SOCHUM

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE

2023

Committee Topic:

Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis and Promoting Peace in the Sudan War Conflict

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

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MESSAGE FROM OUR DIAS MEMBERS

Ananya Podder
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Dear MUN Delegates,

I'm honored and thrilled to invite you all to CJCP's first annual Model UN Conference! My name is Ananya Podder and I will be serving as your Chair for the SOCHUM committee. I am a senior at Central Jersey College Prep Charter School and I can't wait to meet you all!.

To begin with my Model UN experience, I started back when I was a freshman in high school. At the time, I was someone who severely lacked skills in public speaking. But now, I can proudly say that Model UN has changed my public speaking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, research, and leadership skills for the better. Ever since I joined MUN, I have had the opportunity to attend various conferences which have helped me build connections with other delegates and chairs. Model UN is a great way to learn how to become a better debater, listener, and problem solver. Each of these conferences and committees is unique enough to challenge delegates out of their comfort zones. Delegates have the opportunity to stand in front of their fellow peers, so they can speak their minds on particular issues in order to decide on complex solutions that can benefit the entire world. One of my favorite aspects of Model UN is simply learning about the world, its countries, and the various problems that nations face. Model UN has the ability to open the bubble of our own understanding to experience the struggles that people, families, and communities face on a daily basis.

Model UN may seem scary, but trust me, it is a wonderful experience. My advice for you all is to stay positive and open. Don't be afraid to speak your mind and interact with your fellow delegates. Stay well-researched and confident! It is okay to make mistakes and mess up while giving speeches, making motions, etc. We will be here to guide and help you all throughout the conference, so don't hesitate to reach out before or after CJCPMUN! I hope you all have a wonderful time at our conference and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Sincerely,
Ananya Podder
CJCPMUN Chair

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIAS MEMBERS

Alisha Mehta
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Dear MUN Delegates,

I am very excited and pleased to welcome you to the first CJCPMUN conference! To introduce myself, my name is Alisha Mehta and I am a Senior at Central Jersey College Prep Charter School. I'm so thrilled to meet you all!

To start off with my MUN journey, I joined the Model UN club in 10th grade. Prior to joining, I was unsure what the conferences would be like and my overall experience with them. However, after my first conference, I completely fell in love. This club has played a huge role in changing my perspectives on a variety of topics, creating stronger arguments, learning new social skills, and learning how to think outside the "box." I was able to become a stronger person emotionally and mentally. My favorite part of the conferences would be the individuals at the conference. Being able to interact with a diverse group of people from all over the world and understand their journeys and experiences with Model UN was so exciting!

Outside of Model UN, I find joy in watching Netflix shows such as Suits and listening to music, more specifically Drake. If you have any questions about Model UN, please do not hesitate to reach out before or after CJCPMUN.

Sincerely,
Alisha Mehta
CJCPMUN Vice Chair

Rules of Procedure

The Rules of procedure are three types: Motions (Verbal and Non-Verbal), Points, and Yields.

Verbal Motions

1. **Motion to Set the Agenda:** "Country X motions to set the agenda in favor of topic X." Note that, since there will be one topic per committee this year, the agenda will already be set in favor of each committee's topic. **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority**

2. **Motion to Set the Speakers List:** "Country X motions to set the Speakers List to Y seconds." **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority.**

3. **Motion to Suspend the Debate:** The debate can be suspended to a moderated or unmoderated caucus, soliciting of third parties, or consultation of the whole.

   a. **Moderated Caucus:** "Country X motions to suspend the debate for a moderated caucus to discuss Y for a total time of Z minutes and speakers time of V seconds." **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority**.

   b. **Unmoderated Caucus:** "Country X motions to suspend the debate for an unmoderated caucus for the purpose of Y for a total time of Z minutes". **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority**.

   c. **Consultation of the Whole**: "Country X motions to suspend the debate for a consultation of the whole, to discuss Y for a total time of Z minutes." **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority**.

4. **Motion to Introduce Draft Resolution:** "Country X motions to introduce Draft Resolutions." **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority**.

5. **Motion to Begin Debating on Amendments:** "Country X motions to begin debating on amendments.**" This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority.**

6. **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:** "Country X motions to adjourn the meeting for the purpose of lunch." **This Motion Requires an Absolute Majority.**

7. **Motion to Close the Debate:** "Country X motions to close the debate and move into voting procedures..." **This Motion Requires a Two-Thirds Majority.**

Rules of Procedure

The Rules of procedure are three types: Motions (Verbal and Non-Verbal), Points, and Yields.

