

**Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS**



Cleveland-Autumn Conference 2019

Position Papers for:

United Nations High Commission for
Refugees



*Delegation from: the Islamic State of Afghanistan
Represented By: Saint Joseph Academy*

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The Islamic State of Afghanistan supports the improvement of refugee camps and supports the idea that if people do not leave their country, then they will not face any refugee barriers.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Refugee camps are temporary living settlements for displaced people who have been forced to leave their homes. Most refugees have to flee their homes because of violence or oppression. The camps aim to protect the refugees and to prepare them for life outside of the camps. The camps are very crowded and unsanitary due to the fact that 37,000 people are forced to leave their homes every day and attend refugee camps. On average, there is no running water or electricity, there are high rates of sexual assault, overcrowding, and little food in the camps.

There are around 2.3 million refugees that came out of Afghanistan to get away from the violence and persecution. Afghanistan supports voluntary repatriation and assistance to host countries. We are committed to assisting refugees that want to go back to Afghanistan. We have built 220,000 houses, constructed more than 10,000 water points, and given cash grants to 4.6 million returnees to assist with an immediate need. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has provided land to landless returnees, and legal and employment assistance. We still believe that more needs to be done for the refugees.

Aid is needed for countries that have lots of refugees and for those working with resettlement. Voluntary repatriation is the most preferable solution and the international community should work together to help all refugees that want to return. International organizations, NGOs, other UN agencies, and the private sector, should provide assistance to returnees and their reintegration into their country's society (housing, jobs, etc.).

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

An environmental Refugee is a person who is forced to leave their home region due to a sudden or long-term change to their local environment. The natural disasters can include droughts, desertification, sea-level rise, and disruption of seasonal weather patterns (hurricanes, monsoons, etc). Their barriers are that they are not considered refugees by the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, meaning they can not get as much assistance/protection.

Afghanistan has worked with international colleagues to map the most disaster-prone areas, identifying ways to strengthen the country's institutional response, and improving collaboration

within the government, community, and provincial levels. Afghanistan has been going through a drought and 275,000 people have been displaced because of it. We have invested in disaster risk reduction for resilience and in enhancing disaster readiness for an effective response in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Afghanistan would like to see improved flood defenses and more efficient water storage and irrigation processes. Countries should have disaster preparedness, response plans, and a disaster-resilient mindset. We encourage member states to be committed to achieving the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Delegation from: the Republic of Algeria
Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Commissions on Refugees

The issues presented before the United Nations Commission are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Algeria is interested in improving living conditions for refugees, and addressing barriers for environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

We have had a long history with refugees leaving our country so we are concerned with the well-being of our people after they have left our borders or have entered our refugee camps. While we do support 9300 refugees in our camps, however, we have run out of space as of late so we have begun to turn away new immigrants. Our nation has a long history with this topic, and this is why we are concerned with it.

Currently our nation houses thousands of refugees, and migrants in general. But, we cannot support this new influx of population and thus we have to turn away, and in some cases, deport thousands of refugees annually. While we have not attended a conference where we reached a consensus on our treatment of refugees, we have come to an understanding that is widely accepted but it is imperfect. We have quite cramped conditions for refugees needing to be removed from our borders, and we do not have the resources to provide them with ample supplies for traversing the desert.

There have been many resolutions proposed to solve our refugee crisis, and these are a choice selection of them. To start, we propose that we improve conditions for refugees. This means improving conditions in camps, as well as conditions of the trucks we are expelling people on. Conditions of refugees being expelled to Niger and Mali could be improved by providing food and water to people deported as well as sending them to villages instead of into an open desert.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Our nation has had vast quantities of environmental refugees over the years, and we would like to resolve this. Addressing these barriers would provide us time to figure out ways we could possibly solve this recurring issue. Algeria is located off of the Sahara desert, this is where most refugees go after deportation, however, this is very dangerous because they do not have adequate supplies to survive. As expressed the republic of Algeria would be welcomed to fixing these recurring issues.

Right now, our nation, is presented with barriers for environmental refugees. Since the republic of Algeria is located in the Sahara desert, it is extreme to travel here. However many people still do, because of this many people develop conditions from the smoldering heat in the desert. Many of these refugees come in to our country with poor conditions and need aid, however, we have exercised all our resources and can no longer help the sick. Although we have created a process to help the environmental refugees. Our nation has taken steps to determine who needs immediate care by: addressing social detriments of health and health inequality for refugees and migrants, medical and psychological care for victims of violence, and targeted immunization campaigns.

Overall the republic of Algeria has started to take precautions on these environmental refugees. We started a plan to aid said refugees and created new interventions, to further help these refugees. Furthermore we have considered many ways to help and address the environmental barriers, and we have taken these solutions and implemented them.

Delegation from: The Commonwealth of Australia
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees

The Human Rights Council faces two major issues that will be addressed. These issues are: the improvement of living conditions and services in refugee camps and barriers for environmental refugees. The Commonwealth of Australia is devoted to improving the lives of refugees and accounting for environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Historically, the Commonwealth of Australia has offered asylum to many refugees, beginning in 1945, largely due to the mass displacement of Europeans after WWII. Australia has also dealt with several waves of refugees since WWII and has adopted a strict system for processing refugees seeking asylum. Those seeking asylum, are assessed using several criteria in order to analyze eligibility and priority for asylum, as Australia will only accept a certain quota of refugees annually.

While the Commonwealth of Australia has a particular process for granting refugees asylum, they will offer a select number of refugees asylum, while detaining remaining refugees offshore arbitrarily to either be returned to their respective country or wait to be granted a visa. The UN makes numerous referrals and suggestions to refugees for resettlement; however, Australia reserves the power to grant asylum based on further assessment of refugees. However, the Commonwealth of Australia holds its own domestic position on refugees and will adhere to them. The Commonwealth of Australia continues to be dedicated to the improvement of living conditions for refugees as well as the preservation of the human rights of refugees.

The Commonwealth of Australia is committed to looking into solutions for improving living conditions and services in refugee camps. Refugee camps must be humane, yet they must not divert the attention of NGOs from other more pressing issues, such as relocation from dangerous areas prior to placement in refugee camps. In order to address psychological issues in refugee camps in children and adults, psychologists along with therapists would be stationed in refugee camps. Another idea being the dissolution of offshore detention centres. These centres have been the epicenter of mass harm and loss of life, and further assessment of these camps will be taken to reduce strife among refugee populations. While Australia has acknowledged these conditions, active efforts have been taken in order to develop new solutions to improve the condition of refugees.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Climate change has created a new issue for the UNHCR. Climate change has created a new type of refugee that is currently not addressed by the UNHCR. The refugees that have been displaced due to flooding, increases in temperature leading to crop death, and contaminated water. The Commonwealth of Australia recognizes the dangers of climate change and has implemented policies in an attempt to slow climate change.

Climate change is a serious issue that must be addressed by the international community. It is the UNHCR's duty to protect and offer services to refugees. People displaced by environmental changes should not be disregarded by the UNHCR. The Commonwealth of Australia recognizes the needs of those displaced by climate change. The refugees of climate changes, must be treated equally to those displaced by wars. The UNHCR will have failed its goal if it fails to protect the needs of those fleeing from climate change.

The Commonwealth of Australia wishes to work together with the UNHCR in continuing to protect refugees and as such proposes that the UNHCR recognizes the need to address environmental refugees. Those displaced by issues stemming from climate change must be addressed as refugees and not simply as migrants. Those that leave fit the need for refugee status, they are forcibly displaced and forced out of their current homes. The UNHCR must provide the same standards to environmental refugees as it would to political refugees. The refugees have no control over their situation and therefore need the help of the UNHCR to provide them with safety and protection.

Delegation from: Austria

Represented by: Campus International High School

Position Paper for the High Commission for Refugees

The issues presented before the High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Austria stands in support for actions which seek to improve living conditions and services, and to address barriers for environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Refugees are defined as being people who have to flee their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disasters. In the past, the United Nations has focused on the resettlement of displaced people by the war but still refugee camps had to deal with overcrowding, food shortages, no running water and sexual assault. The lack of essentials and amenities make it unpleasant to live in these camps and even occasionally dangerous to the health and safety of the refugees.

Austria has always opened their arms to refugees. In 2018 Austria took in a total of 13,686. Even with Austria being one of many wealthy countries they still dealt with lack of running water and food shortages, as do many refugee camps. Have a consistent stream of clean water is very important to an individual and community's health because without it diseases can spread.

Solutions to the problems that refugees have already exist, but lack execution and application. And so the delegation from Austria calls for the UNHCR to come together to create a task force to ensure that best practices are being implemented consistently and that when nations don't have the resources to do so that they receive the support that they need.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As the impacts of climate change and global warming become more visible over time, so does the number of displaced persons because of it. Environmental issues create human rights issues, particularly for refugees. In 2017, there were around 18.8 million long term and short term climate related displacements. The United Nations General Assembly acknowledges that climate, environmental degradation, and natural disasters interact with refugee movements, but the term “climate refugee” can cause confusion, as it is used in media and other discussions, but it does not exist in international law nor is it endorsed by the UNHCR. Although it is not recognized, it is a reality. The changing environment impacts society and ecosystems in a variety of ways. For example, climate change and alter rainfall, affect human health, cause changes to forests as well as other ecosystems. Climate related health issues can range from premature deaths, PTSD and other mental illnesses, water-borne illnesses and other various infectious diseases. Poor air quality can aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions and can affect the heart and cardiovascular system. Breathing polluted air for long periods of time can cause more serious, long term health issues.

Historically, Austria’s reputation for taking in refugees has been excellent. The number of displaced Syrians in Austria amounted to around 18,000 people in 2015. Between the summer of 2015 and 2016, Austria was one of the European countries most affected by the refugee crisis. In 2015, more than 88,00 people requested asylum in Austria. In 2016, another 42,000 people did so. At the height of the crisis 10,000 to 12,000 people arrived seeking refuge at the Austrian border everyday. As demonstrated, our continued acceptance of refugees exhibits Austria’s investment in the refugee crisis.

The lack of recognition of environmental refugees creates a lack of validity of their refugee status. Actions taken by the international community, UNHCR included, are currently inefficient and lacking in providing the care for those who fall under the category of an environmental refugee. The delegation of Austria believes that the UN should officially recognize environmental refugees by expanding the criteria of who is protected under refugee status.

Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Delegation From: Bangladesh

Represented by: Westlake High School

Barriers to environmental refugees have been an ongoing problem for refugees. Barriers are blockades set for people or objects. In this case, these barriers are blocking out communications with other countries, people and health-care services. This topic is a global problem because these barriers are blocking everyone, not just the refugees. The provision of effective health care to linguistically and culturally diverse migrant populations is a critical public health challenge. Communication barriers severely hamper refugees' and migrant's access to, and use of health-care services. To help inform the development of national policies, a new Health Evidence Network (HEN) synthesis report has been published summarizing that the best available evidence on strategies to address communication barriers for refugees and migrants. The report identifies policies and formalized responses for addressing communication barriers in 14 countries, which can be categorized under cultural mediation, interpretation, translation of health information, and guidance and training for healthcare providers. It's also greatly affecting people internationally because this is an issue running throughout all refugee camps.

Many speeches, programs, events, agreements, and reports have been made about the barriers to environmental refugees. One said Climate has displaced people and it is increasing day by day. It was affected by the direct effects of climate change. It focused on vulnerabilities of the adverse effects of climate change, rather than defining the rights and status of climate affected victims. Action needs to be taken now because slowly this problem will grow and cause more issues for refugees and its' camps.

Bangladesh is very keen on addressing the barriers to environmental refugees. They believe it is important to refugee camps and for the refugees. Bangladesh has identified and created policies and responses for addressing communication barriers for 14 countries. They have been able to identify some strategies to be used to support access to health care, management of specific diseases and promotion of health across many health care settings. In Bangladesh, there is a rapid need to create better health care situations because as the refugee camps begin to grow, space becomes cramped allowing more diseases to pass and as this continues health care is more of a need. Based on findings, Bangladesh has been encouraging the collaboration between statutory health care organizations and nongovernmental organizations which means there may be a reduced barrier for health care. Bangladesh is trying to create this collaboration in hopes of creating a health care program with help from other organizations for the refugees. Bangladesh has been taking steps to try to solve this ongoing issue with the barriers because they have some of the largest refugee camps in the world.

There is an integrated approach to solving this issue that is implanted in close cooperation with countries of origin, host states, humanitarian and development actors, as well as the refugees themselves usually offers the best chances for success. By promoting access to health services and strengthening health monitoring and by protecting and improving health conditions we should be able to at least make a dent in these barriers for the refugees. If no solutions are being created, millions are going to suffer and die. Together we should be able to create a solution to help all the refugees suffering from barriers set on them.

Delegation: Federative Republic of Brazil
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees today is to improve living conditions and services in refugee camps and to address the barriers for environmental refugees. The Federative Republic of Brazil believes that it is necessary to create policies and resolutions with the other nations within this committee to resolve this issue

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The UNHCR defines a refugee camp as, “a temporary accommodation for people who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence and persecution.” Though several nations deal with a high influx of refugees, it is set for the government to establish how they will deal with the refugees. As the United Nations or any international body sets no minimum requirement for what is necessary for a refugee camp. Refugee camps are growing rapidly as conditions in unstable nations become less safe. The terms and conditions for dealing with an influx of refugees and refugee camps to be created depending on the financial state and political position of a nation. The Federative Republic of Brazil seeks to create more and maintain refugee camps to address the violence against refugees and provide basic needs necessary. The Federative Republic of Brazil is willing to create a resolution with the other nations that await this issue to be resolved.

As Venezuela’s economy continues to falter, millions of refugees flood into the Federative Republic of Brazil. The issue has been so drastic that in the State of Roraima, “the size of the influx [of Venezuelan Refugees] makes it impossible to maintain essential public services.” The Federative Republic of Brazil sought aid for this incoming issue in the hopes of addressing widespread violence between Brazilian citizens and Venezuelan refugees. Since 2018, a state of emergency has been announced in the Federative Republic of Brazil as the UNHCR called the environment a Level 2 Emergency. The UNHCR responded to this issue with importance as, “some 800 people arrived in Roraima State each day.” Refugee camps have been established but with varying numbers of basic necessity requirements. The Federative Republic of Brazil continued to find resources to support the creation of refugee camps; more refugee camps were created with the election of Jair Bolsonaro. Still, due to a lack of resources, not enough refugee camps were created with a constant number of living conditions and services.

The Federative Republic of Brazil would like to emphasize that refugees be less dependent on government resources. If violence were to break out against refugees, then a government should institute refugee camps to contain refugees from violence. Since the major reason for such refugee camps is to provide shelter, the Federative Republic of Brazil believes that in nature, the camp should provide the basic necessities for a refugee. In the case of the Federative Republic of Brazil, most refugees gain jobs in the city as laborers, or forms of different workers who get paid the necessary amount for food, and water, but no guaranteed shelter. Thus, it is necessary just to provide shelter when food and water are already being gained. But, if a refugee is in an area with lots of shelter, and not much food and water, then that government should improve the living conditions for food and water rather than focusing on shelter. In

brief, the Federative Republic of Brazil wishes to demonstrate the improvement of the necessary living conditions of refugee camps in their specific area. This policy towards refugee camp living conditions has been performed by the Federative Republic of Brazil as seen with the providing of shelter to refugees who were being violently attacked, and with many refugee camps having varying numbers of basic necessities. To perform such a policy is a way for a nation to also save money and create more services for incoming refugees. The Federative Republic of Brazil wishes to share this policy towards the improvement of living conditions in refugee camps to the rest of the committee.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Though there is no formal definition of an environmental refugee, which is part of the problem, they are widely considered to be anyone displaced by a natural disaster or result of climate change (e.g. rising sea levels and extended droughts.) Because the traditional refugee definition, originating from the 1951 UNHCR convention, only accounts for people displaced by human persecution, the problem with environmental refugees is that many times, they are not recognized legally and therefore not accommodated as people with the same level of need as a traditional refugee. The Federative Republic of Brazil would like to support legitimate environmental refugees, whether that be by altering laws or by offering more tangible aid.

The lack of coverage for refugees by the 1951 Geneva Convention mentioned earlier has created many issues for legally helping refugees, foremost of which was seen in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. According to Isabel Piacentini de Andrade, the Haitian migrants, “did not fall within the definition of a refugee as their reasons for migrating were environmental disasters and instability” which meant that Brazil has had no legal grounds to accept or aid them as refugees. A temporary solution was reached in Normative Resolution 97, where a select number of Haitian migrants could obtain a visa in Brazil for two years (which has since been extended), but this is only a temporary solution that does not fully accommodate all environmental refugees, nor does it fully accommodate Haitian refugees’ actual needs. Not only are international environmental migrants not covered for, but neither are internally displaced people; floods from 2009 to 2011 and 2015 five-year drought in Northeastern Brazil forced 441,000 people from their homes, and there was “no legal framework to protect” them, according to the Guardian. What was and is needed is a broader change of the legal working definition of a refugees such that any environmental migrants in any place may be able to attain the same status and government aid as a traditional refugee, which could mean another law creating another subsection of refugee for natural catastrophe, or simply another group of people that must be offered humanitarian aid under international law. Relocation efforts are also not organized by a specific government department, nor are the tracking of refugees; rather, resources are obtained through a smattering of different federal institutions within Brazil.

The Federative Republic of Brazil will continue to draft laws implementing legislation extending the definition of refugee to those displaced by environmental events and would ask other countries to do the same. In the meantime, a temporary visa resolution could be reached in countries where environmental refugees are in imminent need. The Republic would also like to request funding for federal infrastructure in dealing with environmental refugees and to develop a digital database to track them, as well as funding for internal relocation efforts. Environmental migrants who are forced to come to Brazil or other

countries, without the correct legislative/legal framework, become detrimental to society and are even less accommodated than traditional refugees; aiding them in assimilation, housing, and reintegration is doing a favor for the country itself more than the refugees themselves.

Delegation from: Canada

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Canada is addressing these important issues before the UNHCR: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Canada is committed to the resolution of these important topics and looks forward to cooperating with other member states in collaboration for the advancement of refugee camps and environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

In 2018, the UNHCR estimated that there were 25.9 million refugees worldwide. About 80% of those refugees live in countries neighboring their country of origin, most in refugee camps. Many refugee camps are overcrowded, causing a strain on resources in countries with an already limited water per capita. This causes refugees to lack access to adequate food, clean water, and sanitation. Canada works with the UNHCR to resettle refugees and provide them with permanent homes, while ensuring that their rights as defined under the 1951 Convention and expanded on by the 1967 Protocol are protected. The 1951 Refugee Convention outlines that a refugee should at minimum be treated equally to a foreign visitor and ideally as a country national. The rights of refugees as outlined in the 1951 Convention are: “To not be expelled except under certain, strictly defined conditions, to not be punished by illegal entry into a contracting state, to work, to housing, to education, to public relief and assistance, to freedom of religion, to access the courts, to freedom of movement within the territory and to be issued identity and travel documents.” Canada is dedicated to protecting these rights of refugees and ensuring that their conditions are humane.

In 2015, Canada resettled 25,000 Syrian refugees in under 100 days, and an additional 14,000 by 2017. The Canadian Government allows private sponsorship of refugees and insures that refugees sponsored by the government receive adequate governmental assistance in their integration. Canada follows the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees as well as the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Canada was a ratifier of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civil Persons in Time of War and recognizes the displaced Syrians as refugees from a crisis. The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, made the following statement on December 10th, 2018, referencing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which a Canadian helped to draft, “Canada is unwavering in its commitment to protect and promote human rights. We will not stand idle while hundreds of thousands of people around the world suffer gross human rights violations, nor will we hesitate to condemn violations of human rights, regardless of where they take place.” The government of Canada recognizes that some of the conditions in refugee camps are not humane and is committed to improving conditions in refugee camps and working towards more permanent solutions.

