

ACADEMIC GUIDE



UNHCR
ACNUR

PRESIDENT
-NATALIA TORRENTE BERTEL-

WELCOME LETTER

Dear delegates,

Receive a warm welcome to the XVII version of The United Nations Model, MUNGV 2023, it is a pleasure to accompany you in this experience as the president of UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency.

In the commission we will address real issues about refugees and migrants around the world and present solutions about the different problems. As your president, I am more than willing to listen and address your concerns, it is an honor to guide you in this learning process and help you to do your best. We want to make the commission a secure and pleasant space for you to develop and improve your skills. We recognize that each of you are leaders, that is why we will do everything we can to exploit your potential.

I am beyond grateful to be part of this project, in which each of you delegates will play a very important role at the commission, where you will have the opportunity to debate and provide your arguments. I hope that it will be a wonderful experience for everyone, for academic and personal growth.

With nothing more to add, welcome to the MUNGV 2023.

Cordially ,

The president of the UNHCR commission, Natalia Torrente Bertel.

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THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created on December 14th of 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly, in order to protect and assist refugees all over the world.

The 1951 Refugee Convention (non-refoulement) and its 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of the UNHCR. With 149 State parties to either or both, they define the term 'refugee' and outline the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.

Nowadays UNHCR has the following objectives:

- Protect the most vulnerable.
- Safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee.
- Ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country.
- Transport and assistance packages for people who return home, and income-generating projects for those who resettle.
- Provide critical emergency assistance in the form of clean water, sanitation and healthcare, during times of displacement.
- Work hard to help millions of people all over the world rebuild broken lives.

TOPIC 1:

The decadence of the humanitarian situation and systematic human rights violations in the Republic of Haiti.

- 1.1. Haitian migrants: Poverty, famine and illiteracy.*
- 1.2. Suspension of returns of Haitian refugees to their home country.*

For many years the Haitian population has been forced to flee to other countries, as a result of the worrying situation facing the country: famine, food insecurity and malnutrition, inflation and economic malaise, crop failures, fuel shortages, illiteracy, natural disasters that ended the life of more than 310,000 people and with multiple clinical care centers in the nation, the current growing cholera epidemic and clearly the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to the growing political instability, which brought with it the assassination of President Moïse in July 2021.

In 2021, the UN claimed that more than two million Haitians have been forced to migrate. Violence and insecurity took over the nation due to the armed groups that have settled there; More than 150 passed away and 200 missing in Port-au-Prince in 2022, counting the nation with an army of just 500 members.

Warned in 2022 by the UN as "the worst humanitarian and human rights situation in decades" in the country. Human rights violations are on the rise and the opportunity for a peaceful future is increasingly distant.

In November of 2022, UNHCR calls for security for Haitian refugees resulting from displacement, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi calls on those countries that hosted them to not return them to their country of origin, due to the increasingly fragile situation they face.

KEY QUESTIONS

What is my country's position about the internal conflict in Haiti?

Is my country welcoming Haitians?

What is my country's point of view about Haitian returns?

GLOSSARY

Migrant: A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.

Illiteracy : Not knowing how to read or write.

Displacement: The act of forcing somebody/something away from their home or position.

LINKS:

<https://haiti.iom.int/>

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/11/6363acd64/unhcr-calls-states-refrain-forced-returns-haitians.html>

TOPIC 2:

The conflict experienced by migrants crossing the Mediterranean, in search of a better quality of life.

2.1. Search and rescue for migrant shipwrecks in the Mediterranean.

2.2. Socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the countries south of the Mediterranean.

Refugees and migrants cross the Mediterranean with the hope of reaching European countries, to have a better and peaceful quality of life, due to the degrading situations they live in their countries.

The Mediterranean, as a deadly migration route, has ended the life of thousands of migrants. More than 3,200 people disappeared in 2021, compared to 1,881 in 2020.

In 2022 at least 1,337 people have disappeared in the Mediterranean and thousands are trapped in it. 600 refugees have been rescued in the search and rescue (SAR) zones of Malta and Libya, although they remain on the NGO's boats, therefore UNHCR urges disembarkation and the offer of a safety place for it.

The number of shipwrecked migrants still adrift is even more worrying; including children and minors. It is known that most of them suffer human rights violations, due to this it is necessary to identify the most vulnerable cases among migrants.

The socio-economic and humanitarian situations of migrants' countries of origin (countries south of the Mediterranean) are increasingly in decline, meaning that more and more people are forced to migrate desperately, which leads them to dangerous sea routes, in search of better opportunities.

KEY QUESTIONS

Is my country collaborating with the disembarkation of refugees?

What is my country doing about migrant shipwrecks?

Is my country a point of reference for migrants?

GLOSSARY

Refugees: Someone driven from his home by war or the fear of attack or persecution; a displaced person.

Disembarkation: The action of leaving a ship or aircraft after a journey.

Shipwrecked: to be left somewhere after the ship that you have been sailing in has been lost or destroyed at sea.

LINKS:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120132>

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/11/636923f14/unhcr-iom-appeal-urgent-disembarkation-stranded-refugees-migrants-central.html>

RECOMENDATIONS:

- **Read a lot about your country, its opinion and its relation with both topics.**
- **Keep in mind which countries are your allies and which are not.**
- **Use reliable and truthful information, you can consult in the UN website and the UNHCR website.**

UN website: <https://www.un.org/es/>

UNHCR website: <https://www.unhcr.org/>