



AtidMUN VII



SOCHUM Study Guide

AtidMUN VII





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SOCHUM A - Chair Letters

Lian Farah

Dear delegates,

My name is Lian Farah, and I am your chair on the SOCHUM committee.

As someone who has deeply benefitted from MUN, I look forward to seeing every one of you push their boundaries and leave our sessions with a sense of accomplishment.

That is why I look forward to being your chair and encouraging every single delegate in this committee to contribute to our debate.





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Ariel Vincent

Dear Delegates,

I have the great pleasure to welcome you to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee.

I am a female student currently studying in the 12th grade, in Atid Lod High School for Science and I am majoring in Biology and Biotechnology. This is going to be my 4th year at MUN.

During my time in MUN, I took part in a variety of conferences discussing numerous pivotal topics which enabled me to expand my knowledge and make new friends.

Condemning and combating racism and xenophobia is one of the most universal pivotal topics. It is possible to steer our cultures and rewire our brains so that xenophobia and bigotry disappear. I hope you will be able to initiate a creative policy approach of your own towards the topic.

As for the impacts of global warming in developing countries, I believe that you will be able to lend new urgency to the issue. The future of which we speak in this conference relies upon your decisions.

I am widely aware that preparing for conferences could be overwhelming at times; therefore, please feel free to contact me about any sort, in need.

0533033688 arielnv622@gmail.com

Looking forward to meeting you and hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Ariel Vincent





SOCHUM A - Chair Letters

Steven Aiello

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the SOCHUM B Committee of ATIDMUN 2021! My name is Benjamin Safdie and I am glad to be your chair alongside Yaman and Miral.

I am a Brazilian-Israeli attending the American International School here in Israel. This is my third year of MUN and my first year as a chair. I have been to one international conference in Lisbon two years ago, and I participated in our school's TIMEMUN of 2019 and 2020. I am really excited to do it again from a chair's point of view.

In my spare time, I love to play soccer and hang out with my friends.

I know it can be very nerve-wracking to get up and speak in front of a room full of strangers, but I would encourage you to do it because I am 100 percent sure everyone has experienced that feeling before. We are all very nice people and you are only going to benefit from raising your hand and contributing to the discussion, which I know is something all of you are capable of doing. Our topics are interesting and engaging, and I can not wait to debate them with you.

If you have any questions and comments about literally anything related to our committee or the conference, please do not hesitate to email me at u23bsafdie@wbais.net, and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. I look forward to meeting all of you, I hope you enjoy our committee!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Safdie





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Yaman Nimer Ahmad

Dear delegates,

My name is Yaman Ahmad, I am from Akko and I will be your chair on the SOCHUM committee.

I have been doing MUN for the past 3 years; I was part of TIMEMUN and four others across the country.

The idea of MUN attracted me to join the group. Although it is my first time as a chair, I will do my best to make this conference as the best you have ever had!

Something to note, I am a person who is soft yet strict. I will be nice with everyone; I will help you, but do not push your luck friend (Nat 20 on intimidation), if you want to chat jokes not in committee time, in lunch or while on break.

If you need some help, call me up I will help you: 053-528-0047

If that does not work, then try my email: yamanahmad7@gmail.com

If that does not work, then just wait a bit ☺

Hope to see you push yourself to your limit and show everyone truly, who you are.

May you have a wonderful time at ATIDMUN VII!

Sincerely,

Yaman





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Miral Abu Alhaija

Dear delegates,

I'm a senior in the Greek Catholic High School in

Shafaamr, and I'm incredibly glad to be your chair in the SOCHUM B Committee.

Although my MUN journey hasn't been that long, it is my pleasure to say that during my MUN "career", I have learned a lot and gained a lot of amazing skills that helped me in developing my personality, enhancing my research, teamwork, public speaking skills and in many other great ways.

I am sure we will find the solutions to the issues on the agenda: we will craft the global, regional and national policies and frameworks on fighting xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance and abuse of the other; and will address the humanitarian aspect of the climate change impact on developing countries.