Canada would first like to create a plan for making refugee camps more sustainable and humane by ensuring that all occupants have access to food and clean drinking water, as well as proper sanitation. Canada hopes to improve upon the design of refugee camps to make them more stable and permanent, as the number of refugees increases, refugees need to stay in camps for a longer

time before they are able to be resettled. The Canadian government hopes to work to lower intracamp violence and assault as well.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

In 2017, a reported 18.8 million internally displaced people were recorded as having left their home in relation to a disaster. Canada works closely with the UNHCR to resettle refugees and protect the rights of all those fleeing from persecution. The Canadian government follows the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, which expanded on the Convention. These important legal documents define the term refugee as someone who has fled their country “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.” This definition does not include fleeing due to environmental degradation, and there is currently no definition of “environmental refugee” in international law. In late 2018, Canada signed the United Nations’ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a pact between 167 countries to find solutions and strengthen these solutions for migrants that have been displaced as an effect of climate change.

In 2018, Canada resettled 28,000 refugees. This number was higher than any other country around the world. Canada is dedicated to aiding refugees and welcoming them into the country. The Canadian government acknowledges that forced displacement and migration can be an adverse effect of climate change. In 2010, Canada adopted the Cancun agreements along with the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. These agreements invite the parties to undertake “measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation.” Canada is also a leading nation in regard to creating and taking part in climate change legislation. In 1992, Canada signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which became an annual meeting for the purpose of limiting climate change. Canada is also a signatory to the 2015 United Nations Paris Agreement, which is likewise legislation with the intention of limiting global climate change. The Canadian government also created its own legislation to follow called the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Canada’s commitment to decreasing the effects of climate change and its progressive refugee policy will play a pivotal role in legislation regarding environmental refugees.

Canada is devoted to uplifting all people and will work tirelessly to support environmental refugees. Canada is willing to work with other countries that uphold similar ideals to address the social, legal, and economic barriers that environmental refugees face. The Canadian government hopes to comprehensively solve this issue through collaboration with the other members of this committee.

***Delegation from Mentor High
Representing China***

Position Paper for *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

The issues that will be discussed before the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are improving living conditions and services in refugee camps, Also addressing barriers for environmental refugees. China is against refugees and opening up to those refugees except for in specific cases. They attempt to stop the Uyghurs minority from leaving as refugees and deport all found Korean refugees back to North Korea. Yet they are open to Indochina refugees as they are seen as “Chinese who are returning to the mainland”, they are also open to some African/Middle East refugees under certain conditions. China does not have an official refugee organization and relies on the UNHCR for determining status and helping refugees in China. China hope we can further discuss these issues in front of the UNHCR and work together to find a favorable solution.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Refugee camps are areas meant to house refugees of one country in another, mostly meant to be temporary. People are forced to live in these camps for generally one of two reasons, they either have lost so much or don't have enough to afford to live anywhere else, Or two are forced to live or be held there by the country they have fled to. An estimated 2.6 million people live in refugee camps and 37,000 people are displaced due to violence and persecution. China works to provide humanitarian aid to any refugees that enter our borders and wishes to discuss on how to improve them.

China receives many refugees a year (about 250,000 according to the UNHCR), and china while not providing the best condition for refugees are adequate for the USCR's standards. China since 2000 has been working with the UNHCR to work on status for refugees and since then has been slowly improving camps. Despite this China has not passed sny known legislation formally through their government but does not have bad conditions. China works to make sure their citizens have adequate living conditions so they apply this to all who enter there country. We do have difficulty moving them out the camp into our country due to our high population of over 1 billion, so we attempt to move them to a third nation as to make sure they don't remain in one of our camps or the homeland for longer then needed. China further allows UNHCR access to these refugees in order to help move them and check on and work with them.

China would wish for the high commissioner to address this issue in a way that is fair to all nations and keeps the lives of the refugees as the main motive when making decisions. In addition, We wish that the UNHCR will pass resolutions to address and provide solutions to improving the conditions of refugee camps and setting an improved standard of living that is effective, yet fair to China and all nations.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Environmental Refugees are an important sector of refugees and make up a big percentage of all refugees. An estimated 22.5 million people have been displaced due to natural disasters since 2008. People are displaced due to short but destructive disasters like Hurricanes and Earthquakes and long but deteriorating disasters like droughts. Environmental Refugee numbers have increased due to an influx of Natural Disasters and disastrous effects in certain regions in the past decades. Since the early 1990's people have been working towards addressing environmental refugees and have been working towards specifically addressing them. The current problem is barriers easily prevent people from leaving despite it generally being a case of they need out at that moment. China wishes to address the problem and find a solution that helps refugees yet is good for each nation.

China has been mixed with refugees in the past and depending on the region are mostly closed off as they do not accept asylum seekers from most countries. Indonesians looking for refugee status who were affected by the earthquakes and tsunamis in the past 2 decades but were denied. Yet environmental Refugees from Indochina are accepted, although they aren't seen as refugees but Chinese who have returned to their home. Due to this China most likely is opposed to fully opening their borders of people affected by Natural environment in anyway unless its on their terms. This topic especially concerns China as they themselves and many of the nations around them face many disasters that relate to the environment. Countries like Indonesia, The Philippines, Burma, Bangladesh and Malaysia all surround china and are major countries that produce environmental refugees, yet they are open to none. China does have to worry about its own citizens who are greatly affected by the change in their own environment.

China wishes to for the High Commissioner once again to be fair to each nation and also keep in mind the situation each country is facing themselves with this situation. We also wish for the committee to find a solution that helps environmental refugees and either attempt to return them home if that can be done or to be relocated to a country that is fitting of each individuals needs and desires.

Country: The Republic of Croatia
Committee: High Commissioner for Refugees
Represented by: Hawken School

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

For many years now, an overwhelming number of refugees have been faced with limited places to escape to. Most times, the living conditions of the refugee camps can lead to the outbreak of many foreign sicknesses because the sanitation in the area is not up to WHO standards. Also, according to Duke University, mental health and suicide are very serious issues that have arisen throughout refugee camps worldwide. The tight spaces and the few resources that are provided have made many camps unsustainable and unsafe. Diseases spread throughout camps, and sexual assault has become a major issue throughout the past few years. The temporary camps have turned permanent.

The increase of refugees in 2015 made Croatia a prime refuge. Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic has expressed that though the borders will be left open, people will not be permanent residents in refugee camps. The plan is that the refugees will obtain medical care and then be transferred to other eastern European countries such as Hungary, Slovenia, and Germany. The main temporary refugee camp for those entering Croatia is currently located in Opatovac. However, in the past few years, Croatia has become violent with the new flow of refugees from the middle east. In May 2018, two children fell victim to gunshots fired by a border patrol officer when a van driven by a trafficker sped towards the border. The officer that shot the gun defended his actions by claiming it was self defense. Though only two of the twenty-nine refugees were injured by the shot, it is likely that it could have been avoided with other actions used to stop the vehicle. Also, in November 2017, Madina Hussiny-a six year old girl-and her family were unlawfully rejected by the Croatian border patrol. In winter while trying to find another way into Croatia, Madina was hit by a train and died. These incidents go against the Dublin Regulation, and raising concern for the treatment of refugees.

The backlash of these circumstances has led to Croatia wanting to obtain a system that better the lives of the refugees that come to their country for support. Croatia understands the past mistakes that have been made and the reason for concern, but would like to emphasize that not all refugees can be accepted into the country. Also, Croatia would like the stay of the refugees to be temporary, as to protect the culture and the lives of the citizens of Croatia.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Climate change has become more and more of a heated issue. Before Greta Thunberg's speech to the United Nations, countries and civilians have been increasingly impacted by rising water levels, desertification, or other natural crises. In 2017, there were about 18.8 million total people displaced by environmental disaster. These displacements may transverse between one nation and another and may coincide with other factors for migration. However, the UNHCR currently does not enforce the terms "climate refugees" and "environmental refugees," leading to decreased credibility and validity for those seeking asylum from environmental turmoil. Additionally, governmental laws and restrictions may prevent climate-related migration.

In Croatia, there is increasing awareness about climate change and the problems it brings. In The Croatian Human Development report in 2008, it was found that the public is very concerned with the state of the environment and climate change. Croatia has ratified the Paris Climate Accord and is committed to helping curb emissions and pollutants. Croatia itself is also experiencing several effects of climate change. Croatia has experienced an increase in average temperature, a decrease in precipitation, and an increase in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events such as droughts or storms. Croatia also has a coastline of about 1,777 km. This means that the citizens will be impacted by rising sea levels in the future. Additionally, Croatia is situated in the Danube basin, which means that 15% of its territory is prone to flooding. Stanford University estimates that the likelihood that climate change will reduce Croatia's GDP per capita by more than 10% is 48% and A reduction of greater than 20% is 37% likely.

Thus, Croatia supports the addition of climate-related migrations UN Global Compact for Migration and hopes that the UN will introduce policies to better aid Environmental Refugees. Croatia recognizes the potency of climate change through its impact on its own people, and supports the introduction of provisions to give environmental refugees the backing of the UN to seek asylum. Croatia acknowledges the validity of seeking refuge on the basis of the environment and wishes for the UN to establish legal backing for these refugees.

Country: Côte D'Ivoire

Western Reserve Academy

Committee: United Nations High Commission For Refugees

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission For Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission For Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. While open to suggestions, the Ivorian government and people are having a hard time trying to deal with the refugees as well as a lack of resources and a very recent and violent political unrest.

I. *Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps*

Since its independence from France in 1960, Côte D'Ivoire has kept its borders open to refugees. As of March 2019, there were over 600,000 stateless people and 1,785 refugees in Côte D'Ivoire along with 241 people seeking asylum. In the past decade, there has been political unrest, and that has caused the government's focus to sway away from the problems the Ivory Coast's refugees were facing. Now that a more stable head of government has been elected, Côte D'Ivoire has set its priorities back on that of the refugees. UNHCR, in partnership with the government of Cote D'Ivoire, is dedicated to protecting the rights of stateless people, as well as eradicating statelessness by 2024.

Concerning statelessness and refugee camps, most only offer the bare necessities for survival, sometimes even less. Though Côte D'Ivoire has its hands tied with many other matters, there is a group present there that has been helping. That would be the IRC (the International Rescue Committee). The IRC had been aiding the citizens as well as refugees in the Ivory Coast from 1994-1996 and then resumed its efforts in 2002 to the present day. This group, in cooperation with Côte D'Ivoire, has helped provide basic resources and offer funds for medicines and vaccinations. These two items that the IRC is helping with are some of the more pressing matters that the refugee camps are facing. The UNHCR is also making efforts in collaboration with President Alassane Ouattara to pursue local integration and resettlement, the latter was claimed to only be used as a protection mechanism. This group has been implementing community -based projects to address and improve the living conditions of returnees, refugees, and stateless people.

