Agenda : Tackling Migration and Civil Unrest

The committee

The Economic and Social Council, or ECOSOC, is a council mandated to serve as the primary body for policy dialogue on economic, social, cultural, educational, environmental and health-related topics, which serve to advise, coordinate and oversee the activities of Member States and other UN entities. Chapter X of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) decreed the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a founding body and one of the six primary organs of the United Nations (UN). ECOSOC indirectly oversees the allocation of 70% of UN resources through its oversight of 14 specialized agencies and 13 functional and regional commissions. The main goal of ECOSOC is to spearhead, not only implementation, but coordination of each and every nation's solution to combating any issue of socio, economic, environmental, or health which they and other nations share.

ECOSOC as a committee has undergone several changes, since it's conception. In the 1960s and 1970s, developing Member States lengthened the agenda of the UN and asked for a stronger focus on urgent issues such as the promotion of development and the elimination of poverty. General Assembly resolution 2847(XXVI) (1971) increased ECOSOC membership from 27 to 54 in order to better reflect the UN's economic and geographic diversity. The General Assembly then adopted resolution 32/197 in 1977 to address the "Restructuring of economic and social sectors of the United Nations System" and to improve ECOSOC's effectiveness by increasing coordination with its subsidiary bodies. To avoid any conflicted works, such as duplication; the General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 1995 clarified that the role of the General Assembly is to provide policy guidance while ECOSOC's focus is on coordination of work. This interpretation was later reinforced by General Assembly resolution 57/270 in 2002.

In 2013 ECOSOC was later strengthened by resolution 68/1 of 2013, which made ECOSOC a global forum for leaders to speak out on policy and implement policy, globally. The 2013 reforms also included an expansion of its functions and powers to enable ECOSOC to take the lead on identifying and discussing emerging challenges. ECOSOC in general is a forum in which leaders can debate, and form resolutions to combat any socio, economic, environmental or health issue which they please, thus making it a committee with not only power, but a committee which helps improve the world.

ECOSOC 2 will address issues concerning the social and economic aspects of society. These issues, such as **migration** and **civil-unrest**, have been increasing over time.

Introduction

The UN Migration Agency defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.

A special kind of migrant is a refugee. Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection. The term asylum-seeker refers to a refugee seeking refuge.

Since the earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of labour or economic opportunities, to join family, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. Still others move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, or other environmental factors. While many individuals migrate out of choice, many others migrate out of necessity. There are approximately 68 million forcibly displaced persons, including over 25 million refugees, 3 million asylum seekers and over 40 million internally displaced persons.

Today, more people than ever before live in a country other than the one in which they were born. In 2017, the number of migrants reached 258 million, compared to about 173 million in 2000. However, the proportion of international migrants in the world population is only slightly higher than that recorded over the past decades, equaling 3.4% in 2017, compared to 2.8% in 2000 and 2.3% in 1980.

While migration may add to a country's workforce, it has been subject to a lot of public backlash. The problem can be split into two aspects. One is a xenophobic local population and civil unrest caused between immigrant and locals, leading to a divided society. Second is the practical problem caused by immigration, including but not limited to an increase in competition for low-paying jobs (and thus more unemployment), pressure on public services (and the resulting cost to the government), pressure on public housing, a social and cultural divide between the local and immigrant population due to a language barrier.

In some ways the local population's perception of immigration is as serious a problem as those just underlined. The problem of migration and civil unrest is undoubtedly a divisive issue and one that has generated heated discussion, and at worst, civil unrest. It is clear that an effective solution towards the problem of migration and civil unrest must keep in mind both the interests of the immigrant and local populations.

Contrary to the right of asylum, refugee resettlement is not codified in international law. Resettling refugees is entirely at the discretion of resettling states. No other actor has the power to override state authority in the offering of resettlement places. This is another problem faced by this committee.

UN efforts to solve the problem

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will recognize, for the first time, the contribution of migration to sustainable development. 11 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility. The Agenda's core principle is to "leave no one behind," including migrants. The SDGs aim to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies." Other targets that directly reference migration mention trafficking, remittances, international student mobility and more.

