



THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Letter from the Executive Board

We take immense pleasure in and are deeply honored of being chosen as the members of the Executive Board of this year's International Press Corps. The IPC is one very influential committee, contrary to popular belief, and we'll be sure to show you why. Diving straight into the priorities, this manual contains the basic material and information that you, the reporters, will require to base your research, line of questioning and approach on.

But the EB has decided to give you absolute freedom. The information given here is the 'bare minimum'. Therefore, we hope that the reporters go further than the material given here and research so much so that the final questions blow the delegates away. Remember, you will be marked on your creativity, originality and aggression (with regards to the substance of the questions asked. NOT THE MANNER!).

Reporters are requested to be unbiased in their approach towards their respective issues and the delegate's take on the matter. The areas where all reporters can score some huge brownie points are the Media Updates, the Press Conference and the Final Reports. We are mulling over including a no-holds barred and intensive 'meme content' contests. If that is given the greenlight then the reporters can also score some impressive bonus points as well. The EB will strive to provide an authentic media experience to the IPC Reporters.

You reporters are expected to be the 'beacons of truth' and can only do that by being absolutely ethical. You are Special UN Correspondents of media powerhouses. Act like them. If you do not get an answer to your question, go after them and never stop. Feel that high. And most importantly, enjoy yourselves in the process. See you guys at the party.

Warm Regards,

Vishva Shanmugam

Guest Chairperson

Ananya V Ganasen

Chairperson

Jaidev

Vice Chairperson

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AU – Debt trap diplomacy and the OBOR

This committee has adopted the issue of China's OBOR policy on the domestic and international factors of the members of the African Union. Reporters must note that in order to develop impartial assessment reports there must be an unbiased approach. Therefore, the origins of the OBOR policy must be delved into. The One Belt One Road initiative is a project propounded and implemented in the various allied countries of China in the form of infrastructural projects via its various investment mechanisms. It was launched in 2013 by Chinese Premier Xi Jinping on the lines of the ancient "Silk Trade Route". It was proposed and is being implemented both "overland" and to facilitate "maritime trade". In the times of booming trade, Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were financially independent but currently they are in dire economic situations. In this particular case, almost a third of the entire GDP of both these countries are dependent on their trade with Russia. To release such "bottlenecks", the Chinese government announced this policy at the Indonesian session of the ASEAN meeting. So far, China has officially invested upwards of \$1 trillion in all of its infrastructural projects abroad. The scheme covers 65 countries and about 75% of the global energy resources. In the global construction industry alone, it has invested around \$ 340 billion.

African countries play a major role here since in certain cases, such infrastructural undertakings can be essential to China as well. For instance, due to OPEC cuts and trade sanctions China is in a position to rely on Angola and Nigeria for oil, with imports reaching the figure of 1.48 million barrels per day. In such cases, increased connectivity via port networks, shipping yards and other facilities can be utilised by China for trade purposes. At the same time, the impoverished African nations can also use the investments to their advantage and the AU's Agenda 2063 can be effectively achieved. China's a major investor in the African Renewable Energy market via the Forum for African Asian Cooperation(FOAC) . In another case the Exim Bank of China invested a total of \$3 billion in the Addis Ababa- Djibouti Railway Line , via the China Railway Group and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, which assisted that entire section of the continent ,especially during the time of severe crop failures during a Ethiopian drought. Due to the existence of a partially completed railway project, emergency supply of the grains unloaded at the Djibouti docking bays, was undertaken. But these obvious advantages come at various costs. The Hambantota port project is a clear example here. A total of \$146 million has been invested in Sri Lanka by the Chinese authorities. Due to an inability to repay some of the loans incurred, the Sri Lankan Government has decided to provide the Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port to the China Merchants Ports Holdings Company on a 99-year lease. Although the current government has expressly stated that the port cannot be used for military purposes, the political instability in the region can be strategically advantageous to China since during President Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime a PLAN Song- class submarine was allowed to dock at the port.