Waiting for your out of the box creative and yet practical solutions to the two real world problems.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all at the conference!

Sincerely,

Miral Abu Alhaija





Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, also known as C3 or Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), resides in New York City and usually consists of all 193 UN member states if they wish to attend. Its work focuses on human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social issues. Some of the key points of the committee's research focus on the protection and empowerment of women and children, the preservation of indigenous people's dignity and heritage, the rights of refugees, and the ultimate pursuit, the elimination of racism and discrimination, amongst others.

Its powers and functions are laid out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter regarding the General Assembly. The power of all UN General Assembly committees is limited to **giving recommendations** to States on international issues to attain peace, security, and disarmament, development, safeguard human rights and protect the common environment. (SOCHUM, n.d.)

Topic A: Combatting Racism, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance

Background to the Topic

Racism

Many people believe that racism is as old as time; as it is intrinsic in society, but that was untrue until the end of the 16th century. Ancient Greeks and Romans didn't show any signs that they knew what race was at all. Slaves were both black and white; in fact, the majority of them were white – that was because nationality played a bigger part in slavery (Ph.D. Essay, 2021). That changed during the Colonial Era when the slave trade began. Colonial Europeans invaded African lands and took the residents, who were black, hostage. They were sent in masses to Europe and America. The rich and powerful had to justify their inhuman



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treatment of black people, and their solution was to convince the masses that black people were an inferior race. By the end of the 17th century, racism had become an established, systematic, and conscious justification for the most degrading forms of slavery. (Steven, 2006)

Even after the slave trade had been abolished, racism took on a new form in imperialistic ideals. Concepts such as "the white man's burden" became fashionable as justifications for invading and controlling less developed societies. "If the white man is superior and brings wisdom, of course, he has the justification to bless others with such wisdom." That common rhetoric made people of color inferior by proxy, which only heightened the prejudice against them (Steven, 2006).

A staple example of racism (and Social Darwinism) in history is the holocaust. For many years before Adolf Hitler became the chancellor of Germany, he was obsessed with the idea of a "superior race". With the help of scientists who believed mankind could progress by limiting the reproduction of "inferior races", he implemented many racist policies into his dictatorial regime, along with a campaign of propaganda supporting the notion of the superiority of the "Aryan" race. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2021)

A major step towards fighting racism in the US, and subsequently, the world, was the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr. The civil rights movement was an organized effort by Black Americans to end racial discrimination and gain equal rights under the law. It began in the late 1940s and ended in the late 1960s. Although tumultuous at times, the movement was mostly nonviolent and resulted in laws to protect every American's constitutional rights, regardless of color, race, sex, or national origin.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged, and all victims of injustice through



peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. (History, 2021)

Xenophobia

Xenophobia is the dislike or prejudice against people from other countries. Xenophobia often overlaps with racism, homophobia, and other forms of intolerance that are based on specific characteristics.

There are two main types of xenophobia:

Immigrant Xenophobia: The practice of rejecting people who the individual does not regard as part of the "in-group". This involves rejecting people of different ethnicities, nationalities, or religions. Which can lead to persecution, hostility, violence, etc. (Fritscher, 2021)

In history, immigrant xenophobia emerged in periods of economic struggle: the noblemen and aristocrats needed a scapegoat to justify the plundering of the economy and immigrants were the most vulnerable group as they were not as integrated into society and could easily be blamed (Pearce, 2014). This happened in many European countries and has since spread to other nations in the world. Nowadays, it prevails regardless of the economic situation.

