



SAMUN XIV



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Letters from Presidents

Letter from President Gomez

Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as your chairman on this important UN committee. It is crucial that as conscious and exemplary citizens we seek solutions to the situations presented today, ensuring the well-being of the international community.

Welcome to SAMUN and one of the most important committees in this model. We invite you to participate with enthusiasm and pacifism in the search for the best resolutions and friendly dialogue by hand arguments based on today's reality.

As your Chair, I want you to know that I am here to support you every step of the way.

Should you have any doubts or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. My goal is to guide you through this journey and help make this experience both enriching and memorable.

This will be an unforgettable experience and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

We count on you to make these days wonderful and to generate new interpersonal relationships that will last for years to come, also generate some concern in you for the models of united nations and so you can come back and develop as exemplary and capable delegates. Let us work together to make this event extraordinary, filled with learning,



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collaboration, and unforgettable memories. We count on your dedication to shape a better future starting here, today.

Warmest regards,

Ana Mercedes Gomez

SOCHUM President

Letter from President Valencia

Esteemed delegates,

It is with immense honor and genuine excitement that I welcome you all to the fourteenth edition of SAMUN. As one of the Presidents of the distinguished Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, I feel thrilled to embark on this incredible journey with you. Together, we will engage in meaningful dialogue, confront global challenges, and prepare innovative solutions that reflect the values of the United Nations.

I hope that as well as SAMUN has helped me grow throughout the years, not only in the academic aspect, but also in my personal life, it can also generate such a positive change in each and every one of you. Besides, I encourage you to prepare with dedication, contributing to an atmosphere of mutual growth and learning. Remember, this committee is more than a space of discussion; it is an opportunity to challenge yourselves.



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I'm confident that each of you will do an outstanding job. I encourage you to dive into the guide we've carefully prepared, packed with valuable resources to help shape your positions and guide your research.

Let us come together to make this SAMUN edition a one to remember, that will forever remain in our hearts.

Feel free to reach out to us anytime, we are super excited to help with any questions or concerns you may have! luciana.valencia-diazgranados@cbsm.edu.co
ana.gomez-parrado@cbsm.edu.co

Warmest regards,

Luciana Valencia

SOCHUM President

Introduction to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, or the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), focuses on fighting human rights issues in the international community. It was established in 1945 in reaction to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.



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This committee seeks to promote and fight for the different human rights of the international community. From free expression, children's rights, democracy and different human rights that impact the international community in a global aspect. It is vital for promoting and protecting human rights, addressing humanitarian concerns, and fostering cultural understanding.

SOCHUM derives its legitimacy from the original Charter of the United Nations, and works to design peaceful treaties that are favourable to every member of the international community in the broad spectrum of social, humanitarian and cultural complications in the international community.





Topic A: Upholding Human Rights in Venezuela: Addressing Systemic Governance Challenges and Political Repression

Key concepts

1. **Humanitarian crisis:** Is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area. There
2. **Political freedoms:** Political freedom is the ability of citizens to participate freely in the political process and influence policy.
3. **Dictatorship:** Is a form of government where one person or a small group has absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.
4. **Democracy:** Is a system of government in which power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or through freely elected representatives.
5. **Exodus:** Exodus refers to the mass departure or migration of a large group of people from a particular area, usually due to political, social, or economic pressures.
6. **Arbitrary detentions:** Refers to the arrest or imprisonment of individuals without sufficient legal justification, due process, or adherence to established laws.
7. **Political repression:** Refers to actions taken by a government or ruling authority to restrict, control, or punish individuals or groups perceived as threats to its power, stability, or ideology.



Introduction

From 1830 until democracy was restored in 1958, Venezuela experienced revolutions, dictatorships, counter-revolutions and military juntas. Hugo Chavez attempted two coups in 1992 and was imprisoned when both failed.

Chavez was elected president by a landslide in December 1998 and immediately began to bypass the Congress and constitution in order to control the economy and extend his term.

In 2000 Chavez was re-elected in another landslide and more turmoil began with coup attempts, general strikes, a recall attempt,

and sanctions from other countries. He was re-elected in 2006 and again in 2012 but died in office in March 2013.

President Nicolas Maduro expelled U.S. diplomats in September 2013. U. S and subsequently President Obama placed sanctions on Venezuela and labeled them a national security threat in March of 2015.

