

# Issues on the Agenda

## I. General Assembly

### First Committee (GA1)

- Debating measures to demilitarize post-war areas

*There are hundreds of conflicts in this world at the same time and as some start, they also end. However, when a war has come to its end, it does not mean that the militarised areas just change in a moment's time. Post-war zones need demilitarizing measures like reconstruction of governmental institutions and disarmament. To ensure this, action has to be taken. By doing a bit of research on the internet, you can find several ended conflicts which destroyed and militarized regions. Maybe the inhabitants even left, so it is necessary to demilitarize the areas in order to ensure their return and a positive development of the regions.*

- Combatting terrorist activities in the Western Pacific Ocean with special regard to the Philippines

*The Pacific Ocean is the biggest ocean on earth and various nations border on it. Naturally, the ocean also becomes a part of conflicts within nations and societies. Many groups, states and corporations use the Pacific for their own advantage. There are companies owning ships which cross the ocean to trade; there are refugees trying to enter a nation which is stable and safe – and there are terroristic organisations fighting the government or their enemies on land and water by attacking e. g. ships or by kidnapping tourists.*

*Furthermore, the terrorism taking place in the western part of the Pacific Ocean is not a local problem and cannot be solved by one state on its own. As a consequence, the United Nations shall deal with this topic to solve the issue and guarantee security and stability.*

- Discussing the use and trade of private firearms

*Is it a person's right to own a gun? If yes, should there be restrictions or background checks, and if so, what should they look like? Private gun ownership is legal in 192 of 195 countries worldwide, with laws regarding use and purchase varying from country to country. The United States of America, the Falkland Islands and Yemen are the countries with the most guns per capita. Even though private gun ownership in one country does not immediately affect the people from another, it indirectly affects other countries. For example, gun violence can result in whole groups being blamed for actions performed by a single person from this country.*

## Second Committee (GA 2)

- Measures to prevent a breakout of an international trade war

*High tariffs have returned, and all signs point to the start of an international trade war. That's not a bad joke or a comedy show; it is reality and therefore the United Nations as the most important intergovernmental organization on earth have to face it now. In times of globalization and international connection, few things are more dangerous than isolation and trade-obstacles. The world-wide economy is balanced and secured by international organizations, however, every change can mean a threat, and such a change has been made in the last years. Therefore, the breakout of a trade war has become a possibility and this needs to be prevented in order to ensure consumer security.*

- Discussing the role of multinational companies in global trade

*Companies are essential for international trade. They can be active in different nations, trade with different goods – and they don't depend on a nation or its resources. This can be seen as a chance and as a threat, as global players can control whole markets and decide upon prices, and even intergovernmental organizations cannot hinder them. Furthermore, companies buy huge deposits of essential raw materials and could use future lacks for their own advantage.*

*Furthermore, it is important we acknowledge and discuss the fact that many multinational companies make use of the low minimum wages and environmental regulations in poorer countries. Such scenarios need to be discussed by the UN.*

- Measures to reintegrate Zimbabwe into the international market

*The South African country Zimbabwe was a dictatorship under ex-president Mugabe for 30 years, from 1987 until 2017, when he ended his presidential term. Mugabe's government is responsible for various human rights violations, and Zimbabwe's population had to suffer from a declining economy and hyperinflation as well. Zimbabwe is rich in natural goods, especially minerals like gold and platinum, and also has a prominent agricultural sector. U.S. loans for the country were frozen in 2002 after a decision by the US-government. Reintegrating Zimbabwe into the international trade market is crucial to stabilize the country and enable a better future for its citizens.*

## Third Committee (GA 3)

- Combatting child marriage in the Islamic World

Today, over 650 million women alive worldwide were married when they were under 18 years of age, and over 12 million underage girls are married each year. Forced marriage at such a young age not only subjects them to psychological and domestic violence, abuse and exploitation, it also prevents them from getting an education. Whilst the proportion of girls married as children has fallen from 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 in the past years, there's still a long way to go until the Sustainable Development Goal of ending child marriages altogether until 2030 can be reached. Child marriage is often "caused" by bride price, dowry, cultural traditions, laws allowing it or poverty. The regions with the highest child marriage rates are West and Central Africa and Southeast Asia, but laws allowing children under 18 years of age to be married with consent of their parents are set in 93 countries.