The establishment of China's first overseas naval base in Djibouti is another glaring example of debt trap diplomacy. Although the base was established on the pretext of protecting national interests from the Somalian pirates of the Bar El-Mandeb Strait and to promote the 'economic' welfare of Djibouti, its strategic position which ensures the protection of the Chinese Trade Routes passing via the Horn of Africa is the real reason for the construction of the base. Djibouti's financial inability to repay the staggering amounts of loans borrowed is the reason for this situation. In 2018 the debt incurred by the country was almost 105% of its GDP. The \$10 billion invested by China into the 14 mega projects being operationalized across the country and the \$1 billion borrowed by the nation from the Dragon for its domestic infrastructural projects have led to the acquisition of the port. The situation is so volatile that in 2015, the governor of the Nigerian Central Bank, Lamudi Sanusi stated in an interview to the Financial Times that the functions of China in the sub-Saharan region was nothing less than "Colonialism" in its full form.

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body of the United Nations whose primary objective is to protect and promote human rights around the world. Its parent-body is the United Nations General Assembly. Formed in 2006, it is one of the most important UN bodies, consisting of 47 member nations elected tri-annually, on a regional grouping basis to ensure equal representation of nations. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

It deals with issues ranging from women's rights, children's rights to racial discrimination and freedom of speech. It looks into various human rights abuse allegations committed by countries and upholds the dignity of human life.

The UNHRC has a special mechanism called the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under which the body reviews the human rights performance of the 193 member states of the UN. Through this mechanism of country reviewing, the UNHRC addresses human rights violations committed by various nations.

The UNHRC consults with several other organisations, especially regional and international NGOs to assess human rights issues in various countries and receives studies and recommendations from these NGOs.

In this simulation, the UNHRC acts as a consultative body that will provide solutions for the agenda items. The member nations will ultimately work on a resolution comprising all the discussed solutions.

Refer to the links below for more information-

<https://lawrencefreemanafricaandtheworld.com/tag/obor/>

https://www.focac.org/eng/zywx_1/zywj/t1594297.htm

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/implications-for-africa-china-one-belt-one-road-strategy/>

AU – The Codeine epidemic

The Codeine Epidemic is a rampant issue in most African nations. To get to the root of the topic at hand the technicalities of the Codeine ‘Prodrug’ must be considered. It is a substance usually occurring in the form of cough or painkiller syrups, coupled with Paracetamol and Ibuprofen. Due to its easy over-the-counter availability, this drug can be easily exploited. Ordinarily, excessive usage of the drug can be linked with depression or anxiety. A small dosage of ‘Broncleer’ is enough to give the user a high equivalent to any other intensive for almost half a day, with the effect beginning within 20 minutes of taking the drug.

The issue has a very powerful influence in Africa. A majority of the supply of this ‘opioid’ originates from South Africa and the distribution networks ensure that the drug reaches the most far-flung areas. SA was so affected that the country’s ‘Medicines Control Council’ is mulling over imposition of tighter regulations. The nation was brought under the ‘Codemisused’ research project of the European Union wherein its effects, extent and prospective solutions are formulated. In Nigeria, its addictive tendency is so irresistible that a greater percentage of the population (3.6%) use prescription opioids instead of heroin (2.2%) in 2013. International studies such as the United Nations World Drug Report of 2015 are currently being undertaken to tackle the issue better. The US Federal Drug Authority reported in 2016 that due to the genetic make-up of Ethiopians in particular, they will be more ‘pre-disposed’ to the negative effects of the drug. The Ethiopian Food Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Authority temporarily banned the substance that same year. But due to the general societal association of the substance to a ‘prescription drug’, the public perception of it is not as adverse. As long as anxiety and depression exist, the abuse of Codeine will continue unhindered.

