UN HABITAT

1. Welcome letter

"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth… These are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all". – Ban Ki-moon

Dear delegates,

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme was brought to this model to seek awareness among the youth, who are still looking for knowledge in the United Nations models. However, our current world is in a complex situation where decisions will have repercussions on the planet. It is of great importance to get involved in the matter and not leave it to others.

Therefore we, Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante and Daniela Menco Alzate, encourage you all to carry out an agenda in which we expect you as delegates to be fully committed, objective, and most importantly, to accept the challenge to debate topics that are not usually involved in our daily routines, but can have repercussions in it.

As a species, we should aim for sustainable development. This target will not be granted by plainly letting things occur and allowing states to resolve them. Alternatively, joint actions of neighbouring nations will have a greater impact on the achievement of one common goal. In addition to sharing a collective responsibility for protecting the world as a community.

If you have any questions or inquiries about the commission, please feel free to contact us. We will be at your complete disposal.

Finally, we encourage you to look at CCBMUN as an opportunity, much more than a school event. Moreover, as a way to plan the way you want to change the present from the past and do more than just watch.

Sincerely,

Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante   Daniela Menco Alzate

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2. Introduction to the committee

2.1 Historical background

Even though the UN Assembly had already urged their members on several occasions to address urbanisation issues. It is only in the 1970s that tangible yet timid actions were taken to deal with the rapid and often uncontrollable growth of cities. On January 1st, 1975 the UN General Assembly established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF), the first official UN body dedicated to urbanisation.Then, under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), its task was to assist national programmes relating to human settlements through the provision of capital and technical assistance, particularly in developing countries.

At the given time, urbanisation and its impacts were less prominent in the UN agenda, mainly because two-thirds of humanity was still rural. The first international UN conference to fully recognize the challenge of urbanisation was held in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada. This conference – Habitat I – resulted in the creation, on 19 December 1977, of the precursors of UN-Habitat: the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements – an intergovernmental body – and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (commonly referred to as "Habitat"), which served as the executive secretariat of the Commission.

From 1978 to 1996, with meagre financial and political support, Habitat struggled to prevent and to ameliorate problems stemming from massive urban growth, particularly in developing countries. In 1996, the United Nations held a second conference on cities –

Habitat II – in Istanbul, Turkey to assess two decades of progress since Habitat I in Vancouver, and to set fresh goals for the new millennium. Adopted by 171 countries, the political document – dubbed the Habitat Agenda – that came out of this "city summit" contained over 100 commitments and 600 recommendations.

On 1 January 2002, through General Assembly Resolution A/56/206, Habitat's mandate was strengthened and its status elevated to a fully-fledged programme in the UN system, giving birth to UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Key recommendations and fine tuning of the agenda were now underway, along with new strategies for achieving the urban development and shelter goals and targets for the next 15 years.

In 2015, member states approved the Sustainable Development Goals including a dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11 which calls to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." A year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III - member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities.

2.2 Functions and powers

UN Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's goal, is to promote in a social and environmental way sustainable cities and towns. In many parts of the world rapid urbanization has already had dramatic impacts such as: lack of proper housing, outdated and inadequate infrastructure, growth of poverty

and unemployment, safety problems, pollution, etc. For these problems UN-Habitat has developed specific functions to ensure the development of a sustainable world, these are:

a.   **Developing a holistic and global approach towards urbanization:** For cities to be green and sustainable, as well as environmentally friendly, UN Habitat has developed a holistic and global approach towards urbanization, which embraces all its traditional and technical considerations, and goes beyond it to focus on urban legislation, risk management, gender, youth and capacity building for all actor involved.

b.   **World Urban Forum (WUF) :** This is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanisation, which was established in 2001 to face one of the most pressing issues: rapid urbanisation and its impacts on the environment, cities, economies and climate change, it is scheduled every two years in a different city of the world, last one was held in 2022 on Katowice, Poland and the topic was "Transforming our cities for a better future".

c.   **Worldwide presence:** UN-Habitat has been active in over 90 countries since 2014 through the UN-Habitat Secretariat and four regional offices, one in Latin America, one in Asia, one in Africa and one for the Arab States, since the UN-Habitat's work relies on the close partnerships and cooperation of the local governments, helping the government's institutions and authorities identify and address their specific needs,

encouraging every participating actor to address and be conscious about the urbanizations and uncoordinated human settlement growth issues regarding the environment.

  d. **Funding:** Most of UN-Habitats funding comes from voluntary contributions from governmental and intergovernmental donors, the UN General Assembly provides part of the regular budget and other UN bodies, private investors and multilateral organisations provide funds for specific projects, so the UN-Habitat's sources of funding are:

  i. Regular budget allocations (approved by the General Assembly).

  ii. General purpose voluntary contributions.

  iii. Special contributions for specific activities.

  iv. Technical cooperation contributions.

2.3. Specific Function and mission

  The main goals of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme are to: build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. Furthermore, assisting and promoting urbanisation as a positive transformative force for people and communities, while reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty.

  The programme works over 90 countries to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical

assistance and collaborative action. The new strategic plan[1] 2020-2023 adopts a more calculated and integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements.

The mission[2] embodies the four main roles of the organisation, which can be summarised as: think, do, share and partner:

a.   **Think**: UN-Habitat's normative work, including ground-breaking research and capacity-building, sets standards, proposes norms and principles, shares good practice, monitors global progress and supports formulation of policies related to sustainable cities and human settlements.

b.   **Do**: UN-Habitat's operational work takes various forms of technical assistance, drawing on its unique expertise in sustainable urbanisation and crisis response. UN-Habitat implements projects to provide value-added and tailored support to countries.

c.   **Share:** Through advocacy, communication and outreach, UN-Habitat mobilises public, political and financial support and collaborative action to inspire qualitative change in national development plans, policy frameworks, development practice and investment choices for sustainable urban development at the local, national and global level.

d.   **Partner:** UN-Habitat collaborates with governments, intergovernmental, UN agencies, civil society organisations, foundations, academic

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[1] UN-Habitat 2020-2023 strategy plan: https://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-strategy
[2] Revise UN-Habitat mission:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/4._un-habitats_placement_within_the_secretariat_structure_edit.pdf

institutions and the private sector to achieve enduring results in addressing the challenges of urbanisation.

