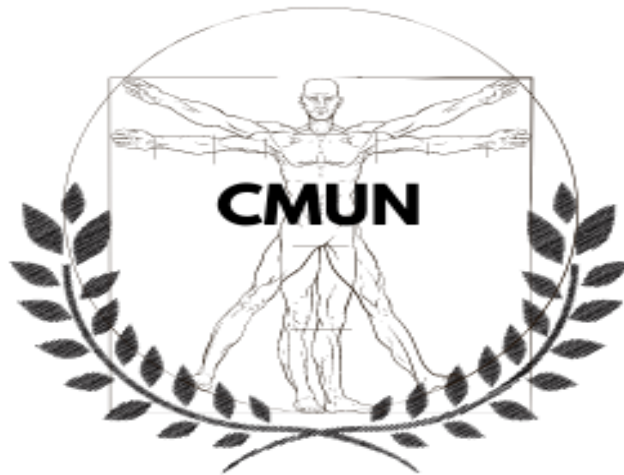


CENTURY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021



STUDY GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

Safeguarding Human Rights During the Development of Emerging Nations

Welcoming Letter

On behalf of the first session of the Century Model United Nations (CMUN), I am pleased to welcome you all as the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Human Rights Council. As CMUN dais, we wanted to prepare a highly innovative and educational committee environment for you, with a focus on policy making and learning from the past for our common concerns around the world. And without a doubt, the agenda item that will be discussed in our committee is on poverty and development, which has shaken the whole world and has become the biggest attack on the nature of human rights. You will examine the connection between these two concepts through countries that have started to emerge. We look forward to meeting and connecting with you all, albeit online. Therefore, I would like to introduce our esteemed chairs and academic assistant. **Esma Zeynep Boztosun** serves as the President Chair of our committee. I'm sure her determination and passion will make this committee unstoppable! If you take to our esteemed Vice-Chair **Ceylin Karahan** with any problem, there is no way it will not be resolved. With her helpfulness, positivity and committee dominance, she will enable us to smooth out any process. And finally, **İrem Nur Kaya**, our invaluable academic assistant. Her procedural knowledge and disciplined work before and during the conference will impress you. If you have any questions during, before or after the conference, you can reach any of us through the e-mail addresses on the last page.

Lara Su Açar

Under-Secretary-General

Introduction to the Committee

The duties of the United Nations are to investigate any contentious situation that may lead to an international conflict, to propose terms of agreement and to prepare supervisory plans. In this process, it receives help from six auxiliary organs. The Human Rights Council has been the UN political body of the Human Rights Commission since June 2006, and is a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation by States parties of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Council consists of 47 Member States elected directly and by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the United Nations General Assembly. Our committee is responsible for discussing and making decisions on global human rights issues and human rights situations in specific countries. It enables the appointment of independent experts to review human rights abuses in specific countries and to examine and further advance global human rights issues, and has human rights mandates aimed at contributing to the protection and promotion of human rights through peacekeeping operation and political and peacebuilding missions and both immediate and long-term action.



Introduction to the Agenda

An emerging nation (or an emerging market or country) has some characteristics of developed countries, but cannot fully meet all their standards at the same time. The most important point to be aware of, and which will be the main issue throughout the committee, is that emerging nations are transitions from underdeveloped countries, previously characterized by widespread chronic poverty and insufficient economic development. These countries are often host to serious human rights violations mostly due to their geopolitical position. However, an individual from countries suffering from scarce human capital, population growth and/or lack of resources must also benefit from all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with anyone else. And if a country has started to emerge, an opportunity arises for these citizens that should not be lost or abused.

Human rights and development are two mutually dependent concepts, and there is a direct proportion between them in its simplest and most unambiguous form. At the point where there is no or insufficient progress, there is little confidence in the applicability of human rights. However, as development increases, it may seem easy to simply embody core values such as dignity, equality and respect, but it is not always so. The reason for this is the lack of a state system that understands the rules of social development and can apply human rights theories in underdeveloped countries. When those countries begin to emerge, how should this system be developed and, accordingly, how should existing problems be resolved?

It is now an unacceptable problem of today's world that emerging countries, which have started to gain a much heavier responsibility, visibility and recognition all around the world than

before, are not sufficiently determined and qualified to contribute positively to the protection of human rights in both national and international framework. Our expectation from the delegates of this committee is to find answers in order to soften this transition of emerging and probable emerging nations of the future. What can previously poverty-stricken emerging countries do better when they achieve a 'developed country' status?

