

# Human Rights Council

Topic: “Resolving the Global Refugee Crisis: Implementing Sustainable Solutions for Displaced Populations”

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## I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is one of the most significant bodies within the United Nations system, tasked with promoting and protecting human rights globally. It was established by the UN General Assembly in 2006 through Resolution 60/251, replacing the former UN Commission on Human Rights. This reform aimed to enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the UN’s human rights agenda, as the previous commission faced criticism for allowing member states with questionable human rights records to deflect scrutiny. The HRC’s creation marked an important step towards a more inclusive and rigorous approach to monitoring and addressing human rights violations worldwide.

The Council consists of 47 member states, elected directly by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms. These member states are selected based on equitable geographic representation, ensuring that the Council reflects diverse perspectives. They are expected to uphold the highest human rights standards, both domestically and in their actions as Council members. However, this expectation has sometimes been a point of contention, as some countries with poor human rights records have been elected, leading to debates about the Council’s legitimacy and effectiveness.

The Human Rights Council is not only an arena for addressing immediate violations but also serves as a platform for setting long-term standards for human dignity. Through its various mechanisms, including the UPR and special procedures, it has played a key role in advancing human rights norms, fostering international dialogue, and encouraging states to take proactive steps to protect their populations. Its work continues to evolve as it responds to new human rights challenges in an increasingly complex global landscape.

## II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

### a. *Introduction of the topic*

The global refugee crisis, driven by conflict, persecution, environmental disasters, and economic instability, represents one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time. With millions of people forcibly displaced across borders and within their own countries, the need for comprehensive and sustainable solutions is more urgent than ever. As displaced populations grow, they face numerous hardships, including limited access to basic services, inadequate living conditions, and social and economic exclusion. In response, the international community must prioritize strategies that not only address immediate needs but also provide long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure the dignity, security, and self-reliance of refugees.

Implementing sustainable solutions for displaced populations requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both the root causes of displacement and the challenges faced by refugees in host countries. This involves enhancing the resilience of host communities by improving infrastructure, expanding access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, and fostering social inclusion. Crucially, efforts must also focus on strengthening legal frameworks to protect refugees' rights and ensuring that host countries receive adequate support to manage the influx of displaced people.

Equitable burden-sharing among nations is essential to these efforts, as is the promotion of voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement programs that provide refugees with stable futures. Innovative approaches, such as integrating refugees into national economies and harnessing their potential as contributors to society, can also help transform the crisis into an opportunity for development.

By engaging governments, international organizations, and civil society in collaborative efforts, sustainable solutions to the refugee crisis can be realized. These solutions must seek to create environments where displaced individuals can rebuild their lives, contribute to their communities, and live with dignity, ultimately forging a path towards long-term stability and prosperity for all.

*b. Evolution of the topic*

*The global refugee crisis has evolved dramatically over the past decades, presenting significant challenges for international governance and humanitarian efforts. As conflicts, persecution, and climate change continue to displace millions of people, countries, and institutions are increasingly confronted with the immense task of providing protection, shelter, and opportunities for displaced populations. This surge in refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) places considerable pressure on the capacities of host countries and humanitarian organizations, straining resources, public services, and social cohesion.*

*Additionally, the nature of displacement has grown more complex, with protracted conflicts like those in Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan leading to long-term displacement and limited prospects for return. Environmental factors, such as droughts and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, are also contributing to new waves of displacement. These intersecting crises highlight the need for comprehensive and sustainable solutions that address both immediate humanitarian needs and the underlying causes of displacement.*

*Resolving the global refugee crisis requires a multifaceted approach that not only focuses on emergency relief but also seeks durable solutions, such as voluntary repatriation, local integration, and third-country resettlement. It also demands greater international cooperation and equitable burden-sharing to ensure that host countries, particularly those in the Global South, are not disproportionately affected.*

*At the same time, the crisis underscores the importance of ensuring that displaced individuals have access to basic rights, including education, healthcare, and legal protections, while promoting their self-reliance and integration into local economies. Effective solutions will require coordinated efforts between governments, international organizations, and civil society to create pathways for displaced populations to rebuild their lives with dignity and security. As the refugee crisis continues to evolve, addressing these challenges is critical for fostering long-term stability and safeguarding human rights.*

c. *Relevant Events*

**Ukrainian Refugee Crisis (2022-Present):** The Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in millions of people fleeing to neighboring countries, marking one of the fastest-growing refugee crises in Europe since World War II. The international response highlighted solidarity with displaced individuals and emphasized the importance of rapid humanitarian assistance and integration measures.