The Venezuelan humanitarian crisis, marked by widespread poverty, hunger, and disease,



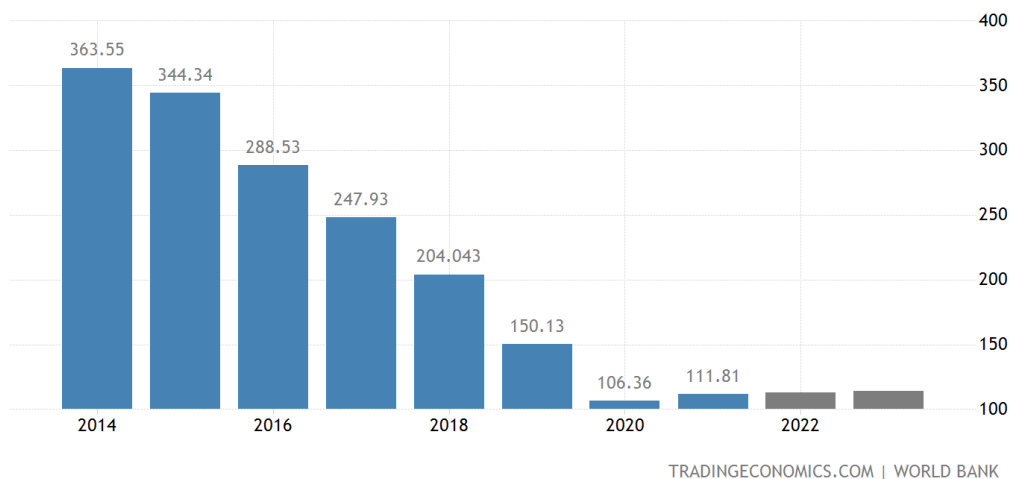


has created a perfect storm of vulnerability for millions of Venezuelans. As the country's economic and political instability deepens, the erosion of political freedoms and the rule of law has enabled the proliferation of illicit activities.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is mired in a profound and multifaceted humanitarian crisis, marked by unprecedented levels of poverty, hunger, disease, and displacement. The country's economic collapse, exacerbated by mismanagement, corruption, and external factors, has led to a catastrophic breakdown in public services, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

The consequences of this crisis are far-reaching and devastating. Millions of Venezuelans lack access to basic necessities like food, water, and medicine, leading to alarming rates of malnutrition, infant mortality, and the resurgence of previously controlled diseases. The situation is particularly dire for vulnerable populations, including children, women, and indigenous communities.

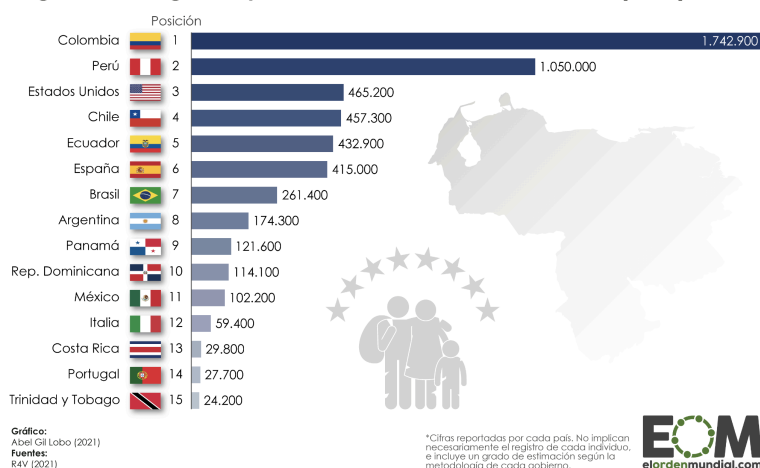
Concurrently, the Venezuelan government has been accused of egregious violations of political freedoms, including the suppression of dissenting voices, the imprisonment of opposition leaders, and the manipulation of electoral processes. The resulting exodus of Venezuelans fleeing persecution and destitution has placed immense pressure on neighboring countries, regional stability, and the global humanitarian system.



On 27 September 2018, the Office of the Prosecutor received a referral from a group of States Parties to the Rome Statute, namely the Republic of Argentina, Canada, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Paraguay, and the Republic of Peru, regarding the situation in the Venezuela since 12 February 2014. On 3 November 2021, the Prosecution announced that the preliminary examination had been concluded with a decision to proceed with investigations.