2.4 Work Areas

a. Climate change: Since urban areas contribute 71 to 76 percent of CO_2 emissions, this is one of the main topics that UN-Habitat addresses.

b. Disability: The goal is to eradicate the discriminatory laws and policies that forbid those persons with disabilities to enjoy their rights.

c. Energy: Nowadays, for the development of urbanisation, energy has become a major factor for development; however, this growing phenomenon has generated about 60 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, so the goal is to start developing sustainable energy.

d. Housing: Given the fundamental right to housing, UN-Habitat's focus is to give housing to people where they have preconditions such as employment, health, education and social services.

e. Human rights: the challenge is to guarantee the whole population the rights of adequate housing and safe water and sanitation, which are contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has been ratified by most UN member states.

f. Land: This concept guarantees property rights and adequate housing for each human being; this is a crucial fact for the appropriation of human rights, and the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

g. Urban legislations: This concept is important since it is the collection of laws, policies and decisions that a government practices for the management and development of an urban environment.

h. Local economic development: This is the plan to encourage each nation or community to achieve an inclusive economic growth and territorial development; the goal of this area is to establish a link between economic growth and the creation of jobs.

i. Local Governments and Decentralisation: In many countries the urban governance systems are unfit and in need of critical reforms. To be able to develop inclusive urban development, the committee aims to create governments that ensure the basic principles of a nation.

j. Migrations: There are about 258 million people living outside their countries of origin due to several crises, such as: internal conflicts, climate change, poverty, lack of employment and opportunities, beyond others. Providing full support and effectiveness to all inhabitants is a main goal of the committee.

k. Mobility: Road crashes kill a total of 3,287 people a day and transport-related emissions are on the rise. Hence, the goal is to create safe, affordable, accessible, integrated and sustainable transport systems by creating new, more technologically advanced infrastructures.

l. Planning and Design: This area is focused on avoiding issues such as the rapid growth of climate change, inequalities, migrations and conflict in order to promote an era of prosperity and economic development; the proposal would be done by

international cooperation, technological implementation and partnerships.

m. Public Space: Lack of quality public spaces increases issues such as crime, social tensions, health and congestion, so the goal is to create well-functioning cities with high-quality public spaces.

n. Urban regenerations: The suggestion done by the UN is the opportunity to preserve and bring back historical and cultural heritage, increasing urban prosperity and quality of life

o. Regional and Metropolitan Management: Managing and creating bigger and denser metropolises increases the quality of life, economics and finances of a city giving them greater independence.

p. Rehabilitation: Since global crises are increasing in a complex way, many developing countries which have the most vulnerable populations are unable to implement risk reduction strategies in order to prepare for the possible crises.

q. Resilience and Risk Reduction: Given the climate change and rapid urbanisation, resilience has become a catalyst for sustainable development. Approximately 26 million people are pushed into poverty by natural disasters, and this is because of the limited tools and the shortcomings of these cities to prevent and handle these issues.

r. Safety: It has been shown that 60% of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime in the last 5 years, a situation that increases crime, abuse, violence and substance abuse rates. The idea is to address the issue so the poverty, violence and crime rates decrease.

s. Slum Upgrading: The main issue with the slums is the lack of adequate housing, clean water supply, sanitation and secure land tenure on these territories, without including the violation of human right and the gender inequality, so the point is to improve the slums for them to be a better place to live.

t. Waste Management: Solid waste collection and management causes a lot of issues, such as air and water pollution which just contributes to climate change. The goal is to create a sustainable integrated solid waste management system which not only reduces the environmental effects but generates more green jobs.

u. Water and Sanitation: in 2015, 2.1 billion people did not have access to safe water drinking, 4.5 billion did not have access to safely managed sanitation services and 892 million people had to practise open defecation. The solution to these is to improve the water resources management, to have access to safe water and sanitation for the eradication of poverty.

v. Youth and Livelihoods: Some of the greatest challenges for the actual generations is the lack of access to basic services such as: education, sanitation, employment and housing. For the youth of today to have better opportunities, UN-Habitat proposes a range of strategic services such as:

  i. Researches on the challenges and opportunities of urban youth populations.

  ii. Workshops to discuss the results of the research on urban youth.

  iii. Formulation of urban youth strategies to incentivize skill developments, job creation, sports and recreation.

2.5 Tools

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme has multiple tools, depending on the field in which the crisis has been substantiated. These tools allow the correct operation of the programme duties, which are mentioned above. According to the UN-Habitat toolbox[3], their tools can be classified in three main categories, which also comprehends subcategories. Each one of the subcategories are conformed by other actions. The categories are:

a. Survey-based tools:

i. Neighbourhood socio-economic household survey.

ii. Inventory of damage & operational capacity through KIIs.

iii. Neighbourhood profiling field assessments.

iv. Neighbourhood profiling household surveys.

b. Participation tools:

i. Stakeholder and conflict analysis.

ii. City Cahier / Urban Functionality Index.

iii. Community Based Planning for Rapid Urban Profiling.

iv. Neighbourhood profiling focus group discussions.

v. Neighbourhood profiling key informant interviews.

c. Gis-based tools:

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[3] Visit complete toolbox: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/toolbox_v11.pdf

i. Satellite damage assessment.

ii. Regional spatial analysis of refugee settlements.

iii. Accessibility analysis.

iv. Building counts with satellite imagery.

v. Nightlight analysis for economic recovery analysis.

vi. NDVI Analysis

2.6 Ground Documents

- United Nations Charter:

  https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf

- The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements:

  https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/7252The_Vancouver_Declaration_1976.pdf

- The Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the

  Habitat Agenda:

  https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2014/07/The-Habitat-Agenda-Istanbul-Declaration-on-Human-Settlements-20061.pdf

- The Humane Nations Programme:

  https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/4._un-habitats_placement_within_the_secretariat_structure_edit.pdf

- What is the role of the Human Settlements Programme?

  https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/4._un-habitats_placement_within_the_secretariat_structure_edit.pdf

3. Topic 1: Structuring peace and prosperity in African Communities, targeting Quicet Guinea-Bissau

3.1. Introduction

Colonialism is a practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one people over another. This is not a modern term. Numerous stances of a society progressively growing by absorbing nearby land and establishing its people on recently conquered territory may be found throughout world history. The sixteenth century saw a dramatic shift in colonisation, due to advances in navigational technology that connected previously unconnected regions of the globe. When it became possible to transport huge numbers of people across oceans and to retain political power despite geographical dispersion, the modern European colonial endeavour was born.

Colonial rule came tardy to Africa, likewise it was relatively brief. Authors such as: Parker and Rathbone (2007) noted that unlike Latin America, which fell under the Spanish and Portuguese rule in the early 16th century and lasted 300 years in it, Africa was conquered by European imperial powers only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the 1960s, the colonial period was all but over. In many parts of the continent, it lasted barely two generations: Morocco, for example, became a French protectorate in 1912, and was again independent in 1956.

In addition to this, while conducting research in the north of Ghana in the late 1990s, the already mentioned authors interviewed old men and women who, as young children,

remembered the military campaign that in 1911 brought their communities under British overrule. However, forty-six years later, in 1957, the British were gone.

European rule underpinned throughout the continent by coercion and racism, was often violent, exploitative, and traumatic. Yet their impact varied exceedingly: across time, from region to region and colony to colony, between men and women and young and old, and according to a multitude of social, political, and economic factors that were often shaped as much by Africans themselves as by their colonial masters. For some, colonial rule represented a threat; to others, an opportunity. For many, it represented both.

Even so, from the mid-1950s until 1975, during the Cold War colonial governments gave way to sovereign states, all through a process often marred by violence, political turmoil, widespread unrest and organised revolts.

The Cold War was a continuing political rivalry that emerged following World War II, between the Soviet Union, the United States, and their respective allies. George Orwell used the term "hostility" between the two superpowers in a 1945 piece of writing. According to Orwell (1945), there was a nuclear standoff between two "super-states" that might destroy one another with weapons of mass destruction.

Consequences of colonialism were evident just as the power countries left. African countries were completely damaged economically, politically and culturally. Africa's traditional lifestyle was destroyed since Europe did not have any interest in the wellbeing of the continent, nor the traditional African culture and their civilians.

