

Issues on the Agenda of MUNOL 2018

“Globalism: connecting or separating?”

I. General Assembly

Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

- Decreasing the imports of weapons to South Sudan

In South Sudan, there is a hunger crisis of major extent. Many people suffer from this. The main problem is the excessive import of weapons to the country which continues to fuel the ongoing civil war. The weapons are used to kill and harm many people, including many innocents. Instead of supporting this import of weapons, the international community could focus on humanitarian aid in this region and leave a weapon embargo as “the last option”. But there could be other solutions as well. Debating this and other proposals will be one task of the First Committee.

- Strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Security and economic cooperation in the Mediterranean region is not only important to the region itself, but to Europe as a whole and several states from other continents. Current events in connection with refugees coming from North Africa have shown, how important cooperation in this field is.

- Preventing an arms race in outer space

In spite of multiple treaties against placing weapons of mass destruction in outer space, there are insufficient safeguards that prevent states from putting weapons of a different kind in place. As a result, many states argue that the existing treaties are insufficient for safeguarding the outer space. This Issue on the Agenda should clarify definitions, propose sanctions, encourage negotiations and settle disputes.

Economic and Financial Committee (GA2)

- Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory over their natural resources

Especially the Palestinians' lack of access to natural resources is one amongst many alarming consequences of the Israeli occupation. Political uncertainties and the Israeli control over the resources lead to unstable access to electricity as well as severe water shortage. And even accessible water is not always safe to drink. The Palestinian civilians are thereby denied basic human needs. It should not be the main focus of this committee to once again discuss the question of an independent Palestinian state. The delegates should rather concentrate on how to deal with the described suffering of the Palestinian population.

- Clarifying the recently ambiguous role of transnational corporations in the globalised world

Transnational corporations, which have developed over the past hundred years, today dominate entire parts of the world's economy. Their influence is extremely high due to their close relations to governments all over the world. Power abuses and corruption are just two issues that play a very important role in this subject. In light of this it seems necessary to clarify which influence and roles these organisations should be allowed to have, especially in developing or less developed countries, in order to prevent abuse and corruption in all forms. A possible solution could include clear definitions of the role of states and (multi-national) companies and proposals on how they should and are allowed to influence each other. Also, the role of the populations/consumers is to be considered.

- Preventing corruption and financial crimes in sports

Sports have been related to illicit activities since ancient times. Also today suspicious incidents occur. As unexpected nations are chosen to host international sports events, the amount in sponsorship for tickets and event packages is ever increasing and the sale of related assets and rights becomes more popular, related corruption and crimes pose an international threat. Preventing the latter or at least creating a basis to do so in the future should be one aim of the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)

- Planning the reconstruction of educational infrastructure in post-war zones

Many people refrain from going back to post-war zones, even if it has been their home for generations and the security situation has improved. This is due to a lack of infrastructure, economy, working places, food, water and electricity supply, and educational infrastructure. School books need to be provided, schools have to be built (up again) and parents must be supported to facilitate their children's education. Education provides young people with a future, better job opportunities and equality.

- Human Rights violations and abuses against religious minorities in South Asia

Current horrific events regarding the Rohingya minority in Myanmar have put religious minorities in South Asia into focus. Those are – although in many cases rooted in the country since several generations – treated as foreigners, also as enemies. Such prejudices lead to mass persecutions and inhuman conditions, which again cause the displacements of hundreds of thousands. Access for human rights activists and other aid organizations must be ensured and a political solution must be found to end such “human rights nightmare[s]” (António Guterres) as they are currently taking place in Myanmar. This topic should be debated with special regard to the developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar while taking into account surrounding regions in relation to the severity and the extent of the Human Rights violations against religious minorities.

- Ameliorating the situation for the Inuit population in the Arctic region

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) characterizes the Arctic region as the world's climate change "barometer". The 160,000 Inuit who live in northern Canada, Greenland, Alaska and North-east Russia have witnessed the changes of the climatic conditions and the natural environment over the past decades. Melting ice and lost habitats lead to a shift in the life of many natives in that region (on which GA3 should focus) as well as to problems for animals. States should consider giving help in terms of land, financial aid or, even better, try to stop the processes leading to the aforementioned problems (e.g. oil drilling).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

- The situation in Venezuela

Concerns regarding the situation in Venezuela are more present than ever. National dialogue between the government and the opposition is urgently needed to achieve two main objectives: the eradication of abuse and violence as well as paving the way for an agreed constitutional path. The way out through an agreement, elections and respect for fundamental rights must be found by the Venezuelans themselves, but the international community can help to encourage dialogue between the respective parties. "Only a political solution can restore hope to Venezuela" says United Nations Secretary General António Guterres.

- Ensuring privacy in the World Wide Web

United Nations human rights chief, Navi Pillay, considers privacy in the World Wide Web as important as human rights and compares the upheavals after mass surveillances have become known to the public with the turmoil that brought down the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Surveillance could not only decrease the will to use the internet but could also damage the image of large companies relying on the internet as the main future medium. The Fourth Committee should propose measures to raise awareness on how to protect private data in the web and to ensure privacy of users.

