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Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Social and Humanitarian Council. I am really glad to be directing this committee, having the opportunity to change the world and defend the position of our country.

My name is Valeria Flores Argüello and I am a student in the third year of high school at Institute Fray Victor Maria Flores. I am seventeen years old, and I am a person who likes to defend rights and always do the right thing. I had the great fortune in 2020 to live the experience at the HMUNLA (Harvard Model United Nations Latin America), where I was a delegate representing India in the General Assembly committee.

We are all here to learn, we are going to have fun and form beautiful friendships, to learn to respect each other, and to defend our respective countries. Without a doubt, the pandemic has taught us a lot, we must be better people, human beings and make a difference. This is a great opportunity to raise our voices and make people change in the different topics within our committee. I hope to find a lot of diplomacies and that we find the best solution to these crises.

I highly recommend making the most of this platform, to push yourself to raise your voice. A MUN changes your perspective but FRAYMUN opens many doors for you. I am immensely proud of being part of this committee. Be brave and speak up.

Hope you see you soon even in a video call!

With love and respect,

**Valeria Flores**

*President of the SOCHUM Committee*

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### INTRODUCTION

SOCHUM is a forum for United Nations Member States to discuss social, political, humanitarian, and cultural issues, especially those related to human rights. The SOCHUM and its subsidiary body, take the lead in drafting general resolutions on these matters. According to the SOCHUM website, social, humanitarian, and cultural issues include, but are not limited to:

The advancement of women's rights, the protection of children, issues related to indigenous affairs, the treatment of refugees and economic migrants, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

Approximately 3 percent of the world's population, currently live outside their country of origin, many of whose migration is characterized by varying degrees of compulsion. An increasing number of migrants are forced to leave their homes for a complex combination of reasons, including poverty, lack of access to healthcare, education, water, food, housing, and the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, as well as the more 'traditional' drivers of forced displacement such as persecution and conflict.

Human rights violations against migrants can include a denial of civil and political rights such as arbitrary detention, torture, or a lack of due process, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights such as the rights to health, housing, or education. The denial of migrants' rights is often intricately linked to discriminatory laws and deep-seated attitudes of prejudice or xenophobia.

In this context, OHCHR works to promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status, with a particular focus on those women, men, and children who are most marginalized and at risk of human rights violations. OHCHR promotes a human rights-based approach to migration, which places the migrant at the center of migration policies and governance and seeks to ensure that migrants are included in all relevant national action plans and strategies, such as plans on the provision of public housing or national strategies to combat racism and xenophobia.

A counter-offensive against human rights as universal, indivisible, and inalienable underlies resistance to extension of human rights protection to migrants. A parallel trend is the deliberate association of migration and migrants with criminality.

Trafficking has emerged as a global theme contextualizing migration in a framework of combating organized crime and criminality, subordinating human rights protections to control and anti-crime measures.

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Intergovernmental cooperation on migration “management” is expanding rapidly, with functioning regional intergovernmental consultative processes in all regions, generally focused on strengthening inter-state cooperation in controlling and preventing irregular migration through improved border controls, information sharing, return agreements, and other measures.

Efforts to defend the human rights of migrants and combat xenophobia remain fragmented, limited in impact, and starved of resources. Nonetheless, NGOs in all regions provide orientation, services, and assistance to migrants, public education, and advocating respect for migrants’ rights and dignity. Several international initiatives now highlight migrant protection concerns, notably the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants, the Global Campaign promoting the 1990 UN Convention, UN General Assembly proclamation of International Migrants Day, the 2001 World Conference Against Racism and Xenophobia, anti-discrimination activity by ILO, and training by IOM.

Migration today is inevitably bringing change to societies. Most visibly, and as noted above, it is bringing about the ethnic, cultural, and religious diversification of populations in countries around the world, raising questions of identity in most societies. Many states have been constructed around unifying, homogenizing identities that are essentially mono-ethnic, mono-cultural, mono-linguistic, and sometimes mono-religious. The challenge is whether different racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identities of migrant and other minority populations can be acknowledged, accepted, and indeed celebrated, thus also enriching the societies in which they live. This means including those varied individuals and groups in an evolving understanding of what it means to belong to the nation, to its “national identity”. It means ensuring that all are entitled to non-discrimination and equality of treatment and opportunity. In the absence of such efforts, differences may be defined as markers of exclusion from national identity. The result, as recent history suggests, is likely to divide societies into ethnic, racial, and nationality lines, undermining social cohesion.

### KEY TERMS

*National identity:* National character is an expression that describes forms of collective self-perception, sensibility, and conduct that are shared by the individuals who inhabit a modern nation-state.

*Xenophobia:* fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or anything strange or foreign.