In addition, during the XIX and XX century a variety of internal crises were thus far established in the African countries. However, subsequent to the Cold War and the

decolonization of Africa, the crisis worsened. These situations were initially caused by the power countries, though it was not evident because their control was absolute and not questioned. Yet with their absence, internal instability of each of the governments was evident, even more because they never had a stable or legitimate model.

Therefore, there is a need to understand and evaluate the past to fully understand the present. Implementing this knowledge in order to mediate the various crises in the African continent.

3.2. Historical Background

A key point for understanding the continuous conflicts in Africa is the Cold War. The main issues of the "war" were political, economical and ideological differences. Subsequent The Second World War, there were only four "independent" states in the African continent -which were: Liberia, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa.

However, due to the fact that the Cold War was occuring jointly as the African decolonization, most of the countries had several issues while developing, given the influence from the United States and the former Soviet Union. Some clear examples are: Liberia, which was a United States protectorate. Egypt, which was full of British troops. Ethiopia, which had intentions to establish a relationship with the United States. Lastly, South Africa, which was ruled by white people.

As a result, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United States of America (USA) took advantage of the decolonization, only to gain influence through different types of aid, such as financial and military. Nonetheless, the USA had way more success in that task in comparison to the USSR.

Decolonization

"Decolonization may refer to a country achieving independence, but it can also refer to "decolonizing" spaces and institutions from the cultural and social impacts of colonization." *(Soken, n.d.)*

This process started as a concept from the late 1700s to the mid 1900s. Referencing decolonization in the mid 1900s, Africa is often brought to the topic. The continent being the last to commence the decolonization process, due to European influences in the continent. Then, when America started its decolonization it motivated Europe to start its own. The first outcome was the French Revolution. As a result, European countries were left with little to no resources and a huge decrease in power. Hence, they needed to find lands full of resources available for their own benefit.

Taking into account the situation, Europe realized that Africa had almost no industrialization. Thus, the colonial powers divided the territory among themselves. The countries involved were: France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Portugal and Italy.

(Brujin, G)

That being the case, with the influence of World War II, a nationalist feeling arose. The United Nations promoted self-determination and anti-colonization ideals. Then, the African continent realized that they had to fight for their freedom and rights. Most of these independence processes were done via violent events, leaving ongoing consequences such as political uncertainty, social and ethnic conflicts.

After the African countries started the process of decolonization in the 60s the quantity of social, political, violence and economical issues increased to an outrageous point. Which according to statistics are mainly due to pre-colonial states (PCS) as it is shown in the following graph.
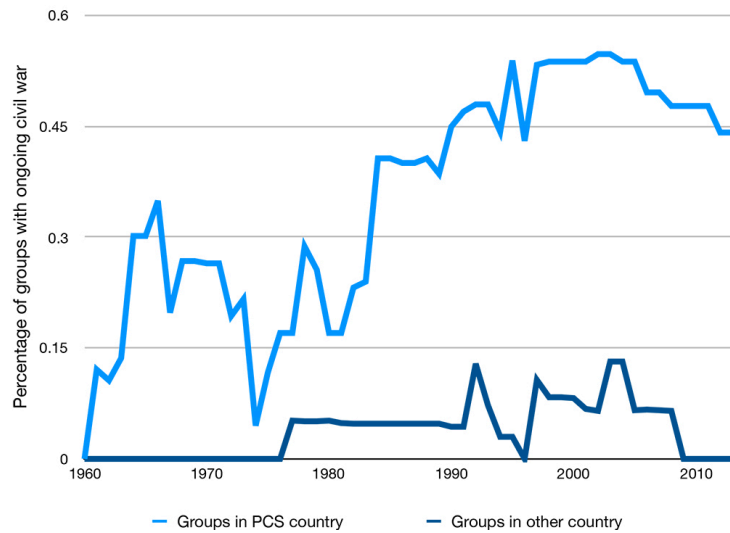
(*What Can Trigger Violence in Postcolonial Africa?*, 2019)

Nigeria's Biafran War (1967-1970):

The country was divided into three regions/ethnic groups: Hausa-Fulani (the northern region), Yoruba (the western region), Igbo (the eastern region). The conflict started by a violent coup in January 1966 made by the Igbo. The event was due to their incompatibilities with the political and economic inequalities. As a result of the coup, a lot of political figures were killed including the prime minister of the time (Hausa-Fulani).

In May 1967, it was declared the secession of the eastern region as the Republic of Biafran in order to prevent a genocide, and to accomplish the wish of self-determination. After a three - year war that left famine, humanitarian crisis and diseases, the Biafrans surrendered to Nigeria's wishes to reunite the country in January 1970.

Congo Crisis (1960-1965):

It was a conflict in which three communities participated: the ABAKO (Alliance of Bakongo; French: Alliance des Bakongo), the MNC (The Mouvement National Congolais) and CANAKAT (The Confederation of Tribal Association of Katanga people). It all happened after the independence from Belgium in January of 1959, due to the sudden change and the instability which caused lack of infrastructure and limited preparation. In July of 1960, the province of Katanga declared independence, which just altered the situation even more. After the murder of the prime minister, Patrice Lumuba, a lot of resource extraction came from the USSR, US and Belgium in the country.

A humanitarian crisis and regional instability lasted for several years. However, the situation ended with a coup in 1965, which resulted in a 3 year dictatorship. The UN sent peacekeepers to restore order, prevent a civil war and to supervise the removal of Belgian troops. Nonetheless, their efforts were in vain since they did not accomplish their goals. Even though it is a resolved conflict, there are still regional tensions, political instability, humanitarian crisis and economic issues.

Central African Republic (2012-present):

One of the most recent conflicts that still has repercussions in the present is the one happening in the CAR (Central African Republic). Where mainly two

communities were involved: the Seleka Coalition (a Muslim armed group) and the Anti-Balaka Militias (Christian militias).

It started with the Selekas launching an aggressive attack under the pretext that the government was marginalising the Muslim community. In March of 2013, the same group made a coup and selected a new president. In this period of time, violence, human rights abuses and robbery became common. In response the Anti-Balaka attacked back, creating a cycle of unending violence.

In 2014, the UN sent peacekeepers in order to protect the civilians and stabilize the situation during the elections. They have given humanitarian assistance and they have provided protection for the civilians since then. However, there are still humanitarian crises, violation of human rights, violence and lack of control from the UN.

Rhodesian Bush War (1964-1979):

It was formed by two communities: the ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and the ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union). They declared their independence in 1965. The nation was led by the white minority, officially from the United Kingdom. They started with economic sanctions by the UN and both of the communities launched a guerrilla war against the Rhodesian government to end the white minority regime.

In the 70's the war worsened with guerrilla attacks, international pressure and economic sanctions. In 1979, negotiations were made due to Britain creating

the Lancaster House Agreement, which established a ceasefire, new elections and a new government under a new constitution. Lastly, in 1980 Zimbabwe officially gained independence. The UN did not send peacekeepers, they only tried for their diplomatic relationships to improve and once in a while they sent observers.

Ethiopian Tigray war (2020- present) :

The communities involved were mainly the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and on a minor scale the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). It started with the prime minister accusing the TPLF of attacking a military base, resulting in thousands of displaced people, starting a humanitarian crisis.

However, in 2021, they regained the capital of the region, but the effects got to the neighbouring regions causing cultural, ethnic and political issues. In November 2022, a cessation of hostilities was signed between the TPLF and the government. Nonetheless, it still has a lot of internal conflicts and challenges to restore peace. The UN has addressed the humanitarian crisis and reached for it to stop but it did not give any military support.