Venezuela, una crisis migratoria

Migrantes, refugiados y solicitantes de asilo venezolanos (2021)





The presidential inauguration in Venezuela in 2025 has sparked intense controversy and debate within the international community. The election, which took place in 2024, was marred by allegations of fraud, vote-rigging, and human rights abuses. Despite these concerns, Nicolás Maduro was sworn in for a third consecutive term, prompting widespread condemnation from countries around the world.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan government has maintained its stance that the elections were free and fair, and that the accusations of fraud and human rights abuses are baseless. The executive branch, led by Maduro, has dismissed the international criticism, labeling it as "interference" in Venezuela's internal affairs. The judicial branch, which is widely seen as aligned with the executive, has also rejected the accusations, stating that they are "politically motivated".

The Venezuelan government's response to the accusations has been characterized by a mix of defiance and denial. Maduro has repeatedly stated that his government will not be swayed by international pressure, and that Venezuela will continue to assert its sovereignty. However, this stance has only served to exacerbate the crisis, with many countries imposing sanctions and diplomatic isolation on Venezuela.

This development raises important questions about the future of Venezuela, the role of the international community in promoting democracy and human rights, and the implications of



this crisis for regional stability. As the situation continues to unfold, it is essential to examine the complex factors at play and the potential consequences of this crisis for Venezuela, the region, and the world.

3.3 Current Situation and Approach

Subtopic A: The Role of International Law in Addressing Arbitrary Detentions.

In July 2024, Venezuela held a presidential election marked by significant controversy and international scrutiny. The National Electoral Council (CNE) declared incumbent President Nicolás Maduro the winner with 51% of the vote, securing his third term in office.

However, opposition candidate Edmundo González and his supporters contested these results, alleging electoral fraud. They presented tally sheets and exit polls suggesting González secured approximately two-thirds of the vote.



The disputed outcome led to widespread protests across the country, with citizens demanding transparency and the release of detailed electoral data. In response, Venezuelan authorities detained over 2,000 protesters. While the government has since released 910 of these individuals, human rights organizations report at least three deaths among detainees and continue to express concerns over the treatment of protesters.



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The humanitarian situation in Venezuela has been dire for years, but the recent electoral fraud has exacerbated the crisis. The country is facing severe food and medicine shortages, with millions struggling to access basic necessities. The economic crisis has led to hyperinflation, making it impossible for people to afford even the most essential items.

Meanwhile, electoral fraud has further entrenched the authoritarian regime, leading to increased repression and human rights abuses. The opposition has reported widespread irregularities, including ballot stuffing and intimidation of voters. The international community has condemned the election as illegitimate, with many countries refusing to recognize Maduro's victory.

The contrast between the humanitarian crisis and electoral fraud is stark. While Venezuelans struggle to survive, the regime is more concerned with maintaining its grip on power. The repression has intensified, with reports of arbitrary arrests, torture, and forced disappearances. The international community must take action to support the Venezuelan people and hold the regime accountable for its crimes.

International reactions have been mixed. Countries such as Mexico and Colombia, after initial calls for electoral transparency, have decided to send diplomatic representatives to Maduro's





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inauguration scheduled for January 10, 2025. Conversely, nations like Canada have imposed economic sanctions on Venezuelan officials, including the president of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, citing allegations of electoral fraud.

The situation in Venezuela as of January 2025 is dire, with widespread human rights abuses and arbitrary detentions. The Venezuelan government's crackdown on dissent has resulted in the detention of over 2,000 people, including opposition leaders, human rights activists, and ordinary citizens.¹ Many of these detentions are carried out by the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) and the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB).



The international community has condemned these actions, with organizations such as the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights denouncing the arbitrary detentions and calling for the respect of human rights.

In response to the situation, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has imposed sanctions on eight Venezuelan officials, including the president of Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA) and the minister



The presidential inauguration in Venezuela in 2025 has been a highly contentious issue.

Nicolás Maduro assumed the presidency for a third consecutive term on January 10, 2025, despite allegations of electoral fraud and lack of recognition from the international community.

Maduro took the oath of office before the National Assembly, surrounded by dignitaries and diplomatic representatives from over 120 countries. In his speech, he highlighted the "heroic resistance" of the Venezuelan people and affirmed that "I will never betray them."



However, the Venezuelan opposition and several countries, including the United States, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, European Union, among others, do not recognize the legitimacy of the 2024 presidential election and consider Maduro illegitimate.

