

Forum: Population Movement Council

Student Officers: Richard Kim, Perry Baek, Chae Yeon Park

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TOPIC 3: The question of the obligations of countries of origin, transit, and destination.

I. Introduction to the Topic

The third topic of the Population Movement Council will discuss whether the countries of origin, transit, and destination are responsible for the refugees' and the migrants' activities, and to what extent they should be obligated in overseeing the process of migration. The process may include the management of legal documentation (such as passports, citizenship, and visas), the prevention of illegal migration, and the tracing of migration routes. There is a likely chance of delegates attempting to address this issue by differentiating the obligations of each category of countries. In understanding this topic, it could be beneficial to investigate real-world situations. In the case of Ukrainian refugees, for example, Ukraine is the country of origin, Austria (one of the countries that accept a great number of refugees for Ukraine) could be the country of destination, and Hungary (or other European countries that the refugees pass on their way to the destination) is the country of transit.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Migrants: refers to people who temporarily or permanently move from their habitual residence to another location, usually crossing the international border, due to numerous reasons.

Refugees: refers to people who left their country due to violence-involved conflicts and crossed an international border to attain safety

Obligation: an action that is compulsory due to moral or legal bindings.

Country of origin: country of birth or preceding residence of people who fled the country.

Country of transit: country in which refugees and migrants pass through to get to their final destination

Country of destination: a country where migrants and refugees settle.

Border: a boundary that separates two bodies (geographically/politically) from one another.

Permeability: the state of a border and the ease for one to move across the border.

Push Factor: the reason why citizens choose to leave their country. Some examples can be war, unemployment, famine, poverty, and religious persecution.

Pull Factor: the reason why migrants and refugees decide to stay or even dwell in the hosting country. Higher wages, high employment, religious freedom, and higher living standards can be the main pull factor of the country.

Burden Sharing: The idea of burden sharing is to share out responsibilities with different states or countries. In the context of refugees and migrants, burden sharing can work as distributing the incoming refugee in regard to the economy, populations, and job opportunities of the states/countries.

Burden Shifting: The definition of burden shifting is to entirely change the responsibilities of approving and disapproving from one party/state/country to another. In this context, it can refer to disapproving of the entire incoming refugee population in the country, and thus forcing them to go to another.

III. Key Stakeholders

You should include an overview of 3-5 significant stakeholders & explain why these are important. This should guide your delegates in terms of the specific intergovernmental organizations & agencies, non-governmental organizations, state & non-state actors (stateless nations, independence movements, trade unions, political parties...), and significant individuals

that should be explicitly mentioned in their draft Resolutions. In addition, you should make it clear in this section why these stakeholders are significant AND the relationships and/or tensions between them.

Ukraine & European Union:

As it will be discussed below in the key issues, Ukraine and the European Union are the key stakeholders in this issue. Due to the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia, the neighboring countries had to handle an outstanding number of refugees. As the issue suggests, there are 3 parts to the stakeholders. Ukraine, being the country of origin, has been destroyed by the war. The largest group of stakeholders is the EU. Many countries have been accepting refugees and are attempting to provide the fundamental needs of the refugees. Some of the countries that hosted the most Ukrainian refugees are Poland, Germany, Czechia, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, France, Austria...

Rohingyas & Bangladesh:

Similar to the Ukrainian crisis, Rohingyas fled to other countries to find safety. After the 2017 genocide started in Myanmar, more than 740,000 people fled to Bangladesh. Today, there are almost 1 million refugees residing at Kutupalong and the Nayapara (the largest refugee camps in Bangladesh). The Rohingya group is the most important stakeholder in this conflict as they have been directly affected by the genocide and are denied fundamental rights in Myanmar. Bangladesh, on the other hand, is another key stakeholder given the degree of impact on them. With such a large number of refugees, the nearby area of the refugee camps is dominated by the Rohingyas and is affecting the local communities.

Turkiye: Turkiye hosts the most refugees. As of 2022, they hosted 37 million refugees, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, and Ukraine. Turkiye has been implementing both laws and policies in order to maintain refugee security and impartiality, following multiple international standards. The Law of Foreigners and International Protection, Turkey's first asylum law, was approved by the government in early 2013 and implemented in April 2014. The

establishment of the Directorate General Of Migration Management(DGMM) enabled Turkey to have secure and forceful protection of all foreigners. Furthermore, Turkey also passed the regulation on the protection of refugees on October 22, 2014, outlining the rights and obligations, as well as the procedures for those who have been granted the right of temporary stay.

UNHCR: UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is a non-governmental, non-political organization to protect and help refugees to settle in a new host country.