Angolan Civil War (1975-2002):

There were three communities that were most involved: the Ovimbundu, the Mbundu and the Bakongo. All of these three communities created different liberation movements.

After the social and political disaster that the independence left, the MPLA gained power in the capital and they pronounced themselves the new government. However, the conflict evolved into a proxy war, since one of the movements was under the influence of the USSR and Cuba; the other was under the influence of the United States and South Africa.

Over time, the conflict turned into a major crisis, since South African and Cuban troops clashed, causing a bigger crisis. In 1991, the Bicesse Accords were signed and they stated the temporal ceasefire and plans for democracy and disarmament. The fire resumed in 1992, and with international pressure the Lusaka Protocol was signed in 1994. Finally, in 2002 there was a definitive ceasefire agreement with Savimbi's death.

The UN helped with multiple peacekeeping missions, humanitarian assistance, help post-war, mediation efforts and imposing sanction; to the day Angola still suffers from the economic, social and political outcomes that the conflict left in the country.

Guinea Bissau:

As background, the country Guinea-Bissau officially became an independent country from Portugal in 1973, after a liberation war. It was led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). As most African countries after their independence, they fell into an era of economic, social and political uncertainty. Not only this, but the President João Bernardo Vieira had been in power for 20 years. As a result, he had started to face the tensions with the country, since he accused the military

of stealing weapons for the rebels in Casamance region of Senegal, creating a new opposition against him.

A conflict which affected most communities, such as: the Balanta, that was led by General Mané. Which in that time were the biggest and the strongest militarily involved group. There were other groups such as the Fula (Fulani), Mandinka (Mandingo), Papel, Manjaco, Mankanya, Beafada, and the Bijagó (Bidyogo). Communities that have been impacted by the conflict in different ways, with ethnic allegiances and historical grievances influencing both support for the rebels and the government's response.

The conflict started on June 7th 1998, when the rebels led by General Mané, went against the president Viera. Due to the fact, Mané (who was the chief of the staff at the time) was accused of smuggling weapons to the separatist groups in Senegal and with the accusation came his dismissal.

Due to the dismissal, there was an armed rebellion supporting Mané, since the people working for the armed forces had poor labor conditions and low wages. The war resulted in a series of attacks and armed conflicts all over the country but mainly in the capital. This event caused 300,000 people to be displaced and 13,000 refugees out of a population of 11 million people.

Neighbouring countries such as Senegal, supported Viera's government in the war with troops and military support. However, by the end 1998 the rebel forces had most of the control of the country. Yet, there was an emerging pressure from the international community to get into an agreement with the fighting parties.

Even so, the pressure between the rivalries continued until Viera and Mané got to establish a national unity government on February 9th of 1999. The unified government was for a short period of time. In May of the same year, Mané became the Chairman of the Junta which made him head of state from May 7th to the 14th.

Later on, Malam Sanha was selected as head of state in an acting capacity. Until November 1999, when democratic elections were held and Kumbalala was selected as president of the nations he oversaw the dissolution of Mane's military junta. However, he still had a lot of influence in the country and a lot of disagreements with president Lala.

Due to one of the disagreements, an armed conflict between the governmental forces and Mane's rebels broke up, leading to Mane fleeing to the Biombo's region and being persecuted and killed by the government.

The United Nations had seven main points that helped the conflict to end:

1. Humanitarian assistance: through agencies like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme they gave humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflicts, and they offered shelter to the refugees, medical assistance and food.

2. Mediation and Prosperity: They facilitated peace talks and negotiations between the involved parties, through the Economics Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

3. The ECOMOG Deployment: They helped with the deployment of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group troops in

Guinea Bissau; they were basically a military intervention from ECOWAS to stabilize the situation and to try and get to mutual agreements.

4. Political Support: They provided political support to change the government and to have a constitutional order, they gave help in the democratic elections and the establishment of a legitimate government.

5. Monitoring and Reporting: They supervised the human rights situation and they reported any type of violations during the conflicts.

6. Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Given the country's situation after the war, the UN assisted in building the country's infrastructure and the economy.

Nonetheless, the country still has political tensions and instability.

3.3. Current situation

In the present, 33 of the 45 most underdeveloped countries are African states and the most developed country is South Africa with a GDP of $417 billion USD according to the world bank; which in comparison to Brazil (a country located in one of the least developed regions in the world) that has $1.95 trillion USD is a less than ideal statistic for the country with the highest economy in the continent.

Due to the several conflicts that have affected the continent during the last 70 years. There are hundreds of examples that demonstrate that the resolutions for those conflicts are not effective to solve the issue, since most of the conflicts are because of

ethnic and cultural disagreements, which were caused by the African colonization at the beginning of the 20th century. A clear example is the actual situation of Guinea Bissau.

Guinea Bissau:

This is a conflict that technically ended in November of 1999, with the first elections and a democratic government suggested by the UN and neighbouring countries affected by the conflict. Nonetheless, the efforts were in vain since the dissolution of Mane's junta generated another armed conflict between the government and Mane's people, which resulted in the homicide of Ansumane Mane in 2000. Without Mane intervening in the government, the new president Kumba Ialá, became increasingly repressive against the people, and he did not accomplish any of the proposals that had been established in his campaign. His presidency came with repercussions, such as widespread discontent, a great decline in the economic and political sector. These effects led to a pacific coup that removed him from the presidency in 2003. During this time, Henrique Rosa became interim president until the new elections; during this term, he rebuilt the infrastructure while he tried to forge political peace in the country. He governed until October, 2005.

Viera came back from his exile and ran for president with the backup of the ex-president Lala. He won the elections, yet was accused of fraud even when there were international observers that declared they were free and fair. For a matter of fact, the country was suffering from drug smuggling. Allegedly, people from the government and the military were involved. Taking into consideration the country's geography, (the

connection to the Atlantic Ocean) and the inability of the country to protect their coastline, allowed the country to become an easy target.

After years of intermittent conflict between the country's elite and Vieira's administration, which increased the country's instability, there was an attack against Vieira in November of 2008, which was interpreted as a coup… On March 2 of 2009, Vieira was assassinated.

The same process happened again a few times until 2012. In most of those processes, there was corruption evidenced in the electoral process; the ECOWAS condemned the country, and they named a transitional president with the intention to restore civilian rule in a one-year period. Then, there was the longest democratically elected presidential period in the history of Guinea-Bissau, which was recognized by its political issues with the PAIGC and the parliamentarian issues.

In 2019, there were the elections of the current president Embaló, in which complaints were filed of fraud with the Supreme Court. These claims have created tensions in the political climate, in which an attempt of a coup happened and allegedly Embaló and his government were targeted for assassination in 2022. To the day, it has not been cleared who was behind the attempt.

This conflict, even though it was resolved in a short period of time, since it only lasted a year on paper. The issues and motives behind it were not noticed by the international community or the UN until the conflict actually started. The UN and the ECOWAS offered their diplomatic, military and financial help during two years. However, if they supposedly helped to terminate the conflict with a stable government,

and offered all the tools to improve the political, economic, social, cultural, and ethnic issues, why has there been so many issues in all of the previously mentioned aspects?