In Nigeria, for instance, the National Depression Report states that a staggering third of the population, amounting roughly to 60% of the population exhibit depressive symptoms. 7.8% of the populace exhibits symptoms of anxiety. The fact that the pre-colonial Lunacy Laws of Nigeria have not been updated since 1958 and there are only 200 psychiatrists in the entire nation can be seen as the root of the entire problem. Due to the social stigma still prevalent in the nation, the citizen chooses to be very conservative and move away from seeking medical assistance. Instead they move to the cheapest alternative to deal with the mental pressure – Codeine.

Refer to the links attached below.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/unapproved-prescription-drugs-drugs-marketed-united-states-do-not-have-required-fda-approval/questions-answers-fdas-removal-unapproved-prescription-drug-products-containing-codeine-and>

<https://bhekisisa.org/article/2016-05-22-00-codeine-is-the-drug-of-choice-for-one-in-five-south-africans>

<https://bhekisisa.org/article/2014-12-12-council-seeks-cure-for-codeine-fix>

UNSC – The Yemen war

This issue begins in the year 1918 when Northern Yemen was granted independence during the Ottoman empire. The rest of Yemen existed as a British Protectorate until 1967 as the People's Republic of South Yemen. The geographical separation continued until 1990 after which the factions unified to form the Republic of Yemen, under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Almost immediately after his ascension, a civil war sprung up. The leader faced massive terrorist attacks by the Al-Qaeda and ISIL. This was followed by the 2011 Yemeni Revolution and Arab Spring. The seriousness of the protests, which initially began as a show of opposition towards the high rates of unemployment (35% of the populace) and the steadily declining GDP (70% of which came from petroleum, which had been exploited rapidly), escalated to violent agitations. President Saleh's refusal to resign or to not stand for re-election were important catalysts. The intensity was at its highest when 16000 protestors including college students gathered at Sana'a, the country's constitutional capital, to protest against the government. But despite the efforts taken by various parties, the President refused to step down. It was only being heavily injured as a result of a bomb blast within the Presidential Palace, and after being transported to Saudi Arabia for treatment, he temporarily transferred powers to his deputy, Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and, on his return to the nation, signed a treaty, transferring all his powers to Hadi. This is where the Houthi rebels, supporters of the Zaidi Shia population and of the former President Saleh come into the picture.

The Houthi rebels who claimed to oppose the rule of the 'incompetent' President Hadi, steadily acquired the entire regions of Sana'a and most of the Northern Yemeni provinces, in the years 2014 and 2015. Several members of the Yemeni Security Forces also supported this faction as the efforts taken by the Hadi Government to quell the growing terrorist tensions in the nation proved to be ineffective. Even the Sunni citizen of the nation supported the Houthi rebels in their efforts to oust the President. By the end of 2015, the agitations were so unbearable that the President was forced to flee the nation. Due to militant aggression towards Saudi Arabia, the oil giant was pulled into the scenario. The nation and eight other nations formed a coalition to support and aid the Hadi Government, with British, American and French resources. Unsolicited reports state that the Houthi rebels were receiving steady support from Iran in the form of arms and logistical services. Therefore, the coalition formed a blockade around Yemen. This created a severe humanitarian disaster, from which the citizens are still reeling.

The Hadi Government is currently operating from the port city of Aden. But the terrorist influence in the adopted capital has grown to transform into another major threat. The ISIL triple suicide attacks of 2016 and the assassination of the Governor of Aden with a car bomb showcases the level of sophistication of the seemingly extinguished terror organization. The fighting between the 'Coalition(pro government) , 'Houthi' rebels and the ISIL has hit the ordinary citizen hard. The UN Humanitarian Affairs Office has estimated that approximately 7500 lives have been lost and more than 30000 people have been wounded. Repeated attempts to broker peace pacts and ceasefires between the parties by the office have been in vain.