- Fighting the worldwide drug trade with special regards to Latin America

*In 2015, about 225 million people consumed drugs - that's about 3% of the world's population (according to the UNODC, dark digits are likely to be a lot higher). Drugs do not only destroy one's health if consumed regularly, injections with dirty equipment can also transmit diseases like HIV or Hepatitis. Opium production and Cocaine manufacture are both on the rise, with the primary drug market being in Latin America, especially Mexico and Colombia. There, drug cartels control whole cities and can practice their power without being controlled by the local governmental authorities. Young people are forced to get involved in the gangs and cartels, effectively signing a life's "subscription" of violence. But the drug trade is not only endangering the drug dealers; many poor people rob and assault others to finance their own illegal drug consume. This does not only worsen a country's inner security, it is also bad for its economy, since many South American countries are primarily engaged in the tourist business.*

- Ensuring sustainable housing for people living in poverty in Latin America

*One has probably seen pictures of the big differences between poor and rich quarters in big cities in Latin America. It has been proved that the poor population urbanizes the fastest, which has led to the settling of poor quarters in and around metropolises - in 2014, 13% of the world's urban population lived in Latin America.*

*The people living in these quarters often have to spend their money on the maintenance of their housing, preventing them from spending it on education. This does not improve their situation in the long run. Therefore, it is important that sustainable housing for these poor quarters is discussed and implemented, in order to guarantee this factor on the way to improving these people's lives.*

#### **Fourth Committee (GA 4)**

- The situation in Nicaragua

*Protests against violence, reforms and the current president Daniel Ortega have been raging in the central-American country of Nicaragua since the beginning of 2018. The protests began when the government announced major cuts to social security and pensions in April. These protests were violently suppressed by the police, which resulted in a big backlash, more protests and demands for Ortega's resignation. Ortega says he was democratically elected and refused to stand down, wanting to complete his term until 2022. Almost 300 Nicaraguans were killed; thousands have been injured. Nicaragua's Roman Catholic Church has been acting as a negotiator between the government and protestors.*

- The political situation in Cambodia

*Cambodia is a constitutional elective monarchy located in the southern east of Asia bordering e. g. Vietnam. Officially, the state is a democracy recovering from the communist dictatorship during the Cold War. However, the ruling prime minister Hun Sen has been in charge for more than 30 years and observers of the past elections are exceptionally concerned about the freedom and justice in the nation. As the personal freedom of opinion is of utmost importance for the United Nations and the nation of Cambodia has a unique history, it is necessary to clarify the situation.*

- Finding measures to ensure the stability of peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea

*The Ethiopian-Eritrean War took place for about two years and cost thousands of people their lives. After an agreement at the end of the war in June 2000, the rivalry between both states continued. The question of small areas in the border region had become so important that no cooperation or good relationship could develop in the years to follow. After the election of a new government in Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed became prime minister and began a process of convergence. This shall be supported by the United Nations, so it is the task of the fourth committee of the General Assembly to find measures which support the ongoing development.*

## **Economic and Social Council**

### **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**

- Dealing with the problem of global youth unemployment

*Earth's population is growing every day. There is a positive population balance (more people are born than die), and lots of young men and women who don't attend school anymore – because they graduated or weren't able to – don't have a job and something to live by. The worldwide economy grows, the last international crisis is a decade behind, however, the unemployment rate increases. This is not a phenomenon of the western world or of Asia, it's a global issue and so the United Nations have to face the issue.*

*Youth unemployment does not only lead to problems for one generation, it affects the whole future of a country: economic problems, emigration, and future employment problems are some of the consequences.*

*Unemployment needs to be faced, since the younger generation deserves a chance and not a crisis.*