To solve the situation of most African countries, there is a need to understand the distribution of the colonies between the European Powers and their histories. Back in the 20th century, the situation in which the already established communities and ethnic groups were coerced to go through were unfair. Since, they obliged them to break connections with their cultures, traditions, beliefs and languages.

Even though these states worked under the control of the European powers, the peace inside the nations only worked because of the regimes and dictatorships imposed over these states. Since, they had way more military and economic power than the African states. Europeans showed superiority and power, by forcing ideological stigmas into the african civilians, such as: the white people being the superior race, and using christianity to legitimise the colonial rule.

Therefore, when the decolonization process started, it left an uncertainty that had never been seen before, leading to the conflicts already mentioned. So, at the moment the UN had to intervene in each of these conflicts, they either decided to not involve themselves beyond diplomatic matters, or to only offer their help until the conflict was "resolved", abstaining themselves from offering any structure or political guidance for each country to develop in a evolutive way.

Nonetheless, some tools that the UN and the international community have implemented are: international observers for democratic elections, neutral mediation between the involved parties, helping with the post-conflict reconstruction, humanitarian

assistance and the creation of organizations such as the ECOWAS that are for certain regions of the world. These tools were helpful to get to a final agreement in these conflicts. They can genuinely help the political and social situations that the African continent has been living in for the last 50 years.

Another factor to consider, is that there are still prominent ethnic differences and cultures within the African countries. These differences may lead to the tensions and the long-term issues that have been going on in these territories.

In order to start an era of political, social, and economic stability, there is a need to separate the distribution done by the European countries to the current established communities between the African community. That is the main reason why to this day there are African regions in the process of independence that have been completely ignored such as: the Western Sahara, the Southern Cameroons, the Ogoni region, among others.

3.4. Cases of study

Rwandan Revolution (1959-1961)

This specific crisis started prior to decolonization. However, it worsened after it.

In the late 1950's, the former colonial power, Germany, lost possession of Rwanda during the First World War. The territory was then placed under Belgian administration.

In the late 1950's, during the great wave of decolonization, tensions increased in Rwanda. The Hutu political movement, which stood to gain from

majority rule, was gaining momentum, while segments of the Tutsi establishment resisted democratisation and the loss of their acquired privileges.

In November 1959, a violent incident triggered a Hutu uprising in which hundreds of Tutsi were killed and thousands displaced and forced to flee to neighbouring countries. This marked the start of the so- called 'Hutu Peasant Revolution' or 'social revolution' - lasting from 1959 to 1961, which signified the end of Tutsi domination and the sharpening of ethnic tensions.

In 1962, when Rwanda gained independence, 120,000 people, primarily Tutsis, had taken refuge in neighbouring states to escape the violence which had accompanied the gradual coming into power of the Hutu community.

A new cycle of ethnic conflict and violence continued after independence. Tutsi refugees in Tanzania and Zaire, seeking to regain their former positions in Rwanda, began organising and staging attacks on Hutu targets and the Hutu government.

Ten such attacks occurred between 1962 and 1967, each leading to retaliatory murders of large numbers of Tutsi civilians in Rwanda and creating new waves of refugees.

This conflict went on until the 1990's, yet there are still remains of the crisis within the country, adding to it, the aftermath of the genocide. Which was a complex armed conflict between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1996.

Therefore, it is important to understand the similarities between the two conflicts. Rwanda had a racial difference that also included certain privileges between races. This led to an unmeasurable threat between one another. There was a constant instability in the country's government, which was a result of the detest between the races. On the other hand, Guinea Bissau has had an ongoing conflict, due to several reasons, including: racial differences and governmental instability.

Sudan Civil War (1955 - present)

It is essential to traverse through Sudan's colonial past in order to fully understand the complexities of the current predicament. Sudan was jointly controlled by the British and Egyptians from 1899 to 1956.

A major fault line emerged during the post-independence era, dividing the non-Arab, mostly Christian or animist south from the Arab-Muslim north in a quest for resources and power. The first Sudanese Civil War was between 1955-1972. This was the first significant eruption of violence in Sudan, it happened even before the country gained their independence.

The southern regions rebelled against the power in Khartoum. There was a frail agreement established named the *Addis Ababa Agreement [4],* disintegrated in 1983 when the Sudanese government under President Gaafar Nimeiry annulled the autonomy of the south and imposed Islamic law (Sharia) nationwide. The

event renewed tensions and triggered the Second Civil War, which happened between 1983-2005.

There were several *triggering cases*[5] for …, such as:

- Rebellious and ethnic differences: Long-standing religious and ethnic tensions between the primarily Christian and animist communities of southern Sudan and the Arab Muslim-dominated government in Khartoum served as fuel for the conflict.
- Resource allocation and marginalisation: The naturally resource-rich southern regions felt left out and at a disadvantage economically. Tensions between the southern populace and the central government were made worse by discrepancies in development initiatives and resource distribution.
- Islamic Sharia Law: The Sudanese government's implementation of Islamic Sharia law in 1983 increased unrest in the largely non-Muslim southern regions and fueled feelings of religious and cultural discrimination.
- Political margination: People from southern Sudan felt underrepresented and politically disenfranchised in the national government. The longing for independence was stoked by the absence of political inclusivity and representation.
- Armed rebellion: Under the leadership of John Garang, the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) became a

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[5] For further information of the causes of the event visit: https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep05430.6?seq=1

significant rebel force battling for the autonomy of the southern provinces. As the fight intensified, it turned into a full-fledged civil war that resulted in widespread death and relocation.

In 2005 there was a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudanese government and the SPLA/M. The agreement gave the South six years of autonomy, following an independence referendum. The semi-autonomous region of South Sudan was established as a result of this historic agreement.

Then, in 2011, South Sudan gained their independence, since their civilians voted overwhelmingly for independence in a referendum, leading to the formal establishment of the Republic of South Sudan.The Second Sudanese Civil War came to an end with this, but it also brought up new difficulties, such as internal strife within South Sudan.

In 2023, despite South Sudan secession, there were still internal tensions in the Sudan War. The western part of Darfur has been the epicentre of conflict and widespread displacement. The crisis, which came to the attention of the world in the early 2000´s, stems from disagreements over political control, resources, and ethnicity.

In response to insurgent movements in Darfur, the Sudanese government unleashed a humanitarian crisis marked by accusations of mass murder, displacement, and genocide. The war highlights the persistent problems with governance, resource distribution, and identity that persist in Sudan, despite its differences in dynamics from the north-south fight.

This crisis is still active, and has evolved since its conception in the mid 20th century. This happened as a response to the lack of involvement of the international community and the government. It is not uncommon for African countries to have a relapsing crisis, since they are profoundly influenced by social, historical, and economic variables. Conflicts have been sparked and sustained by concerns over resource distribution, governance, and religious identity. The need for inclusive and comprehensive governance, fair resource allocation, and managing the long-lasting effects of conflict, such as trauma, displacement, and economic inequality, are examples of persistent difficulties.

3.5. Guiding questions

1. How has the delegation dealt with the ethnic issues immersed in its country? How is this reflected in the political stability of the country? (Take into account the pre-decolonization, if the country is located in Africa; if not, what did the power country do to handle this crisis there?)

2. Did the decolonization process favoured or prejudiced the delegation? (Power countries should take into account how they were affected by the decolonization and if they still provide any type of "support" to the past colony.)