If the horrible treatment that refugees are receiving continues, many from the young generation growing up during this time will be without proper education, proper nutrition, a good role model, and even without parents, as the number of orphans is increasing greatly due to gender-based violence in these camps. The desired outcomes of these projects are that the number of refugees experiencing bad treatment at camps is diminished and that the quality of life at refugee camps is improved. These refugees are surviving off of only what they absolutely need. This is often because Cote d'Ivoire sees its limited resources better spent in ways that benefit the citizens directly. For the reasons above, it is very possible that the best course of action would be to supply more resources directly to the refugee camps where they can be used for the good of those who need it more.

II. *Addressing Barriers For Environmental Refugees*

The UNHCR committee includes refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and stateless persons. Unfortunately, Côte D'Ivoire has about 20,000 people in the returnee program, which is one of the highest amounts of returnees in the world. As well as 1,785 refugees and 241 asylum seekers. Adding "environmental refugees" to "refugees" would cause the Ivorian government to develop a specific procedure for their status. The government would also have to provide more necessities such as food and clean water to the refugee camps so that everyone's requirements are fulfilled. Cote D'Ivoire's main goal is to reduce the number of refugees in their country.

Cote D'Ivoire's attempts to decrease the number of refugees by creating a system that establishes their status. The Ivory Coast in 2014 tried to adhere to a law, which allows eligible individuals to claim an Ivorian nationality. In 2015, a ministerial conference on statelessness in West Africa was taken place. From this conference with the support of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Member States, adopted the *Abidjan Declaration* that helps eliminate statelessness. Every ECOWAS Member State clung on to the *Banjul Action Plan* on the suppression of statelessness, a legal document that applies to every party in 2017. In 2018, the 3rd expert meeting of the African Union Member States occurred, in which the *Protocol on the Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights* was being discussed. Personally, I firmly believe that the Ivorian government should update the *Nationality Code*, as it contains articles correlating with statelessness for migrants, as this isn't as time-consuming and more efficient.

The Ivorian democracy can not facilitate a program for environmental refugees only. For example, asylum seekers are people who flee their homes and ask for their new government's protection. The Ivorian government provides minimum treatment for them. Cote D'Ivoire has yet to adopt an asylum law that states criteria for asylum applications, ensures the quality of asylum claims, and includes essential procedural safeguards for the applicants. Although, in other parts of the world with initiative can include a program for environmental refugees because countries like the United States have the capacity to run this type of program to its fullest ability. Unlike the Ivorian government which addresses these issues, but they don't take the most productive steps. To conclude, if the Ivorian government starts to take action and end statelessness, the country will be more stable.

***Delegation From: The Czech Republic
Represented By: Strongsville High School***

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees include the following: “Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps”; and “Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees”. The Czech Republic plans to resolve these issues by providing aid to refugee camps and temporarily housing environmental refugees to guarantee safety.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Refugee camps as defined by the United Nations Refugee Agency are, “a temporary accommodation for people who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence and persecution.” Initially, these camps essentially provided a temporary home in hopes that the refugees in it would eventually be able to resettle in another country. Although refugee camps may be less dangerous than the native homes of the refugees, the conditions of them have gotten increasingly worse with time. Due to overcrowding in many camps, maintenance and basic living circumstances have not been upheld in many countries.

To the Czech Republic, providing humanitarian aid in any possible means has always been a priority. In terms of improving the conditions and services of refugee camps, the Czech Republic has cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which deals with asylum-seekers and refugees and provides them with food and medical assistance. In recent years, the Czech Republic has also signed an agreement which contributes to the fulfillment of healthcare and special education to Syrian refugees in Jordan refugee camps. In 2017, the Czech Republic worked with the UNHCR to supply electricity in a Kawergosk and Jordan refugee camps. On a more global scale, the Czech Republic has actively deployed medical humanitarian programmes, issued medical treatments for refugees in camps, and trained local doctors along with medical personnel in hosting communities with refugee camps.

In order to resolve this global concern, the Czech Republic plans to lend aid and resources internationally to refugee camps in need of improvisation. In doing so, the hosting communities of these camps must ensure that the resources given are used and distributed properly throughout camps. Additionally, the Czech Republic would be willing to send officers around the globe in these camps to maintain basic health and living standards. The Czech Republic firmly believes that the conditions of these refugee camps are not tolerable for living. In doing so, the Czech Republic will continue to cooperate with organizations such as UNHCR and other committees to make certain that the circumstances of refugee camps are properly upheld and not abused. Alongside with this, the Czech Republic will implement educational programs or services to help refugees, (especially younger ones), in gaining a proper education to prepare them when they are able to settle into another country permanently. The Czech Republic strongly recommends that other countries follow suit with these objectives so that minimum standards of refugee camps are kept. Czechia anticipates to enhance the current state of refugee camps with these proposals and hope that the impact will be global.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Environmental refugees are classified as people who are forced to leave their home country due to sudden extreme changes to their environment. Since 2009, approximately one person every second becomes internally displaced by a natural disaster (GRID 2018). Environmental refugees face many barriers to get into a new country because of their unusual status. These people were not fleeing from a war or escaping because of prosecution. These refugees were forced to leave their country because it was physically impossible to live there any longer. To the United Nations Refugee Agency, environmental refugees cause the most concern and demand action. Environmental factors can force ordinary people into poverty and refugee status without any warning. The UNHCR is committed to helping and protecting people in countries at risk from losing their home.

The Czech Republic is a member of the Visegrad, an ally group of Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. The Visegrad has a strong policy against the refugee crisis and immigration into Europe. However, as a member of the European Union, the Czech Republic is responsible for helping with asylum seeker and refugee issues. For the past two decades, the European Union has been working together with the Czech Republic and other countries to create a uniform asylum system. The Czech Republic also participates in the Dublin System, which determines which EU Member State is in charge of reviewing refugee applications. Between 2005 and 2008, the Czech Republic helped more than thirty refugees from Uzbekistan and Cuba resettle into the republic. Also, between 2008 and 2012, the Czech Republic resettled 103 Burmese refugees due to the environmental location of Burma. Czechia follows duties to provide aid to refugees in need of a home.

The Czech Republic will help with solving the global concern of environmental refugees. Although the country does not want refugees to enter, they believe it is important to make sure refugees are kept safe. The Czech Republic will send money to countries who are receiving a lot of refugees such as Libya, Niger, and Jordan. The money will help these countries to improve their security measures and protect legal immigrants. The Czech Republic will also spend money on developmental aid in weak countries such as Moldova, Bosnia, and Ethiopia. This aid will encourage growth in these countries so that environmental refugees are able to live there without any dangers. The Czech Republic believes in the idea that everyone should be able to live a peaceful life where they do not have to flee to Europe. The republic will also temporarily house refugees until they can find a permanent home in another country. The Czech Republic will continue helping other countries with their rising immigration rates as well. Czechia cares about the legitimacy of refugees, and wants to make sure all the people coming to Europe physically cannot live in their home country. To the Czech Republic, it is important to stop people from becoming environmental refugees by helping underdeveloped countries grow stronger and safer.

*Delegation from: the Dominican Republic
Represented by: Westlake City Schools*

Position Paper for the Refugee Council

The issues presented before the Refugee Council are: Improving Life Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps, and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The UNHCR currently expresses great concern for the Dominican Republic after tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent have been left stateless. Not only are they left with nowhere to go, but also stripped of their nationality due to the ruling of the Constitutional Court as well.

I. Dominican Republic Refugee Policy

Policy

Refugees have become a global problem due to the high increase over the past few years, with nowhere for them to go. These issues are sought out by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNHCR, and have the main concern of the nation's refugees, or people who were forced to leave their country. The Dominican Republic had a court ruling for the deportation of tens of thousands of people whose citizenship is in question. This has greatly impacted many international places due to the amount of illegal immigrants on the borders.

In the past, the UNHCR has urged the Dominican Republic not to deport the stateless Dominicans due to certain reasons such as an on-going issue with a high number of stateless refugees. These deported people would end up in Haiti even though they are not really citizens of the country. Court rulings and changes to nationality laws were supposed to stop illegal immigration, but left certain Haitian migrant's children who were born in Dominican Republic not citizens, and therefore stateless.

Dominican Republic has had an increasing amount of illegal immigrants and were cracking down on them. Most of these people happened to be Haitians born in the Dominican Republic who were not given papers and their parents.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Crisis- global issue

The refugee crisis in the Dominican Republic has gained significant international importance to the country of Haiti. The Constitutional Court has tried to kick out tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent. These people have nowhere left to go; they were recognized as citizens for their entire lives until just recently, however, because they were born in the Dominican Republic, they do not own citizenship anywhere else. The UNHCR believes that these refugees may be pushed back into Haiti, even though they are not citizens.

According to UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards, “This would have serious repercussions for all who are affected and be a serious setback to efforts worldwide to end the problem of statelessness.” The amount of refugees is such a wide-scale problem, that the UNHCR has greatly encouraged the Dominican Republic to find a new solution and has offered its support in identifying and registering these individuals.

Dominican Republic asks the UNHCR for help to continue screening the undocumented people and help get them legal documents. To continue screening through the tens of thousands of migrants in question they ask for more funds and an improved quality of screening. One of the ways they already screen is by asking what languages they know, if they know Spanish, French and/or english.

*Delegation from: the Republic of Ecuador
Represented by: Rocky River High School*

Position Paper for the High Commission on Refugees

The issues before the Refugee Council are, Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Ecuador wishes to improve the conditions for these refugees, however we are unable to take in more refugees, being at our full capacity. We believe that refugees should be the same rights and conditions as citizens, but are unable to fulfil this goal with so many refugees flooding into our country at once.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The Republic of Ecuador recognizes the need for improvement in refugee camps. With 2.6 million refugees living in camps, these camps affect a large population. Those living there are affected by diseases, lack of water and food, gender-based violence, and death everyday. Over 50% of refugee camps are without enough water to support its members, and also suffer from lack of food. In addition, these camps are unsanitary at an unhealthy level, leading to disease and sometimes death for refugees. Due to these horrid conditions, other refugees, including children, often see these dead bodies. Of the interviewed refugees 73.5% Somalians said that they had been exposed to a dead body. These harsh circumstances can lead to severe trauma and future mental health issues. Our future generation is suffering every day in these camps, while all these problems are completely preventable.

