



Dear delegates from the United Nations General Assembly:

On behalf of the Directive Chair, welcome to the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations of EMUN 2019. The Directive Chair gladly welcomes all member delegates of the UNGA, named by its acronyms, participating in EMUN 2019.

For the next two days, our council will be able to discuss various topics, abundantly discussed and of international importance. Both of the committee's topics have been thoroughly selected so that all delegates will be challenged to participate inside the committee, provide solutions, and surpass current obstacles.

The members of the United Nations General Assembly work towards providing suggestions to other states involved in international or national conflicts, suggestions that often promote cooperation amongst states directed at the achievement of a common goal. Thus, it is important that delegates act accordingly to the committee's foundations and core principles in order to achieve long-lasting and effective resolutions.

The Chair enthusiastically encourages every delegate to participate, and advocates for the active respect between participants inside and outside the committee. The UNGA's Directive Chair is open to any inquiries regarding protocol and/or procedure and is looking forward to resolving any doubts the delegates may have.

We thank you for your attention, and we will be impatiently waiting for you at the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in EMUN 2019.

Sincerely,
Camila Ximena Márquez Berumen

About the committee

The United Nations General Assembly, as one of the six main subsidiary organs inside the United Nations, is conformed by 193 recognized member States, each with the right to vote, guaranteeing political representation and a voice, to each Member State during official sessions. In September of every year, the state representatives gather in order to carry through the annual meeting, in New York, at the General Assembly Hall inside the United Nations Secretariat Building. Among the main aims of the General Assembly, security, peace, and development are considered to be of major relevance. However, the committee addresses any topic covered by the UN Charter.¹

Within the wide functions of the General Assembly; the committee has the power of proposing recommendations to the states regarding international or national issues under their surveillance. Furthermore, they are in charge of approving and considering the annual budget for the United Nations and shape financial assessments. The General Assembly also has the duty to elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council as well as the members of other organs of the United Nations. Moreover, regarding international issues, it has the power to make recommendations for the cooperation among states in order to maintain peace and international security; however, the General Assembly abstains from making recommendations when the Security Council is already addressing an issue. This organ also has the capability of initiating studies to achieve political cooperation, promote peace, fulfill human rights, and foster culture and security. Finally, the General Assembly may consider the reports sent by the Security Council or any other UN organ in order to take actions within international issues.²



The General Assembly, as a member of the United Nations, is restricted by multiple limitations, which inhibit it from participating in several issues. Despite indeed being one of the most important decision-making organs of the United Nations, the General Assembly is limited to proceed outside its jurisdictions and can only do so with the proper authorization.

¹ UN. "United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly." United Nations, United Nations, 2008, www.un.org/en/ga/.

² Grant, Harriet. "What Is the UN General Assembly?" The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, Sept. 14, 2015, www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/14/what-is-the-un-general-assembly.



Topic A

Improving the quality of life of African countries through the implementation of point 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Peace, Justice and Solid institutions.

Sustainable development goals and quality of life

Quality of life is a term often used by physicians, as well as economists and businesspeople, which refers to a highly subjective measure of happiness that is an important component of many financial decisions³ and which can be measured through a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁴ However, to measure the quality of life, one must also look at different factors that don't involve the country's economy. These could be aspects like citizens' physical and emotional health, education, wealth, local public services, housing, and others.⁵

The United Nations and its General Assembly implemented in a meeting in 2015, 17 global goals that are expected to be fulfilled by the year 2030. These were given the name of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This call to action made by the United Nations urged countries with different levels of income to end poverty while boosting economic growth in other states, as well as fulfilling certain social needs. This would be implemented following the guidelines of sustainable development and protection of the nonhuman environment.⁶

The point 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, peace, justice, and solid institutions, "promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies." This goal focuses mainly on eliminating violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, corruption, as well as providing birth registrations, access to public information, transparent institutions, and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies that help towards the achievement of sustainable

³ Kagan, Julia. "Quality of Life." Investopedia. 2017. Investopedia. January 2019 <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/q/quality-of-life.asp>.

⁴ NA. "Quality of life indicators - measuring quality of life." Eurostat. 2018. Eurostat. January 2019 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Quality_of_life_indicators_-_measuring_quality_of_life.

⁵ Forbes Media. "Quality Of Life: Everyone Wants It, but What Is It?." Forbes. 2013. Forbes. January 2019 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/iese/2013/09/04/quality-of-life-everyone-wants-it-but-what-is-it/#17c0fb89635d>.