3. Is the delegation immersed in an actual crisis within the African Continent? (If not, be aware of the relationships the delegation may have with various countries)

4. How can the delegation prevent ethnic violence through its legal framework? And how would it handle the triggering event, and aftermath of the crisis?

3.6. Recommendations

It is important to take into account that the crisis within Guinea-Bissau it's unstable, which may lead to several resolutions that may or may not work. However, triggering causes are crucial events that must be studied for decisions to be made and handle in a proper way the aftermath of the crisis. For this purpose, you can study conflict transformation, which will be of great use in this special case.

Also, this resolution can be recreated in various African, Asian, even European countries, since they are going through - or went through similar situations. Meaning, the resolution needs to take into account several points of view, not only Guinea-Bissau, but other countries. Therefore, several cases of study were mentioned and they are some of the most important and ongoing conflicts.

3.7. Useful links

- https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/03/ndalem_quicet_territorial_development_plan_of_the_quicet_section_ndalem_quicet_plano_de_desenvolvimento_territorial_da_seccao_de_quicet.pdf (It's in portuguese)
- https://ourcityplans.org/
- https://www.amnesty.org/es/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/afr300112001en.pdf
- https://ourcityplans.org/planning-experiences/bolama-basic-spatial-plan
- https://africacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Understanding-the-nature-and-origins-of-violent-conflcit-in-Africa-Raymond-Gilpin.pdf
- https://www.amnesty.org/es/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/afr300112001en.pdf

- https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/transformation

- https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-happened-during-the-guinea-bissau-civil-war.html

3.8 Glossary

Coercion: the practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.

Colony: a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.

Genocide: the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.

Protectorate: a state that is controlled and protected by another.

Precolonial states: references those states that already existed before the distribution of Africa by the powerful countries back in the XIX century.

Proxy wars: a military conflict in which one or more third parties are involved to influence the conflict to their own benefit.

Secession: is the formal withdrawal of a group from a political entity.

4. Topic 2: Assessment of decreasing risks regarding the decline of migratory species worldwide.

4.1. Introduction

"Migratory species" are defined under the Convention on Migratory Species[6] (CMS) (1979) as "the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries."

Taking into consideration the concept just introduced, the first-ever State of the World's Migratory Species report was launched today by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on February 12, 2024, establishing that:

  a. While some migratory species listed under CMS are improving, nearly half (44 per cent) are showing population declines.

  b. More than one-in-five (22 per cent) of CMS-listed species are threatened with extinction.

  c. Nearly all (97 per cent) of CMS-listed fish are threatened with extinction.

  d. The extinction risk is growing for migratory species globally, including those not listed under CMS.

  e. Half (51 per cent) of Key Biodiversity Areas identified as important for CMS-listed migratory animals do not have protected status, and 58 per cent of the

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[6] Convention on Migratory Species is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme. It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organisation established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. (UNESCO, 2022)

monitored sites recognized as being important for CMS-listed species are experiencing unsustainable levels of human-caused pressure.

f. The two greatest threats to both CMS-listed and all migratory species are overexploitation and habitat loss due to human activity. Three out of four CMS-listed species are impacted by habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and seven out of ten CMS-listed species are impacted by overexploitation (including intentional taking as well as incidental capture).

g. Climate change, pollution and invasive species are also having profound impacts on migratory species.

h. Globally, 399 migratory species that are threatened or near threatened with extinction are not currently listed under CMS.

Inger Andersen, an Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (2024) stated: "unsustainable human activities are jeopardising the future of migratory species – creatures who not only act as indicators of environmental change but play an integral role in maintaining the function and resilience of our planet's complex ecosystems. The global community has an opportunity to translate this latest science of the pressures facing migratory species into concrete conservation action. Given the precarious situation of many of these animals, we cannot afford to delay, and must work together to make the recommendations a reality."

Keeping in mind the results of this report, and what Andersen said, it can be noticed that migratory animals are essential components of the ecosystems that support all life on Earth. By acting as pollinators and seed distributors, they contribute to ecosystem structure and function.

They provide food for other animals and regulate the number of species in ecosystems. (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 2024)

These animals are in great need of help, since no such comprehensive assessment on migratory species has been carried out. The report that was attached to this document provides a global overview of the conservation status and population trends of migratory animals, combined with the latest information on their main threats and successful actions to save them. Therefore, it is important to understand the significance of these animals to our planet, how involved the human kind is in this crisis and how it is affected.

4.2. Historical Background

During the past century, the international animal migration crisis has increasingly worsened for various species. In the last 30 years these animals have had to change their habits mainly because of global warming, yet this is not the only threat that is affecting the migrating animals. The various threats that have been affecting these animals for decades are the following:

1. **Natural System Modifications:** these are constituted by two main factors which are fire, dams and water management and other natural aspects.

2. **Human Intrusion and Disturbances:** referring to recreational activities and war repercussions.

3. **Overexploitation:** regarding poaching, hunting and collecting terrestrial animals; fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.

4. **Transportation and Service Corridors:** the development of roads, railroads, service lines and shipping lanes.

5. **Energy Production and Mining:** alluding to oil and gas drifting, mining, quarrying and renewable energies.

6. **Agriculture and Aquaculture:** encompassing issues such as wood and pulp plantations, livestock farming and non-timber production.

7. **Residential and Commercial Development:** involving tourism, the development of commercial and industrial areas and rapid urbanization.

8. **Climate Change and Severe Weather:** concerning habitat shifting, droughts, temperature extremes and storms and flooding.

9. **Pollution:** pertaining to the solid waste, the excess of energy, domestic wastewater and industrial and military effluents.

10. **Invasive species:** referring to the diseases, pesticides, viruses and problematic native species that come with the issue.

All the factors presented above have worsened the ongoing crisis, since they have been severely impacted by the migrating species. These situations have affected their habitats, altering their natural lifestyles, reducing their life expectancy and consequently affecting the nations involved.

Despite the fact that the situation keeps deteriorating, the international community is working to improve the situation and it has been stated that one of the main reasons to protect the migratory species is the environmental repercussions that the crisis has left on the world. A clear example is whale solid waste, it provides nutrients to phytoplankton. It captures large amounts of CO_2, converts it to energy and removes carbon from the atmosphere.

Given that the phytoplanktons are eaten by other marine animals, carbon passes through the food web; yet due to the overexploitation of species, such as whales, this process is not happening and the carbon invades the atmosphere producing pollution. The previous case is just one of the many which involve environmental effects, yet habitat exploitation, the destruction of biodiversity, over consumption of natural resources, and other factors have not been taken into account.

The other two ways in which the animal migratory crisis affects different nations are through culture and the economy, as people and ecosystems rely on these species in a wide variety of ways. The CMS report points out that many communities have strong and cultural ties with migratory species, because it inspires connections with those animals. Beyond that, pollinators have an immense impact in the seeds transportation, while other animals transfer nutrients across wide ranges of land and sea. If these processes are not carried out, the biodiversity of the ecosystem will decrease dramatically.

Additionally, in the economic factor the CMS report noted that some communities rely on these animals to grow their economy, such as Costa Rica. Given their extensive biodiversity a great part of their economic income comes from the ecotourism industry or they usually depend on these animals as food resources.

Another example is the salmon in the Northwest, specifically in the Columbia River, as according to Wilcove et al. (2008), the salmon population experienced a significant decline in 2008, dropping from 50,000 tons per year to 3,700 tons. This led to an increase in unemployment rates in British Columbia's commercial fisheries, which averaged 17.2% that same year.

