GA3 Chair Report

Topic 1: Enhancing International Cooperation for the Protection, Resettlement, and Integration of Refugees

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Personal Statements

Chair – Simona Hiller

Honourable Delegates,
I am Simona Hiller from the Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium.
It is an honour for me to be the Chair of the General Assembly 3.
This is my third participation at MUNISS, the last two years as a delegate and this year as your chair.
I am seventeen years old and I am currently attending the 11th grade.
I've always found it exciting to see what you can do as a young person in politics and where better than at MUN? Together with my deputy chair Carlotta Laukenmann, we will make sure that it will be a unique time with purposeful debates and great experiences!

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It includes all UN Member States, as well as observer states, each of which has an equal vote. Created Documents require a simple majority to pass. However, it does not have the authority to authorize armed interventions, impose sanctions, or pass binding resolutions. This committee primarily focuses on matters that directly impact people, such as human rights concerns and reports from the newly established Human Rights Council.

I look forward to seeing you all in April!

Yours sincerely,
Simona Hiller

Deputy Chair – Carlotta Laukenmann

Honourable delegates,

I am Carlotta Laukenmann and I am excited to be your deputy chair for this MUNISS conference. I am eighteen years old and attend the 11th grade at the Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Marbach. This will be my third MUNISS conference. The previous two times I attended as a delegate and this will be my first time as a chair.

I hope you all have a successful preparation time and I look forward to seeing you in April and having some interesting and fruitful debates!

Kind regards,
Carlotta Laukenmann

Introduction

In recent years, the global refugee crisis has reached unprecedented proportions, requiring international response. Strengthening international cooperation for the protection, resettlement and integration of refugees is a necessity to ensure global stability and security. To meet the needs of the millions of refugees an effective cooperation is necessary. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees's framework advocates shared responsibility, urging countries to develop comprehensive policies that not only protect refugees but also facilitate their resettlement and integration into host communities.

By fostering partnerships between governments, NGOs and local communities, we can build more inclusive societies that respect the dignity of refugees and contribute to global stability.

This committee simulates the work of the United Nations, allowing you to represent a country, debate, draft resolutions and negotiate with other delegates to find solutions to global challenges.

Glossary

Resettlement: The transfer of refugees from a country of asylum to another state that has agreed to accept them and eventually grant them permanent residence.

Complementary Pathways: Legal avenues for refugees to access safety and protection in a third country through means other than resettlement, such as family reunification, educational opportunities or employment prospects.

Non- refoulement: A core principle of international refugee law that prohibits countries from returning asylum seekers or refugees to a country where they would face a threat to their life or freedom.

Asylum Seeker: A person who has sought international protection and whose claim to refugee status has not yet been determined.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP): A person who has been forced to flee his or her home due to conflict, violence or disaster, but has not crossed an international border.

Community sponsorship: A resettlement programme in which community groups, such as local clubs, businesses or faith-based organisations, commit to providing financial, emotional and practical support to help refugees integrate into their new communities.

Issue Explanation

The current   issues surrounding the enhancement of international cooperation for the protection, resettlement and integration of refugees are diverse and pressing. The world is currently facing its largest refugee crisis in history   with over 100 million people displaced globally, of whom 26 million are refugees. Many of these individuals live in precarious conditions, deprived of basic necessities such as food, shelter and health care. The humanitarian impact is compounded by the vulnerability of refugees, who are particularly susceptible to violence, exploitation   and discrimination, particularly women and children.

From an economic standpoint, while the cost to host countries is substantial. Other countries like Turkey and Lebanon — where millions of refugees live — are putting enormous strain on their public services and infrastructure,   resulting in resource-sucking tension. However, it should be recognised that the economic impact of refugees   can also be positive with the right support, including their contribution to labour market and local economies.

The social challenges of   integration are clear. Possible xenophobia and social unrest: and what could threaten social cohesion in host communities   more than dispossession of land, competition for jobs, and cultural differences? Furthermore, limited access to education and work opportunities also prevent refugees from successfully   settling down and contributing to the society.

Not addressing these issues   may be traumatic and expensive. International cooperation, along with a return to the Multilateral Framework System that governed post-World War II realities, is critical, as without these measures we can expect the status quo for refugees to continue: humanitarian crises, conflict, and   prospects for international stabilization when there is little apparent global appetite for this kind of framework. The economic   strain on host countries may exacerbate instability and fuel

backlash against refugees. Furthermore, failure to integrate could aggravate social gaps, leading to more discrimination and violence towards these vulnerable groups.

The problem is particularly relevant to refugees themselves, who are fleeing conflict, persecution and violence in pursuit of safety and stability. It also impacts host communities, which can experience economic and social strain as they absorb large numbers of refugees, and international actors, which face diplomatic and humanitarian challenges in responding to these various crises.

International cooperation strengthening, however, would be the key to effectively address such challenges. Initiatives like the Global Compact on Refugees would aim to further improve the situation by promoting shared responsibility over nations; support to host countries would be greatly enhanced, and the rights and dignity of refugees would be ensured.