Cultural Xenophobia: This type of xenophobia includes the rejection of objects, traditions, or symbols that are associated with another culture or nationality. This can include language, clothing, music, etc. (Fritscher, 2021)

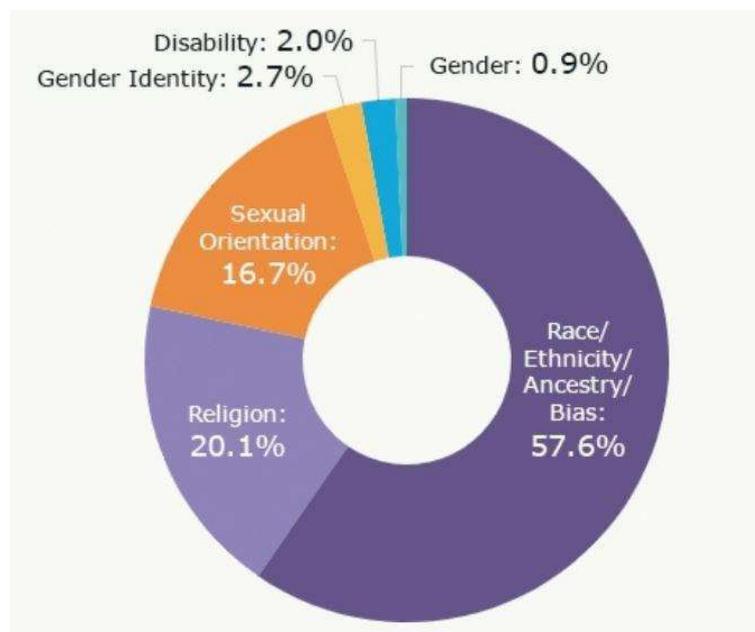
There were signs of this xenophobic rhetoric from as early as the ancient Greeks and Romans, when those societies labeled other cultures as "barbarians", and that they should be enslaved and tamed (Thomas, 2020).



Current Situation

Racism

Even though we have made large strides in the fight against racism, it still poses are a major threat that impacts millions of people around the world. According to a study conducted by the US department of justice and the FBI, 57.6% of hate crimes are race/ethnicity-based in 2019, 3969 of them around the US. (The US Department of Justice, 2019)



A major event related to extreme cases of racism is the BLM (Black Lives Matter) protests of 2020. George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, died in Minneapolis after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a white police officer. Bystanders captured video of the officer behind a police car using his knee to pin Floyd, who was repeatedly saying, “I can’t breathe.” After his death on May 25th, protests and unrest have rocked Minneapolis and other cities. In cities across the United States, tens of thousands of people have swarmed the streets to express their outrage and sorrow during the day. That has descended into nights of unrest, with reports of shootings, looting, and vandalism in various cities.



Protests have erupted in at least 140 cities across the United States, and the National Guard has been activated in at least 21 states. (Taylor, 2021)

However these issues are not only present in the United States: In today's Europe more traditional forms of biological, pseudo-scientific racism, such as Afrophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Gypsism persist under the surface alongside newer more overt forms of racism. (Nwabuzo, 2020)

The race itself is not in itself the main ground for racism and discrimination in Europe anymore. Contemporary forms of discrimination are increasingly intersectional and target individuals that, more often than not, bring together several of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. Religion, nationality, age, class, became intertwined in the notion of race, opening the door to new groups of "others". Veiled women, third-country nationals coming from the least industrialized parts of the planet, Romanian Roma, Polish plumbers: racial identities are continuously redefined. (Hermanin, 2012)

Manifestations of racism have sometimes become more open and politically acceptable than those which persistently affect the more traditionally racialized groups. In some cases, opportunistic politicians have invoked the freedom of expression to justify their freedom to explicitly hate and incite hatred against specific others. (Hermanin, 2012)

Islamophobia

A major aspect of today's European racism is Islamophobia: Today, Islamophobia manifests itself through several courses of action. Those include physical attacks on property, places of worship, and people, the majority of those are ones who actively display their association with Islam; verbal attacks in-person or online, threats and calls to violence, and vilifications of Muslims; policies and legislation that disproportionately affect Muslims, ones that restrict their freedom of religion, which include a ban on religious or cultural symbols, face concealment, etc.;



discrimination in the fields of education, employment, housing, and more. (Open Society Foundations, 2019)

