**Topic :** The refugee problem in Austria-Hungary

**Country:**  Islamic Republic of Iran

**Delegate:** Bera Nur Gençtürk

**Committee:** UN Security Council (UNHCR)

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, beginning with the formation of the Elamite kingdoms in the fourth millennium. It was first unified by the Iranian Medes in the seventh century and reached its territorial height in the sixth century, when Cyrus the Great founded the Achaemenid Empire, which became one of the largest empires in history, and the world's first superpower. The empire fell to Alexander the Great in the fourth century and was divided into several Hellenistic states. An Iranian rebellion established the Parthian Empire in the third century, which was succeeded in the third century by the Sasanian Empirer, a major world power for the next four centuries.

Iran hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. According to the latest figures communicated by the Government in October 2020, on which consultations are ongoing, 800,000 refugees live in Iran, of which 780,000 are Afghans and 20,000 are Iraqis. Additionally, it is estimated that some 2 million undocumented Afghans and nearly 600,000 Afghan-passport holders live in Iran – it is expected that a significant number of those individuals continue to have international protection needs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted urban refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees for over four decades. Forty years on since the 1979 Soviet invasion and the subsequent waves of violence, displacement from Afghanistan continues in the longest protracted refugee situation covered under UNHCR’s mandate. Nearly five million Afghans remain displaced outside of the country; of these, 90% are hosted by the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran.

The main of situation is Islamic Republic of Iran supports refugee rights and we’re here for them. We think countries with opportunities should embrace refugees because they need us.