**The Taliban's Takeover of Afghanistan (2021):** Following the U.S. withdrawal, the rapid takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban led to a significant increase in Afghan refugees seeking asylum worldwide. This situation has drawn attention to the urgent need for protection mechanisms and resettlement pathways for those at risk, including women and minority groups.

**The Syrian Civil War (2011-Present):** The ongoing conflict has produced one of the largest refugee crises in modern history, with over 6.8 million Syrians displaced abroad. The crisis has strained resources in neighboring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, prompting calls for a more comprehensive international response and resettlement initiatives.

**COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-Present):** The global pandemic exacerbated the vulnerabilities faced by refugees and displaced populations, disrupting access to healthcare, employment, and essential services. It highlighted the need for inclusive responses that consider the specific challenges faced by these communities in times of crisis.

### **III. CURRENT ISSUES**

#### *a. Panorama*

As the global refugee crisis escalates, countries face significant challenges in supporting displaced populations. Turkey stands out as a leading host nation, currently sheltering over 3.5 million Syrian refugees. Its comprehensive policies promote integration by providing access to education and healthcare, illustrating how a nation can manage large-scale displacement while fostering social cohesion.

Conversely, Venezuela exemplifies the difficulties of hosting refugees amid economic turmoil. Millions have fled to Colombia and Brazil, straining local resources. While Colombia has adopted a welcoming stance, implementing the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelans, integration remains a challenge within already stressed systems.

The European Union shows a mix of responses. Germany has taken significant steps to accommodate refugees through policies supporting resettlement, while other member states adopt restrictive measures, complicating collective responsibility.

In Asia, Bangladesh hosts Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar, with ongoing efforts to improve living conditions in camps. This protracted crisis underscores the need for sustainable solutions that support both refugees and host communities.

Canada exemplifies a proactive approach to refugee resettlement, utilizing private sponsorship programs to mobilize community resources for integration. As the crisis evolves, the international community must confront the underlying causes of displacement, emphasizing the rights and dignity

of refugees. By fostering solidarity and shared responsibility, nations can work together to create humane responses to this pressing challenge.

*b. Points of view*

**United States:** Citizens criticize the government's approach to refugee resettlement, arguing that it has led to increased competition for jobs and strain on local resources. Concerns about national security and the vetting process for refugees have also been prevalent.

**Germany:** Germany has taken a progressive stance on refugee resettlement, welcoming hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers, particularly during the 2015 migrant crisis. The government promotes policies aimed at integration, believing that refugees can contribute positively to society. Growing backlash against the influx of refugees, with rising far-right sentiments and concerns over integration. Some citizens believe that the government's open-door policy has strained public services and heightened security risks.

**Colombia:** Welcoming approach towards Venezuelan refugees, viewing them as a part of the solution to economic and demographic challenges. The government has implemented the Temporary Protection Statute to regularize the status of Venezuelans, promoting their integration into society. Citizens express frustration over the strain Venezuelan refugees place on local economies and public services, particularly in areas already struggling with poverty.

**Italy:** Italy has experienced significant challenges due to irregular migration across the Mediterranean. The government grapples with balancing humanitarian responsibilities with national security concerns, leading to contentious debates about migration policies. Some citizens, fearing that accepting large numbers of refugees leads to increased crime and social unrest. There is also resentment over the perceived burden on local resources.

**Turkey:** Turkey views itself as a responsible host for refugees, particularly Syrian nationals fleeing conflict. The country emphasizes the need for international support to manage the enormous number of refugees (over 3.5 million) and advocates for sustainable solutions that integrate refugees into society. As well, faces criticism for its handling of refugees, particularly regarding human rights abuses in detention centers

and the treatment of asylum seekers. Many argue that the government prioritizes political narratives over humanitarian needs.

