

GLEN GAZE MODEL
UNITED NATIONS
2019



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Respected Delegates,

We welcome you to this simulation of the Human Rights Council. First things first, our prime objective in this simulation would be to try and ignite that spark of diplomatic public speaking inside you. Also, we cannot stress more upon this but our 2 main concerns would be facilitation of debate in the committee and more importantly, ensuring diplomatic courtesy amongst all participants. Since this is a double delegation committee with a considerable size, chits and coordination would act as very helpful tools in this circumstance. As our last technical advice, participation and learning is what you should really be focusing on, therefore speak confidently and ditch the paper while doing that. Though you might fail once or twice but I assure you that it would help in your own betterment in the long term. Now, looking at the basic nature of the agenda, the conflict stands as one where a lot of political debate can be incorporated but at the same time we request you to focus on the law involved and the humanitarian aspect of the agenda. Also, you need to be crystal clear on your foreign policy i.e. the side that you support in this Burmese conflict. Lastly, the Background guide very briefly describes the conflict and the aspects on which you must focus but it in no way restricts the scope of your research.

We look forward to an exciting and interesting committee and hope to see all of you there. Moreover, feel free to contact us at any point in time for even the simplest of queries.

May The Force Be With You,

Krishna Thakur

CHAIR

Ankita Singh

VICE CHAIR

Saumya Mittal

RAPPORTUER

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Responsibilities

The UN Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental organization which works under the UN system. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on the same. It discusses all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

Principles

UNHRC promotes that the human rights should not be discriminated on the basis of race, colour, sex, language or religion, politics or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It believes that human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, inter-dependent and must be treated in a fair and equal manner.

Methodology

UNHRC enables dialogues between countries to strengthen the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings. It allows subsequent follow-up discussions to recommendations and their implementation. It strives to be transparent, fair, impartial and result- oriented.

Credibility of Sources in the Council

We all understand that the internet today is flooded with information. We often encounter pieces of information or facts which are inaccurate or even fabricated. Many a times we read news articles which are biased. This challenge, of determining which fact is true or not, sometimes becomes a bone of contention between different governments as well.

As its likely that disputes may arise in the council related to the facts presented by various delegates, the Executive Board is sharing a list of sources which it deems more credible than any other source. It means that if the Board must decide which fact is true at a time of dispute resolution, then it may choose the fact from one of these sources over others It is to be noted that as a representative of a country's government, you are free to look at all

types of sources for your reference or preparation. However, it is advised that you cross-check facts from at least one of the following:

1. News Sources

a. Reuters

It is an independent private news agency, which mostly covers international events of importance.

Website: www.reuters.com

b. State Operated News Agencies

In many countries, the government itself partially or fully controls the media, and thus the subsequent flow of information. Hence, news reports from such outlets can be used by a participant to substantiate or refute a fact in context of that government's position on the agenda in the council. For examples,

- i. RIA Novosti (Russia)
- ii. IRNA (Iran)
- iii. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (People's Republic of China)

2. Government Reports

These are reports which various organs, ministries, departments or affiliated agencies of a government release. They can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports. You may visit different governmental websites for the same. For Example,

a. State Department of the United States of America

Website: www.state.gov

b. Ministry of Foreign or External Affairs of various countries like India

Website: www.mea.gov.in

3. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

This portal serves as a one-stop-shop for finding documents which reflect the activity of a country at United Nations or its affiliated bodies. The documents from these individual country websites also serve as a source for finding official statements by that country on various agendas. Do take note that the nature of websites varies a lot from country to country.

Source Link: www.un.org/en/members/

(Click on a country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative

4. Other Multilateral or Inter-Governmental Organizations

These are international organizations which are not a part of the United Nations. Usually one may find these organizations based around a specific region like South Asia, and with a specific purpose such as trade, security or cooperation. Documents from the same can be deemed credible; most certainly for the countries which are a part of that organization. For example,

a. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Website: www.saarc-sec.org

b. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Website: www.nato.int/cps/en

5. United Nations and Affiliated Bodies

a. All reports or documents from the United Nations, its organs or affiliated bodies may be considered as a credible source of information.

Website: www.un.org

Organs such as,

i. UN Security Council

Website: www.un.org/Docs/sc/

ii. UNGA

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/

b. UN Affiliated bodies such as,

i. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Website: www.iaea.org

ii. The World Bank (WB)

Website: www.worldbank.org

6. Documents from Treaty Based Bodies

These are bodies which are strictly formed for looking after the implementation of an international treaty or agreement. These agreements are pertinent to a specific theme; a document which various countries sign and agree upon. For example,

a. The Antarctic Treaty System

Website: www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm

b. The International Criminal Court

It is based on an agreement known as the Rome Statute.

