

JejuMUN XI

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

*1 | Ensuring the Rights and Protection of Refugees and Internally
Displaced Peoples (IDPs) in the Middle East*

SDG: 3. Good Health and Well-Being | 10. Reduced Inequality | 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong
Institutions

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Committee Introduction

Established in 1993, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as the Fourth Committee, plays a significant role in the United Nations and focuses on addressing a variety of globally threatening political and decolonization issues. SPECPOL was created after the merging of the Decolonization Committee and the Special Committee and has served many nations since it was founded. As one of the six main committees in the UN General Assembly, SPECPOL takes a multifaceted approach to combating decolonization in specific territories, relocating and ensuring the welfare of displaced persons and refugees, and administering the transition of territories into independent states.

Some of the issues that SPECPOL has dealt with in the past and is currently dealing with to this day include armed conflicts in the Gaza Strip and the Western Sahara, and addressing the situations of non-self-governing territories in places like the Caribbean or Polynesia. SPECPOL also specializes in providing support for numerous other affairs regarding decolonization. SPECPOL has made strides for the well-being of multiple countries and since 1945, SPECPOL has managed to get more than 80 colonies their independence.

Agenda Introduction

The global displacement crisis has reached unprecedented levels, with millions of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and violence. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of 2023, there are over 110 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, including 36.4 million refugees and 62.5 million IDPs. This widespread displacement affects nearly every region of the world, from the Middle East and Africa to South America and Asia, disrupting the lives of individuals and families and straining the resources of host communities and nations .

Addressing the rights and protection of refugees and IDPs is a matter of global significance. These populations often face severe human rights violations, lack of access to basic services such as healthcare and education, and endure harsh living conditions. The international community, under the framework of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizes the urgent need to address this crisis comprehensively and humanely . Ensuring the protection and rights of refugees and IDPs is not only a humanitarian imperative but also crucial for maintaining global stability and security.

The scope of this issue is extensive, impacting numerous countries and diverse groups of people. In nations like Syria, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ongoing conflicts have resulted in significant internal displacement. Meanwhile, countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Uganda host millions of refugees, often with limited resources to adequately support them. This crisis affects men, women, and children, with particularly vulnerable groups including women and children, who are at higher risk of exploitation and abuse . Addressing this issue is essential to alleviate human suffering, uphold human rights, and promote peace and development globally.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) plays a crucial role in developing sustainable and effective strategies to support these populations. This agenda will focus on the multifaceted challenges faced by refugees and IDPs, including issues related to health, education, shelter, and legal protection. SPECPOL aims to identify collaborative solutions to enhance the well-being and resilience of displaced persons. By addressing the root causes of displacement and implementing comprehensive support mechanisms, SPECPOL contributes to the global commitment of leaving no one behind and achieving peace and stability in conflict-affected regions .

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to JEJUMUN XI and to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)! We are so excited to have you join us here at Jeju Island for an exciting and enriching experience.

The SPECPOL committee will be chaired by Spencer Park (Head Chair), Sharania Mandloi (Deputy Chair), and Jaewon Choi (Associate Chair), all from the Yongsan International School of Seoul. We are all passionate about the issues we will be discussing, and we are dedicated to making this experience as rewarding as possible for each of you.

SPECPOL tackles a diverse array of topics, from decolonization to peacekeeping and beyond. This year, we have carefully selected agenda items that we believe are not only pertinent to current global affairs but also stimulating for robust debate and innovative solutions. We encourage you to come prepared, having researched your country's position thoroughly, and to be ready to engage in spirited discussions.

While the formal setting of MUN requires a certain level of decorum, we also want to ensure that you feel comfortable and supported throughout the conference. We are here to guide you, answer your questions, and help facilitate productive debate. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you need assistance or simply want to discuss ideas.

We are confident that JEJUMUN XI will be an unforgettable experience filled with learning, growth, and new friendships. Your active participation and enthusiasm are key to making this conference a success, and we are excited to see the unique perspectives and solutions you will bring to the table.

Once again, welcome to JEJUMUN XI and to the SPECPOL Committee. Let's make this conference a remarkable one together!

Warm regards,

Your chairs,

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Key Terms

Refugee

Someone who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who has been forced to flee their home due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, or natural disasters, but has not crossed an international border and remains within their own country.