IOM: International Organization for Migration, IOM is part of the UN system, promoting and supporting orderly migration of citizens in 175 member countries, and over 100 countries.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Key Issue 1:

The most recent and widely known issue is the Ukrainian refugee crisis. The Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing conflict, which started in February 2014. The hostility between the two countries deepened after the Revolution of Dignity, Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, and the dispute in the referendum to become a part of the Russian Federation. The ethnic segregation further led to armed conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk in which the Russian Federation backed the armed separatists. Although this conflict was initiated in 2014, it is still ongoing in 2022. Due to this recently heightened crisis, the number of displaced people reached approximately 14 million. This indicates that the process of 14 million people fleeing had a significant impact on the neighboring countries. The EU proposed a temporary solution to such an immense number of refugees, which provides temporary rights to reside and to be socially secure. Also, they have assured access to education, employment, and healthcare. This is an example of the duty of the country of destination.

Key Issue 2:

The Rohingya crisis is a key issue for this topic. More than a million people fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar due to the genocide. The Rohingyas experienced systematic abuses and discrimination and were segregated from other Burmese ethnicities. Since there is a clear

contradiction between the perspectives of Rohingyas and Bangladesh, it can be a good example of a perspective of a country disagreeing with the obligations of the countries of destination.

Key Issue 3:

The cause of the Syrian refugee crisis was the government's violent reaction to a public anti-government movement. The armed suppression of the protest was heightened, followed by the Syrian civil war, which led to millions of refugees. Even now, after 11 years since the conflict, more than 10 million refugees are in need of humanitarian aid. Although many other countries host Syrian refugees as well, Turkiye has been hosting more than 3.6 million refugees alone. Investigating how such a great number of refugees has affected the hosting countries could be a good path for delegates.

Key Issue 4:

Afghanistan has been continuously suffering from multiple disasters for the past 40 years. Ranging from armed conflicts to natural disasters and the recent pandemic, the instability of this nation is notable. This situation got worse as the Taliban invaded Afghanistan in 2021. With the series of catastrophes, almost 6 million people are displaced.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1951	The 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR)
1967	Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (OHCHR)
1999	Common European Asylum System (CEAS)
2004	Hague program (second phase of CEAS)
2006	Cayucos Refugee Crisis (Establishment of Co-responsibility for the countries of origin, transit and destination: EU migration policy)
2008	European Pact on immigration and asylum
2017	Rohingya Refugee Crisis (Rohingya genocide)
2011	Syria Refugee Crisis (Syrian civil war)
2022	Afghanistan (Taliban Invasion)

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Key Issue 1:

Since the Russo-Ukrainian conflict is at an international scale, compromising multilateral agreement on the country's responsibility is necessary. In order to solve the issue of origin, transit, and destination, which is international, making agreements involving multiple stakeholders and governments is a viable and effective solution for this question.

Key Issue 2:

The differing perspectives on the Rohingya refugee crisis should be considered when writing the draft resolution. A possible solution from the perspective of the Rohingyas or other Rohingya-supporting countries could be to establish the compulsory provision of humanitarian aid and fundamental human rights. In contrast, delegates should also take into consideration the negative consequences of accepting refugees, and maybe against the compulsory provision. The solution to this specific problem should be different given that it is a domestic conflict. The country of origin is causing the displacement of people.

Key Issue 3:

The root of the Syrian refugee crisis was the local civil war. Given this, many delegates can discover perspectives against compulsory duties as countries of transit or destination. Countries that are not directly or indirectly involved in the conflict may wish to avoid any sort of interference given the possibility of negative consequences.

Key Issue 4:

By investigating the intervention of Non-governmental organizations, such as IOPCR (International Organization for Peace, Care, and Relief), delegates will find the diverse stances

on internal conflicts. The solution to this problem must be addressed in a manner that is different from international conflicts.

Racism & Discrimination

Addressing racism and discrimination is the key to this topic. As foreign migrants, racial discrimination is almost inevitable. This discrimination will discourage migrants from seeking employment and education and will be both mentally and physically harmful. Delegates could establish education systems attempting to discourage discrimination and run campaigns for public awareness. Delegates must make it clear that all migrants should be free from racial discrimination and that is a fundamental right.

Economic opportunities

Economic opportunities are one of the biggest challenges in this topic. Migrants who settle in another country are less likely to find a job with a stable income. As foreigners, they may speak a different language, which hinders their communication with coworkers. They will also face racial discrimination, limiting job opportunities. In addressing this issue, delegates may utilize job opportunity programs, which offer possible occupations for them. The government should supervise this program, incentivizing employers to hire foreign workers, or even directly create jobs. Furthermore, delegates may choose to provide financial assistance for financially unstable migrants.

Ensuring the human rights of migrants/refugees: Ensuring fundamental human rights is necessary when a country is hosting refugees and migrants. Before the country opens the border, UNHCR should undergo the testing process to determine whether the country is eligible for mass migration.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Delegates should attempt to best represent their countries' perspectives, not their own. Recognizing the existence of different views regarding this topic is extremely important.

