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NEWSLETTER 3

9 SEPTEMBER 2023

Standing up for IDPs' Rights

Promoting Human Rights for Internally Displaced Persons

By Letícia Duarte and Júlio Portes



Marina Vendramini

Delegates of HRC 1 standing up for IDPs' human rights

The issue of refuge is commonly discussed in international organizations such as the United Nations. However, little do people know about a growing challenge inside countries: the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The IDPs are those people who, due to political violence, conflicts, and persecution, among other factors, have been forced to run away from their homes but have not crossed international borders. Although not formally recognized, environmental disasters are also a growing challenge leading to forced displacement. The number of people in this situation has increased during the last years, reaching, at the end of 2022, the number of 71,1 million people, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

The IDPs face different problems depending on the countries in which they are. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the regions with the biggest number of IDPs are Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Americas. Though the Americas do not present as many new IDPs as other regions, Colombia figures as the second country in the world in number of IDPs, with 6,8 million IDPs in 2021, only less than Syria. This is very much the result of years of low-intensity conflicts between the government and paramilitary groups. This poses a serious risk of underestimating and neglecting the situation in Colombia since this is a persistent situation.

In this sense, despite remaining under the power of their governments, which is often why those people are

displaced, IDPs are neglected by decision-makers and are stuck in areas where humanitarian assistance has limited access. Some of the common difficulties that IDPs deal with are access to documents, assistance, economic inclusion, and sheltering, especially for those caught in conflict areas, minorities, and people with disabilities.

Having documents is fundamental since it allows access to places, services, and basic rights, and IDPs often have difficulties in reobtaining - or even first obtaining - these documents after fleeing. Economic inclusion brings up another challenge, mostly due to a hard process of adaptation to a different place and, sometimes, culture. Another factor is the constant displacement of IDPs, as they avoid being found by authorities or armed groups. Therefore, monitoring and assisting them is even more complex. According to the UNHRC, the lack of good sheltering is also a problem, as IDPs require physical and emotional safety.

Nevertheless, IDPs' return to their homes may be the toughest challenge: With no documents, economic inclusion, assistance, or sheltering, going back home becomes a complex process. In addition, even though they remain in their countries, IDPs still suffer from the lack of social structure caused by the loss of basic services and knowledge of location. Therefore, it is important to raise awareness about the problems faced by IDPs and stand up in the fight for the protection and promotion of their human rights.

Highlights from Committees and Councils

High School General Assembly 1

By Alice Coelho

The delegate of Myanmar acknowledged the GA as a collective and egalitarian place for discussing issues regarding outer space. He highlighted the importance of recognizing international inequality and the special needs of developing and least developing countries, concerning access to outer space. During the discussions, Malaysia emphasized the issue of data security, since the sharing of private information through satellites could jeopardize the sovereignty of the countries. Another topic addressed by the committee was how to include women in space science and technology. Nevertheless, the committee was surprised when Israel suggested fostering

academic exchange for Iran and Pakistan women to study abroad, which is not aligned with the current foreign policy guidelines of these countries. As an answer, France said that religion should not be related with politics. Russia shifted the debate by affirming that it is essential to inspect the use of weapons in outer space to avoid misuse and promote confidence among countries. In turn, Thailand proposed to discuss past and ongoing conflicts relating to outer space. After all, the committee was able to reach consensus on its resolution, which emphasized the importance of cooperating to guarantee the peaceful use of outer space.

High School General Assembly 2

By Bianca Corraça

Delegates were deeply concerned about sustainable exploration and ways to prevent our space militarization. Also, G77+China, ASEAN, and CELAC drew attention to the democratization of outer space access, emphasizing technology access for all countries and gender equality in space endeavors and academic forums. The EU and the Israeli delegation advocated for satellite defense, highlighting its importance in preventing potential attacks. However, Slovenia expressed concerns about the implications for peace and emphasized the principle of non-interference with enemy territory. The ongoing debate underscores the delicate balance in discussions

about outer space security, where the line between what constitutes a threat and a risk varies from one country to another. Eyebrows were raised when Cuba, known for its socialist stance, unexpectedly broached the topic of space privatization. But in the end, these cosmic controversies were resolved through an original resolution, adopted by consensus. By striking this balance between our ambitions and responsibility toward our planet, delegates should look ahead to a future where humanity's endeavors in outer space not only benefit us but also contribute to the well-being of the Earth and the harmony of the universe itself.