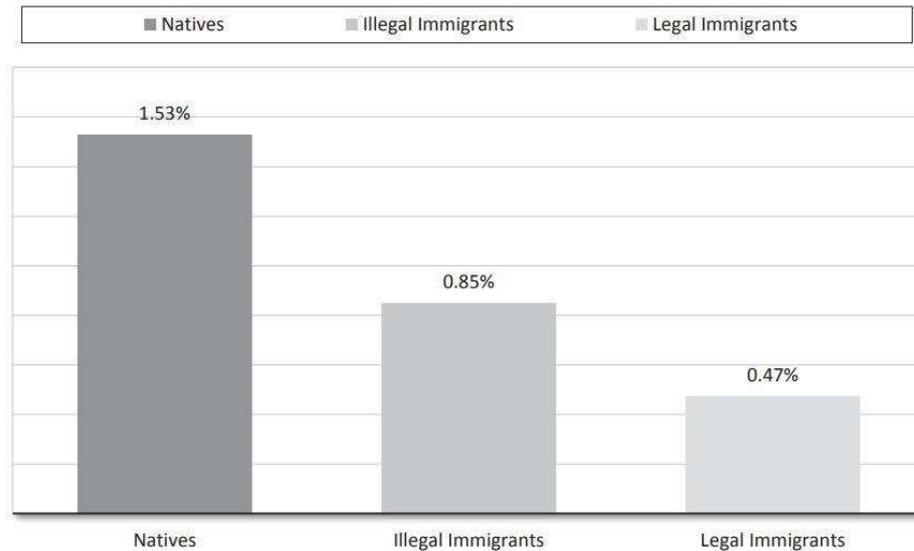
In the UK alone, there have been 1,264 recorded hate crimes against Muslims, 143,920 tweets that were flagged as derogatory towards Muslims, and that 1 in 3 people are racially prejudiced. (Muslim Engagement & Development, 2017)

In America, Islamophobia has significantly risen since 9/11. According to polls in 2016 made by the Brookings Institute, 41%-38% of Americans have an unfavorable view of Muslims, that being while nearly six in ten Americans report that they don't know a Muslim personally (Brookings Institute, 2016). Even though the majority of Americans believe Islam to be a peaceful religion, a third of all Americans believe that Islam encourages violence against members of any other religion, giving ISIS as an example, even though ISIS' actions are strictly forbidden by the Qur'an.

Xenophobia

Despite the fact racism is a major issue, xenophobia, the extension of racism, is still stronger than ever.

A great example of immigrant xenophobia in current years is the brutal refugee and immigration policies on the US-Mexico border. Former President Donald Trump and his administration made it virtually impossible for people in Central America to seek asylum, while marketing policies as methods to prevent the dangers that people from Central America bring. According to the administration, immigrants seeking asylum are criminals that are going to rape (Washington Post, 2015) and kill citizens, and that the Mexican government is intentionally sending their criminals across the border (Moreno, 2015). That being said, several studies have shown that immigrants commit way fewer crimes than American-born citizens, including a study conducted by the Cato Institute, stating that immigrants are 69% less likely to be incarcerated than natives (Mack, 2017).



In November 2020, the Trump administration issued an interim final rule to implement the agreements with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, declaring those countries as "safe enough" to deport asylum-seekers back to those countries (Ibe, 2020). That policy was passed even though those countries are full of crime, gangs, and other dangers that force people to seek asylum (Flynn, 2021).

Previous UN Actions

The International Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was the first major step towards international agreements of human rights. Adopted in 1965 and implemented in 1969, this resolution strived to eliminate racist behavior from countries in the UN, condemning any racial discrimination and the promotion of it, whether by sponsoring racist resolutions or through official statements. It also condemns racial segregation, propaganda, discrimination in the workplace, politics, etc.