These three factors affect most countries all around the world. Therefore, it is crucial to understand that the international crisis of the migratory species worsens not only the biodiversity, but the nation's conditions especially those that have a large number of migratory species such as the United States, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, India, China, among others…

An example of how a nation can be affected by the international crisis of the migratory species, is New Zealand. According to Wilkinson, E. (2020) there has been a biodiversity crisis for over 100 years in the country. However, with climate change rising significantly in the last decade, a negative impact on the nationally recognized species, the kiwi, has become more evident.

The kiwi is a flightless bird that is not intended for migration, yet, it is struggling to search for food. However, due to their situation in their natural habitat, they were forced to leave for sustenance factors. These actions can expose them to cars, becoming prey, or simply getting burned under the sun.

Even though climate change is one of the biggest threats to all these species, it has been a menace for only the late 20th century. This means that the crisis in New Zealand originated for reasons unrelated to climate change.

This was due to the fact that, in the 1880s, a British captain had established himself in the territory and introduced predator species, disrupting the entire trophic chain. This led to a crisis for the native species and ultimately caused their mass extinction.

Another example is the African elephants, which have substantially lost their ability to migrate due to a severe combination of factors, including poaching, climate change, and habitat deterioration. A specific case is the Kitenden Corridor, which is a sliver of land between Kenya's Amboseli National Park and Tanzania's Mt Kilimanjaro National Park. Both elephants and Maasai communities inhabit this area. The Kitenden Corridor serves as a migratory route to larger ecosystems for the elephants. Nonetheless, this land of 2000 acres has been taken by the Maasai community, bringing up a disruption in the natural migratory routes of the elephants, and the habitat itself.

Despite that phenomenon, elephants are a migratory species; they do not stop migrating through these areas merely because the land has been occupied by the Maasai community. Signifying a great food shortage, home destruction and even health or death risks.

It is important to highlight that, 100 years ago, there were over 10 million elephants in Africa, and over 100,000 in Asia. Whereas, at present, there are 500,000 elephants worldwide, 415,000 of which are located in Africa, with merely 40,000 inhabiting Asia. This indicates that the Human-Elephant conflict has been rising over the last century. The primary reason is that the world has just emerged from the worst period of elephant poaching in human history, as the elephant population decreased from 1.3 million to 600,000 in the 1980s.

Even though each government has taken its own measures to curb these matters, the international community has created international conventions such as:

1. CMS[7] (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals): This is the primary global agreement for the conservation of migratory species.

2. CITES[8] (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora): Its purpose is to regulate the trade of endangered species, but it can also forbid or control the trade of migrating species.

3. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands[9]: It preserves and supervises the sustainable use of wetlands that are critical for migratory species.

As it can be evidenced, just one of these conventions aims to preserve migratory species. Meanwhile, the other two conventions can be applied to the crisis, yet they are not relevant to the main crisis, which is the decline of migratory species.

4.3. Current situation

Currently, almost half of the migratory species - sea turtles, birds, whales and others - are in decline, and one fifth of the 1,200 migratory species monitored by the United Nations are threatened with extinction. This phenomenons means a decline in the world's economy, environmental and cultural factors, since according to Amy Fraenkel (2024), these magnificent

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[7] https://www.cms.int/en/convention-text
[8] https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/international-affairs/convention-international-trade-endangered-species-wild-fauna-and#:~:text=About%20Us-,Convention%20on%20International%20Trade%20in%20Endangered%20Species%20of%20Wild%20Fauna,their%20survival%20in%20the%20wild.
[9] https://www.ramsar.org/#:~:text=The%20Convention%20on%20Wetlands%20is,to%20become%20%E2%80%9CContracting%20Parties%E2%80%9D.

creatures are economically beneficial for humankind, for the poetry and song composition and they have a great cultural significance. Therefore, the animal migration crisis has been included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals somehow aim for the resolution of the crisis, since they seek for a better future.

The main SDGs that aim for the resolution of the crisis are:

1. **Climate Action #13**: Which states that the international community should take measures to reduce climate change.

2. **Life Below Water #14:** That wishes to conserve and use in a sustainable way the sea, the oceans and the maritime resources to help preserve the world

3. **Life on Land #15:** It aims to protect, promote, and restore the sustainable development of terrestrial ecosystems to stop the loss of biodiversity and number

4. **Partnerships for the Goals #17 :** Its purpose is to target the reinforcement of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, the decline of these species is due to two main problems: hunting and fishing overexploitation, and habitat loss from human activity. Additionally, according to the new report of invasive species, pollution and climate change are having profound impacts in the decline of these animals. Besides, the decline of the migratory species has major repercussions in all the regions of the world:

1. **America:** One of the main consequences of the animal migratory crisis is the crop damage that means economical losses. Another effect is disease transmission, since these animals are more propense to infect domestic animals. Additionally,

the crisis generates an ecosystem imbalance because of habitat degradation. Which is due to climate change and human interference, along with the shift in the predator-prey dynamics that end up affecting the trophic chain. Lastly, these animals can create an increase in property damages and wildlife accidents, affecting local communities who depend on ecotourism.

2. **Pacific:** As well as in America, the continent suffers from greater risks for disease transmissions, habitat loss, agricultural impacts, property damages and wildlife tragedies, which end up in economic consequences mostly for biodiverse countries. Furthermore, this region has different repercussions, such as: impacts in the traditional and antique practices, fisheries disruption, since it is a continent that depends mostly on the marine creatures. Finally, migrating animals might introduce new species that generate an ecological imbalance.

3. **Africa:** As the previously mentioned regions, this specific continent suffers from: habitat deterioration, disruption of traditional practices, greater risk for disease transmission, decrease in ecotourism and endangered species that create an ecological imbalance. Additionally, Africa is a large continent regarding migratory species, which means a greater amount of crop riders that results in economic losses.

The regions previously mentioned have been affected by the animal migratory crisis. However, the effects of the crisis are seen all around the world, since there are similar repercussions in the areas. Nonetheless, there are specific animal cases that are alarming to the

international community, since they are a threat to the society or species that have reduced their population in significant amounts.

Currently, one of the most known cases in the migratory crisis is the Monarch Butterfly. It is a migratory species that during the winter travels 2,800 miles from the US or Canada to the forests in Mexico, to what is known as the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. The presence of this species during 2022 dropped from 7 acres to 5.5. This condemning number is due to the species decline from the last 25 years. Taking into account that the monarchs once covered over 45 acres, one of the causes of the species decline can be the extreme weather conditions, depending on the ecosystem.

According to the WWF-Mexico's General Director, Jorge Rickards, the Monarch Butterflies contribute to the diverse ecosystems across North America,according to World WildLife in their article Eastern Monarch Butterfly Population Decline 59% in Central Mexico, 2024 since they carry pollen from one plant to another (*Eastern Monarch Butterfly Population Declines 59% in Central Mexico*, 2024). Which creates a great issue for the population, as 80% of the agricultural food production depends on pollinators, such as: the Monarch Butterflies.

This crisis can directly affect Mexico, the United States and Canada, not only environmentally but also in an economic aspect, since it promotes habitat loss. Additionally, pesticide use, which is often used in these types of production fields, can cause long-term effects on the crops, causing repercussions in the local economies.