- Strengthening the union of societies by means of sports

*Sport speaks no language, has no race or culture. Sport can unite people from different backgrounds, ages and countries. Sport has the power to cross divides like no other form of entertainment. What can we learn from any contest or tournament?*

*Just have a look at the FIFA World Cup: In a world that is heavily divided and ruled by different languages, religions and cultures, the spirit of each and every fan is exactly the same! In times where racism and extremism are becoming more widely-used, it is crucial to debate the topic.*

- Measures to protect those workers affected by the increasing automation

*Technical developments in recent years have set off the beginning of a huge change in employment sectors – both creating jobs, but also endangering many more. Specialists have not agreed on how many jobs will be overtaken by robots in the future, but they all tell us the same thing: change will come and is already on its way. The most endangered jobs will be those where it's cheaper for a company to "employ" machines than people, putting their livelihoods at risk. A widely-credited 2013 Oxford study predicted 12 jobs to be at a 99% risk of getting computerized. The automation process cannot be stopped, but the following unemployment can be prevented.*

### **Economic Commission for Asia (ECA)**

- The leading role of Singapore in the world trade

*Singapore is a small city and state in Asia. It is located on a peninsula and well-known for its economic importance. There is no harbour in Southern Asia used by more companies than Singapore.*

*The former British colony has a leading role in the world trade, but the question is, if this can be seen as a threat or a chance for it. It is up to the United Nations to find an answer and to decide, if measures should be taken to support other harbours and nations in Asia or to aid and further develop Singapore.*

- Economic aid for regions previously occupied by ISIL/ISIS

*The reign of the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria has mainly come to an end. The terroristic organization was forced to return its troops and to give up huge areas it had previously occupied.*

*The former inhabitants are returning to their old homes now, but most of the economy is destroyed and cannot be used for profit anymore. Therefore, it is not only up to the states the cities are controlled by but also up to the United*

Nations to solve this problem and ensure economic aid and bring investments to the areas.

- Improving the situation of migrant workers on the Arab peninsula

*Migration is a factor you should not forget. Migration is something you should keep in mind. Migration is even something which can be used for own advantage. The wealthy states on the Arab peninsula have huge projects in constructing new buildings or pipelines, but they don't have enough workers. The population of the desert-states is traditionally low due to a previous lack of food and water, therefore the states need foreign workers and several young men from Pakistan and India, who don't have a perspective at home to travel there to become an employee. But the situation of these migrant workers is really bad. They have a low income, not enough to live on, when they send their money home. So, the UN have to deal with the situation.*

### **Environment Commission (EC)**

- Discussing measures for a sustainable development of cities

*Cities are areas where people gather, where people live and work, where demonstrations take place, children attend school, museums can be found and governments rule. Cities are one of the first "products" of the human development. They state that the humans in this area are developed and still developing.*

*As the importance of cities should be clear now, we have to highlight why the cities of our future - huge cities with millions of inhabitants - need a sustainable development. Resources have an end, a few cannot be used again and as humanity is growing, we need to use them as effectively as possible, especially in the growing cities- so we have to find measures to develop our cities in a sustainable, environment-friendly way.*

- Supporting environment-friendly agriculture

*Food is not only about taste and nourishment, but also about family, science and religion. But do you know where your food comes from, how and by whom it is grown? It is estimated that the amount of the global food demand is going to increase by 35% by 2030. And did you know that 75% of the world's food is generated from only 12 plants and 5 animal species? But to fulfil all these demands, we need to farm as effective and of course as environmental-friendly as possible. We need a vision of sustainability and food sovereignty in which food is grown with health and safety first.*

*Therefore, it is integral to debate on such a current and important issue in order to support not only eco-friendly farming but also to give our children a world where the health of each and every person is ensured.*