The Republic of Ecuador maintains its policy of open borders and the integration of refugees into society. By using this method, we have gotten rid of the need for refugee camps. The elimination of these camps comes with the extinction of the problems found in them. Ecuador has successfully dealt with the 1.2 million Venezuelans that have entered the country, and the 221,000 of them that chose to stay here. We have successfully found refugees a home or have brought them to the next step of their journey without these camps. However, we recognize that it is necessary for other countries to use refugee camps for the regulation of refugees, and a place for refugees to go when transitioning from their former country to their desired destination.

Ecuador encourages the global community to assist these refugees by helping preexisting NGOs such as Refugees International. These organizations suffer from a lack of funding that can be remedied by small donations from multiple countries. By increasing the funds going towards refugee camps, a great amount of solutions appears. More doctors must be present at camps to treat those affected with diseases and to decrease mortality rates. More guards should be placed to watch over the camps in order to prevent sexual violence on women and children. More funds and volunteers mean that simple necessities such as nutritious food and clean water can be provided. Moreover, if volunteering is encouraged in countries there is less of a need for money to be contributed. These volunteers can make food, help children deal with trauma, and translate if possible. In order to encourage volunteering, there needs to be a government provided incentive to get the amount of help needed to change these camps for the better. Ecuador suggests a tax deduction or a sort of pension to thank these volunteers for their time and dedication.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Despite our unstable past, the Republic of Ecuador has taken action to protect as many refugees as possible from distressed countries. Many of these refugees originate from Venezuela or Colombia, which have high rates of outgoing refugees. However, at this time, Ecuador cannot afford to take in as many Venezuelan refugees, and have passed an

act to stop them at the border and have them pay a fine to get a visa. Ecuador often feels flooded by the sheer number of refugees they often take in. Borders are open, but people are limited in their stay.

Due to Ecuador's tumultuous past we feel obligated to ensure that our people, citizens or not, have as many rights as possible. After being under Spanish reign and undergoing a major revolution in the late 1800's, we always value our people more than the government which operates it. None of this upstages the fact that the Republic of Ecuador has some of the most progressive rights on migration and asylum in South America. This includes the rights to obtain legal documents after coming into the country, help from AAE (Asylum Access of Ecuador), and extended protection of refugees fleeing from violence. In the 1980's, Ecuador once made incoming immigrants sign a legal petition within 15 days of arrival, but recently, that law is no more, and now refugees coming from violent countries have more time before they must become legal. Migratory laws in Ecuador lean heavily towards the refugee's protection and wellbeing, and with good reason.

The Republic of Ecuador strongly supports humanitarian efforts for refugees. Ecuador is committed to providing a safe haven for displaced people, and help integrate them into our society. Ecuador as a whole, needs support so that we can keep taking in as many refugees as possible. Without proper technology, border crossings are chaotic and keeping track of the people who cross is a hassle. Ecuador may not always seem credible in our policy changes, but at this moment in time, we certainly want to become more of a giving, charitable, international power. If Ecuador had more resources allotted to it, it would be able to manage the income of refugees in a safe, manageable way. The main standpoint that Ecuador will forever have is that we are an accommodating nation of individuals looking to create a safe and economically rich country with immigrants and refugees. We are a country invested in what the people want to achieve, and one of those things is Ecuador's ability to take in refugees. With better resources and investment, Ecuador will become one of the best regions for asylum seekers. As long as the government and people of Ecuador support us, this country can be expected to show astounding levels of aid towards all people who wish to visit or stay. Moreover, if its economy changes for the better, Ecuador can mend its refugee system that it has now. And perhaps, with help from other nations, it could even extend its outreach to assist the countries around it in need of aid, as to prevent another influx of displaced people. Finally, as it can be seen, we maintain a policy of open borders and integration for any and all who wish to come to Ecuador.

Delegation from: The Republic of Estonia
Represented by: Westlake High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: accommodating refugees in The Republic of Estonia and providing them the tools to lead normal lives.

I. Refugees in The Republic of Estonia

Ever since 2015 when the war in Syria broke out, refugees have flocked to various European nations in hopes to start a new life. As a result of this, the European Union created its migrant quota plan that same year. In March of 2018, The Republic of Estonia had reached its quota but is still receiving refugees from the Middle East/Africa. Refugees quotas are people who cannot stay in the country they are currently living in and have to resettle in a different country. Even though The Republic of Estonia's quota is met and is significantly lower than in other European countries, it should still accept incoming refugees and try to make them permanent citizens. This immigration has been going on for over four years and affects not only the refugees but also if they have relatives in other parts of the world that they are now separated from. Also the children growing up under these conditions can be negatively impacted because of the instability. The nation of The Republic of Estonia is committed to helping these refugees get to where they want to be, whether that be in this country or not, but most importantly for them to lead a steady new life.

II. Plan to Help Refugees Adapt to New Lives

Embracing refugees and their courageousness for leaving their life behind without fully knowing where their immigration would take them should be a top priority. The Republic of Estonia welcomes the World Refugee Day on June 20 that the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 55/76. In the 1951 Refugee Convention that defined refugees as well as their rights, it stated that refugees did not have to return to countries where there were life-threatening situations. The Republic of Estonia fully agrees with this and knows the refugee crisis deserves attention. Making sure that refugees and their offspring are getting jobs, clothing, food, housing, and education. This is important because it affects the lives of not only us but most importantly them. Although since May of 2017, The Republic of Estonia has had one of the lowest retention rates in all of Europe, we want The Republic of Estonia to be a place that refugees can thrive and create a better life.

We would like the refugees in The Republic of Estonia to be able to lead safer lives and be able to get jobs and education in The Republic of Estonia. We can accommodate for them by building more camps for refugees that include basic appliances and other means of survival like food and water, as well as assist in getting said refugees jobs, whether that is by means of education or not. Education on how to survive outside of these camps is vital as well. Also, reuniting refugees with any family and providing a social support system would help with any social issues. The Republic of Estonia should make safer passageways from its borders for any incoming refugees, with transportation to camps provided. Medical care should be supplied, especially for incoming refugees, and resettlement programs should be put in place to find refugees new homes with stable

environments. More effort should be put into stopping any stopping and fighting racism and xenophobia.

Delegation From: France

Represented By: Mentor High School

Committee: United Nations High Commission For Refugees

Position Paper For The United Nations High Commission For Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Committee for Refugees include improving living conditions in refugee camps and addressing barriers for environmental refugees. France looks forward to discussing these matters in depth so that all nations may do their part to alleviate this crisis.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Refugee camps are temporary living spaces that provide sustenance for refugees who are traveling through one country to get to another. Currently, most of the sixty-five million refugees in the world reside in a refugee camp somewhere. Although their concept is benevolent, some refugee camps have inhumane living conditions. Many of their inhabitants are malnourished, poorly sheltered, and/or abused physically, emotionally, or sexually. France has currently been fighting this issue, with support from the United Nations. France has been discouraging police brutality in refugee camps. After the Calais camp had to be closed, all of the inhabitants were reaccommodated throughout the country. France has also enforced stricter laws that fight illegal immigration to make more room in the country for legitimate refugees.

France believes that all refugees should feel safe and protected in their camps and there should never be any death caused by brutality or starvation. However, France believes that the camps do not have to be luxury. France believes the camps should be just enough to provide refugees with enough resources to live in safety, but the money, for the most part, would be best served going towards providing opportunity to the refugees who choose to stay in France.

France believes that possible solutions to these problems could be stricter enforcement of rules that prevent police and civilian brutality against refugees in camps. Plus, better medics and doctors on hand in refugee camps would help prevent disease or insanity. France thinks another helpful step to solve this crisis would be smart economic decisions, trying to create more jobs for refugees so that they can be taken out of the camps quicker.

II: Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Environmental refugees, or environmentally displaced persons, are defined as people who can no longer make a living for themselves in their home lands mainly because of environmental factors, such as climate change or natural disasters. Estimates on the number of environmentally displaced persons vary, but the general consensus is around ten million people. These refugees have a very difficult and tough time adjusting into their lives in their new countries as refugees due to general overpopulation and lack of jobs. Recently, with support from the UN, France has been working towards taking action to protect refugees while still considering the best interests of its citizens. In 2018 alone, France has accepted more than twenty thousand refugees into its borders, and plan to accept more in 2019. France has also established reception centres around the countryside for those

who seek asylum. Staff personally relocates each family personally to where jobs and living spaces are available. Over twenty-five hundred people have already been helped.

France can only accept so many refugees, but will do everything it can to ensure safety for each and every refugee, including environmental refugees. France fully supports the new Global Compact on Refugees and believes that it is most certainly a step in the right direction. France will not tolerate illegal immigrants or irregular migration. Every nation state must do their part and accept as many refugees as they can fully support, by no means excluding France. Nevertheless, France believes that border security is a priority to protect both immigrants and citizens of our country and prevent irregular migration. Furthermore, France believes that climate change should be curbed and clean energy sources be established so as to eliminate global warming in the next ten years and, therefore, partially alleviate the displacement of more environmental refugees.

France advocates protection of refugees and their safety and prosperity and hopes for further cooperation between nations about these issues.

Delegation From: The Republic of Ghana

Represented By: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving living conditions and services in refugee camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The delegation of The Republic of Ghana is committed to improving the conditions and services as well as helping with barriers for environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

70.8 million is the number of displaced individuals worldwide. 2013 was a critical year, the number of refugees fleeing their homes per year increased greatly. In Africa alone, there are approximately 4.4 million refugees. The Republic of Ghana hopes to be an example for other countries as they practice the integration of refugees to prevent overcrowding and a struggling economy. The Republic of Ghana recognizes that refugees play a large role in their economic and political system and seek to continue to integrate these individuals into society for the betterment of the entire country.