The International Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination also pushed for the creation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, or CERD, for short. The committee will be responsible for enforcing the resolution and fighting against discrimination and racial intolerance.



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On that note, the General Assembly has passed several other resolutions since then. Notably, On June 28th, 2021, the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) adopted a resolution to create an independent mechanism, comprising 3 experts, that are tasked with investigating the root causes of systemic racism and police violence. The goal of these investigations is to spur accountability and create pressure from the public for the implementation of racial justice measures in medicine, housing, employment, and education.

In addition, the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council also monitor this topic, in particular:

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

Working group of experts on people of African descent.

Furthermore, the UN has held conferences specific to the topic of combatting racism, such as the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, held in Geneva from August 1st-12th, 1983. (Ask DAG, 2020)

Questions to Consider

- Should the committee focus on one type of intolerance, or should it attempt to fight all types?
- What type of intolerance is the biggest issue in your country?
- In what ways could you fight prejudice against a certain group?
- Where can you compromise and cooperate with other countries, and where can you not?
- What do you suggest that the nations of the world do on the issue? Which kinds of mechanisms (local, regional, worldwide) should be launched into action on the issue?



Further Reading

Delegates are encouraged to research further and find the relevance of each country to the topic. That being said, attached below are some materials that could guide you in the direction of possible solutions to the problem.

- [The year America confronted racism \(cnn.com\)](https://www.cnn.com)
- [Let's Fight Racism! \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org)
- [Fighting Racism and Discrimination: History, Memory and Contemporary Challenges \(unesco.org\)](https://www.unesco.org)
- [What is the UN doing to combat racism and racial discrimination? - Ask DAG!](https://ask.un.org)
- [OHCHR | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](https://www.ohchr.org)
- [How Can We Stop Racism? | Human Rights Careers](https://www.humanrights.org)

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Topic 2: Addressing the Humanitarian Impacts of Climate Change in Developing Countries

Key terms

Vulnerability-the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard.

Global warming: Global warming is the long-term heating of Earth's climate system observed since the pre-industrial period (between 1850 and 1900) due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere.

Climate change: Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. Changes observed in Earth's climate since the early 20th century are primarily driven by human activities, particularly fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere, raising Earth's average surface temperature.

Greenhouse effect/ Greenhouse gases: The greenhouse effect is how heat is trapped close to the surface of the Earth by "greenhouse gases." These heat-trapping gases can be thought of as a blanket wrapped around the Earth, which keeps it warmer than it would be without them. Greenhouse gases arise naturally and are part of our atmosphere. The level of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere has been rising consistently for decades and traps extra heat near the surface of the Earth, causing temperatures to rise.

Natural disaster- a natural disaster is a sudden, calamitous event that severely causes human, economic, and environmental losses that exceed a society's ability to cope using its resources.



Background to the Topic

Climate change has been described as the most urgent issue our generation is called upon to tackle, as we are currently faced with a global crisis not only affecting millions of people worldwide but also endangering global peace. It has become evident that due to the lack of action taken so far, we are most likely to experience severe aftereffects in the upcoming years.

Climate change includes both rapid events and slow changes that will have short and long-term impacts. Losses from weather-related disasters have increased in recent decades, and projections show more frequent and intense heavy precipitation, droughts, storm surges, flooding, and extreme heat. These changes may create feedback loops, where one event impacts another to further global warming.

Climate change has a severe negative impact on crops, water quality, and livelihoods, and it will harm those who are already subject to poverty, conflict, and violence the most. The degree and extent of climate-related humanitarian needs depend on the existing needs and vulnerabilities of affected populations.

It is clear that these changes in the climate already have had significant impacts on humanitarian needs, while the impacts on one need often influence other areas. Understanding the full magnitude of climate impacts on society requires a deep understanding of the connections between the fields of climate change effects.