Perspectives of Parties Involved

The US often speaks about democracy, human rights, and economic goals. It wants a big global role to stand against authoritarian governments and support free trade. The view of the US is largely shaped by its partnerships and worries about safety.

The UK usually backs multilateralism and global teamwork. It looks at matters like climate change, safety, and trade; often matching EU plans after Brexit. The UK also stresses keeping close links with the US and Commonwealth nations.

Sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs are values that **China** places at the top. It supports a multipolar world and much more, focusing on economic development — the Belt and Road Initiative is one such path. China's views often contrast with those of the West, particularly in matters of human rights and governance.

Germany puts economic cooperation and sustainability into the foreground. Germany is a leading actor in the EU and supports social justice and environmental protection policies. Germany frequently fulfills the role of a mediator between different views in the EU.

History of the Topic

The journey towards a more just and humane response to the plight of refugees has been a long and complex one, marked by both setbacks as well as progress. Its roots lie in the aftermath of the First World War when the High Commissioner for Refugees was established. These efforts laid the groundwork for future initiatives, but it was the devastation of the Second World War that put the focus on the global community and the urgent need for coordinated responses.

1947: The creation of the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) marked an important turning point. Its original mission was to assist millions of people being replaced after the war,

1950: The UNHCR had the task of leading global efforts to ensure the protection of refugees and find durable solutions to their plight. In the same year, the 1951 Refugee Convention was adopted, establishing the legal framework for international refugee protection, by finding a definition, of who a refugee is and outlining their basic rights.

1960s: The scope of the refugee definition was expanded to include those fleeing conflicts outside Europe, leading to recognition of the growing needs of refugees outside Europe. This expansion was formalised by the 1967 Protocol, which extended the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

1990s-2000s: Durable solutions, (local integration, resettlement, and voluntary repatriation). Host countries' capacities are strengthened by the UNHCR, culminating in the 2001 Agenda for Protection, through which international cooperation and addressing displacement's root causes.

The 2010s: Unprecedented refugee movements driven by conflicts in different parts of the earth, have led to an international cooperation at its limits. Different declarations and agreements set the base for future solutions.

Still, continued cooperation and commitment among all nations is important and essential to effectively address the needs of refugees and ensure a more humane future.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is long and complicated, with tensions having roots since the early years of the 20th century. Among the most prominent historical occurrences are:

1947: The United Nations recommended partitioning Palestine into one Jewish state and one Arab state, an event that brought about the 1948 war, the actual declaration of the state of Israel, and went on to witness the Nakba: an event that displaced many Palestinians.

1967: In the Six-Day War, Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, thus marking the beginning of decades of occupation.

1973: Yom Kippur War: a surprise attack upon Israel, came to no decisive victory and instead solicited intense diplomatic moves.

1993: The Oslo Accords aimed for a two-state plan, yet were incapable of yielding lasting peace.

2000: Second Intifada begins in violence and ceasing of talk of peace.

2005: Israel withdrew from Gaza, but tensions built up and conflict with Hamas developed.

2012: The UN grants non-member observer state status to Palestine.

2018: The US recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, thus heightening tension between the conflicting parties.

The situation still has no winner; the land, rights, and recognition are all disputes that remain unresolved. Primarily, to ensure peace is achieved, these are the same points that require addressing to give leeway for both Palestinians and Israelis to coexist in peace and security.

Potential Solutions for the issue:

International efforts to address the challenges faced by refugees have developed through various United Nations (UN) resolutions, international conventions and the establishment of specialised organisations.

1. Prior UN Resolutions and International Undertakings

The 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol:
While the 1951 Convention forms the bedrock of international refugee law, it provides a definition of refugee status and outlines rights and duties.
The 1967 Protocol takes away geographical and time limitations, hence enlarging the ambit of the Convention.

New York 2016 Declaration on Refugees and Migrants:
It was adopted by the UN General Assembly to show the political will of world leaders to ensure rights for the refugees and migrants, save lives, and share responsibility for the large movements on the global stage.

Global Compact for Refugees (2018):
Adopted by the UN General Assembly, this is a framework that seeks to improve international responses to refugee situations, emphasising equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing amongst member states.

2. Organizations set up to address issues facing refugees

UNHCR:
UNHCR is a UN body created in 1950 that provides international protection for refugees and executes worldwide programs to offer solutions to refugee problems. Its core responsibilities consist of coordinating the international response to refugee crises and helping with resettlement and integration programs.

The IOM was established in 1951 and would be cooperating with governments and partners, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, in order to promote humane and orderly migration and provide migration services and advice to governments and migrants.

3. Current issues and some potential solutions

<u>Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:</u>

From 2015, the European Union (EU) had implemented several resettlement programs to provide safe and legal entry pathways to refugees. Since then, these programs have helped more than 130,000 persons seek protection in EU member states.

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