Frequently Confused Terms

Emerging Country/Nation: Countries with low incomes that are transitioning from a less developed and pre-industrial economy to a modern, industrial economy with a higher standard of living. They witness massive economic growth due to the development of industrial and technological sectors. The Human Development Index is low in these countries and 'Transition' is essential.

Developing Country/Nation: Countries with a less developed industrial base and a sovereign state with a lower human development indicator (HDI) than other developed countries. Since they adhere to traditional growth practices, they do not witness a significant growth in their economies.

Developed (Industrialized) Country/Nation: Countries with a mature and sophisticated economy, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) and/or average per capita income, and with advanced technological infrastructure and diverse industry and service sectors

History of the Topic and Related Past Actions

After the 18th century, depending on the dynamics created by the French Revolution and the industrial revolution in Europe, there were changes in people's living, thinking and working conditions, and accordingly, social policy emerged and developed in this period. Undoubtedly, one of the most important facts that will shape social policies is poverty. Poverty manifests itself more intensely in periods when social change and transformation is rapid and inequalities in income distribution deepen. But this phenomenon has become complex, changed and differentiated over time. Differentiation in income levels and consequently changing living standards and eventually migration from rural to urban and industrialized countries have led to the emergence of new forms of poverty. Poverty is experienced in different dimensions and intensities all over the world, as a result of the historical and unique conditions of the countries and their geography, as well as in some cases as a result of unequal developments and crises. Anti-poverty policies and the successful implementation of these policies are of particular importance in terms of taking the necessary measures to prevent the masses from accessing poverty and resources.

The World Bank is the main international body dealing with poverty prevention in emerging nations, and its policies on tackling poverty have varied over time. According to many development economists in the 1960s, the best way to reduce poverty was to accelerate it. With the industrialization of developing countries and greater investment in infrastructure, more emphasis was placed on rural development in the 1970s. In the 1980s the situation was completely different. Because many developing countries have faced significant macroeconomic problems with increasing debt and decreasing foreign exchange incomes. As a result, the Bank's main interest has shifted to maintaining macroeconomic balance rather than tackling poverty. Increasing the role of the market and reducing the economic weight of the people began to be actively supported. Discussions about the impact of these programs, which the World Bank carries out

together with the IMF (International Monetary Fund), are still ongoing, and the economic conditions have caused the Bank to put the fight against poverty on its main agenda again. Thus, a special World Development Report on the fight against poverty was prepared in 1990.



It undermines hopes that goals are being met and poverty reduction is not being achieved, or even worsened in some regions, in countries that have followed standard development prescriptions recently recommended by leading institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) defines poverty as depriving the opportunities for human development (lifelong health, a creative life, an average standard of living, freedom, self-confidence, dignity) and preventing the limitation of the concept. Undoubtedly, in order to examine this dimension of poverty, very large and especially social statistics are needed. For this purpose, UNDP uses indicators such as life expectancy, literacy, child mortality and real purchasing power. These factors are added to the Human Development Indices (BMI) and form the basis for measuring the degree of human development.

In recent years, a broad consensus has emerged in the international community on ending poverty as one of the most important goals of development. This consensus has gained a concrete

quality by setting global goals known as the Millennium Development Goals in the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in 2000. Eliminating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring universal basic education for all, gender equality and women's empowerment, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and establishing a global partnership for development are set out in the Declaration as targets to be achieved by 2015. In previous decades, international development goals have not been so clearly defined and focused on poverty and the poor. Although concerns about a widespread poverty problem around the world have been the main factor in keeping development on the international agenda since the 1950s, policies and strategies on this issue were led in the 1960s and 1970s by economic objectives shaped on the basis of infrastructure investments, human capital and industry. These policies were guided by economic liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s, and by institutional and administrative reforms after the 1990s. Various social and political actors, especially non-governmental organizations and academics, have repeatedly criticized national and international strategies for neglecting the human dimension of poverty and development.

Amartya Sen's capacity approach has played a central role in discussing poverty not only on the basis of lack of income, but also in the context of lack of basic humanitarian capacities, especially since the 1990s, which has influenced the development policy agenda intensively. Amartya Sen has managed to attract the attention of the international agenda that it is critical that fundamental freedoms and human rights are included in economic analysis. In this study, the background of approaching the fight against poverty in terms of human rights is analyzed within the framework of Amartya Sen's capacity approach. The capacity approach is discussed in the context of the role that poverty and human rights discourses play in approaching each other. As a

matter of fact, the capacity approach constitutes the theoretical basis of the humanitarian development approach included in the Humanitarian Development Reports published annually by the United Nations since 1990. Human development and human rights approaches look at the problem of poverty from a common perspective in the context of the development of basic capacities and fundamental freedoms. In particular, the Declaration of the Right to Development adopted by the United Nations in 1986 underlines the equality of opportunity in the realization of the right to development in access to basic resources such as education, health, food and housing. The first article of the Declaration states that the right to development is an indispensable human right based on the fact that all peoples and peoples have the right to participate and contribute to a development process in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized (United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, md.8).