Some experts involved in the panel discussion argued that moving humanitarian action from response to prevention and anticipation, from crisis management to risk management, can significantly reduce chaos and human suffering. In contrast to traditional humanitarian action, anticipatory action can be seen as a long-term means in that it can build resilience to future shocks. It does not, however, focus on truly long-term strategies to deal with climate change, most notably emissions reduction to promote environmental sustainability.



History on Climate Change

Climate change is a global issue because the climate is shared by all the world's nations, here is a brief review of the main actions that were taken.

On December 11, 1997, the international community produced the Kyoto Protocol, which introduced legally binding targets for countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 2008-2012. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on February 16, 2005, after being ratified by 163 countries. Neither the United States nor Australia—two of the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases—ratified the Protocol.

The Earth Summit 2012 took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June of 2012. This was a conference on sustainable development of the environment. Rio+20 highlighted seven issues; jobs, energy, cities, food, water, oceans, and disasters. The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, is encouraging all countries to increase the use of renewable energy sources like hydropower, wind power, and solar power. Cities' main concern is pollution, over-population, and poverty.

In September 2015, the United Nations passed the Global Goals. All of the 17 Global Goals are linked to solving the climate crisis. Global Goal 13, climate action, calls for the international community to combat the impacts of climate change.

At the December 2015 Paris Climate Conference, also known as COP21, there was a landmark decision by the United Nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions. For the first time, 195 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to limit emissions and to take common climate action. With this agreement, nations signed a goal to keep warming below 2 degrees Celsius and reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the second half of the century.



Who are the Vulnerable Populations?

Nowadays, vulnerability is the main determinant of humanitarian risk. Climate change has serious consequences that primarily affect societies with limited resources and mobility. Natural hazards turn into disasters more frequently in places where people are already vulnerable.

Even where institutions are generally strong, populations that are actively discriminated against are more vulnerable to climate change. For instance, state-led disaster risk reduction policies and resiliency programs have been shown to have varying impacts in the context of poverty and social marginalization due to power relations that favor some groups over others.

The Cause and Effect of Climate Change on Work Capacity and Food Insecurity

Climate change will affect people through impacts on human health and capacity for work. There is projected to be an overall decrease in work productivity due to climate change. For example, higher temperatures, as well as extreme weather events, will pose risks for the occupational health of outdoor workers. It is estimated that heat stress has already lowered labor capacity by 5.3% between 2000 and 2016. A decline in agricultural and fishery productivity will compound food insecurity through decreased food availability.

Beyond the impacts on productivity, climate change poses challenges for the nutritional content of food, as well. Extreme temperatures are shown to reduce the nutrient content of some crops. Moreover, drought is also linked to inadequate nutrition. The increase in ocean temperature may lead to a decline in nutrient supply as reproduction declines for fish that cannot tolerate higher temperatures.