Delegate of Myanmar in HS UNGA 1



HS UNGA 2 Secretariat guaranteeing the peaceful use of outer space

Highlights from Committees and Councils

High School Human Rights Council 1

By Ana Beatriz Rocha

Since the beginning, delegates have expressed their concerns about IDPs and how to tackle the multiple challenges they face. Nevertheless, States did not share information on the situation of IDPs in their territories. The Council's resolution could help IDPs worldwide and highlight how important it is to keep listening to IDPs needs directly from them. In this sense, the Council was concerned with immediate action, the preservation of cultures and opportunities for new beginnings. The UNHRC 1 resolution was adopted by consensus, with all the countries as sponsors, and was presented by the delegate of Cuba, with special support from

South Africa. Although often mentioned, solutions regarding the reasons for displacement, especially conflicts and environmental disasters, were not discussed, even less the States' responsibilities for these reasons. The silence of some, such as China, Germany and the United States, also drew attention, as their silence implied their exemption from the proposals. Finally, the resolution did not assign responsibilities for Member States in relation to their own internally displaced people, as it was relegated to organizations such as the UN Refugee Agency and the United Nations Children's Fund.

High School Human Rights Council 2

By Júlio Portes

Much of the discussion was tensioned around the ideas of universality, defended by European countries, and of specificities, defended by Asia-Pacific and African countries. While the former group opposed mentioning regional initiatives, the latter defended its importance as a matter of representativity. In this quarrel, the European group has prevailed, resulting in no direct mentions of the other three groups, even though they represent the most affected regions when it comes to internal displacement. The endeavors to synthesize the resolution were remarkable during the HRC discussions. In this effort, however, women's and children's rights, climate change,

access to documentation, and violence, especially wars, were left behind. The Council had a tough time trying to come to an agreement. Eventually, they adopted the resolution by consensus, with 28 sponsors, including South Africa, Eritreia, and Bangladesh. When introducing the document, the delegate of Malawi pointed out how the discussion achieved approaching causes, consequences, and not only physical, but psychological, cultural, and religious levels of internal displacement. There was not any negative consideration on the final speeches concerning the adoption of the resolution, which ended successfully.



Caio Felipe

UNHRC 1 delegates invested in discussing the human rights of IDPs



Gisele Bertinato

Delegate from Eritreia of UNHRC 2 presenting an observation

Making the Most of FAMUN

Gisele Bertinato



Global Communications Team: Reporting from the front lines directly to you



Gisele Bertinato

Conference Management Team: The team that makes the impossible possible



That's a wrap!

Thank you note

By Júlia Casemiro and Marina Zarpelon

Famuners, how is it going? Today, our Newsletter is a bit different, as we have a special message from your USG and ASG for Global Communications: Ju and Ina!

Well, for starters, the Global Communications Department is more than delivering information: it is about making sure that it is valid, meaningful, and purposeful news. Communication is also an art of immortalizing moments. Moments of joy, sadness, stress, euphoria. It is all about emotion. And all of this is captured and expressed through pictures, newsletters, videos, and much more. In 2023, a special year when FAMUN turned 10 years, it would not be different.

Long story short: we survived! And for that, we thank all our Global Communication Officers and staff, for helping us in this great work of showing the real meaning of FAMUN. We hope to have reached your heart and given you a piece of our joy to be part of the FAMUN team!

Sooo... Same time next year?
Kisses and goodbye, Ju and Ina <3

FAMUN 2023 DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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