Additionally, in 1951, the UN created the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), as the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration for the benefit of all, 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, including refugees and internally displaced people. In 2016 IOM entered into an agreement with the United Nations, becoming one of its specialized agencies.

A UN paper on Refugees and Social Integration in Europe by Dr. Mihaela Robila recommends that the following action be taken:

- Streamlining of the asylum process to reduce the waiting period and facilitate refugees'
- Economic and social integration in the host society
- Assuring refugees access to health services and promoting their use (including mental health services)
- Assuring refugee children and adults access to the education systems
- Facilitating refugees' access to adequate employment commensurate to their qualifications
- Developing multidisciplinary professional teams to work with refugees (lawyers, social workers, family counselors) and provide systematic and coordinated services to facilitate refugee integration
- Developing policies to facilitate families to immigrate together or/and to speed up the family reunification process

- Promoting cultural sensitivity when interacting with the different cultural groups (e.g., using translators)

Treaties, resolutions, and conventions

Year	Event
2015	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)
2015	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)
2016	General Assembly Resolutions related to international migration
2016	1951 Convention on Refugees and 1967 Protocol
2016	General Assembly Resolutions and Executive Committee Conclusions relating to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
2016	New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)

Efforts by specific areas and countries

Unfortunately, member states' efforts to solving the problem at hand have not always been constructive; they have focussed on capping the amount of immigrants, rather than trying to better integrate, recognise and protect them.

That said, As of 1 July 2013, there were 145 parties to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention. This is a United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who a refugee is, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.

Notably, Cape Verde, the United States of America and Venezuela have not signed the Convention, but have signed the 1967 Protocol which removed time limits applied to refugees "without any geographic limitation". Since the US has ratified the Protocol, it has undertaken the majority of obligations in the Convention, but not all.

Recent developments

- Spain pledges more funds for asylum-seekers as arrivals from Latin America climb. Spain's Council of Ministers on Friday authorized €146 million in subsidies to ease the strain on its asylum processing system in response to a recent spike in asylum-seekers arriving from Central and South America.

- Temporary courtrooms housed in tents and shipping containers were set up by the US administration at the southern US border in late summer as part of the response to a surge in arrivals of asylum-seekers.

- Al Jazeera reports from Syria's north-western Idlib province, where air raids in recent weeks have continued to drive people from their homes.

- Since late December, clashes between Arab and African ethnic groups in el Geneina, West Darfur's state capital, have left at least 54 people dead and an estimated 40,000 people displaced, including 32,000 living in three camps for the internally displaced

- More than 250 civilians have been killed by religious extremists in Burkina Faso since April 2019, according to a report released by Human Rights Watch on Monday. A surge of attacks in recent months has caused hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes, with nearly half a million people now displaced.

- A fire at a closed centre for asylum-seekers for Malta has drawn attention to the country's strained asylum system and the re-introduction of a policy of detaining people, including children, while their asylum applications are processed.

- Humanitarian agencies are rushing aid to some 40,000 people displaced in recent weeks by clashes between rival ethnic groups in El Geneina, West Darfur. Another 5,500 people have fled across the border to Chad, according to UNHCR.

- the UN refugee agency has issued a [set of recommendations](#) for better protecting refugees and stateless people in Europe and boosting financial support to refugee-hosting countries outside the EU.

- The House of Commons on Wednesday voted against an amendment which would have guaranteed the right of unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children in Europe to be reunited with family members in the UK after the country leaves the EU.

Questions a resolution must answer (QARMA)

- Based on recent events, is the 1951 Convention on refugees and the 1967 Protocol in need of modification? If yes, in what way?

- Refugee resettlement is not codified in international law. As such, resettling refugees is entirely at the discretion of resettling states. Is it possible to reach a consensus on a framework for refugee resettlement? If so, what would this framework look like?

- Civil unrest can be a result of unsuccessful integration of migrants into a host country. What are ways to help migrants integrate successfully into their host countries **and** cultures? Address relevant socio economic factors.

- Recruitment into extremists groups can be based on necessity. What are steps to discourage the radicalisation of youth? Again, address relevant socio economic factors.