The nation has become the battleground for more powerful factions to flex their muscles. Torture techniques and sexual abuse of the citizen imprisoned at UAE's Detention Facilities has the USA ,via the Pentagon cracking down on the nation. Missile strikes by Iran- backed Houthi rebels into the territory of Saudi Arabia has further strained the relation between the two nations. A US Destroyer even fired missile salvos at three radar sites located within the Houthi territory , which was aptly justified by the Pentagon as 'revenge' for an attack on a US led military funeral, in early 2016.

Refer to the links attached for more information-

<https://www.ifmat.org/05/31/iranian-interference-yemen-violates-un-resolutions/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

UNHRC – Climate change and human rights

Right to water and sanitation, Right to health, Right to life, Right to food, Right to an adequate standard of living. These are just a few of the various Fundamental rights provided to the inhabitants of earth by way of the UDHR which are being violated as a result of the most prolonged and by far, disturbing man-made disaster ever sustained by the planet- Climate Change. Experts state that climate change will and is affecting the general set up of the Biological Ecosystem and causing disruptions to the ' cycle of life'.

Isolated events across the globe showcase that this 'nexus' is apparent in all countries. For instance, Belo Monte Dam of Brazil has caused societal disruptions, especially within the Amazonian communities, due to lack of communication networks within the Tribal Communities of the region. The deterioration of the flora and fauna in the region has led to the disturbance of the occupation and the livelihood of the indigenous tribes of the Xingu village of Brazil.

The 2010 Heatwaves of Russia is another clear example. Generally, heat waves exist for days. But due to this special situation, it existed for weeks. There was severe violation of the Right to Health in this case since almost 14000 Russians died in July 2010 alone, due to the heat. The pollution levels in the nation were five times greater than normal. For an entire month, the average temperature was almost 5 degrees warmer than the ordinary reading. It was so unbearable that to escape the heat, almost 2000 Russians lost their lives drowning in water. The ' Right to Food' was also severely violated since in 2010, the nation faced its worst drought in 40 years. Almost 90 million hectares of crops were lost.

The nations are collectively responsible for the occurrence of climate change and therefore, violation of human rights. But the liabilities are distributed disproportionately. For instance, the US is said to be one of the largest polluters in the world, with carbon emission levels of 16.4 metric tonnes of CO₂ , which is twice the emissions of China and India combined. The nation is currently falling behind its target of reducing emissions to 22-25% by 2025. And yet, the nation chose to pull out of the Paris Agreement citing ' industrial' reasons .The human interests being affected as a result, especially in Small Island Developing States(SIDS) are not considered by these irresponsible nations.

Refer to the links attached for more information-

https://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/admin/publication_files/2011.44.pdf

<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/14/11/2015/climate-change-and-human-rights-climate-justice-and-rights-small-island-states>

https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/cc_sids.pdf

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

UNHRC – Freedom of religion; Beirut Declaration

Right 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that the Right of freedom to practice and adopt any religion exists with every man. Various treaties and agreements are adopted across the globe to protect this right. The Rabat Plan of Action of 2012 was such an agreement that was reached with regards, specifically to “incitement to national, racial or religious hatred”. To further this line of investigation, special workshops were held in Vienna, Santiago de Chile, Bangkok and Nairobi. This ensured the collection of relevant information and resulted in a special workshop being convened in 2012 at Rabat to come to a final conclusion with regards to the relationship between Freedom of Expression and ‘ hate speech’.

The ‘ Beirut Declaration’ made by the ‘ Faith for Religions’ advocacy group via the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) builds on the Rabat Plan. There are in total 18 commitments that the members of the council have adopted. Various religious texts have been referred to in the process of creating these ‘ commitments’ such as the Quran, Guru Granth Sahib and the biblical works of Joshua.