Conflict Zone

A conflict zone is an area where there is active armed conflict between two or more parties, which can include international conflicts, civil wars, and insurgencies. These areas are often characterized by high levels of violence and insecurity.

Human Rights Violations

Human rights violations refer to actions that contravene the fundamental rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. These rights are often outlined in international human rights treaties and declarations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance refers to the aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and after emergencies, including conflicts and natural disasters. This can include the provision of food, shelter, medical care, and protection.

Protection

In the context of refugees and IDPs, protection encompasses all activities aimed at ensuring the full respect for the rights of individuals in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law. It includes safeguarding individuals from violence, exploitation, and abuse.

Durable Solutions

Durable solutions for refugees and IDPs refer to sustainable options that allow displaced persons to live in safety and dignity. These solutions typically include voluntary repatriation to their home country, local integration in the host community, or resettlement to a third country.

Non-Refoulement

Non-refoulement is a principle of international law that prohibits the return of refugees and asylum-seekers to a country where they may face persecution, torture, or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is a cornerstone of international refugee protection.

Asylum Seeker

An asylum seeker is a person who has fled their own country and seeks sanctuary in another country, applying for asylum—the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance. Asylum seekers must demonstrate that their fear of persecution in their home country is well-founded.

Historical Background

The issue of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict zones has been particularly pronounced in the Middle East, a region significantly affected by prolonged conflicts. The Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011, has resulted in one of the largest displacement crises in recent history, with millions of refugees and IDPs. The conflicts in Iraq, Yemen, and Afghanistan have also contributed to large-scale displacement. These crises have highlighted the critical need for coordinated global efforts to protect and support displaced populations in the Middle East, building on the foundational protections established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the 1951 Refugee Convention.

1950	Establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address post-World War II displacement in Europe.
1951	Adoption of the 1951 Refugee Convention, defining who is a refugee and outlining their rights and state obligations.
1967	Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees expands the scope of the 1951 Convention beyond Europe and eliminates temporal restrictions.
1990-1991	Gulf War causes significant displacement in Iraq and neighboring countries.
1998	Introduction of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, providing a framework for the protection of IDPs.
2001	Launch of the Global IDP Project by the Norwegian Refugee Council, focusing on data collection and advocacy for IDPs. U.S. invasion of Afghanistan leads to ongoing displacement.
2003	Iraq War begins, resulting in large-scale internal displacement and refugee flows.
2011	Syrian Civil War begins, resulting in one of the largest displacement crises in recent history, with millions of refugees and IDPs.
2015	Conflict in Yemen escalates, leading to severe humanitarian crisis and displacement.
2016	Adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, reaffirming international commitment to protect the rights of refugees and migrants.
2018	Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular

	Migration are endorsed, aiming to improve international cooperation and responsibility-sharing.
2020	UNHCR reports a record 82.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, underscoring the escalating nature of global displacement.
2023	Continued efforts by the international community to address displacement crises in regions like Yemen, and Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for sustained and coordinated humanitarian action.

Current State of Affairs

As of 2024, the displacement crisis in the Middle East remains one of the most severe and complex humanitarian challenges globally. The Syrian Civil War, now in its thirteenth year, has displaced over 13 million people, with 6.6 million refugees and 6.7 million IDPs. Neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan continue to bear the brunt of this refugee influx, facing significant strain on their resources and infrastructure.

In Yemen, ongoing conflict since 2015 has created what is often described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Over 4 million Yemenis are internally displaced, and millions more are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. The situation is further compounded by widespread famine and disease outbreaks.

Iraq, despite improvements in security, still has over 1.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to years of conflict, including the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Similarly, Afghanistan continues to grapple with internal displacement and refugee flows following decades of conflict and instability, worsened by recent political upheavals.

Currently, Israeli-Palestinian conflict has also generated much instability and disruption in the region, with many people being displaced due to the conflict between the two peoples.

These crises have necessitated substantial international humanitarian efforts. Organizations like the UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are actively engaged in providing aid, advocating for displaced persons' rights, and seeking durable solutions. Despite these efforts, the sheer scale of displacement and the protracted nature of these conflicts pose ongoing challenges to ensuring adequate protection and support for refugees and IDPs in the Middle East.