- Combating piracy in the strait of Malacca

The Strait of Malacca, laying between the Indonesian island Sumatra in the west and the Peninsular Malaysia in the west, is an important maritime trade route and one of the busiest sea routes of the world. Piracy in that region has been going on since many centuries and still lasts today. To stop it, multi-national collaboration is needed, not only from the littoral states Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

II. Economic and Social Council

Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

- Measures to prevent and reduce child labour

Despite several meetings and conferences children all over the world still suffer from child labour. There are positive developments, such as the Convention on the Right of the Child, but they weren't as effective as they should be. Children are forced to work in mines or factories and don't get the chance to attend school and get ready for the future. This shall be stopped, since children are our future and they need to be protected.

- The safety of uncontacted indigenous people and their traditions and cultures in their traditional borders

In times of globalization and ever increasing connections and interdependencies between humans, organisations, companies and states, there are groups which have less or no contact to the connected world. Most of these groups are endangered when they are discovered by the developed world, since they often live in areas that are really interesting to companies due to the resources found there. These indigenous groups need the guarantee of being allowed to live in their territories and use them as they wish. Thereby they have the right to preserve their cultures, even if this is different to the state's culture.

- The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030

Food is a fundamental human survival need. Therefore it is essential to ensure that there is enough supply of food. There have been several food scandals in Europe in the past years. So, in the interest of a world suffering from droughts, lack and crisis the role of science, technology and innovation for safe food shall be debated in this committee to find a possible solution for the world to profit from development and creativity.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

- Supporting information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development

Although now more than 95% of the world's population is covered by mobile networks, there is still a "lack of connection" in Central Africa. To play a bigger role in global economy and to reach further markets, strengthening information and communication technology as well as informing and raising awareness on this topic will be necessary.

- Coping with the growing scarcity of water

Water scarcity can result from two different mechanisms: physical water scarcity, as it is the case in very dry climate zones, for example deserts in Northern Africa, and economic water scarcity. The Economic Commission for Africa should focus on economic water scarcity, which results from a lack of investment in water infrastructure or problems to satisfy the demand for water in areas where the population is incapable of affording such infrastructure.

- Integrating national markets in the world trade system

Such economic integration can be seen in different ways: As a process, as a state or as an aim, but also as a risk. To reach economic integration, the abolition or partial abolition of tariffs has to be discussed. It is of utmost importance to the African economy in all its parts to be integrated in the world trade system as soon as possible. This could also be reached, by decreasing the amount of goods sold by global players for cheap prices in poorer nations. Still, the interests of all affected sides have to be considered and also the risks of such globalization have to be discussed.

Environment Commission (EC)

- Increasing the growth of protected species populations

Protected species contain those species listed as “Endangered” or “Critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. They can be threatened due to various reasons, for example residential and commercial developments, geological events and climate change or transportation and energy production interferences. Even though extinction is a natural process, according to a recent study extinction rate has increased a hundredfold over the last hundred years. It may not seem reasonable at first, why endangered species should be protected. But there are several reasons: the medicinal value, the ecological value (cue “ecosystem services”) and also the general attraction a blossoming nature provides.

- Discussing guidelines for possible national legislation to ensure transparency in the fracking industry

Fracking – or hydraulic fracturing – is a technique to increase the permeability of rocks to gain natural gas and petroleum. Fracking is highly controversial in many countries and should be discussed with a focus on environmental risks, while bearing in mind known scientific facts, environmental and economic analyses, and also by pointing out the obvious economic gains. A solution could contain different definitions and regulations, requesting fracking companies to reveal their methods and discussing the threats and the opportunities that fracking bears.

- Preventing plastic pollution in oceans

Plastic pollution is one consequence of the so-called “consumerism culture”. Different measures could be taken to prevent plastic swirls such as the “Great Pacific garbage patch” with an approximate size of Middle Europe. One could, for example, be the education of the population to use less plastic bags or stop buying water in plastic bottles. According to the US environmental non-profit organization “Ocean Conservancy”, 60% of all plastic in the oceans get there from only five Asian countries, namely China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. (Besides this shocking fact, delegates should still research on the other 40%.) This leads to the question, to what extent plastic and economic flows are connected.

III. Human Rights Council (HRC)

- The situation of women in the war areas in Syria and Iraq

The war areas in Syria and Iraq are probably among the most dangerous zones in the entire world. However, hundreds of civilians are living there. Mainly women and children suffer from fighting or lack of food, water and medicine. Several women also get raped, so it's an exercise for the Human Rights Council to take care of the unprotected and guarantee the adherence to and the enforcement of the Human Rights.

- Fighting the drug market in the Philippines

The Philippines is a state consisting of several islands which is confronted with numerous problems. Despite many struggles, the drug market can be seen as the biggest issue the government has to deal with in terms of human rights. Not only does drug trafficking lead to an increase in different areas of crime as for example the use of weapons but it also endangers the health of many. The Human Rights Council shall be thereby aware of the violation of human rights when it comes to conviction to death penalty without the conduct of legal proceedings.

