 

**Position Paper**

**Modern United Nations**

**1.Summary**

Committee: ECOSOC/2

Country: Spain

Delegate: Arhan Barel

Topic: Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations

The report contains an outline of measures which should be taken to strengthen humanitarian coordination and response, information on humanitarian trends, challenges and recommendations, including in response to escalating humanitarian suffering due to conflict, the climate crisis and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

**2.The problems**

Displacement continued to rise. By mid-2020, there were 26.4 million refugees worldwide.6 By the end of 2019, the number of internally displaced persons had reached an all-time high, with 45.7 million people forcibly displaced by conflict and violence. Another 5.1 million people remained displaced owing to disasters. 7 In the first six months of 2020, there were 14.6 million new internal displacements, including 4.8 million triggered by conflict and violence and 9.8 million by natural disasters.8

Local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were at the frontlines of response, delivering in hard-to-reach places. Women and women-led organizations undertook indispensable roles. Despite challenges, the international humanitarian system stayed and delivered a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, working in partnership with Governments and local organizations, and continued to adapt its responses. The Emergency Relief Coordinator convened Inter-Agency Standing Committee partners regularly and, two weeks after the declaration of a pandemic, released the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 as an unprecedented humanitarian system-wide response to meet needs in 63 countries.

**3.The Recommendations**

Member States and parties to conflict should respect and protect health and humanitarian workers, and their facilities and assets, including by immediately stopping all attacks against them and taking all feasible precautions to avoid them in military operations. They should take all practical measures necessary to protect medical and humanitarian missions, including those defined in the recommendations made pursuant to Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) and should not criminalize the provision of medical care and humanitarian assistance, and should strengthen accountability for serious violations and incorporate into domestic law required protections under international law.

Member States, parties to conflict, the United Nations and humanitarian and development actors must take urgent measures to avert famine and respond to acute food insecurity. Member States and parties to conflict must allow and facilitate humanitarian access to civilians in need, never use starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, investigate suspected incidents and hold perpetrators to account and fully adhere to and implement Security Council resolution 2417 (2018). Member States should increase contributions to humanitarian response plans and support humanitarian partners working with the United Nations to scale up response measures. They should enhance humanitarian, development and peace collaboration, investing in agriculture, climate adaptation, health, water and sanitation, nutrition and protection, and protect lives, livelihoods and food production, scaling up support for risk-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection and providing urgent and flexible funding.