## **IV. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS**

### *a. UN*

#### **1. UNHCR's Global Compact on Refugees**

The Global Compact on Refugees, adopted in 2018, aims to strengthen the international response to large refugee movements and promote solutions for refugees and host communities. The compact emphasizes shared responsibility among nations, encouraging collaboration to improve refugee protection and support.

#### **2. UNHCR's 2023 Global Trends Report**

In its annual Global Trends report, the UNHCR provides comprehensive data on global displacement. The 2023 report highlights the growing number of forcibly displaced people, emphasizing the urgent need for international solidarity and durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

#### **3. Resolution 70/1 – New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**

Adopted in September 2016, this declaration was a significant UN General Assembly resolution that recognized the challenges faced by refugees and migrants. It called for a comprehensive approach to address their needs and included commitments to enhance cooperation, protection, and support for displaced populations.

#### **4. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The UN's 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of addressing the root causes of displacement and includes commitments to ensure that refugees and migrants have access to basic services, education, and employment opportunities. This framework aims to integrate displaced populations into national development plans.

#### **5. UN Security Council Resolutions**

The UN Security Council has addressed the impact of armed conflict on displacement through various resolutions, such as Resolution 2427 (2018). The resolution emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to prevent and respond to the impacts of conflict on children, including those who are refugees.

## **6. UNICEF's Support for Refugee Children**

UNICEF has implemented programs to support refugee children and adolescents, focusing on education, protection, and mental health services. Their efforts aim to ensure that displaced children receive the necessary support to thrive in their new environments.

### *b. External actions*

#### NGOs

Doctors Without Borders has been active in providing medical care and support to refugees in crisis zones. They operate clinics and mobile health units in refugee camps, offering essential health services and mental health support to displaced populations.

Local NGOs in host countries play a crucial role in supporting refugees through community-based initiatives. Organizations like the Refugee Council in the UK and HIAS in the U.S. offer legal assistance, integration programs, and advocacy for refugee rights, ensuring that displaced populations receive necessary support.

The WFP has launched various initiatives to address food insecurity among refugees and displaced persons. Their programs include food assistance, cash transfers, and nutrition support, aimed at ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to adequate food supplies.

#### Airbnb

Airbnb's Open Homes initiative allows hosts to offer free or discounted housing to refugees and those in need. This program has helped thousands of displaced individuals find temporary shelter, facilitating their transition to stable housing.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the global refugee crisis is a significant humanitarian challenge that demands urgent attention and coordinated action from governments, international organizations, and civil society. As millions flee conflict, persecution, and environmental disasters, sustainable solutions must be prioritized alongside immediate humanitarian support.

While the United Nations and various external initiatives have provided crucial assistance, political obstacles and rising anti-immigrant sentiments often hinder effective responses. To resolve this crisis, it is essential to adopt a holistic approach that ensures refugees have access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities while fostering social cohesion within host communities.

Ultimately, addressing the root causes of displacement through investment in peace building and sustainable development is vital. By working together compassionately and strategically, the international community can create a more equitable and humane world for displaced populations.

## VI. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. What measures can your country implement to improve the resettlement process for refugees, ensuring their successful integration into society?
2. How can the international community enhance collaboration to share the responsibility of hosting refugees, especially in countries facing significant influxes?
3. What specific policies or programs has your government adopted to address the needs of refugee children, particularly in education and healthcare?
4. How can we ensure that local communities are adequately supported and involved in the integration process of refugees to foster social cohesion?
5. What innovative solutions or technologies can be employed to improve the living conditions of refugees in camps and urban settings?
6. In what ways can we better address the root causes of displacement, such as conflict and environmental degradation, to prevent future refugee crises?
7. How can we ensure that the voices of refugees themselves are included in the decision-making processes that affect their lives?

8. How can countries work together to establish a fair and efficient system for refugee status determination that respects human rights?

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