Written Motions

1. **Right of Reply**: This is requested when a delegate feels that another delegate has made a derogatory comment to the country they are representing. **There is no Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.**
2. **Appeal to the Chair's Decision:** This is used when a delegate feels that the chair committed a mistake or acted unfairly.

Points:

- **Point of Order:** This is used when a delegate feels that the chair or a fellow delegate has made an error in the running of the committee. **This Point is Interruptive.**
- **Point of Parliamentary Procedure:** Also known as a point of inquiry, this is used when a delegate has a question regarding the rules of procedure or flow of debate. **This Point is Non-Interruptive.**
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** This is used when a delegate has a certain personal discomfort. **This Point is Interruptive.**
- **Point of Information:** This is used when a delegate does not understand or needs more clarification on a certain speech or notion that a delegate gave. This Point is Non-Interruptive.

Yields:

Yields are only used when a delegate does not use their whole speaking time during the formal debate. There are three types:

Rules of Procedure

1. **Yield to the Chair**
2. **Yield to Another Delegate**
3. **Yield to Questions**

Amendment:

There are two types of amendments:

1. **Friendly Amendments**: A change to a draft resolution that all sponsors of the latter agree with.
2. **Unfriendly Amendments**: A change to a draft resolution that not all sponsors agree with. **This Amendment requires an Absolute Majority vote to pass**.

Passage of Resolutions:

In small committees, Draft Resolutions will require a two-thirds majority to pass. In large committees, they will require an absolute majority. **Each Chairperson will point out at the beginning of the session the 'required number to pass' votes that will be applied in each committee.**
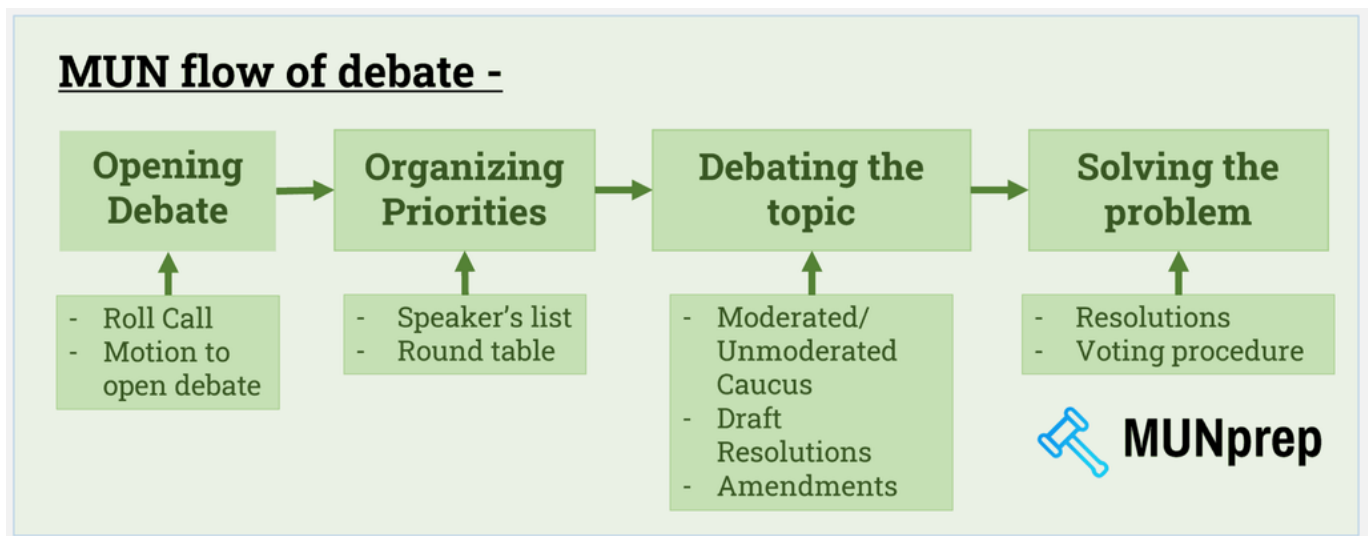
COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly consists of six main committees Each of these committees focuses on a particular field of topics and ensures that the issues falling under its area of focus are handled thoroughly. More specifically, the **Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee**, SOCHUM, was first founded in 1945 to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The Committee focuses on human rights and other issues that arise on an international stage by examining human rights questions and reports of special procedures of the Human Rights Council, established in 2006.

SOCHUM also discusses concerns relating to the promotion of fundamental freedoms such as the advancement of women, the treatment of refugees, the elimination of racial discrimination, the protection of children, and the right to self. Social development questions are also discussions pertaining to SOCHUM which include issues related to youth, family, disability, drug control, crime prevention, and criminal justice. As a result, this committee strives to promote human rights and values of individuals, resulting in fulfillment through expressing cultural appreciation, freedom of political involvement, protection of rights, and many other ways.