3.4 Current Situation and Approach

Subtopic B: The Function of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Investigating Venezuela





The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

The International Criminal Court's investigation into Venezuela has been ongoing since 2018, focusing on alleged crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide committed by the Venezuelan government. As of January 2025, the ICC has authorized a formal investigation, paving the way for potential prosecutions, and is examining allegations of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention, and persecution. These allegations stem from the Venezuelan government's crackdown on opposition protests and dissent, which has resulted in widespread human rights abuses and a severe humanitarian crisis.

In analyzing the ICC's role in promoting accountability, it is crucial to discuss the challenges and limitations faced by the Court. One major obstacle is the lack of cooperation from the Venezuelan government, which has refused to acknowledge the ICC's jurisdiction and has denied allegations of human rights abuses. Furthermore, the ICC has limited access to evidence and witnesses, as many Venezuelans are fearful of retaliation or persecution if they come forward. Despite these challenges, the court has made significant progress in its investigation, gathering evidence and testimony from victims, witnesses, and experts.



The implications of the ICC's investigation for international justice are significant, as it has the potential to set precedents for accountability in other countries. The ICC's investigation into Venezuela demonstrates the Court's commitment to holding those responsible for human rights abuses accountable, regardless of their position or power. This sends a strong message to governments and leaders around the world that they will be held accountable for their actions.

Venezuela's response and cooperation with the ICC's investigation have been limited. The government has denied allegations of human rights abuses and has refused to cooperate with it, claiming that the Court



lacks jurisdiction and is interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs. However, the ICC's jurisdiction and authority to investigate crimes in Venezuela have been established, and the Court's role in promoting accountability and justice for victims of human rights abuses is critical.

The ICC's investigation into Venezuela has also sparked controversy and debate within the international community. Some countries, such as the United States, have expressed strong support for the ICC's investigation and have called for accountability for human rights abuses

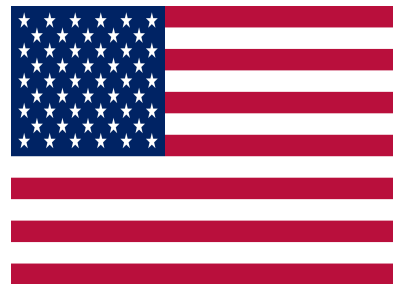


in Venezuela. Others, such as Russia and China, have been critical of the ICC's investigation, arguing that it is an attempt to interfere in Venezuela's internal affairs.

Overall, the ICC's investigation into Venezuela represents a crucial step towards justice and accountability for victims of human rights abuses. Despite the challenges and limitations faced by the Court, the ICC remains committed to holding those responsible for human rights abuses accountable and promoting justice and accountability for all.

3.5 Delegations Positions

United States: The United States has formally recognized Venezuelan opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez as the country's president-elect following the disputed July 28 presidential election, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Tuesday on X.



In 2023 and 2024, the Biden administration began exploring discussions with the Venezuelan government, particularly related to potential oil deals and easing of some sanctions if Venezuela holds free and fair elections.

Colombia: Colombia, which has been one of the most directly impacted countries by the Venezuelan refugee crisis, continues to be a vocal





critic of Maduro's policies, but the current government under President **Gustavo Petro** has also called for dialogue and diplomatic engagement with Venezuela. On the other hand, Colombia has been taking a more pragmatic approach under Petro's government, advocating for humanitarian aid and a return to diplomatic ties. Petro's left-wing administration seeks better relations but remains critical of Venezuela's lack of democracy and human rights violations.

Brazil: Brazil has long supported Venezuela's Bolivarian governments, headed back to 2002, especially under Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff, through cooperation on energy, trade, and Amazon conservation. However, following Venezuela's



disputed 2024 elections, Lula has shifted his stance, calling Maduro's regime "unpleasant" and "authoritarian." This marks a move from ideological loyalty to pragmatic considerations amid changing regional dynamics.

European Union: The EU remains a strong advocate for democratic reforms in Venezuela. However, the bloc has softened its approach compared to previous years, with a focus on engaging both the Venezuelan government and the opposition. The EU has called





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for free and fair elections in Venezuela, but also supports humanitarian aid efforts and regional stability. EU sanctions remain, though there are discussions of easing them if there are signs of progress toward democratic elections.

Mexico: Mexico's position on Venezuela has been more nuanced compared to the U.S. and other Latin American nations. Under the administration of Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, Mexico has called for dialogue and peaceful solutions, avoiding outright condemnation of Maduro.