Stances of Parties

Bolivia

Advocates for international solidarity and equitable responsibility-sharing in addressing the displacement crisis. Emphasizes human rights and humanitarian aid, and calls for greater international support to address regional migration challenges, particularly those affecting indigenous and marginalized communities in South America.

Chile

Supports international cooperation and increased funding for humanitarian aid. Emphasizes legal protections and integration programs for displaced persons, highlighting the importance of regional stability in South America. Examples include providing asylum and support for Venezuelan refugees and advocating for regional initiatives to manage migration flows.

China

Emphasizes sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. Supports peacebuilding and development initiatives and calls for increased humanitarian assistance through multilateral frameworks. Advocates for addressing the root causes of displacement through economic development, such as the Belt and Road Initiative projects in conflict-affected regions.

Congo

Seeks international aid for internal displacement caused by ongoing conflicts. Emphasizes peacebuilding, disarmament, and economic development, calling for stronger international efforts to stabilize the region, such as UN peacekeeping missions and reconstruction projects in the eastern provinces.

Côte d'Ivoire

Advocates for international support in addressing the root causes of displacement. Focuses on economic development, social stability, and regional cooperation to prevent further displacement, citing successful post-conflict recovery programs and regional integration efforts in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Cuba

Calls for international cooperation and solidarity. Emphasizes the protection of human rights and provision of humanitarian aid to displaced persons, highlighting the impact of economic sanctions on its capacity to assist refugees, and referencing its medical brigades sent to disaster-stricken areas worldwide.

Dominica

Supports global efforts to provide humanitarian aid and legal protections for displaced persons. Emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and disaster preparedness in light of climate-induced displacement risks, referencing its recovery from Hurricane Maria and advocacy for climate resilience.

Ecuador

Advocates for equitable responsibility-sharing and increased international aid to support refugees and host communities. Focuses on legal protections, integration, and addressing displacement caused by political instability and natural disasters, such as the influx of Colombian and Venezuelan refugees and its response to the 2016 earthquake.

Ethiopia

Calls for international support to manage internal displacement and address the root causes of conflict. Emphasizes peacebuilding, development, and addressing ethnic tensions within the country, highlighting its recent peace agreement with Eritrea and efforts to resolve conflicts in the Tigray region.

Fiji

Supports international cooperation in providing humanitarian aid and addressing climate-induced displacement. Emphasizes sustainable development and the impact of rising sea levels on small island nations, referencing its leadership in international climate negotiations and initiatives like the Fiji Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

India

Advocates for increased international support for refugees and IDPs. Emphasizes legal protections, sustainable development initiatives, and regional cooperation to address displacement caused by conflicts and natural disasters, highlighting its support for Rohingya refugees and disaster relief efforts in South Asia.

Indonesia

Supports regional and international cooperation in providing humanitarian aid and addressing the root causes of displacement. Emphasizes peacebuilding, economic development, and disaster preparedness in response to natural disasters, citing its role in ASEAN and recovery efforts after the 2004 tsunami and other natural disasters.

Iran

Calls for international assistance to support the large number of refugees within its borders, particularly from Afghanistan and Iraq. Emphasizes the need for peaceful resolutions to regional conflicts and lifting of sanctions to improve humanitarian conditions, highlighting its provision of education and healthcare to millions of refugees despite economic constraints.

Iraq

Seeks international aid for reconstruction and development to facilitate the return of IDPs. Emphasizes peacebuilding, social cohesion, and combating terrorism to prevent further displacement, referencing its recovery efforts in areas liberated from ISIS and international support for rebuilding infrastructure.

Mali

Calls for increased international support to address internal displacement caused by conflict and terrorism. Focuses on peacebuilding, economic development, and regional cooperation to stabilize the Sahel region, highlighting the need for continued support for the G5 Sahel Joint Force and development projects.

Nicaragua

Advocates for international cooperation and increased humanitarian aid to support displaced persons. Emphasizes human rights, social stability, and addressing political and economic factors driving displacement, referencing its efforts to provide asylum to regional migrants and calls for dialogue to resolve internal political crises.

Papua New Guinea

Supports international efforts to provide humanitarian aid and address the root causes of displacement. Emphasizes sustainable development, disaster preparedness, and addressing tribal conflicts, highlighting its response to the 2018 Highlands earthquake and ongoing peacebuilding efforts in Bougainville.