Consequences such as: impacts on the numerical abundance of species/populations, ecosystem imbalance and lack of food and habitats; impacts on the economic aspects, like:

tourism, agriculture and the fishery, and health repercussions on humans, as mental health. That many of the humans derive joy and peace from observing migratory species.

Taking into account what was previously mentioned, many countries have taken actions, being some of those:

1. **The United States:** They have enforced their network of national wildlife refuges. Providing habitats for migratory species.They created the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which protects all birds within the US territories, forbidding the illegal taking, killing or possessing of any migratory bird. Furthermore, they have created protected areas, restored damaged habitats in order to avoid the crisis from getting worse.

2. **Tanzania:** The government has increased anti-poaching actions, with the intention to eliminate the illegal wildlife trade. Enhancing the use of advanced technologies and international cooperation, the country has also developed wildlife corridors that connect with protected areas to allow migratory species to move freely between the corresponded areas.

3. **New Zealand:** The state has successfully eradicated invasive predators, allowing native species to recover. Additionally, they have implemented habitat restoration plans to ecosystems that are essential to migratory species. New Zealand has created a comprehensive network of protected areas to promote safety to these animals and has implemented and contributed to the international community.

4.4. Cases of study

Birds population in Britain:

The British Trust for Ornithology reports that since 1970, the number of wild birds in Britain has decreased by 73 million. Scientists have expressed concern about birds, which appear to be struggling to reset their internal clocks and cope with seasonal variations. Other sources, such as the BBC, have indicated that nearly 50% of Britain's bird species are in decline as a result of nature's depletion, which includes the destruction of meadows, hedgerows, and other natural habitats, as well as pesticide use.

The UK government has a number of policies in place to protect and promote animal welfare, including birds. According to the 1954 Protection of Birds Act, anyone who kills or injures a wild bird, or who removes or damages a wild bird's nest or egg, commits an infraction punishable by a severe penalty. Birds are also categorised as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which provide additional protection for their habitats. However, no specific strategies have been identified to alleviate climate change's impact on birds.

The RSPB and other wildlife groups have expressed concerns about current UK government proposals to loosen planning regulations in investment zones across England. This entails discontinuing a program that compensates farmers for wildlife conservation efforts. Carbon Pulse also revealed that UK environmental watchdogs have launched investigations into governments across the country for alleged failures to comply with bird protection legislation and execute public bodies' recommendations.

The Leopard:

Nine subspecies of Leopard take live across Africa and Asia, many of which are undergoing a severe decline in numbers. This is due to the human-leopard conflict in several countries: Africa, northeast Africa, Central Asia, India, and China. Nonetheless, as it was said by Adam Vaughan (2016) in his article leopards, the area of the world roamed by leopards has declined by three quarters over the last two and a half centuries, according to the most comprehensive effort yet to map the big cat.

Researchers were astounded by the spotted hunter's diminishing range, and that the reduction had been significantly worse for several of the nine leopard subspecies and in certain sections of the world.

"We found the leopard had lost 75% of its historical habitat, we were blown away by that, it was much more than we feared," said Andrew Jacobson, a conservator at the Zoological Society of London, and lead author of a new study about the Panthera pardus.

Lastly, on October 26, 2017 several representatives of governments attending the year's premier wildlife summit[10] have taken a significant step toward agreeing to tighten conservation measures for a wide range of migratory species.

The parties gave the green light to the addition of several endangered creatures to the Convention's two Appendices[11] has been approved. Listing on Appendix I compels governments of Parties to safeguard the species, whereas Appendix II[12] asks for international collaboration to ensure a species' favourable conservation status.

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[10]Report of wildlife summit: https://www.cms.int/es/node/13526

[11] Information about Appendices: https://cites.org/eng/app/index.php

[12] Appendices I, II and III:https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

Therefore, the leopard was added to the Appendix II listing, as proposed by Ghana, Iran, Kenya and Saudi Arabia, might well lead to an informal international initiative to agree and implement targeted conservation measures.

4.5. Guide questions

1. Does the delegation have migratory species? If not, is it close to a protected area?

2. What kinds of animals does the delegation have that are endangered? Are there any of those that are migratory?

3. Are there any organisations within the country that aim to help the crisis of the migratory species?

4. Is the delegation part of the CMS? If so, has it done anything to use it within their territory? If not, has the country made anything in their legislation to protect their animals?

4.6. Recommendations

This particular topic is interesting, yet it is relatively new for the international community, but as important as any other topics. In the committee, it is crucial to find international solutions for the crisis, since it is a topic that has not been handled at all. Therefore, delegates need to be aware of the sources of information they are using, since they may not be reliable. Also, do not assume the topic is not of high importance. It is crucial to search for the triggering events that may have worsened the crisis, such as: overfishing, global warming, deforestation, among others.

The cases that were provided in the guide can be used in the committee. However, the delegations can introduce new cases if they consider there are any more relevant in the current crisis. If any delegation does not have any migratory species, remember there are tools that have been used in other species that are not migratory, which may work, so go ahead and take them into account. Lastly, if any delegate has any doubt about the topics, don't be shy to contact any of the presidents.

4.7. Useful links

- https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2024/02/un-report-migratory-species-decline-global-extinction-risk-increasing/

- https://www.cms.int/en/publication/state-worlds-migratory-species-report

- https://www.cms.int/en/convention-text

- https://www.cms.int/en/search?search=what%20are%20migratory%20species

- https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/un-convention-conservation-migratory-species-wild-animals#:~:text=Signed%20in%201979%2C%20the%20Convention,migratory%20animals%20and%20their%20habitats.

- https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/trilateral-wadden-sea-cooperation

- https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/agreement-conservation-seals-wadden-sea-wssa

- https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/common-wadden-sea-secretariat

- https://africageographic.com/stories/africas-migratory-animals-under-threat/

- https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/publication/State%20of%20the%20Worlds%20Migratory%20Species%20report_E.pdf

4.8 Glossary

<u>Migratory species:</u> refers to the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.

<u>Conservation status of a migratory species:</u> refers to the sum of the influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance.

<u>Conservation status:</u> The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them.

Is favourable when:

(1) population dynamics data indicate that the migratory species is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its ecosystems;

(2) the range of the migratory species is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced, on a long-term basis;

(3) there is, and will be in the foreseeable future sufficient habitat to maintain the population of the migratory species on a long-term basis; and

(4) the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent consistent with wise wildlife management;

Range: all the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses, or overflies at any time on its normal migration route.

Habitat: any area in the range of a migratory species which contains suitable living conditions for that species.

Phytoplankton: it is the food web of several maritime species, it provides food for a large range of sea creatures.

5. List of delegations

1. United States of America
2. Russian Federation
3. French Republic
4. People's Republic of China
5. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
6. Republic of Cameroon
7. Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. The Republic of Croatia
9. The Republic of Serbia
10. Republic of Türkiye
11. People's Republic of Burkina Faso
12. Republic of South Africa
13. Republic of Sudan
14. Republic of Mali
15. The Republic of Armenia
16. Republic of Azerbaijan
17. Federal Republic of Nigeria
18. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
19. People's Republic of Bangladesh

20. Commonwealth of Australia

21. Kingdom of Netherlands

22. Kingdom of Thailand

Ground document:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/rules_of_procedure_of_the_united_nations_habitat_assembly.pdf

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