*1990 UN Convention:* The States Parties to the present Convention, taking into account the principles embodied in the basic instruments of the United Nations concerning human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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*The 2001 World Conference against Racism and Xenophobia:* The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance ended in Durban, South Africa, today with a condemnation of those scourges and a call for action by the international community to eradicate them wherever they may be found.

After intensive and often difficult deliberations on several issues, the Conference adopted a Declaration and Program of Action that commits the Member States to undertake a wide range of measures to combat racism and discrimination at the international, regional, and national levels. However, many delegations made known their reservations or disassociations on certain issues, including those relating to the Middle East and the legacy of the past.

*ILO:* As the ILO celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019, it is timely to reflect on the many life-changing events which are linked to the ten decades of ILO history.

The organization has played a role at key historical junctures – the Great Depression, decolonization, the creation of Solidarność in Poland, the victory over apartheid in South Africa – and today in the building of an ethical and productive framework for fair globalization.

It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice.

*IOM:* The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations. It was initially established in 1951 as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II. As of March 2019, the International Organization for Migration has 173 member states and eight observer states.

IOM is the principal intergovernmental organization working in the field of migration. IOM's stated mission is to promote humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems, and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees.



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### CAUSES FOR MIGRATION

#### **Safety factors**

Safety factors can cause danger to individuals, prompting them to migrate. Persecution and discrimination based on nationality, race, religion, political beliefs or membership status in a particular social group will prompt people to move large distances in search of a safer living location where they can have freedom over their lives. Danger can be imposed upon individuals by something formal, like war, or informal, such as widespread gang activity. In 2016, the Northern Triangle, composed of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, was named one of the most violent regions in the world. All three Northern Triangle countries record thousands of crimes by local and international gangs and armed criminal groups, and most crimes are met with impunity. It is estimated that 10% of the Northern Triangle's population has already left, and it is likely that many more will flee in part due to extreme violence.

#### **Economic Factors**

Economic migration, whether permanent or seasonal, is a commonly cited reason for migration. In general, it is believed that in economic migration people move from poorer developing areas into richer areas where wages are higher, and more jobs are available. It is also common for people from rural areas to move to more competitive urban areas in order to find more opportunities.

Mexican migration into the United States portrays. The importance of both push and pull factors in economic migration. Throughout the 20th century, seasonal Mexican laborers have crossed the border in search of work in the American agricultural industry, as the economic state of Mexico did not match the level of economic prosperity found in America. In the 21st century, however, Mexican migration has slowed down significantly, and after the American recession of 2009, economic migration from Mexico to the United States began to decline. Studies show that Mexican household economies have improved due to factors like increases in access to education. As Mexico's financial state improved and the United States temporarily struggled, both push and pull factors eroded, causing the dwindling of migration.

#### **Environmental factors**

Migration caused by environmental factors is increasingly involuntary. Environmental factors cause displacement or the forced movement of people by social or environmental factors. Crop failure for example, often results in both food scarcity and a drop in agricultural jobs, prompting people to move to a place with better job opportunities and climate. Pollution of water, air, and soil in both urban and rural settings can also create a serious health risk to locals, forcing them to look for a better life for themselves and their children.



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Devastating natural disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes, and earthquakes are environmental factors that the news most often covers. In January 2010 for example, a deadly earthquake hit Haiti, claiming the lives of over 90,000 people, and displacing over 1.5 million others. Despite humanitarian aid, many suffered from disease and a lack of proper shelter and basic supplies. Likewise, recent studies cite global warming as a cause for the increase in violent conflict around the world. The recent example of the Syrian drought from 2006 to 2011 was catastrophic, causing many families to lose their farms and move into big cities. The drought also increased food prices, facilitating poverty. Although global warming did not create the conflict we are witnessing today, environmental factors are important in human migration.

### **Social Factors**

Social factors motivating migration grow from the human needs and desires to achieve a better quality of life. Migrants often move to ensure better opportunities for themselves or their family, like sending their child to a better, safer school or finding a job that would have not only a sufficient salary but also important benefits and career growth prospects. In terms of education, the United States graduate programs have been a particularly strong attraction for young, talented individuals around the world. Individuals can also migrate in search of services, such as life-saving surgery and medical treatment that are inaccessible in their home area.



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## QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER:

- 1.- How to provide security to women while they migrate?
- 2.- How to avoid kidnapping and violations to women?
- 3.- How to deal with the children of migrants born in other countries?
- 4.- How to prevent discrimination and hate crimes against migrant children?
- 5.- How to avoid child labour?
- 6.- How can the UN help in human development to vulnerable groups of migrants?
- 7.- How to improve human development in underdeveloped countries?
- 8.- Is negotiation with criminal organizations politically feasible?

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