Website: www.icc-cpi.int

ABOUT THE AGENDA

In recent years, terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have shaped our image of violent extremism and the debate about how to address this threat. Their message of intolerance – religious, cultural, social – has had drastic consequences for many regions of the world. Holding territory and using social media for real-time communication of their atrocious crimes, they seek to challenge our shared values of peace, justice and human dignity.

Over the past two decades, the international community has sought to address violent extremism primarily within the context of security-based counter-terrorism measures adopted in response to the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups. However, with the emergence of a new generation of groups, there is a growing international consensus that such counter-terrorism measures have not been sufficient to prevent the spread of violent extremism. Violent extremism encompasses a wider category of manifestations and there is a risk that a conflation of the two terms may lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts.

There is a need to take a more comprehensive approach which encompasses not only ongoing, essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, but also systematic preventive measures which directly address the drivers of violent extremism that have given rise to the emergence of these new and more virulent groups. In the Charter of the United Nations, Member States resolved to “take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace”.

It has been made a priority to re-energize the Organization’s prevention agenda, especially with respect to preventing armed conflict, atrocities, disasters, violence against women and children, and conflict-related sexual violence, and have launched a dedicated initiative to place human rights upfront. The 2015 report of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see A/70/95-S/2015/446), the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (see A/69/968-S/2015/490), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the women, peace and security agenda have all stressed the need to build a collective commitment to making prevention work. The spread of violent extremism makes preventive efforts all the more relevant.

The enigma of defining terrorism

For some time now, many scholars have been engaged with understanding and defining terrorism. This engagement is reflected in the considerable amount of literature produced by them on this topic. Although this body of literature discloses important aspects of terrorism, none of it discusses directly the 'essence' of terrorism. The definitions provided are based on the writers' political discourse rather than their philosophical apprehension of terrorism. They think of terrorism as an act of threatening to destroy an intended target for a political end. Tony Coady has defined terrorism as 'the organised use of violence to attack non-combatants ("innocents" in a special sense) or their property for political purposes'.¹ Coady also calls his definition 'tactical' since the terrorist act is directed towards non-combatants.² He argues that a tactical definitional approach is beset with the difficulty that the concept of the non-combatant in the definition requires further clarification. But the difficulty with the tactical definition is the term 'tactical' itself. A terrorist act terrifies the victims, but not tactically. Terror or intimidation is not a device but a quality of a terrorist act. When terror is attributed to this act of violence as a tactic then one can think of terrorism without terror, because what is tactical is accidental. Hence, thinking of terrorism as a violent act that does not target non-combatants might be a possibility, because terrifying the targeted non-combatants is only a tactic, which may be needed today and not tomorrow. The member nations have failed to reach to a single definition of terrorism which is pre-requisite in combatting terrorism.

Sub Agendas:-

- Gender and Extremism

Proving one's masculinity plays a central role in recruitment, or entry, into the movement. Entry is a gendered effort to ward off the shame that comes with their failures – their failures as men. "The emotion of shame is the primary or ultimate cause of all violence." The purpose of violence is to diminish the intensity of shame and replace it as far as possible with its opposite, pride, thus preventing the individual from being overwhelmed by the feeling of shame."

"No peace without women," is a statement we are all eager to agree with. But what are the nuances of women's participation in peace, conflict and extremism today, and how can understanding women's roles help us better support them - not only at the national peace table, but also as agents of change in their communities?

In broad lines, peace is understood today as inextricably linked with gender equality and women's leadership in prevention, protection and peacebuilding efforts. This consensus was first articulated 18 years ago by the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and reaffirmed in the women, peace and In reality, the roles of women in extremist settings are complex. Women may perpetuate extremism, either because they joined extremist movements voluntarily, or because they were forced to do so. Women may also be associated with male fighters as wives, mothers, daughters and community

members. Women may act as peace builders, including through women's organizations, using their influence in families and communities to deploy unique solutions to support prevention, de-radicalization, psychosocial support and rehabilitation from extremism. Finally women may move between these roles, depending on the situation they find themselves in and the opportunities they are given. resolutions that followed.