Russia: Russia has been one of the most consistent supporters of the Maduro government. Russian media often portray the Venezuelan government in a positive light, emphasizing the country's resistance to external pressures. Moscow has provided economic and military support to Venezuela, and Russian officials often criticize foreign interventions, particularly from the U.S.



China: China has maintained a generally supportive stance toward Venezuela, often emphasizing its





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relationship with the Maduro government in the context of economic partnerships, particularly related to oil and infrastructure projects.

Cuba: Cuba is a strong ally of the Maduro government, providing both political and economic support. Cuban media consistently back the Venezuelan government's narrative, accusing foreign powers of meddling and supporting Venezuela's sovereignty.



Argentina: Argentina 's position on the presidential inauguration in Venezuela is one of recognition of Edmundo González Urrutia as the elected president. Argentina is one of the countries that has supported González after the July 28, 2024, presidential elections. It 's worth noting that Argentina joins other countries in the region, such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, as well as the United States, in recognizing González as the elected president.



El Salvador: The president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, criticized Venezuela's recent presidential election, claiming it lacked legitimacy and





transparency. He expressed doubts about the credibility of the results, stating that they did not reflect the reality of the voting process. Bukele made it clear that his government will not restore diplomatic ties with Venezuela until the country holds fair and democratic elections. He also reminded the public that relations with Nicolás Maduro's government had already been severed in 2020 when El Salvador withdrew its diplomatic mission from Venezuela.

QARMAs

1. What role does your delegation play in social media and international press in pressuring the Venezuelan government to halt arbitrary detentions and respect fundamental rights?
2. How can the international community support individuals fleeing Venezuela due to fear of political persecution?
3. Should countries offer asylum to political prisoners and activists while adapting international refugee policies to address these cases?
4. How can your delegation justify supporting the Venezuelan government despite allegations of human rights abuses and crimes against humanity?
5. Does your delegation believe that the ICC's investigation into Venezuela is a legitimate pursuit of justice, or an attempt to interfere in Venezuela's internal affairs?



Questions

1. Does your delegation recognize the legitimacy of Nicolás Maduro's presidency, given allegations of electoral fraud and authoritarianism?
2. How can your delegation support democratic institutions in Venezuela when the government has consistently undermined them?
3. Does your delegation believe that economic sanctions are an effective way to pressure the Venezuelan government to reform, or do they harm the Venezuelan people?
4. How can your delegation balance the need to support Venezuelan migrants with the need to maintain regional security?
5. How can your delegation justify supporting diplomatic efforts to resolve the Venezuelan crisis when the government has consistently rejected international mediation?

Support Links

Canada imposes economic sanctions on 5 Venezuelan officials, including the high court president. (2024, December 17). AP News.

<https://apnews.com/article/venezuela-election-maduro-canada-sanctions-edmundo-e5a584b0e18fbb77bedb1ad2a456914>



Chile, U. S. M. (2025, January 10). Condemning Maduro's illegitimate attempt to seize power in Venezuela and announcing new actions against his regime and support to support Venezuelans. U.S. Embassy in Chile.

<https://cl.usembassy.gov/condemning-maduros-illegitimate-attempt-to-seize-power-in-venezuela-and-announcing-new-actions-against-his-regime-and-support-to-support-venezuelans/>

Condena del intento ilegítimo de Nicolás Maduro de hacerse con el poder en Venezuela y anuncio de nuevas acciones contra Maduro y sus representantes y en apoyo al pueblo venezolano. (2025, January 10). United States Department of State.

<https://www.state.gov/2025/01/condena-del-intento-ilegitimo-de-nicolas-maduro-de-hacerse-con-el-poder-en-venezuela-y-anuncio-de-nuevas-acciones-contra-maduro-y-sus-representante-s-y-en-apoyo-al-pueblo-venezolano>

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). (2025, January 7). IACHR publishes report on human rights violations following the elections in Venezuela. Oas.org.

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2025/007.asp&utm_content=country-ven&utm_term=class-ip

Pérez, D. M., & Stacey, D. (2024, December 23). México y Colombia enviarán una representación a la toma de posesión de Nicolás Maduro. Ediciones EL PAÍS S.L.



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Pozzebon, S., & Hansler, J. (2024, November 19). US recognizes Venezuelan opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez as president-elect. CNN.

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/19/americas/venezuela-gonzalez-president-elect-intl-latam/index.html>

Tensions rise in the wake of Venezuela's disputed election and humanitarian crackdown.