The refugee camps in Ghana contain busy markets, corner shops, jewelry stores, hair salons, cinemas, and many other gathering spaces. This gives camps a small-town feel, as opposed to the feeling of a standard refugee camp. Many find a sense of community in the refugee camps and this allows for better integration within society. Although each country has its issues, Ghana believes that what they are doing for these individuals is not only good for the citizens presently residing there but for the refugees themselves. Ghana strives to encourage participation in their communities and income-generating activities.

Ghana hopes that in this committee we can dive into this issue and help shed light on the issues within refugee camps and how to improve them. The integration of refugees will benefit the economy and help deter the fear that foreigners are “stealing jobs.” This way, refugees are financially independent and are contributing to the community they live in. This level of independence proves effective as many African cities have been missing from the spotlight on refugee issues and integration. Ghana would like to see integration become a viable option for many other countries, especially those in unrest, as this method proves effective in not just Ghana, but many other countries.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Climate change has a growing impact on our planet that is felt by an increasing number of people every day. People across the globe experience a number of the effects of climate change to cause forced relocation out of their homes. Migration between nations is becoming more common due to the increasing number of environmental refugees. The Republic of Ghana recognizes the barriers experienced by environmental refugees and seeks to continue to welcome these refugees and assist them in integration within the country.

Specific regions of Ghana are experiencing climate change in a more drastic manner: particularly, the Northern Region. The rainfall has seen an extreme decrease since 2011, along with soil infertility and unbearable temperatures. The North's citizens have migrated to the south to seek for water and a steady income. The Republic of Ghana's experiences of environmental refugees within the nation gives the opportunity to have a unique understanding of the struggles faced and the experience of solutions for these barriers.

The Republic of Ghana believes that environmental refugees must be recognized on an international basis. Ghana welcomes environmental refugees and encourages fellow nations to follow. Integration of refugees is an integral aspect of Ghana's policies, and hopes to spread the ideals of integration throughout other countries' refugee policies in order to allow room for those forced out of their homes due to climate change.

Delegation from: The Republic of Iran
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the High Commission for Refugees

The commission for refugees faces two major dilemmas that the council will attempt to address; These issues are: Improving living conditions and services in refugee camps and addressing barriers for environmental refugees. The Republic of Iran is devoted to improving the lives of refugees in our country and working towards the best outcome for each refugee. The Republic of Iran is willing to work alongside other nations to better the lives of our worlds refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The number of refugees grows faster and faster every year and many camps lack food and water to keep them going. Many camps do not supply the minimum amount of water to sustain a person for one day. Also, illnesses spread much faster due to a lack of water and a struggle to adequately drain waste water which spreads diseases faster. There is a prominent lack of food as well that make these camps unpleasant to live in. The housing options are examples of very low living standards so that many people experience multiple negative physical and mental effects.

The Republic of Iran is committed to following the best path for better refugee camps and conditions. This will occur through the identification of unregistered refugees because the registration and status determination of Iran's refugees, as well as the issuing of Amayesh cards will allow Iran to make the best decision for each refugee. Once this has occurred, it will be decided on who is in need of an Iranian visa and who shall be repatriated so the living conditions in Iran's refugee camps will be more stable and healthy.

The Republic of Iran desires a policy that would allow for the betterment of all refugee living conditions. Identification of undocumented refugees in Iran is the first step to the betterment of living conditions in Iran's refugee camps. A policy that will boast the identification process will be the policy that most aligns with the Republic of Iran's views and needs. A policy of economic aid to these camps is greatly sought out by Iran as these camps are in desperate need of refurbishment to make these standards durable to our refugees.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As climate change and global warming affect more and more people, refugees are forced to leave their homes in hopes of a better life not affected by climate. It is difficult for humans to move freely throughout the world due to socioeconomic status or government laws so when an ecosystem is affected on a larger scale in areas where it is difficult to move or leave families are forced to become refugees and leave their homes behind. Climate change has a variety of impacts such as limiting resources and animals for food and agricultural uses causing even more people to flee.

Following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran was one source of refugees for multiple reasons. Firstly, during the early years of the new Islamic Republic, refugees were mostly political activists who were escaping the brutality of the revolutionary courts. The second group of refugees came from the Iran-Iraq war. Finally, displacement was an effect of conflicts and instability in neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Still, the Iranian refugees and the reason behind their displacement has not received enough attention until now. Floods have destroyed hundreds of Iranian towns and villages. While the rest of Iran is gradually recovering from the floods, local populations are still exposed to the continued effects of this phenomenon. As a result, many people have already emigrated to other areas, increasing the ecosystem stress in these regions as well as causing human conflict.

The Republic of Iran desires a policy that provides more and longer-lasting support for environmental refugees. Any policy that does not support the economic aid for environmental refugees will be vehemently rejected. The un-acknowledgment of the situation involving environmental refugees will no longer be accepted by Iran. The ideal policy preferred by the Republic of Iran shows immense support for the needs of Iran's environmental refugees involving housing, food & water, and currency.

Delegation from: State of Israel
Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position Paper for The United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issue before The High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Israel is dedicated to protecting the rights and dignity of refugees that have been displaced or removed from their home countries due to unforeseen dangerous conditions, while also taking precautionary steps to make sure a proper process is used to ensure the safety and protection of countries taking in refugees from these affected and dangerous areas.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

According to statistics published by the United Nations Refugee Agency, at the end of 2018, there were 25.9 million refugees worldwide. This was the highest number ever reported. The top two countries from which refugees are coming from are Syria and Afghanistan. This large amount of refugees coming from middle eastern countries is an effect of multiple conflicts, including civil wars and attacks from radical groups. Israel believes in maintaining the dignity of those internationally displaced refugees by keeping camps up to livable standards, but also urges countries receiving refugees to be aware and cautious of the dangerous areas these people are coming from and attempt to prevent these dangerous groups and radical ideologies from diffusing across borders.

Being in the midst of the major source of refugees in the world, the middle east, Israel is very aware of the current refugee crisis. As such we have been very accommodating of refugees within our own borders, having 8 camps within the Gaza Strip containing over 1 million refugees, mostly Palestinian refugees that have been displaced by conflict. However, we believe in a proper process to accept refugees, and have made strict policies in response to large amount of refugees seeking asylum from East African countries. Israel supports the rightful treating of refugees but believes they should go through an efficient vetting process and adhere to the regulation of the accepting country.

Israel hopes that capable members of the United Nations will accept refugees that have been forced from their homes by conflict, and that refugee camps uphold humanitarian principles by respecting the dignity of their inhabitants. However most importantly, Israel urges countries hosting refugees to be aware and actively prevent the causes of these refugees, being conflict and radical ideologies, from spreading and causing issues within their own countries. Sources of refugees host dangerous groups and people that may enter other countries through the asylum seeker process, so it is up to receiving countries to properly vet their applicants in hopes of isolating the conflicts. As a country that has been affected by such radical ideologies, it is hoped that the UN and its members will take steps to avoid diffusion, but also believes that those accepted refugees deserve a decent standard of living within camps.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

In recent years there have been an increasing number of persons who have been internally displaced due to environmental conditions outside of their control that have effectively made their present location unlivable. According to studies done by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), over an 11 year period (2008-2018), 265.3 million people were internally displaced due to environmental disasters. The majority of these environmental refugees are from South and East Asia, along with the Pacific island countries. Seeing as many of these affected countries are less developed and economically small countries, Israel supports cooperation between United Nation members to offer financial aid to countries struggling with environmental refugees to allow them to provide safe shelter to those displaced along with rebuilding infrastructure in those areas devastated by natural disasters

Israel, as a country that has had its own problems regarding displaced persons due to uninhabitable warzones, recognizes the burden put on countries by a large amount internally displaced persons. However, as a country with its own displaced persons, and already receiving financial aid from various other countries including the United States, the State of Israel would be unable to contribute funds to assist countries struggling with environmental refugees. While incapable of providing aid, Israel will continue to support international cooperation between affluent countries to give aid to countries struggling from the burden put on by their environmental refugees, like the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which is capable of providing quick and effective relief to countries affected by natural disasters. It is through these relief programs that affected countries will be able to efficiently rebuild infrastructure and return environmental refugees back to their home areas.

It is Israel's desire that through communication, compromise, and delegation within the United Nations, the growing problem of environmental refugees will be eased. As the problem of displaced persons can spread over borders and become a burden on neighboring countries it is important that the home country is able to provide safe public shelters to prevent such spilling over from happening. Policies providing aid to these countries will improve the conditions of those internally displaced and will effectively contain the problem and barr them from spreading to other countries. If the United Nations fails to take action, mass populations from countries affected by natural disasters will flood over borders to neighboring safe havens and overwhelm the refugee housing capabilities of said countries. Thus, we urge fellow countries to support and contribute to a United Nations sponsored relief program that will help countries affected by natural disasters to provide suitable shelter for environmental refugees and rebuild destroyed infrastructure to quickly return affected persons to their home areas. Said policy would create artificial barriers that will keep environmental refugees within their own country while also helping those severely affected areas.

Delegation from: Italy

Represented by: Fairport Harding High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Italy is dedicated to improving living conditions and services in refugee camps and addressing barriers for environmental refugees through solutions supported and prescribed by the UNHCR.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

In today's world, we have a massive problem with refugee camps because it is causing overpopulation in countries such as Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Italy, and many many more. They are producing food shortages, and they are spreading diseases from all around the world, killing many people in different countries. This is also a significant problem because they start epidemics such as tuberculosis or intestinal parasites, chronic illnesses such as diabetes or hypertension, and mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder or depression.

Today in Italy, refugees are facing difficulties in finding food, homes, and work. 2-3 refugee families are forced into tiny 'shack' like homes that resemble cargo containers, usually without heating or air conditioning due to the lack of electricity. These shacks are cobbled out of wood, plastic, metal, and tarps. They are expected to work "Made in Italy" jobs such as picking olives and tomatoes for roughly 2 euros an hour. The shacks started as a small community of refugees, and over the years, the numbers began to increase by a considerable sum. In these communities, the people are forced to share a minimal supply of food and water that they have to share among everyone in the shack. The interior minister in Italy has decided to take action and is sending refugees from Italy back where they came. The way they are planning to do this is the minister has gone to Sicily, the main port that more than 600,000 migrants who have arrived on Italy's shores from North Africa since 2014. He is going there to find refugees to arrest and deport them out of the country. He also did a radio broadcast saying the vast majority of them have no right to refugee status, Italy cannot afford to help them, and by accepting low pay, they worsen the working conditions of Italians. So he is taking the forceful way out but is there another option that may be less forceful?