- The right to freedom of opinion and of expression in Turkey

The right of the freedom of speech is one of the basic rights every single person on this planet should be able to exercise. Unfortunately, many states do not fully respect the implications and importance of this right. Especially Turkey threatens its inhabitants, tourists and especially journalists with jail if they contradict to the government's opinion on a topic. The past has shown what can occur when the right of the freedom of speech is not guaranteed, therefore the Human Rights Council of the United Nations shall think of measures to ensure this right in all countries, particularly Turkey.

- Ensuring the protection of migrant juveniles travelling without adults

In a time of crisis all over the world the amount of people leaving their homes, leaving their family, leaving everything they've known so far, increases rapidly. Lots of these juveniles escape from war areas without their parents, since they are dead or missing. To ensure their Human Rights the Human Rights Council's aim should be to guarantee protection and an acceptance of the Human Rights in those regions and countries which the juveniles flee to and those countries they cross during their escape.

IV. Security Council (SC)

- The situation of terrorism in West Africa

Terrorism can be seen as one of the biggest dangers of the 21st century, however, it appears all over the world, South America is affected as Europe or Asia. Terrorism also occurs in Africa where militias or rebel groups use their religion to gain arguments for their aims. Although in the past alliances between African states to fight terrorism were formed, they proved to lack efficiency. Therefore, the Security Council has to think of measures to protect and support the population and the states in West Africa.

- Protection of civilians in armed conflict with special focus on Africa

Wherever a conflict takes place, wherever a crisis appears, it always are the civilians who suffer the most. Usually, they are neither invested in the conflict, nor do they profit from it. However, they are unprotected and get no safety through authorities, since these authorities are involved in the crisis. Therefore, civilians in armed conflicts need every voice available and the United Nations' support, so it is an exercise for the United Nations Security Council to find solutions to ensure security for the unprotected. The Council shall focus on the situation in Africa, where civilians suffer from several civil wars and conflicts between armed groups.

- The question of Cashmere

Cashmere is a region north of India, south of China and east of Pakistan where three atomic powers observe each other and are arming their armies with several dangerous weapons. All of them are interested in controlling this area and maybe there's a will to fight a war to reach their aims, since Cashmere is the bridge between the Indian peninsula and the vast Chinese plain. The United Nations Security Council shall debate on this topic to ensure peace and humanity in this conflict.

V. Special Conference on Globalism (SCG)

- The role of inter-governmental organizations in the twenty-first century

The European Union is only one example amongst several organizations which were founded by different states to build up an own alliance or to ensure free markets. During the Cold War these organizations were formed by states which resemble each other in their political system or ideologies. Unfortunately, this lead to the creation of just two power players, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact. Even though war was prevented, the situation was highly unstable. To ensure a safer future for all nations, the Special Conference shall debate on the role of these organisations.

- The influence of private military companies on conflict areas

For thousands of years humanity has been confronted with wars. For thousands of years there have been companies or individuals profiting from it. In the past they were called mercenaries and they fought like regular troops. Today, such organisations are named "private military companies" and they don't kill or fight like militias or armies, they "carry out" operations and prevent losses for a nation's army. However, it's the same, only the terms changed. As we live in a time of connection and increasing conflicts the Special Conference shall debate on the influence of such companies, like Academi, and how we can hinder them to profit from other's sorrow. Despite this aspect the Special Conference should keep in mind the not-existing laws for such organisations.

- Protecting the uniqueness of local cultures with special regard to religion

Lots of experts would give different answers when they were asked, what is meant with the term "culture". Despite this, they would probably agree on one fact: That civilization is based on culture and makes the difference between being a human

and being someone else. So, it is our task to ensure the independence and survival of local cultures all over the world, to let the following generations also see what today's system is based on and how well a mixture of culture can form new ideas and influence everyone's life. Dangers for the uniqueness of such local cultures are the internet, the westernization and also the globalization.

VI. Historical Security Council (HSC) Year 1973

- Paris Peace Accords (27th January)

On 27 January the Paris Peace Accords were signed by the participants of the Vietnam War. As a consequence, the USA withdrew all of their soldiers and the war was basically stopped. One day after the signing of the treaty the United Nations Security Council shall debate on this issue, to ensure security and an end of any violence in Vietnam.

- Chilean coup d'état (11th September)

On 11 September 1973 the government of Chile got attacked by the army. The socialistic President Allende committed suicide when the rebels were taking his palace. General Pinochet became Chile's leader. It's an exercise for the United Nations Security Council to think of measures to guarantee safety for Chile's population and to prevent an international crisis.

- Yom Kippur War (6th October)

On 6 October 1973 the Egyptian and Syrian Armed Forces attacked Israel. It was a consequence of the wars and tensions between the Arabian states and Israel in the years before and it could develop to a worldwide war if the USSR and the USA would intervene in this war militarily. This shall not happen, therefore the United Nations Security Council may debate on this issue.

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