

Group of Twenty Leaders'
Summit

General Assembly

TOPIC:

“Economic and Political
Effects of the Refugee
Crisis”

NC
MUN
2018





“Refugees are not terrorists. They are often the first victims of terrorism.”

-António Guterres

Luis C. Bosques Carmona
Undersecretary of General Assembly

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Topic:

*Economical and Political Effects
of the Refugee Crisis*

The G20 is comprised by 19 countries, plus the European Union. Founded in 1999, the G20 serves as an international forum for high-level discussion of policy issues relating to international financial security and economic cooperation; with the G20 growing in stature, it has begun to address global situations as a whole as well. Summits are held annually, with the most recent summits in 2017 in Germany and 2018 in Argentina. The Group's decisions aren't legally binding; however Members should make efforts to comply with them.

A refugee is: a person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war.

Taking as an example, Europe's refugee crisis has been described as the worst since World War II, which in the end there were more than 40 million refugees in the region.

The actual affected regions are Africa (4.413 million), Europe (4.391 million), Asia & the Pacific (3.830 million), Middle East & North Africa (2.730 million). According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees 65.6 million are refugees; 16.1 million are managed by the UNHCR.

From the moment of arrival, refugees compete with the local citizens for scarce resources such as land, water, housing, food and medical services. Over time, their presence leads to more substantial demands on natural resources, education and health facilities, energy, transportation, social services and employment. They may cause inflationary pressures on prices and depress wages. In some instances, they can significantly alter the flow of goods and services within the society as a whole and their presence may have implications for the host country's balance of payment and undermine structural adjustment initiatives. One example of market disturbances would be the need to rent accommodation for office and residential purposes, not just for expatriates, but also for locally engaged staff, in response to a refugee situation. Increased construction activity results, but this is usually accompanied by increases in rent, benefiting those who are property owners, but adversely affecting the poor and those on fixed incomes, such as government officers. Purchase of large quantities of building material may make them scarce or unobtainable for local people, while also generating inflationary effects. Likewise, increased demand for food and other commodities can lead to price rises in the market which will stimulate local economic activity, although, again,

not benefiting the poorest.

The highest refugee concentrations are in some of the poorest countries in the world. A large number of such movements are into Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The presence of refugees compounds the already prevailing economic, environmental, social and, at times, political difficulties in these countries. Often such countries are confronted by a combination of all four of these factors. Nearly always their impact is substantial. Moreover, in many refugee situations, problems are aggravated when refugees are a substantial proportion of the local, if not national population. The presence of refugees, and demands on the already severely strained economy, services and infrastructure add to the extreme hardship affecting the local populations. In many instances, refugees become an added impediment to, or risk jeopardizing, the development efforts of the host country. Their negative aspects may be felt long after a refugee problem is solved; for example, the damage to environment is a process and does not end with the repatriation of refugees. While the international emergency aid in response to such an emergency does have some positive effects on the host society, this hardly compensates for the negative consequences of such large concentrations of refugees.

It is widely known that the ideologies of racism, nationalism and xenophobia are dangerous and they spread all over the world. It seems the people are beginning to have an unjustifiable 'fear of the other' and politicians are growing uncertainty, blaming refugees and migrants for their own failures to find durable solutions in the economic and security aspects.

The people are still seeing other refugees as foreigners and there is a xenophobic and racist utterance that affects the treatment of refugee individuals on their national origin and their migratory status.

The phenomena of racism, nationalism and patriotism exist among humans as a result of a kind of primitive xenophobia, where the people are scared to "lose" their nationalism if other refugees arrived.

In September 19th of last year, the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, reunited in need for an international solidarity in response to large movements of migrants and refugees, which resulted in the creation of the New York Declaration.

It contains commitments to address the issues we face now and to prepare the world for future challenges, some of these commitments are:

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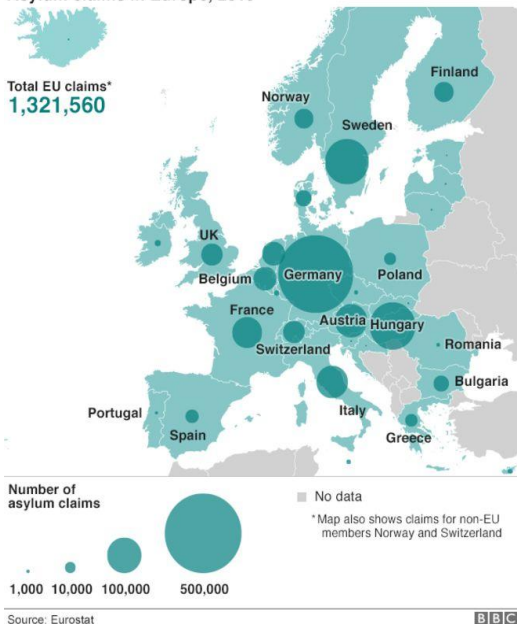
- Protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status. This includes the rights of women and girls and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in finding solutions.
- Strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.
- Support those countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.

Also the New York declaration contains concrete plans to accomplish these commitments, which are:

- Start negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, order, and regular migration in 2018. This means that migration and the other areas of international relations will be guided by a set of common principles and approaches.
- Develop guidelines on the treatment of migrants and as well refugees in vulnerable situations.
- To achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees by adopting a global compact in 2018.

Points to address:

- Step up support to humanitarian emergency aid, including for refugee status determination, relocation, and return or readmission.
- Ensure compliance with all the EU laws and directives on asylum among Member States.
- The situation of refugee rights' and determination in host countries and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Protection of unaccompanied and separated children, measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, enhancing search and rescue operations at sea, cracking down on smuggling, and countering xenophobia and racism targeted at refugees and migrants.
- What can be the measurements for prevention of refugees trespassing?
- What Security measurements can be applied in case of a terrorist attack in Europe or host countries and how to prevent them?
- How can support be given to transit countries?
- How can the G20 handle with xenophobia, racism and other types of intolerance within their own borders?
- How can the New York Declaration principles and goals be achieved by the Group, taking into account that the U.S. left it?



Heads of State and Government, we strongly recommend you to research more information about the topic. We leave you some source to get a more deep investigation.

- <http://www.unhcr.org/excom/standcom/3ae68d0e10/social-economic-impact-large-refugee-populations-host-developing-countries.html>
- <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/3/56d957db9/unhcr-6-steps-towards-solving-refugee-situation-europe.html>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/22/divided-europe-refugee-crisis-italy-serbia-greece>
- <https://www.vox.com/2015/9/5/9265501/refugee-crisis-europe-syria>
- <http://voxeu.org/article/economics-and-politics-refugee-migration>
- <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration> (More information about the New York declaration)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w> (The European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained)
- Dustmann, C, F Fasani, T Frattini, L Minale and U Schönberg (2016), "On the Economics and Politics of Refugee Migration," CReAM Discussion Paper Series 1616, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, University College London.
- Adda J, C Dustmann and S Gorlach (2016), "The Dynamics of Return Migration, Human Capital Accumulation, and Wage Assimilation", mimeo, UCL.

Know more about G20:

- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/0/what-is-the-g20-and-how-does-it-work/>
- <https://www.g20.org/en>

SOURCES