Russian Federation

Emphasizes sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. Supports diplomatic solutions to conflicts and increased humanitarian aid through multilateral efforts. Advocates for addressing the root causes of displacement through economic development and political stability, referencing its involvement in Syria and support for peace negotiations in Ukraine.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Advocates for international solidarity and cooperation in providing humanitarian aid and legal protections for displaced persons. Emphasizes disaster preparedness and support for small island developing states, referencing its recovery from the 2021 La Soufrière volcanic eruption and advocacy for climate resilience.

Sierra Leone

Calls for increased international aid to address internal displacement and support post-conflict recovery. Focuses on economic development, social stability, and addressing the impacts of the Ebola crisis, highlighting successful community reintegration programs and healthcare system rebuilding efforts.

Syria

Emphasizes reconstruction and creating conditions for the safe return of refugees. Seeks international support while insisting on sovereignty. Advocates for lifting sanctions to facilitate rebuilding efforts, referencing ongoing international aid projects and the need for comprehensive peace agreements.

Timor-Leste

Supports international cooperation in providing humanitarian aid and addressing the root causes of displacement. Emphasizes peacebuilding, development, and regional cooperation to ensure stability, citing its successful independence process and ongoing efforts to support displaced persons from Indonesia and other regions.

Tunisia

Advocates for international support to manage the influx of refugees and address regional instability. Focuses on legal protections, humanitarian aid, and supporting democratic governance to prevent displacement, highlighting its role in regional dialogues and support for Libyan refugees.

Tanzania

Calls for increased international aid to support refugees and host communities. Emphasizes sustainable development, social cohesion, and addressing the impact of regional conflicts on displacement, referencing its long-standing role as a host for Burundian and Congolese refugees.

Venezuela

Seeks international humanitarian aid to address the displacement crisis within and outside its borders. Emphasizes human rights, economic stability, and addressing the political and economic factors driving mass migration, highlighting its efforts to provide support for returning migrants and calls for dialogue to resolve the internal crisis.

Possible Solutions

Solution 1: Strengthening International Legal Frameworks and Support Mechanisms

To address the global displacement crisis, enhancing international legal protections and support mechanisms for refugees and IDPs is essential. This includes encouraging countries to ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which provide a foundation for ensuring rights and protection. Increasing financial and technical support to organizations like UNHCR, IOM, and NGOs is important for expanding humanitarian aid, legal assistance, and access to essential services such as healthcare and education. Additionally, building international cooperation and burden-sharing among countries can alleviate the pressures on host nations, ensuring a more balanced and effective response to the displacement crisis, ultimately enhancing the well-being and resilience of displaced persons.

Solution 2: Addressing Root Causes and Promoting Sustainable Development

Achieving long-term solutions for the displacement crisis requires addressing root causes and promoting sustainable development in conflict-affected regions. This involves peacebuilding and conflict resolution strategies in critical nations like Syria, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo through diplomatic efforts and regional cooperation. Promoting sustainable development in both host countries and countries of origin is also important: including investments in infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social services. Integrating displaced persons into national development plans and decision-making processes can empower them and foster social cohesion. By addressing the underlying causes of displacement and promoting sustainable development, the international community can create conditions for voluntary return, local integration, and resettlement, contributing to global stability and security.

Remember, these solutions are to provide reference for some topics to consider during discussions. You should try to think outside the box for some unique stance points and possible solutions too.

Questions to Consider

1. What *measures* can be taken to ensure that international legal frameworks are effectively implemented and enforced?
2. What *investments* are needed in infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social services to support both displaced persons and host communities?
3. What *conditions* are necessary to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees to their home countries?
4. What *strategies* can be used to enhance the capacity of these organizations to provide comprehensive support to displaced populations?
 - a. Look into peace agreements, reconstruction efforts, and creating stable and secure conditions in conflict-affected regions
5. What role can *technology and data* play in improving responses to displacement crises?
 - a. Note: Explore the use of data analytics, mobile technology for aid delivery, and information systems for tracking displacement and needs.
6. What *specific steps* can be taken to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution in conflict-affected regions?
7. How can displaced persons be *effectively integrated* into national development plans and decision-making processes?
8. How can the *rights and legal protections* of refugees and IDPs be strengthened?
 - a. Note: Consider international legal frameworks, national policies, and the role of organizations like UNHCR in monitoring and advocating for rights.

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