(n.d.). Ibanet.org. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from

<https://www.ibanet.org/tensions-rise-in-wake-of-venezuelas-disputed-election-and-humanitarian-crackdown>

Venezuela: Maduro: An electoral fraudster as president of Venezuela? (n.d.). Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from

<https://www.freiheit.org/venezuela-electoral-fraudster-president-venezuela>

(N.d.-a). Reuters.com. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/venezuela-free-additional-177-election-protesters-2024-12-23/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



(N.d.-b). Icc-cpi.int. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/venezuela-i-situation-icc-appeals-chamber-confirms-decision-authorising-resumption>

Topic B: Forced Labor in the Agricultural Industry: Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Global Supply Chains

Key Concepts

1. **Human Trafficking:** The act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This includes both labor and sexual exploitation and is often referred to as modern-day slavery.
2. **Global Supply Chains:** The network of companies and processes involved in producing and distributing agricultural products.
3. **Forced Labor:** Work performed involuntarily under threat or coercion, including lack of pay or freedom to leave.
4. **Modern Slavery:** An umbrella term that includes forced labor, debt bondage, and other forms of exploitation.
5. **Agricultural Industry:** Encompasses all activities involved in the cultivation of crops and raising livestock for food, fiber, biofuel, and other products essential to human life. This industry is labor-intensive and often relies on seasonal and migrant



workers, making it vulnerable to exploitative practices, including human trafficking and forced labor.

6. **International Frameworks:** Are global agreements and guidelines that help countries address issues like human trafficking and forced labor by setting standards for prevention, protection, and prosecution. Examples include the Palermo Protocol and the ILO Forced Labour Convention.
7. **Seasonal Work:** The nature of agricultural work is often temporary and seasonal, making workers more vulnerable to exploitation.
8. **Cross-border Cooperation:** Cross-border cooperation refers to collaboration between countries to address shared challenges, such as human trafficking. It involves exchanging information, coordinating policies, and working together on enforcement, prevention, and victim protection to combat crimes that transcend national borders.

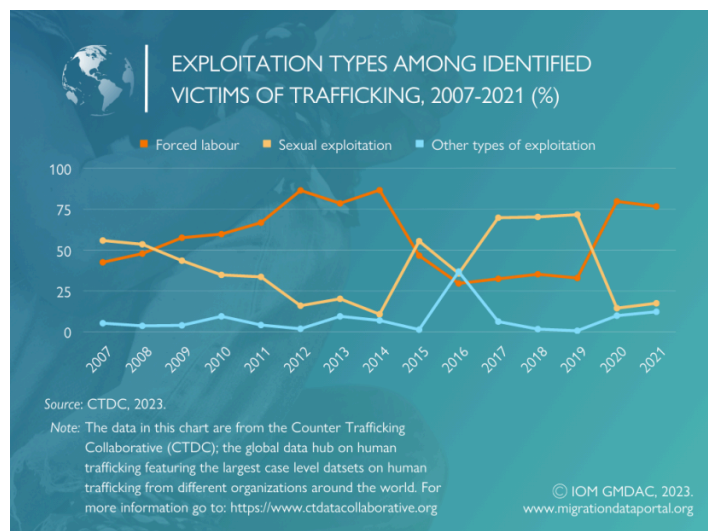
Introduction

Industries worldwide that are worth billions of dollars, have been plagued by the scourge of human trafficking and labor exploitation. This egregious violation of human rights demands immediate attention and action from the international community, which needs to address specific areas of industry, such as agriculture itself.



The growth of the agricultural industry and businesses creates more risks of human trafficking due to their high demand for labour. The lack of supervision and formality generate certain fluctuations that make human trafficking and labour exploitation a daily matter. Forced labour in the agricultural industry is a pervasive problem that remains under cover in the global supply chain. The international community has been slow to respond to the crisis, and the humanitarian law framework has been consistently disregarded. Despite the endless international efforts, millions of populations continue to suffer from exploitation, and the generation of inequity, poverty and human right violations.

