measures, may be able to assist couples with these types of conditions in safely conceiving children with a low danger of HIV transmission to their partners or the child. However, such technologies are not economically or physically available for the majority of couples, particularly in low-income nations in sub-Saharan Africa. For instance, it is required to focus costly antiretroviral medications on highly productive socioeconomic groups in particular industries based on their contribution to economic production in order to maintain economic stability. Such an approach would increase financial balance and government funding, providing time for educating replacement labor and minimizing the pandemic's overall effects, for example, the pause of the spread of health services.

Lack of sexual education in African countries

¹⁰ **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Area and regions of the continent of Africa that lie south of the Sahara. (WorldAtlas, 2023).

Of the six emerging world regions, Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest rates of educational marginalization “over one-fifth of primary-age children are not in school, while nearly 60% of teens aged 15 to 17 are not enrolled” (BBC, 2020). There are numerous hurdles¹¹ to schooling for low-income families, one of them is school fees, which are still common in the academic field across sub-Saharan Africa, putting financial strain on families. Most SSA groups define themselves as religious and traditional, religious writings and some cultures preach premarital sexual abstinence, monogamy, the sanctity of life, and opposite-sex sexual interactions. In some African communities, it is regarded as appropriate in marriage ceremonies, such ideas have contributed to school-based resistance to reproductive education that focuses solely on abstinence, undesired pregnancies, and STI prevention.

A 2019 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) analysis demonstrates the consequences of concealing or passing on incorrect information to students. Two out of every three girls report having no understanding of what their menstrual experiences mean. Furthermore, pregnancy and delivery problems are the second leading cause of casualties among people aged 15 to 19. In fact, poor sexual awareness is the leading cause of the continent's young people becoming victims of HIV and AIDS, unexpected adolescent pregnancies, and unsafe abortions. Incorporating complete education in African classrooms addresses the core causes of the continent's high rates of sexual assault. Besides, it helps as a model for healthy relationships among young people around the world.

Impact of cultural practices in the contraction of HIV and AIDS

African women often have older male partners who are more likely to be HIV or AIDS-positive. Parents educate young women to be submissive to men and arrange marriages

¹¹ **Hurdle:** A problem that you have to deal with before you can make progress. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

¹² for their daughters at young ages, also, in some parts they practice wife inheritance, a tradition in which a spouse is given to her brother-in-law upon her partner's casualties. This can expose the partner to infection by the virus. In these situations, when men have multiple wives, newly married young women may contract it unknowingly from their husbands. As a consequence, most women do not ask their partners for their HIV status for fear of violence. If females find themselves in a subordinate position to their partners, particularly with the threat of wickedness, they may be unable to refuse unsafe sexual practices, insist on condom usage, resist sexual harassment, or control their male partners' faithfulness. As an example, a report from the United Nations cites the fact that engaged women are at a high threat of contracting HIV when cultural norms condone male promiscuity¹³ or patriarchal¹⁴ control of the married couple's sexual activities.

Sexual initiation rites¹⁵ were also blamed in part for creating a permissive environment for directly providing opportunities for HIV transmission. In fact, gender inequality is accused of being the primary factor that determines patterns of HIV in Africa, as well as the low status of women that has also been connected to their low participation in HIV education and prevention programs. In some cases, women are pressured because of their beliefs, which promotes unsafe premarital sexual activities. Likewise, when the dissolution of an unhealthy relationship is not a culturally feasible option for women, their vulnerability to HIV infection is increased. In addition, the epidemic makes gender inequalities worse, raising the vulnerability of affected women and young girls to violations

¹² **Arrange marriages:** A marriage in which the bride and groom were chosen to marry each other by their parents or other relatives. (Dictionary.com, n.d.).

¹³ **Promiscuity:** Being a person who has a lot of different sexual partners or sexual relationships. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

¹⁴ **Patriarchal:** Ruled or controlled by men. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

¹⁵ **Rites:** A set of fixed words and actions, often said and done as part of a religious ceremony. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

of their basic human rights as the right to reproductive and sexual decision-making, including the number and spacing of children, the right to self-protection from HIV, the right to access to information about HIV and AIDS and reproductive health including antenatal¹⁶ services, and other fundamental human rights such as education and health care.

Women and girls in Africa experience daily discrimination, inequality, exclusion and injustice in their families, communities and societies. They may be subject to violence or harmful practices such as early marriage, FGM, and widow cleansing¹⁷, increasing their risk of HIV transmission. Women living with HIV may be afraid to access to testings, treatment, refuse services, or avoid using existing health care services due to discriminatory practices, such as forced sterilization, or due to fear of wildness and abandonment if their HIV status becomes known, they may fear disclosing their disease status, losing the potential support of families and communities in the process. In addition, women with disabilities have even lower access to medical management, including HIV prevention. Without protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights, the ability of women to protect themselves from this infection is reduced and impaired, they may not have access to adequate and accessible information.

Attempts to approach the conflict

Since the violation of sexual and reproductive health of women's rights, including the lack of insurance and methods to address gender violence and its relationship with HIV and AIDS, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) has taken action on the conflict by advocating the juridical female empowerment that has

¹⁶ **Antenatal:** relating to the medical care given to pregnant women before their babies are born. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

¹⁷ **Widow cleansing:** Practices to "clean" widows sexually since they are considered impure. (LSE, 2019).

been affected with this pandemic. An association with the Canadian International Development Agency has put this into practice with their initiative, which has raised awareness “more than 650 national leaders, 650 paralegals, and 9,000 social members” (UN WOMEN, n.d.) in encouraging women's rights to ownership. Besides, most of the female African population that is affected by HIV and AIDS does not have the necessary knowledge about legal procedures to demand their rights, so UN Women partner, the Southern Africa Women and Law Research and Education Trust, direct constitutional assistance clinics that travel to marginalized, rural and urban regions to instruct their inhabitants about the law and do not pay for lawful instruction.

On the other hand, violence against women and girls is another cause of the propagation of the virus. They are specifically unprotected due to sexual assault, female genital mutilation, child marriage, and other painful practices. Besides, the subordinate situation affects their social environment, restricting them from approaching information on reproductive health and using care services, this is why UN WOMEN is collaborating with the United Nations system to mainstream HIV and AIDS in policy and to align the National Framework for counter Gender Based Violence (GBV) with HIV prevention. Actually, UN Women is currently pressing for services to end attacks against women, however, the conflict continues impacting women's lives.

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Glosary of Forbidden Words

Forbidden Words

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

Forbidden Words	Permitted equivalents
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War ¹⁸	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black ¹⁹	African American

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¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ The word black, with regard to race, is not forbidden but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as African American or Afrodescendants.

Glossary for Resolution Projects

Preambulatory Phrases

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

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

XXXI TECMUN Jr.
Glossary for Resolution Projects

Operative Clauses

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

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