At the seventy-sixth General Assembly, this committee took into consideration sixty-two draft resolutions and about half of these draft resolutions were submitted to the human rights agenda. These draft resolutions on human rights covering a wide array of issues regarding the promotion of fundamental freedom and social development are expected to rise during other General Assembly conferences.

It is crucial to remember that the resolutions SOCHUM considered and adopted are only suggestions, not binding agreements. Nevertheless, they are carefully considered and may even be incorporated as national laws. The SOCHUM committee, overall, has a significant impact on the battle against human rights abuses. The committee's participation in international disputes and conflicts pertaining to relevant social and humanitarian issues may be the most comprehensive out of the other UN committees.

History of Sudan's Conflicts

 The independence of Sudan in 1956 led to two prolonged and disastrous civil wars. Sudan's first civil war lasted from August of 1955 to March of 1972. Shortly after, the second civil war began in May of 1983 and ended in 2005. Despite both the civil wars taking part mostly in the South, the motives for each are very different. Sudan's first civil war focused on achieving freedom and self-governing in the south, while the second civil war focused on reconstructing the main political government and institutions and transferring power to marginalized areas.

Sudan First Civil War (1955 - 1972)

 The first Sudanese Civil War was declared a year prior to Sudan's independence from its colonial power, Great Britain. This was a conflict between the northern and southern regions of Sudan: the central government and the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM). The central government was supported by Great Britain, Egypt, and the Soviet Union, and the SSLM was backed by Ethiopia, Uganda, and Israel.

 The cause of the conflict was sparked by the Torit mutiny, which took place in August 1955, and the North's rejection of federalism. During a protest in the town of Torit, Sudan, the Equatoria Crops, which mainly consisted of British Colonial soldiers, attempted to break up the group of protesters. However, the southern soldiers, a part of the corps, were sympathetic to protesters. The central government prompted an immediate replacement of the troops with northerners, leading the southern troops to retaliate, killing 336 northerners. As the news of the Torit mutiny spread, tensions between the North and South continued to increase. On top of the Torit mutiny, southern Sudanese people felt out of place in Sudan. Since the northerners had control over the nation at the time, the majority of their beliefs and habits became the customs of the nation. Arabic was the official language of government and education, and Islam was promoted as the main religion. All of the beliefs and traditions of southern Sudanese people were suppressed in the northern-dominated nation.

Southern Sudanese forces and the SSLM lacked the power and support to launch a head-on offensive against the central government, so they instead launched a guerrilla war. The units, which were composed of the southern Sudanese forces and the SSLM, were incredibly disorganized and poorly armed. Even though the central Sudanese government saw the groups as an annoyance, they still began rebuilding their army against the South. As the fighting continued, the southern troops were split into 2 factions: the Sudan African National Union (SANU), led by William Deng, and the Anya Nya, led by Joseph Lagu.

Guerrilla leaders began gaining control over the rural areas in Sudan and began coordinating their rebellions and attacks together. A new secessionist movement was formed, composed of the 1955 mutineers and southern students: the Anyanya. From 1958-1971, the power of the central government was constrained by the force of four southern rebellions, further intensifying the internal conflict.

The Civil War established the inability of the northern Sudanese government as they struggled to put down the southern rebellion. The rise of more coups and rebellions brought about new forms of government in Sudan. General Gaafer Nimeri took control of the Sudanese government in 1969 and established a socialist regime. Two years later, Nimeri renounced socialism after a failed assassination by Sudanese communists.

The First Sudanese Civil War ended in 1972 with the Addis Ababa Agreement between the SSLM and the Sudanese government. This agreement allowed for regional autonomy in southern Sudan. Even though the civil war ended, the tensions in Sudan weren't over. The beginning of the Second Sudanese Civil War was already established from the previous tensions.

SUDAN SECOND CIVIL WAR (1983 - 2005)

Sudan's second Civil War was a 22-year long conflict between the Khartoum central government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). This long, brutal genocide has roots in the racial and religious oppression placed on the southern Sudanese people. However, the key cause of the Second Civil War was the militant government in Khartoum.