- Combatting illicit animal trade with special regard to endangered species

*It is not new that humanity has already erased many animal species from the earth's surface, but the illegal trade of animals is just contributing further to the extinction of many endangered species like the Amur Leopard, the Black rhino or the Borneo Orangutan. Whether the animals are killed for their fur, bought for private purposes like to be kept as pets or for consumption, abused to test products in bio-medical research or used for religious rituals, the illegal animal trade is flourishing. Even though lots of money has flowed into the combat and awareness of these activities, the international trade networks continue to operate. Wildlife poaching is the second biggest threat to overall survival of endangered species, right after habitat destruction.*

### **III. Others**

#### **Special Conference on trade in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (SCT)**

- Introducing universal guidelines regarding the trade of information on private people

*You have all heard of the 2018 Facebook and Cambridge Analytica Data Scandal: A user of the global company Facebook, which also owns Instagram and WhatsApp, programmed a game on Facebook that saved the data of the user that installed it and their Facebook friends to a private server. This data was then sold to the voter-profiling company Cambridge Analytica, which has ties to e.g. Donald Trump's supporters and advisors. In 2015, Spotify issued a new data policy which allowed the streaming service to collect data like GPS, contacts or photos of the user and share it with business partners. During these scandals, it has become obvious how little users know about the conditions they're approving every time they click on "accept". Every human has a right to privacy and there must be universal guidelines on the trade of personal information.*

- Promoting fair trading practices and strengthening worker's rights

*In a world in which cheap work force and inhumane working conditions control the move of companies, trading fairly and providing sustainable conditions for the workers and protecting their rights is not very profitable. In the light of the Sustainable Development Goals to erase poverty, promote decent work and economic growth, responsible production and consumption and climate action, producing and trading fairly does not provide a good position on the international market. Therefore, the United Nations have to take action in order to make this a more attractive way of leading a company.*

- The role of private and central banks in the trade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

*The worldwide bank business is controlled by few banks. This, in addition to the fact that many trade partners are located in countries where contracts are hard to enforce, puts investors at substantial risk.*

*Banks – and their success or failure – have the power to destroy lives, as it was shown in the financial crisis of 2008, where every single economy over the world was affected in various ways.*

*The role of banks and their power over the world's development has to be discussed in order to prevent another fatal outcome like the past financial crises.*

- Ensuring transparency in the international arm trade

*Finding out which country participates in which conflict directly is easy, but indirect involvement often happens unnoticed by the public and results of e.g. gun supplement to a party of a conflict can change the conflict. International weapon exports have increased by 10% in the past four years, with the main exporting countries being the US (34% of all exports worldwide), Russia (22%) and France (6.7%). The arms trade is a lucrative, but controversial market: The value of the arms trade is at the highest level since the end of the Cold War, fuelled by sales by both the U.S. and Russia to conflict zones in the Middle East and other sales in Asia.*

### **Human Rights Council (HRC)**

- The situation of the Uyghur Muslims in China

*The Uyghurs are an ethnically Turkish group mostly living in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous Region in China whose vast majority practices Islam. According to recent articles, the Chinese government is enforcing policies to erase both them and their cultural heritage. The Muslim men are being put in "re-education camps", the Muslim women are married to ethnically Chinese men against their will. There has not been much international backlash, and only few newspapers have reported on this issue.*

- Rights of children in DR Congo

*About seventy terrorist groups are expected to be operating in the eastern part of the central-African country DR Congo. Even though there are almost 20,000 UN-Peacekeepers present, the groups continue to terrorize local communities. Amidst these battles are the children recruited by the terror groups to fight their battles: girls forced to be suicide bombers, sexual or domestic slaves; boys are forced to kill others and steal from the locals. Some children are abducted, others join to escape poverty or because they have no means to pay for their education. If children do manage to flee a militia, reintegration into the community is often very hard and they are looked down upon.*

- Discussing abortion as a human right

*The question if women should be granted full autonomy over their bodies regarding childbirth has gained much publicity in the past years, and it is now up to the HRC to discuss whether abortions should be forbidden, partly allowed or completely allowed everywhere. Keep in mind that even though the debate has shifted towards the right of women to decide if she will carry her child or not in the western world, it is still forbidden and highly looked down upon in many parts of the world, and that legalizing abortion also brings its medical responsibilities with it.*