Contrasting viewpoints in migration policies are inevitable. Accurately identifying the country's position amongst the countries of origin, transit, and destination is crucial.

Delegates who are representing countries of origin should have a full understanding of their migration policies, border conditions, and departure processes. Identifying any push factors (eg. international or domestic conflicts) can be helpful in supporting their resolutions. Additionally, they should utilize their relationships with other countries to seek assistance in safe migration for their citizens. In cases such as the Ukrainian refugee crisis, they could request neighboring countries to provide safe migration as well as basic human rights for the Ukrainian citizens.

Delegates who are representing countries of transit should research the policy for temporary residences, such as the allowed period of time for visiting without a visa for foreigners and how many refugees are residing in the country. Depending on the countries' perspectives, they should attempt to encourage or discourage migration routes that pass through their borders.

Delegates who are representing countries of destination should find the pull factors and specific cases in their countries to identify the effects of accepting or not accepting migrants. They could research illegal migrants in their countries. It should give the delegates an idea of the current status of international borders and possible discussion points. For example, which countries are responsible for preventing illegal migrants, and what should be the consequence of illegal migration. They may choose to either encourage or discourage migration by establishing or removing pull factors.

Additionally, countries that host myriad numbers of migrants should look into the advantages and disadvantages of hosting large numbers of migrants. Their resolution should aim to minimize the disadvantages. However, given the countries of each position will have contrasting perspectives, delegates must keep in mind that compromise with other countries is necessary.

VIII. Bibliography

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IX: Additional Resources

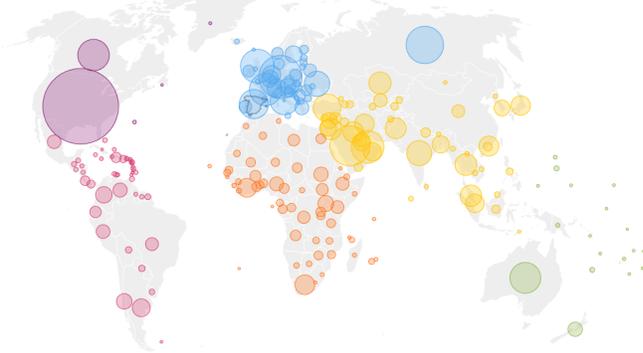
If there are any relevant maps, images or data that will help your delegates better understand the issue, include those in this section.



Map of Ukraine & Surrounding Countries

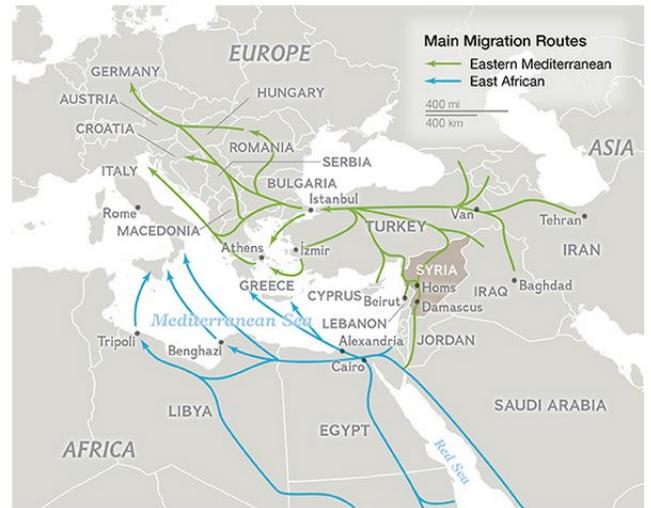
The map shows the **total number of international migrants** within each country

Total Pct. migrants Pct. non-migrants Circles are sized based on the total number



Total number of international migrants within each country, 2020

Eastern Mediterranean Route



ING STAFF
SOURCES: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION; UNHCR; I-MAP; REGIONAL MIXED MIGRATION SECRETARIAT

	Origin	
	Estimate	Share of International Migrant Population (%)
Total International Migrant Population	280,598,105	100%
Europe and Northern America	67,601,621	24%
Central and Southern Asia	51,229,549	18%
Latin America and the Caribbean	42,890,481	15%
Eastern and Southeastern Asia	38,400,740	14%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	37,563,820	13%
Sub-Saharan Africa	28,284,538	10%
Australia and New Zealand	1,404,924	1%
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	565,281	0%

Origin of international Migrants, 2020

	Destination	
	Number	Share of International Migrant Population (%)
Total International Migrant Population	280,598,105	100%
Europe and Northern America	145,414,863	52%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	49,767,746	18%
Sub-Saharan Africa	22,221,538	8%
Eastern and Southeastern Asia	19,591,106	7%
Central and Southern Asia	19,427,576	7%
Latin America and the Caribbean	14,794,623	5%
Australia and New Zealand	9,067,584	3%
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	313,069	0%

Destinations of international Migrants, 2020