The previously standing declaration that ended Sudan's first civil war, the Addis Ababa Agreement, was violated several times over. The President, Gaafar Nimeiry, wanted control of the oil fields which were located on the border of north and south Sudan. In 1983, President Nimeiry violated the Agreement and imposed Shaira Law throughout the nation, punishing many South Sudanese and non-Muslim residents. Nimeiry's actions ultimately led to termination of southern Sudan's autonomy. The door to a violent uprising led by the south was now opened and wouldn't be closed for another 22 years.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army began forming and rebelling against the central government almost immediately. The southern rebellion grew so quickly and steadily after the beginning of Sharia Law that it threw the Sudanese government off track. Due to the constant rebelling and forceful strategizing of the southern rebellions, President Nimeiry announced the end of Sharia Law in 1984. Nimeiry was forced out of his position as President after a short-lived coup in 1985. The rise of the new Khartoum government was led by Prime Minister Saidq al-Mahdi. Under the new Prime Minister's rule, SPLA and the Democratic Unionist party came together for a consensus on a peace plan for a cease fire and the abolition of military pacts of Egypt and Libya which provided the Khatoum government with military weapons.

The long standing Bashir regime rose to power in 1989 when Colonel Omar al-Bashir and the National Islamic Front rose in a military coup. Bashir claimed the titles of president, chief-of-state, prime minister , and the chief of the armed forces and declared rule as President under oppressive Islamic law. He closed off trade unions, political parties, and non-religious institutions. His regime reinstated Sharia Law all throughout Sudan, bridging a stronger divide between southern and northern Sudan.

A massive offensive in southern Sudan led by the Sudanese central government drove out the SPLA from their strongholds in rural areas to the borderlands. The scale of the war changed from rebellion conflict to a full blown war. Unarmed communities were being destroyed by bombs and chemical weapons. Arab Islamist miliares were sent out on the civilian population for conquest and murder. Southern Sudanese people had no choice but to flee into the last few areas controlled by SPLA. Despite being strongly weakened, SPLA sent out small army units throughout southern and northern Sudan to display their use of guerrilla warfare. Death toll across southern Sudan skyrocketed due to the war and the famines induced by the humanitarian blockade.

The scale of the Civil War put Sudan on an international platform. The U.S. government passed the Sudan Peace Act in October 2002. This act led to the increase of American support to the southern Sudanese cause. The American government provided southern Sudan with humanitarian relief and confronted the Bashir regime. Due to the Bashir regime cutting off the world during their rise to power, the government was seen as global pariahs. Losing over southern Sudan and not having the ability to withstand the American intervention, the Bashir regime and the SPLA signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which secured southern Sudan its independence. The end of Sudan's Second Civil War brought about the self-governance of South Sudan but kept the Bashir regime instilled in Sudan, leading to the current issues in 2023.

SUDAN UNDER AL-BASHIR'S RULE

Omar al-Bashir came to power in Sudan in 1989 by orchestrating a military coup. Bashir ruled with complete violence, leading to the economic paralysis of Sudan. Due to his actions, Sudan was put on a world stage surrounding terrorism.

Bashir's rule started with him being appointed as the Revolutionary Command Cetra (RCC) for National Salvation after the military coup in 1989. This established the "transitional" government. Wanting more power over Sudan, Bashir dissolved the parliament, banned political parties, and introduced Islamic law. Later in 1993, al-Bashir completely abolished the RCC and appointed him as the president of Sudan. During every election, until he left office, Bashir always ran unopposed for president, winning the majority of the votes. Even though Bashir eventually legalized political parties, he shut most of them down before they had a chance to become politically powerful.

His rule as leader over Sudan destabilized many ethnic minorities and Bashir was criticized for conducting an "ethnic cleansing" in Darfur, which was home to non-Arab tribes who first rebelled against the government in 2003. The tribes in Darfur accused Bashir's administration of helping Arab tribes during their fight over scarce resources in the region. The United Nations estimated that 200,000 to 400,000 were killed in the conflict and 2.7 million were displaced. The Sudanese government claimed that the UN was exaggerating these numbers and the actual conflict didn't lead to a massive genocide. The continuous aggression by the Bashir administration led him to be charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. Two such arrest warrants were issued against al-Bashir, the second one being for the genocide in Darfur. Despite having arrest warrants held against him, Bashir was re-elected in 2010 and 2015.

 Protesters and rebels were getting angrier at Bashir's actions and the government's inability to address their wrongdoings and improve the economic and political conditions of the state. At first, protestors were fighting for a better handling of inflation in the nation and government economic support but later increased pressure to get al-Bashir to step down from office. More aggressive anti-government demonstrations erupted throughout Sudan causing security forces to respond with an equally forceful manner, killing dozens of people. In hopes of ending the protests, Bashir declared a state of emergency and banned all unauthorized gatherings in Sudan. Despite his measures, a large sit-in protest occurred outside of the military headquarters on April 6th, 2019. Protesters continued to participate in the sit-in even though security forces had killed 22 people. On April 11th, the rebels were successful in getting al-Bashir arrested by the Sudanese army.