Current State of Affairs

With the exception of the activities of some non-governmental organizations, human rights and development work generally takes place in a different institutional framework than in other environments, although these are two interconnected concepts. Human rights policies are discussed at major international conferences and interpreted and monitored by the UN Commission on Human Rights. US, Europe and Africa Regional Human Rights Commissions and Courts; National Courts and Human Rights Institutions; And, in most cases, bureaucrats in many countries under the Legal Department. Development policies are entirely created and implemented by other institutions. At the international level, this is the mission of the United Nations Development Program and UN special agencies such as the World Bank. At the national level, this function carries out state control (usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) that interacts with the relevant state institutions in developing countries. Obviously, how much these core subjects of

bureaucracy, such as growth, distribution, effective resource allocation, sustainable development, agricultural development, and more recently, decentralization and good governance, are those of human rights institutions. It overlaps. Also, "developer" professional training, their traditions and education, are mainly at the crossroads of economics, sociology, political science and social sciences, while "human rights defenders" are mainly legal scholars .. Differences can also be observed in professional ethics in both areas. Development workers measure quality based on effective and goal-oriented pre-resource and social well-being (sometimes defined as "happiness"), or overall independence and equality, whereas human rights, Workers are based on including the development of human rights standards. And the legal rules of a particular culture. However, there is an increasing convergence here as political participation and social processes of change become more recognized in both fields.

Major Organizations Involved

A. The World Bank

The World Bank Group, one of the autonomous agencies of the United Nations, promoting economic and social progress by helping to increase productivity in developing countries so that their people can live better and fuller lives, is committed to fighting poverty in all its dimensions, and helps them develop sound policies that can help the citizens of every currently and probable emerging countries. The World Bank has two mandates:

1. End extreme poverty by reducing the share of the global population living in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030.
2. Promote shared prosperity by increasing the incomes of the poorest 40% of people in every country.

B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund is an organization that aims to reduce global poverty, promote international trade and promote financial stability and economic growth, and has three main functions:

1. Overseeing economic development,
2. Lending,
3. Capacity development.

Currently, some key emerging market economies transitioning from a low-income, less developed, generally pre-industrial economy to a modern, industrial economy with a higher standard of living, according to the IMF, include India, Mexico, Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, China and Brazil.

- <https://www.imf.org/en/Home>

C. OPAD (The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development)

OPAD, a non-profit international non-governmental organization, actively works for the eradication and alleviation of poverty by taking initiatives for the elimination of world problems such as human rights, sustainable development and climate change. Most of the major contributors to their work are volunteers, ranging from local to business people. OPAD is currently working with the United Nations on 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

- <https://opad.eu>

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

There are aspects of emerging countries foreign policies that can and should be modified to reveal more clearly the role of human rights issues in their international actions. How can those policies be modified? In certain developing countries geopolitical considerations also tend to influence attitudes to human rights. What can be done to minimize the influences of geopolitical considerations that are conflicting with the human rights? The other problem is that they frequently abstain in multilateral fora from supporting resolutions condemning flagrant human rights abuses. How can the democracy be strengthened at the national level in these emerging countries to avoid the inconsistencies? How can the emerging countries be more determined to protect and apply human rights in a national framework? And as stated before, what can previously poverty-stricken emerging countries do better when they achieve a 'developed country' status?

Optional Reading Section

Below are chairboard-recommended resources that delegates can use in their research for further information.

A Human Rights Approach to Development:

- <https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/hurq23&div=46&id=&page=>

Revitalising United Nations Work on Human Rights and Development:

- <https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/mulr18&div=26&id=&page=>

Human Rights, Democracy, and Development

- <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.7591/9780801467493-015/html>

An Emerging Market for the New Millennium: Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

- https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781403937520_1

Human Rights, Emerging Markets, and International Business

- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327142077_Human_Rights_Emerging_Markets_and_Int

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Other

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<http://eskidergi.cumhuriyet.edu.tr/makale/194.pdf>

<https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/179252>

<https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/uploads/sygm/uploads/pages/uzmanlik-tezleri/6-kuresellesme-ve-yoksulluk-birlesmis-milletler-undp-ve-dunya-bankasi-gostergeleri-isiginda-bir-analiz-munir-tireli.pdf>

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