*When engaging in the debate on abortion, it is important to remember that there is also the dispute about when the human life starts: after the fertilization, with the first heartbeat or after the actual birth?*

- Discussing the role of education for the democratisation of a society

*At first glance, education seems like the key to all problems: people with a high education are more likely to pursue high academic jobs like lawyers or teachers, who in turn help to develop and improve the situation in the country, especially the economy. However, this may not always be what governments want: An uneducated or poorly educated population is easier to keep under control when wanting to enforce government policy, or when wanting to stay the prevalent country in a certain industry. We must not forget that it is a human's right to receive an education, and this topic offers an opportunity to both learn about these situations and search for adequate solutions.*

### **Security Council (SC)**

- The situation in Mali

*The west-African country of Mali is in a state of conflict and UN-supervision after a surge of al-Qaeda-linked terrorism and a political/military crisis in 2012 and 2013. Many Malians are suffering from lack of proper health care, education, humanitarian assistance and terrorist attacks. The UN created the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in 2013, which has however not been able to properly stabilize the region and has suffered any terroristic attacks as well. It is the goal of these terrorists to establish Sharia law in the country. Militant groups – both government-aligned and opposed – have recruited child soldiers. During the process of combatting these armed groups, the Malian state officials have committed various violations against the human rights, such as extrajudicial killings or torture. The Malian government is supported militarily by the French government.*

- The situation in Libya

*The former state called Libya does not exist anymore. It is divided into different regions controlled by various tribes and militias. These parties fight each other and change their allies monthly. There are two main governments in power of parts of east and west Libya, however, even the internationally recognized and supported government one is not very stable.*

*When it comes to Libya, the term failed state fits, as the nation itself can not be seen as such any longer, which makes it easy for criminals to work within its former borders and use the situation for their own advantage.*

- The status of the Kurds

*The Kurds are an ethnic group living in a mountainous region in the countries of Turkey, Syria, Armenia, Iran and Iraq. They have tried to establish an autonomic country and a wider cultural government-backed acceptance*

especially in Turkey, which has not made any progress yet. The Kurds are fighting IS-groups and were able to regain previously occupied cities, and in turn have been subject to numerous IS attacks, to which they did not receive any assistance. The Turkish government has called these groups terroristic groups and continues to criminalize the Kurds. In Syria, the Kurds are demanding autonomy as well as in Iraq, where an independence referendum was held in 2017 that resulted in 90% of the voters voting in favour of independence.

### **Historical Security Council (HSC) of the Year 1979**

- Declaration of an independent Islamic Republic of Iran (1<sup>st</sup> April)

*The Islamic Republic of Iran claimed its independence on 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1979. This event is of utmost importance for the security in the world and the stability in near east. It ends the Iranian Islamic Revolution and highlights the date when thousands of years of Persian monarchy came to an end.*

*Referring to global security, the Iran wasn't a western ally anymore, but found its own way and its own ideology. As the independence influenced the situation around Iran and states feel offended, the Security Council shall debate this issue to ensure peace and stability.*

- Coup d'État in the Central African Empire (20<sup>th</sup> September)

*The Central African Empire had existed for three years, when in September 1979 its own officials cooperated with the Fifth French Republic to overthrow its emperor, Bokassa, to return the nation to the form of a democracy and republic.*

*The international importance of this coup can be explained by highlighting the intervention of regular French troops within the borders of a sovereign nation. Therefore, the United Nations Security Council shall debate this issue to clarify the situation.*

- Soviet-Afghan War (24<sup>th</sup> December)

*On 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1979, the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan to strengthen the position of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), which was endangered by different oppositional groups being against the change of the society and culture, the party had in mind.*

*The PDPA tried to establish an ideology which was not based on religion to stop the spread and threat of radical Islam in central Asia. As the PDPA could not defend themselves and control the whole nation and the foreign-financed opposition with its forces, it called upon the Soviet Union.*



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