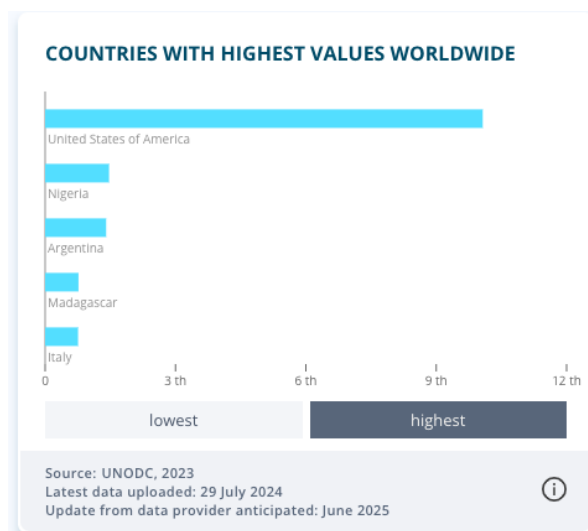
The United Nations along with other multilateral organizations have a critical role to play in addressing the crisis, promoting human rights, and supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Human trafficking, a heinous crime that entraps millions worldwide, has become increasingly intertwined with global supply chains. As the international community continues to grapple with the complexities of this issue, it has become clear that disrupting human trafficking networks requires a multifaceted approach that transcends national borders. The opaque and complex nature of global supply chains provides fertile ground for





traffickers to exploit vulnerable individuals, often concealing forced labor and other forms of exploitation behind layers of subcontracting and outsourcing. Enhancing cross-border cooperation is critical to disrupting these networks. Effective collaboration between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector can facilitate the sharing of intelligence, best practices, and resources. This, in turn, can enable the identification and prosecution of traffickers, the protection of victims, and the promotion of sustainable and ethical supply chain practices.

Exploitation can be interpreted as; minimum wage too low, forced labour, excessive working



hours, lack of contracts and social security, lack of safe working conditions, harassment of workers, violation of freedom of association, and child labour. In the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, United Nations Member States agreed on common goals for managing international migration in all its dimensions.

One of the most important objectives is human trafficking, which is based on "Preventing, combating and eradicating human trafficking in the context of international migration". Also there is another crucial objective in order to combat the issue; "Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner". The International Community has been working



in order to approach the problem, however it is important to create new strategies in order to protect the individual integrity of each human being in every economical situation. Poverty is an agravant for this type of problem which led to necessity and lack of resources in certain countries and populations.

Current Situation and Approach

Forced labour in the private economy generates US\$236 billion in illegal profits per year, a new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) has found. Different countries have abused certain vulnerable populations who are forced to work in order to survive. This type of population is mainly governed by undocumented immigrants who lack legal protections and face cultural and language barriers.

Agriculture accounts for a considerable share of forced labor, particularly in commodities such as cocoa, coffee, sugar, cotton, and palm oil. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), human trafficking for forced labor affects 6.3 million people globally. The industry and especially the sector generates billions in illegal profits due to forced labor and exploitation. Forced labor is a severe human right violation that affects 27,3 million of men, women and children in all countries and economic sectors. It flourishes in discrimination, poverty, lack of protection of rights and the lack of healthy competition between companies.



Traffickers lure individuals with promises of well-paying jobs, only to trap them in exploitative labor upon arrival. In the agricultural industry, different types of exploitation are specifically presented in the field of forced labour. One of these is debt bondage, which consists of workers borrowing from companies without the possibility of paying them off and undergoing extensive work to pay off their debts. This is connected with the false promise for immigrants to go in search of a new opportunity in another country, that's when the human trafficking agencies work and everything results in fraud. On the other hand, approximately 160 million children globally are engaged in child labor, with many working in agriculture, particularly in cocoa, coffee, and sugarcane industries. "Inclusive social protection allows families to keep their children in school even in the face of economic hardship. Increased investment in rural development and decent work in agriculture is essential. We are at a pivotal moment and much depends on how we respond. This is a time for renewed commitment and energy, to turn the corner and break the cycle of poverty and child labour," said by the ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

Some of the world's largest companies like Nestlé and Starbucks are involved in such operations and have a monumental impact on the most vulnerable communities. These companies have faced reports of





forced labor in their supply chains, particularly in the production of coffee and cocoa. That is why governments like the US are implementing more stringent restrictions that exclude products that involve forced labour.

On the other hand, the private sector is fundamental on this topic. Exploitative labor leads to lower production costs, increases competitiveness, and generates substantial profits. While some governments try to affront this issue by imposing restrictions on forced labor, companies frequently find legal loopholes or subcontractors to evade responsibility, which allows forced labor to persist within supply chains. Furthermore, developing economies reliant on exports of commodities like coffee, cocoa, and textiles, experience a dependency on cheap labor. This situation can either contribute to the development of an economic improvement or reinforce cycles of poverty and exploitation.