Refer to the links attached for more information-

HRC resolution 16/18 on Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related form of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/21451/18CommitmentsonFaithforRights.pdf>

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/196

HRC resolution 6/37 on Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief

UNESCAP – Sustainable Development Goal 12

Sustainable Development Goal 12 refers to “responsible consumption and production” of economic resources by every nation in the world. The issue of inequitable distribution of the national resources and the diminished levels of resource mobility from one area of the market to another is a quintessential feature of an underdeveloped nation. This goal, along with the others which were established in 2016 based on the success of the Millennium Development Goals is being focused upon particularly in this committee. Until 2030, the United Nations Development Program has pledged to fund the process of achieving the SDGs. They are 17 in total.

- △ Summarized versions of the original provisions of Goal 12 are provided below
- △ Per capita food waste is to be brought down by half and post-harvest losses are to be eradicated.
- △ Sufficient and effective use of resources by the end of 2030
- △ To ensure the environmentally efficient disposal of chemical and other hazardous substances
- △ Large and transnational corporates are to be advised to adopt sustainable methods and to incorporate sustainability information
- △ To develop sustainable National Procurement Schemes (such as the Green Public Procurement scheme)
- △ To create and spread awareness regarding sustainability among the masses
- △ To promote the scientific temper and provide technical assistance in projects relating to Sustainability
- △ To bring into the mainstream certain instruments using which the impact of specific policies relating to sustainability can be measured.
- △ To remove harmful subsidies such as those promoting the extensive use of fossil fuels

In the end, “Responsible Consumption and Production” of both the resources and the product are the key factors which assist in the attainment of the goal. The particular cases of Peruvians Deyanira Mishari and Gregoria Cruz show us that there are certain societal elements which are eager to complete the task at hand.

Refer to the links below for more information-

<https://medium.com/@UNDP/small-grants-big-results-2b61397c61c7>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/see-sdgs-as-a-policy-framework-not-as-a-document-64743>

UNESCAP – Social protection

Social Protection refers to the upliftment , both social and economic, of the vulnerable and weaker sections of society. Due to the fact that Social Protection overlaps with a number of livelihoods, human capital and food security interventions (Harvey et al., 2007), its definition varies geographically and is described differently by different economists. They can be aimed at various distinct areas of society such as unemployment, empowering women or even reducing poverty.

Bismarck referred to ‘ social protection’ as ‘Social Insurance’. The term refers to compulsory public insurance programs that protect against various common economic risks: notably, loss of income due to illness, maternity, disability, unemployment, and old age .

‘ Social Safety Nets ’ are a few other components which are to be considered as well. They refer to a collection of services which prevent the individual who is part of the target group for which the Nets are made, from falling below the accepted level of a particular societal aspect , such as ‘poverty’.

The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) is the World Bank’s device via which it collects its necessary information regarding the Social Protection and Labour (SPL) indicators and analyse the given information to check the pulse of the economy. It was launched in 2012.

There are various examples across the globe that needs to be studied to understand this concept better, The Takaful and Karama programmes of Egypt which are women oriented. The former covers 2.26 million households. 88% of that number are women. The later phrase refers to unconditional pensions to the poor, elderly, the cut-off age being 65 years and to those with severe disabilities. The reduction of poverty , especially in relation to severely food insecure households, via the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Program, by 7% is another success that needs to be considered. The Peruvian childhood stunting rates were brought down to 13% in 2016 via the Juntos cash transfer program within just about eight years. The Nicaraguan ‘community-based social welfare model’ ensured that around 18000 families was assisted and that the national school enrolments increased by 90%.

Refer to the links attached below to learn more regarding the matter.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/publication/golden-aging>

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29115>

<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/aspire/>

CCC – Timeline of events

For efficient reporting on the matter, the entire fictional timeline of the committee is to be known. Therefore, the exact occurrences have to be known, which are listed in excruciating detail in the CCC BG on the website. The link to that is attached below.

http://www.harishree.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CHSVMUN2019_CCC_Timeline.pdf

But, if the reporters of CCC find the BG inadequate for their INDIVIDUAL preparations, then the members of the IPC EB can be personally approached.