Here are some solutions that may help make these camps more human and livable. We can take some land and make it a spot just for the refugees and make it farmland, grow crops and have the refugees work on the land to not only make some money but also to grow their own food. Plus, if they make the land big enough they can take some of the left over crops and sell it. This is a win-win because in this scenario the refugees are making money, getting enough food, and a stable home. If we do this they will have everything they need to live a stable life.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Environmental refugees are not well known, but there are a lot of them in foreign countries. Not many people are forced to move out of their houses because of terrible weather, but the people who are forced to move out of their homes are called environmental refugees. These people are forced to seek refuge. They go into a different country and take shelter, food, and land to thrive and survive. In Italy, there has been a swarm of environmental refugees coming into the country in search of refuge, and it is overwhelming the country's borders. There could be a lot fewer refugees coming in if they have proper help. There are two big problems with these Environmental Refugees, and there are not enough programs that can help them internationally, and there is not enough space or land to hold the refugees. Currently, there are about five big climate change programs that maintain the refugee's lifestyle or raise awareness for people who are forced to seek refuge because of the weather. These programs are mostly based in Africa and the Middle East, and where people don't have enough money to buy a new house or food. More programs and camps for environmental refugees are needed because there are not enough programs for the overwhelming numbers of refugees.

There are some ways to fix the problems that environmental refugees have. There is not enough awareness of people who have to migrate because of bad weather and climate change. So, you could make a fundraiser to buy advertisement space on social media that will inform the youth of today about environmental refugees in different countries and will get volunteers to work for free that can help out with the refugees by rebuilding their houses or teaching them essential life skills. Also, having a fundraiser could support existing programs that need money to operate. By giving support to programs that need the money and also raising awareness of the cause, fundraisers provide advantages for almost everything that programs need. Also, you could rebuild the houses that were destroyed in past storms to help environmental refugees stay where they are. To make assisting environmental refugees to easier or relocating environmental refugees easier, you could raise awareness of the cause to get more volunteers. The best way to help ecological refugees is to raise awareness about how many there are and to rebuild their houses that were destroyed in recent terrible weather.

Environmental refugees need to be known more because they are dependent on the countries that they enter, so the countries that they enter should be prepared because of their absence of resources or distance to the places that were affected by disasters. They need to be volunteers because environmental refugees need help to live or to rebuild their cities that got destroyed from harsh weather. Environmental refugees also need to have their houses rebuilt, so they don't have to move into other countries and take up space, food, and money. If the refugees don't have the supplies to rebuild their houses Italy has the grant to help rebuild their houses along with the volunteer workers that will help to rebuild the houses affected by the weather for free. If you make a fundraiser, then you can spend the money on more efficient ways to help the refugees like rebuilding their houses and educating them on how to survive bad weather.

Delegation from: Japan

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Japan wants to support the global community by helping to establish a plan in order to ensure both asylum seekers and environmental refugees are receiving appropriate care.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

In 2018, approximately 70.8 million people were displaced from their homelands as a result of violence within their countries and religious persecution. The United Nations Special Envoy for the Oceans, Peter Thomson stated, We are witnessing the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Japan understands the need to take action and ensure that refugees are receiving equal and appropriate care. Due to Japan's rigid policy on refugees, very few are admitted into the country, but Japan has and continues to support refugees in other ways. Japan became a party to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1981. The 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the convention explained how refugees deserve the same rights, such as religion, in the country that they have taken asylum in along with its citizens. The 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees helped to explain the refugee law which is to be used internationally. The policies based on these two conventions have helped Japan make decisions when dealing with refugees.

Japan understands the importance of people, including refugees, having basic human needs, such as food, water, and safe shelter. This comes from the United Nations stance on refugees based on the conferences from the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Japan supports the causes to provide to refugees. Japan has donated 120 million USD to the UNHCR in 2018 to provide to refugees. Japan has also decided to collaborate with organizations such as the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations to help translate information needed for Myanmar refugees.

Japan would like to see the physical conditions of refugees improve through the increased involvement of the United Nations providing more resources that would enable them to receive more care. Japan wants more food rations and safer drinking water. Japan would also like to see an end to the spread of disease which would lead to more humanitarian living spaces and healthier living. Japan wants to see other countries donating to the UNHCR. This would allow more proceeds to go towards supporting refugees. Japan understands that this may be difficult but will be able to work to provide resources.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

There were 17.2 million environmental refugees in 2018 which resulted from the rapid increase of global temperatures. This is due to many reasons, including an increase in sea levels, expansion of deserts, and the rapid melting of ice in the arctic. This has been leading water on mainland areas and warmer global temperatures. The rising sea levels are affecting areas that were once residential towns. The number of refugees rises higher and higher each coming year. Japan would like to become more involved, help provide more aid for environmental refugees, and locate ideal places for them to stay. In 2018, Japan accepted 42 refugees out of the thousands of applicants received, this is due to Japan being a small island country, which would not be able to take adequate care of thousands of refugees along with providing for Japan's own citizens.

Japan continues to support environmental refugees due to the Global Compact on Refugees in 2018 which states it is very committed to helping refugees who were forcibly displaced due to a natural disaster or climate change. Due to the limited allowance of refugees, Japan still continues to donate to the UNHCR which shows support for the refugee crisis. Japan's government has worked within itself and with many non-government partners to ensure the rights of these refugees are not overlooked. The partners such as IKEA Japan, have started fundraisers to increase donations for refugees. Japan has also started university programs that help refugees receive higher education and can benefit them in the workforce.

Japan would like to see major actions taken in the living conditions of environmental refugees. This can be achieved by focusing on a plan of action that would include helping refugees find sufficient shelter and food, while the location of their residence can receive help to stop the continual spread of climate change. To stop the spread of environmental issues in the region, the area could go through drastic measures, which would include limitations of greenhouse gases for a certain amount of time. Along with the region that already has refugees, we could also include limitations on where it is predicted that the sea level may begin to rise. Japan would like to see safe living conditions provided to the refugees, which would include proper shelter. Japan would also like to see assistance from other countries and donations to the UNHCR. Japan's requests can be easily met if all members of the United Nations came together to form a plan of action against environmental issues harming our world today.

Country: Kenya

Delegation: Hawken School

Committee: United Nations High Commission for Refugees

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Kenya is one of the biggest refugee-hosting countries in Africa; we host 473,971 refugees coming from mainly Somalia (54.5%) and South Sudan (24.4%). Around 44.5% of Kenya's refugees reside in Dadaab refugee camp near the Somali border. However, 39.7% live in Kakuma—a settlement near the South Sudan border—and 15.8% in urban areas (Global Compact on Refugees). Kenya continually supports these refugees through the implementation of numerous programs to ensure refugees well-being.

Kenya works to help our refugees and provide a safe and healthy living environment. Kenya created the 2015 Kenya comprehensive Refugee Programme. The food assistance program wants to raise \$126 million; however, we have only received 42 million (UNHCR). This money will provide food to refugees; Kenya's mission is to leave nobody behind. Kenya has immense goals and hopes for the future of the refugee crisis. Last year, we created Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Program. UNHCR and our partners created a 15-year initiative in Turkana West. Turkana West's population is around 320,000 and has approximately 186,000 refugees (UNHCR). The plan has three phases. The first phase is from 2018-2022, Phase II starts in 2023-2027, and Phase III will be from 2028 to 2030. The cost for Phase I is around 500 million dollars; however, it will be financed by humanitarian, development, government, and private sectors (UNHCR). The goal of this program is to ensure that refugees and local communities benefit from services such as education and healthcare, and increased socio-economic opportunities. An additional benefit for refugees is The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, which included refugees and stateless persons in its population mapping. The 2019 housing and population census includes refugees and stateless persons in its population groups for the first time (UNHCR). Kenya works towards the inclusion of refugees and stateless persons within our country. Each refugee should feel safe and protected within Kenya. Kenya wants our refugees to feel welcomed and a part of our nation. Through pursuing our goals and implementing these new programs, Kenya promises a bright future for the well being and safety of refugees.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Recently, due the increasing impacts of climate change, there has been an influx in the number of refugees displaced due to environmental issues. There are currently a predicted 20 million refugees displaced due to the effects of climate change. This is a larger number than refugees displaced due to war and political turmoil combined. Examples of factors, which cause environmental refugees to flee, are the depletion of resources, the destruction of ecosystems, pollution and contamination, and natural disasters. First, climate change and the extreme usage of resources by world powers has led to the lack of equal opportunity for these resources by civilians of an area. Food is an example of this, and those who migrate may find a better chance for these resources in other areas of the world. Next, destruction of ecosystems can lead to the

extinction of species and many downfalls for humans in terms of needing to relocate. Should resources run out due to the destruction of ecosystems, inhabitants of the area are forced to move. Additionally, the pollution and contamination pose threats to the wellbeing of citizens. Finally, natural disasters can be dangerous and threaten the safety of citizens, forcing their movement.

Climate change has large impacts on the weather of Kenya in droughts and flooding. Droughts can have a negative impact as 84% of Kenya's population lives in arid or semi-arid land. In this way, water security could be threatened (Environment Migration Portal). Water security is already a prominent issue throughout Kenya, and the water quality is increasingly threatened as much of the urban water source is polluted. Additionally, flooding can affect the safety of citizens, the depletion of resources (such as crops), and infrastructure of the country. Other concerns include deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, poaching, and domestic and industrial pollution. It is illegal to poach leopards, cheetahs, lions, elephants, rhinoceroses, and other species (Nations Encyclopedia). According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report Kenya has a net migration of -0.2, but this migration is not due in majority to environmental concerns (Environment Migration Portal). In Kenya, education and healthcare are some of the biggest concerns with 63% and 51%, respectively, of the population concerned; however, issues such as pollution only have 36% of the population concern, a much smaller amount (Pew Research Center). Kenya has created many different policies to deter the effects of climate change such as the Climate Change Policy Frame Work, Climate Change Bill, and the National Climate Change Finance Policy and Budget Codes. Organizations such as Clean Energy and Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, and Counter Wildlife Trafficking.