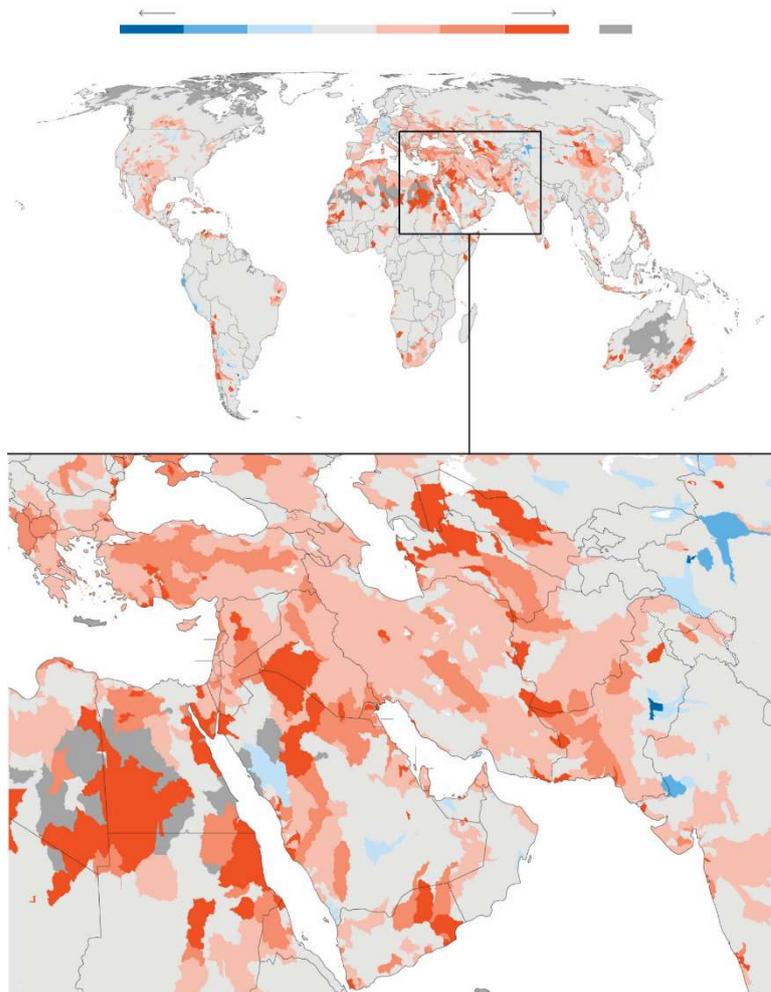


The Effect of Climate Change on Health

Aside from climate-linked food security, climate change will impact health through several other pathways.

Higher temperature change is linked to “vector-borne” diseases, diseases spread by organisms such as mosquitos or ticks. Furthermore, higher rates of illness or death caused by exposure to heat are expected. Higher temperatures and water stress will also lead to increased dehydration. Overall heat increases molecular motion which is expected to result in diseases spreading faster. All the examples above will result in a greater burden on health services.

Water Stress Levels in 2030 (the most optimistic projection)





Air pollution is the second leading cause of non-communicable diseases globally. It is known that the burning of fossil fuels emits pollutants that contribute to climate change. In turn, this leads to decreased air quality through wildfires and dust storms due to a drier climate. Degraded air quality results in airborne and dust-related diseases, and illnesses related to exposure to toxins.

Extreme weather events will become more intense and frequent due to climate change which is expected to lead to infrastructure breakdowns that damage water supply, sanitation, and drainage. These breakdowns pose probable loss or contamination of water that could lead to more diseases, food shortages, and malnutrition. Disease outbreaks may also result from storms, for example, Hurricane Mitch resulted in outbreaks of “leptospirosis” an infectious disease in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala in 1998.

Environmental Migration Caused by Climate Change

Environmental migrants are people who are forced to leave their home region due to sudden or long-term changes to their local environment. Long-term migration or permanent migration may occur if people fear a repetition of the climate events that first motivated them to move or if their home was destroyed.

Researchers claim that environmental change correlates with internal migration more than with international, which may motivate more rural to urban migration. Additionally, slow natural hazards, such as sea-level rise, are less likely to drive migration because people have the time to adapt. Unfortunately, people with low economic incomes are left with limited mobility. As they are confined in circumstances they become more vulnerable to climate change. For example, higher temperatures have been shown to increase urban and international migration in middle-income countries, but not in poorer countries.



It is hard to estimate how many people may be displaced by environmental change given the variety of factors that encourage migrations and studies have been inconsistent. Although, it is predicted to range from 150 to 300 million people by 2050.

Similarly, there is mixed evidence on the topic of climate-related migration and conflict. Some findings suggest that climate-related migration could increase the risk of conflict due to unplanned settlements, land disputes, and ethnic tension.



Conflict

Climate change does not directly cause armed conflict, although it is widely recognized that it indirectly increases the risk of conflict. This is due to its role in exacerbating social, economic, and environmental factors which are the traditional cause of conflict.