The H-2A visa program for seasonal farmworkers has been exploited, with trafficking victims forced to work under threats of deportation. However, the U.S. Tariff Act of 1930 now prohibits imports made with forced labor, leading to increased inspections of goods from regions like China and Southeast Asia. On the other hand, the EU is also working in favor to mitigate this problem in the international community by implementing a deal to ban on products made with forced labour, Co-rapporteur Samira Rafaela (Renew, NL) said: “This law is ground breaking in the field of human rights. It will prevent forced labour products



from entering our market. And it has several references to remediation. It is a step forward in achieving fair trade and cleaning up supply chains, while prioritising human rights.”

Traffickers often prey on impoverished, uneducated, or displaced populations, including refugees and undocumented migrants. This is when migrants try to look for new opportunities by accepting to cross borders and lack legal protections. New technological advances are being implemented that help to know whether or not a product comes from forced labor through artificial intelligence. These emerging technologies are providing opportunities to further tackle forced labour and support victims, namely through improving communication and transparency in the supply chain.

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, producing 70% of the world's cocoa, lean significantly on child trafficking. Children are trafficked from neighboring countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, forced to work under harsh conditions with no pay. Child laborers on cocoa farms work long hours, with some being forced to work up to 14 hours a day. Some of the children use chainsaws to clear the forests. Other children climb the cocoa trees to cut bean pods using a machete. These large, heavy, dangerous knives are the standard tools for children on the cocoa farms, which violates international labor laws and a UN convention on eliminating the worst forms of child labor.



“Samuel is far from home, from a different state in Nigeria, and said he misses his family. Although he would like to see his family again, he is not allowed to leave the cocoa farm; he explained that the farmer’s wife slaps him and threatens him whenever he leaves.” Ryerson, C. (2024, January 17). CAL and AfriLaw document widespread forced labor in the Nigerian cocoa sector —. Corporate Accountability Lab.

Although certain measures and restrictions have been taken against the problem, there are also quite a few challenges that industry faces. Few countries face difficulty in effectively implementing anti-forced labor laws. The intricate network of intermediaries in agricultural supply chains makes it difficult to track and eliminate forced labour at the source. Despite the multiple issues to regulate the problem, the agricultural sector continues to grapple with forced labor despite growing awareness and regulatory advancements. While big steps are being made to mitigate the issue such as increased transparency, stricter import regulations, and consumer-driven ethical movements, persistent challenges like weak enforcement and systemic inequalities mean that millions of workers remain at risk.

Delegations Positions

China: Investigations have shown child labor and excessive working hours in certain coffee farms in Yunnan province, which supply major companies like





SAMUN XIV

#Turning Challenges into Opportunities



Nestlé and Starbucks. These practices violate both companies' sustainability standards.

Southeast Asia: Shrimp farmers in Vietnam, Indonesia, and India face growing exploitation due to the demand for lower wholesale prices by Western supermarkets. This has led to significant wage drops, hazardous conditions, and child labor.



Australia: The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme has been criticized for exposing workers to conditions likened to modern slavery. In regions like Bundaberg, workers report difficult living conditions and potential exploitation.



Nigeria: Research by Corporate Accountability Lab and the African Law Foundation has documented widespread forced labor in the Nigerian cocoa sector, with workers subjected to threats, physical abuse, and underpayment.





United States: Forced labor persists within the U.S. food supply chain, particularly among immigrant laborers who constitute a significant portion of the agricultural workforce. The H-2A visa program, intended to facilitate legal employment, has been associated with exploitation and labor trafficking.



QARMAs

1. Which type of restrictions or protocols does your country have applied to the prevention of human trafficking?
2. Has your delegation suffered major scandals regarding labor exploitation in the agricultural industry?
3. What is the position of your delegation in front of human trafficking and forced labour?
4. Does your delegation support or permit products from the agricultural industry made with forced labor?
5. How does your delegation's laws and restrictions align with the international community necessities to protect human rights for vulnerable populations?



Questions

1. How could new technologies be implemented to determine whether a product has been made with forced labour or not?
2. What solutions does your delegation propose for the international community to agree and create strategies together so that there is no human trafficking?
3. Is your delegation in favor or against forced labor? Why?
4. What role does consumer demand for cheap goods play in perpetuating forced labor in global supply chains?
5. What are the primary factors driving forced labor and human trafficking in the agricultural industry in your delegation?

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