- Peace and Security

Violent extremist groups are contributing significantly to the cycle of insecurity and armed conflict affecting many regions of the world. Al-Qaida and its affiliates have sought to intimidate Governments into changing their policies through virulent propaganda campaigns and by staging spectacular attacks. The latest iteration of violent extremist and terrorist groups, ISIL in particular, has transformed the challenge further: benefiting from existing armed conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and instability in Iraq and in Libya, its members have managed to take over large swaths of territory and "govern" it according to their rules. They are mobile, well armed, tech-savvy and well organized. History has shown that volatile security situations and conflicts tend to be further exacerbated by "proxy" wars. Regional and international actors bear a particular responsibility for assisting countries in strife in returning to peace. UN therefore welcomed the recent constructive initiatives taken in the context of the International Syria Support Group, working in concert with the Security Council to promote a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In seeking to supplant existing States and erase established borders, ISIL and Boko Haram are undermining state authority and destabilizing not just the territories most directly concerned, but also the surrounding regions. In Mali, terrorists came close to destroying the basic state structure, thereby affecting the stability of a country and of an entire region. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and other groups continue their activities in northern Mali with spillover effects in neighboring countries. They put the presence and activities of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) at risk. As it is noted in a recent report (S/2015/366), terrorist groups are also benefiting from transnational organized crime. Some violent extremist groups have developed connections with transnational organized crime to increase their financial resources. They generate significant revenues from human trafficking and the slave trade, trafficking in antiquities, and the illicit sale of oil. Many of these groups are also involved in kidnapping for ransom.

- Need of Education to Curb Extremism

In context of World Bank

Attacks by Violent Extremist groups have increased significantly in the past decade. According to the Global Terrorism Database¹, Violent Extremist groups killed roughly 43,412 people in 2014, rising from 22,211 in 2013 and 3,329 in 2000. The vast majority of terrorist attacks have occurred in just five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria, with significant negative impacts on development outcomes, including declines in tourism

and foreign direct investments as well as a significant drop in growth rates. The term “violent extremism”, which was previously seen as the exclusive purview of the security sector, has now found its way into the development dialogue. Indeed, the issue has become an important topic in development forums. Several agencies have been created to address the issue and coordinate interventions globally². The UN has held a number of high level meetings on the topic. UN agencies, including the World Bank, have also started prioritizing discussions on prevention of VE as part of their policy dialogue with affected countries. This paper –focusing particularly on the role of education in prevention of Violent Extremist – is written as a background document for the joint World Bank-UN flagship report, “Can Development Interventions Help Prevent Conflict and Violence?”. The World Bank-UN study will discuss what the international community can do to improve development aid as a tool for countering violent extremism (CVE) and contribute to peacebuilding.

The education sector is often one of the most critical development interventions supported by governments and donors as a way of strengthening peacebuilding efforts during post conflict recovery, as well as addressing long-term human development needs in fragile states. Prevention approaches are necessary both in countries that have never had a conflict as well as states that are in the very tenuous post-conflict recovery phase. Conflicts can relapse very often and therefore prevention is essential as a peacebuilding effort. In this agenda, we focus primarily on education interventions that have been implemented in fragile states and/or those that have targeted high risk groups (e.g., youth), as a way of discouraging violent extremism. The primary audience for this paper is World Bank management and task teams working on education/skills programs.

A secondary audience could be policy makers and external development partners interested in supporting interventions in the education sector as a way of countering violent extremism. The main programs supported by the World Bank in such contexts are primary/secondary education, skills and vocational training, skills training conducted as part of public works/social welfare programs, and training as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) interventions. There are fewer programs which are designed and implemented with the explicit objective of countering violent extremism (CVE).

Although, increasingly, project teams have been interested in including such components in their education/skills training projects. Within the World Bank, education and skills training programs are financed primarily by the Education Global Practice, Social Protection, Jobs and Labor Global Practice as well as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP), and Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Cross-cutting Solutions Areas. There are other sectors that support education/skills interventions as part of livelihood support, disaster risk reduction, private sector development etc., however the bulk of the financing in this area is limited to the above practices.

- United Nation’s Global Counter Terrorism Strategy

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006. The strategy is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

Through its adoption that all Member States have agreed the first time to a common strategic and operational approach to fight terrorism, not only sending a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestation but also resolving to take practical steps individually and collectively to prevent and combat it. Those practical steps include a wide array of measures ranging from strengthening state capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating United Nations system's counter-terrorism activities.

The adoption of the strategy fulfilled the commitment made by world leaders at the 2005 September Summit and builds on many of the elements proposed by the Secretary-General in his 2 May 2006 report, entitled *Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*.

Questions to consider

1. Why 'Islamophobia' had spread its root in the current Global Political Scenario?
2. How far the government is responsible for the Radicalization and Insurgency in its state?
3. Should religion be the basis for formation of various laws & policies and drafting resolution?
4. Is the treatment to victims of 'extremism or extremist minds' fair? Should they be punished?
5. Why the globe is experiencing lack of global cooperation in tackling terrorism by leaving behind Islamist States?
6. Is education enough to curb extremism?