⁶ United Nations. "17 Goals to Transform Our World." United Nations Sustainable Development. United Nations. January 2019 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>.



development. These goals would also be achieved by promoting the participation of developing countries in global governance and the improvement of national institutions that fight inequality and violence.⁷

The African continent, Development, and Sustainable Development Goals

The entire African continent has a GDP of 2.19 trillion USD. This makes it the poorest continent in the world. In terms of health and education, the Northern African territories have seen an increase in their development; other African regions, however, are still struggling with suboptimal living conditions for their population and violence. Even though the African territory as a whole is steadily improving, there are still many places in which poverty is a constant. The main aspects that would need to be tackled in order to improve the quality of life in the continent are health insurance, education and its gaps, poverty, fossil fuels use, and electricity availability.⁸

During the 70th UN General Assembly, Africa discussed how they wanted to implement the SDGs in their agenda. The AU (African Union) then decided that mainly goal 16 would be added to the AU's Agenda for 2063.⁹

⁷ United Nations. "Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies." United Nations Sustainable Development UN. United Nations. January 2019 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/page/2/>.

⁸ Agence France-Presse. "Quality of life on rise for many Africans, report says" Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/898491/quality-of-life-on-rise-for-many-africans-report-says#ixzz5g5gCKyDh> Follow us: @inquirerdotnet on Twitter | inquirerdotnet on Facebook. "Inquirer.net. 2017. NewsInfo. February 2019 <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/898491/quality-of-life-on-rise-for-many-africans-report-says>.

⁹ NA. "Words into deeds on SDG 16 in Africa." Africa Renewal. Africa Renewal. February 2019 <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/ar-blog/words-deeds-sdg-16-africa>.



Guiding Questions

I. When did your country join the United Nations?

II. What has been your country's contribution to developing the point 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals in other countries and inside its territory respectively?

III. Which has been your country's position towards worldwide peace and justice?

IV. Is your country involved in any conflict?

V. When was the last time your country participated in an armed conflict?

VI. Which is your country's GDP and HDI? Has it decreased or increased through the years?

VII. What is your country's relation to Africa?

VIII. What solid institutions are important for improving the quality of life?

Topic B

Countering human trafficking and supporting its victims.

Human trafficking and the Protocols Thereto

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as, “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”¹⁰

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs, the previous definition helps to establish a concrete behavior that should be criminalized by domestic legislations. Therefore, in order to counter human trafficking, in the year 2000, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCTOC) and the Protocols Thereto were created, which the United Nations General Assembly adopted in the same year. Nowadays, this is considered to be one of the major international tools to fight transnational organized crime since its global validation in 2003. The protocol is divided into two parts: the “Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air” and the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons,” which is the one in charge of sanctioning these criminal acts.

According to the protocol, trafficking takes this name when it is conformed by purpose, premeditation, and act. As such, it has been established by the UNCTOC that national legislations should criminalize the following actions:0

¹⁰ UNODC. “What is Human Trafficking?” Published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes. Retailed in January 2019.

- Attempts to commit a trafficking offense;
- Participation as an accomplice in such an offense;
- Organizing or directing others to commit trafficking.¹¹

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), since 2016, around 40.3 million people have been trapped in what it is known to be modern slavery, which is every day increasing in numbers, becoming one of the major problems for the international law to face urgently.¹²

¹¹ UNODC. "UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE PROTOCOLS THERETO." Unodc.org. 2004. United Nations. February 20 2019 https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime/UNITED_NATIONS_CONVENTION_AGAINST_TRANSNATIONAL_ORGANIZED_CRIME_AND_THE_PROTOCOLS_THERETO.pdf.

¹² NA. "THE SCALE OF THE ISSUE." Stop the Traffic. People shouldn't be sold or bought. Stop the Traffic. February 2019 <https://www.stophetraffik.org/about-human-trafficking/the-scale-of-human-trafficking/>



Guiding Questions

I. Has your country been involved in human trafficking?

II. How is your country currently fighting human trafficking?

III. Did your country sign the Protocols Thereto?

IV. Does your country's legislation hinder in any way those established by the UNCTOC?

V. How many people have been trapped in modern slavery in your country?

VI. Has your country implemented policies that support the victims of human trafficking?

VII. Which United Nations resolutions on human trafficking has your country adopted so far?



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