In addressing the rise of terrorist groups, the 2017 Security Council Resolution (2349) recognized "the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes on the stability of the Region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity".

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In the following paragraphs, we will address the causes and consequences of conflict as in regional conflict and as inner communities' conflict.



Inner Communities' Conflict

Conflicts tend to concur in warmer climate zones, where there is a larger dependence on agriculture, which is predominantly sensitive to climate shocks. More than 40 percent of the countries that experienced a food crisis in 2017 faced the double burden of climatic shocks and conflict.

Areas that lack government involvement are at risk of a higher vulnerability to conflicts. For example, when agricultural farmers are pushed to share diminishing resources due to a changing climate, this can stir tensions in places that lack strong governance and inclusive institutions.

Regional Conflict

Insufficiency of key resources could intensify tensions between countries and regions as they compete for, and adjust to, different environments and resources. According to the United Nations, it is estimated that since 1950, 40% of all civil wars have had a link to natural resources.

While competing interests over natural resources can be a source of conflict, they can equally be a shared opportunity for cooperation, confidence-building, and sustainable development. Understanding how to transform conflicts over natural resources into mutually beneficial outcomes that deepen trust and interdependence between parties is a key aim of effective conflict prevention and conflict management strategies. Such efforts should focus on building consensus and mutual trust around the co-management of natural resources and the environment, determining equitable sharing of benefits, and resolving disputes in non-violent ways.

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Conflict arises when two or more groups believe their interests are incompatible. Conflict is not in itself a negative phenomenon. Non-violent conflict can be an essential component of social change and development



and is a necessary component of human interaction. Nonviolent resolution of conflict is possible when individuals and groups have trust in their governing structures, society, and institutions to manage incompatible interests. Conflict becomes problematic when societal mechanisms and institutions for managing and resolving conflict break down, giving way to violence.

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It is known that armed conflict harms and destroys infrastructure, causes death, decreases financial stability, and has negative impacts on foreign investment and collaborations. All examples above have a direct influence on the economy which results in increased poverty. Poverty is one prime factor that makes it more likely that individuals join rebel groups. As climate negatively impacts income through decreased agricultural production or as a result of a disaster, it may increase rebellion and theft as a means to survive.

Conflict Worsening Climate Change

In warfare, the natural environment is often attacked or damaged. Attacks can lead to water, soil, and land contamination, or release pollutants into the air. Such environmental destruction reduces people's resilience and ability to cope with climate change.

The indirect effects of conflict also result in further environmental degradation as authorities are less able to manage and protect the environment and rather exploit it to sustain the war.

More importantly, armed conflict tends to lead to a spiral where violence leads to both increased vulnerabilities and renewed violence, which only escalates the discussed consequences.



Conclusion

We tend to discuss the humanitarian consequences of global climate change as though we are dealing with a future possibility. Far from it, this is not a possibility or even a probability, this is a certainty. The impact of changing weather is reflected daily and growing in intensity. The facts speak for themselves and lend new urgency to the issue. It is pivotal to note that preventive action is only one part of an integrated approach that must combine humanitarian and development aims with the need for carbon dioxide emission reduction. In both monetary and humanitarian terms, climate inaction will cost more than climate action.

During the conference, you will have to discuss various matters while trying to find a solution where every country would be committed to taking action. You will have to find compromises with countries that openly ignore the problem, raise awareness, and find a solution that considers the viewpoints of countries given that climate change has a domino effect on all societies.

Questions to Consider

- How can your country contribute to environmental peacebuilding?
- How is it possible that the aforementioned situations will be reversed?
- How can state and non-state actors of each country cooperate?
- What mechanisms should be implemented to protect communities with lower socio-economic backgrounds from the effects of climate change?

Further Reading

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/22/middleeast/middle-east-climate-water-shortage-iran-urmia-intl/index.html>

<https://voelkerrechtsblog.org/the-impacts-of-climate-change-on-the-humanitarian-system-towards-truly-long-term-cooperative-action/>



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