 Without al-Bashir as president of Sudan, the country was reestablished with a transitional government. However, tensions and uncertainty remained over who would lead the newly formed government.

SUDAN WAR 2023

April 15th, 2023 was the day the power struggle between the Sudanese army and its powerful paramilitary group began. The army chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo burst into a conflict killing thousands of people and forcing millions from their homes. The United Nations has stated that more than 732,823 refugees have fled to neighboring countries in hopes of escaping the conflict in Sudan.

After President al-Bashir was arrested for his humanitarian threats on Sudan, the government was placed in a transitional phase. This means that the government and the country was controlled primarily by the military without any leader or president. There were constant failed efforts in establishing a democratic civilian-led government, but the crisis between both sectors of the transitional government was inevitable.

Khartoum is the epicenter of the conflict, with the violence in the Darfur area being extremely aggressive and deadly. Today, the fighting has spread to other parts of
Sudan, displacing more and more innocent people. The United States and Saudi Arabia were able to establish a seven-day ceasefire on May 20th, but their efforts were shortlisted as the violence increased after the week break.

Throughout the Sudan War of 2023, the Rapid Support Forces have gained control of several locations in Khartoum and overtook many of the bases and military weapons factories within the area. The forces also cut off the Sudan military's supply routes between their engineer bases. The Sudanese Armed Forces have launched multiple multi-front offensives in Khartoum against the RSF. Despite gaining some control over the region, the Rapid Support Forces were able to repel the attacks of the Sudanese military. The RSF has been accused of genocide during the war in 2023 because of the constant attacks against civilians in their homes. Additionally, regional government leaders within Sudan have been reported to be kidnapped and killed such as West Darfur governor Khamis Abakar was killed after blaming the deaths of civilians on the RSF. The UN Security Council has investigated many claims regarding crimes and assassinations within Sudan.

U.N. Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has stated that Sudan is on the brink of a full-scale civil war and warns that the powerful military forces will destabilize the entire region.

CONNECTION TO SDGS

Both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces have been violently engaging against each other without the interest of the Sudanese people and livelihood in mind. Within four months of the war, 3,900 civilians were killed and more than 4 million were displaced. Extreme food shortages and malnutrition plagued the nation as the war continued.

The RSF has been accused of killing based on ethnicity and sexually violating many women and children. Chronic diseases like malaria, measles, dengue, and acute watery diarrhea have also increased in rates which were once controlled prior to the war. Many of these people do not have access to any medical supplies because of the disruption of supply chains

 The UN's World Health Organization stated that almost 40% of Sudan's entire population will suffer from malnutrition in the next six months because of the lack of resources and healthcare facilities being disrupted. Many Sudanese people have lost their homes and are forced to move to neighboring countries to escape the constant violence around them. People who have been injured and are in need of medical attention aren't adequately receiving any help because of the attacks on healthcare centers, ambulances, and warehouses.

There are some local nonprofits that are working to remedy the situation. For example, Project HOPE has partnered with Nada Elahar for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA) to provide medicine and medical supplies to hospitals in Omdurman, Sudan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Delegates should stay up-to-date with all matters relating to the 2023 Sudan War as it is still ongoing.
2. Delegates should thoroughly research about the Humanitarian Crisis and the Sudan War Conflict to gain further knowledge about the situation, its effect, and what the countries are doing to reduce conflict.
3. Delegates should keep in mind about the Humanitarian Crisis and their involvement in the Issue.
4. Delegates should research about how the Humanitarian Crisis and Sudan are attempting to promote peace.
5. Delegates are encouraged to understand historical events and other occurrences that might have shaped and urged the Sudan War to occur.
6. Delegates should consider and research what human rights are being targeted due to the Sudan War and how the Humanitarian Crisis is attacking the issue.

MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS TO CONSIDER

1. Sudan's humanitarian crisis's impact on the Sudan War and its individuals
2. Improving Democratic Governance and Democratic Institutions
3. The impact of the Rapid Support Forces on Sudan and the areas around Sudan
4. The impact of the Sudan War on refugees
5. Reforming mediation efforts to make an efficient conflict resolution in Sudan's Government
6. The influence of Sudan's long-standing history of government conflicts on the country and the protesting of citizens
7. The influence of Sudan's War on other social affairs
8. Efforts by organizations or countries to help injured individuals seek medical attention or help
9. Establishing protocols or assistance to reduce sexual acts towards men and women

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