Kenya is looking for a resolution making sure not to invade on the national sovereignty of any country so that they should not be expected to accept large influxes of refugees do to this ongoing issue. Kenya feels that issues must be fixed in order to end the impacts of climate change so that citizens do not feel the danger of water pollution and scarcity, for example. Additionally, Kenya recognizes that it is in an area greatly affected by the impacts of climate change; however, currently, Kenya cannot put these issues as a priority and feel comfortable with a gradual plan, which is less invasive.

*Delegation from: New Zealand
Represented by: Orange High School*

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The delegation of New Zealand hopes to form strong democratic relations with other delegations as we work to find efficient solutions to these issues.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Living conditions in refugee camps are nearly unlivable. With hundreds of thousands of refugees and very few camps (which function as living quarters for these refugees), conditions are unimaginably awful. There are very few resources and even fewer countries and organizations willing to aid in any way. Refugees deserve better services and conditions in these camps.

New Zealand is one of 37 countries accepting refugees under the UNHCR's Regular Refugee Resettlement Programme. New Zealand's refugee quota allows New Zealand to take 1000 refugees and ultimately resettle them in safe conditions. This official quota was determined in 1987 by New Zealand's government. However, this nation's quota program is revisited every 3 years. So far, since World War II, New Zealand has successfully resettled over 35,000 refugees. Refugees in New Zealand don't reside in camps, but reside in New Zealand itself instead. Refugees are immersed into daily life and are educated, as well as given temporary careers. Some refugees also choose to enroll in English language courses, which will better prepare them for a wider range of jobs throughout New Zealand itself. Interpreters are also available. There is a strict policy of gender equality, so refugees typically are expected to follow this if their stay is to be extended. Also, publicly funded health and disability services are available to refugees, as they are treated with the same care as regular citizens and visitors. The first 6 weeks of a refugees stay is spent at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre where they are first starting to become immersed into life in New Zealand. After three years, if refugees were satisfied with their asylum and conditions in New Zealand, refugees usually apply for permanent residence. There are many programs as well as families that are always willing to sponsor applications of refugees and their families for permanent residence in New Zealand. Although New Zealand's budget for resources and aid for refugees is mostly focused on helping refugees domestically, since New Zealand is a part of the UNHCR's Regular Refugee Resettlement Programme, part of the budget also goes towards the other 36 countries. New Zealand has certainly been a great and safe help to many refugees seeking safety and shelter.

New Zealand advocates for improved living conditions and improved services in refugee camps worldwide. In order to solve this issue, other countries must begin by donating more resources (such as money or supplies) to countries accepting refugees if a country is not willing to take in refugees themselves. Also, many nations are unaware of the brutal conditions in existing refugee camps, so education to these nations of refugees and their countless days and nights of struggles and journeys should be put in place. Pictures and some accounts of refugees should be shown in these education settings so people can understand with their own eyes how their help can make a

difference. With these solutions put in place, improved living conditions and services in refugee camps will be met.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Over the years, barriers for environmental refugees have only proven to become more convoluted and tougher to eliminate. One of the most significant issues for individuals who are fleeing, is becoming an authorized refugee and establishing a new life. In 2017, there have been about 18.8 million displacements related to environmental issues. If individuals are identified as climate migrants rather than refugees, finding homes and assisting them will be difficult. This number will only increase because their issues have not been viewed as crucial enough to be able to receive the same protection as refugees fleeing from war, persecution, or any other conflict. About 200 million people are estimated to be globally displaced by 2050. These increasing numbers have concerned multiple countries by questioning whether the individuals displaced by environment causes should truly be considered as refugees rather than migrants. Refugees around the world haven't been taken as seriously as they should be which can only lead to future struggles.

Recently, New Zealand has been struggling with accepting climate migrants. Many of these cases are the result of depending on what falls under the definition of a refugee. As stated in the UN Convention, a "well-founded fear of being persecuted" must relate to an individual's reason for fleeing from their past home. This has led to many conflicts on whether climate migrants deserve the same protection as refugees. In 2015, a critical case tested these issues. A family had made a case for refugee status because of the rising water levels and damage that had been inflicted on their home island. When being denied of their protection, they were forced to go back. Many have already begun to argue that this act opposed basic human rights and refugee rights. New Zealand agrees that this issue proves to be critical and should be resolved as quickly as possible.

New Zealand believes that it is crucial that we assist those who were forced to evacuate their homes due to a deplorable environment by addressing the barriers for environment refugees. We believe the idea of expanding the definition of a "refugee" could prove to be effective when assisting environmental refugees. This expansion grants climate migrants more rights that will allow them to protect themselves in times of need. Funding for this solution can be accomplished by starting charities. Climate change is a prominent problem globally which means these changes will affect every nation. Although environmental migrants already do receive some aid from the UNHCR, their protection will not be nearly as promising as the protection of registered refugee. If we resolve this issue by supporting the expansion of the term "refugee" to include climate migrants, we are setting the stage for new many new opportunities, future productivity and most importantly, saving lives.

Delegation from: Norway

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The problems at hand for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are improving living conditions and services in refugee camps and addressing barriers for environmental refugees. Norway is fully committed to helping other countries improve their refugee camps but we do not see the need for improvements of our own.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Norway believes in taking refugees and giving them safety and comfort. We are committed to help integrate them into our society and make them citizens as making these people citizens will give their lives stability and allows for human flourishing. We also acknowledge that many refugees do not see proper services including adequate water supply. The delegation of Norway feels that the role of this committee here today is to make sure we push for better care of refugees and give them what they deserve as fellow humans.

Wars have been displacing people since the dawn of time. In recent years the Syrian Civil War has caused a high number of asylum seekers trying to flee across the Middle East to Europe. Norway has allowed Asylum seekers but we are not equipped for the large numbers in recent years, so we have resorted to donations to other countries. In 2016 Norway contributed 118 million in U.S. dollars to U.N.H.C.R globally, becoming the seventh largest donor. The country of Norway is also at the forefront of leading the charge for ensuring quality education to children who are fleeing war. Due to half of refugees being children we feel this makes education a top priority. Norway has been a main contributor to Lebanon's education system through financial aid to cover fees and tuition for refugees in the country.

The delegation of Norway proposes several ideas to the committee. We would like to see more countries join us in aiding Lebanon and other countries with high numbers of refugees to ensure an education to displaced children. In regards to refugee camps themselves we propose having a communal space for the refugees to gather and have human connection and relief, and we propose a close observation of refugee's mental health through counseling to help them integrate into society.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

The country of Norway believes the change in our climate is slowly causing more and more of a problem for certain areas of the globe. Because this topic is fairly new considering the idea of climate change has only been around for a few decades, there is not a strong support system for those who are displaced. And even this counsel itself has not enforced the terms "environmental refugees" or "climate refugees". The action this committee takes starts with awareness.

In the past Norway has contributed funding to REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) as our forests are home to half of our animal species and millions of people. We believe that the main way to combat the cause of environmental refugees long term is do what we can to slow climate change. In 2016, Norway was one of the first countries to ratify the Paris agreement which calls for the reduction of greenhouse gasses. We already have a plan in place to reduce these gasses 40% by 2030, this agreement was in coalition with the European Union as we are its closest partner on climate change policy.

Our own efforts are only long term solutions and we encourage other nations to follow our lead in cutting down carbon emissions. What we do need is short term solutions and we propose that each country contributes to an agency similar to the Red Cross, but one that can be global and be on call for the many natural disasters that have displaced millions. If each nation can provide funding and resources we believe this international organization, we would like to name First Responders, will be effective as it will also help find placement for the displaced and provide natural rights to the people affected.

Country: Paraguay

Committee: United Nations High Commission for Refugees

Topic: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Paraguay believes joining committee-based sponsorship programs for refugees will improve the living conditions of the refugees' camps. In 1811, Paraguay overthrew its current government, the Spanish administration, in the hopes of creating a utopian society after establishing land-owning middle-class power. The country's first dictator, Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia, attempted but crushed civil freedoms and removed links with the church instead. Since then, Paraguay's status of its state has come a long way. Now, Paraguay is a country in which many refugees are seeking asylum. However, the current living conditions of the refugees' camps need severe help. These problems are not entirely the fault of the refugee camps, but the limited budget is the cause behind the lack of food and water, no electricity, violence, and overcrowding.

The conflicts Paraguay is currently dealing with have plagued the country ever since it emerged from the dictatorship under General Alfredo Stroessner. Much of these deal with political unrest, corruption, and chronic economic problems. Because much of the land is owned by a small number of individuals and successive governments, implement land reform has increased very little. Also, the economy is reliant on agriculture and hydroelectric power. Paraguay does not have a large tourism industry, unlike its neighbors. Because of this, around a quarter of Paraguayans live below the national poverty line. This proves difficult for organizations to receive money. Another obstacle is that the Triple Frontier region, where Paraguay meets Argentina and Brazil, has long been associated with drug-smuggling and other contraband trade. The little money that is collected is used on these more complex projects.

Many committee-based sponsorship programs for refugees are offering help, mainly for the host countries with more refugees entering. They provide financial and emotional help to the new refugees, while the refugees are in the resettlement process. This has turned out to be a successful project. The difference behind this success is the methods and actions taken by this program rather than the local authorities of countries. As a representative of Paraguay, the actions needed to take to improve the refugee camps' conditions are to join forces with other countries who have a high amounts of refugees coming in to create a program similar to the committee based scholarship programs. Programs allow countries to have essential resources, including the ally of countries and their sponsorship.

Delegation from: Philippines

Represented by: Western Reserve Academy

Committee: United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

Position Paper for the High Commissioner for Refugees Council

The issues before the High Commissioner for Refugees Council are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The Philippines has recently expressed its acceptance and admittance of all refugees into its country.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The existence of refugees first began in 1991 when the Bureau of Immigration was established. The Philippines have assisted the refugees since the early 1900s. An issue that must be discussed is improving the living and service in refugee camps because many of these camps do not have running water and electricity, enough food and water, infestation of animals, and most recently, the UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, has reported that sexual assault is “rampant” in many refugee camps have been reported. The assistance that the Philippines could give has always been limited because of the lack of money available for the program and for their own citizens. This issue must be discussed so that the living and service in refugee camps improve.

On August 21, 1937 Proclamation No. 173 was passed, calling for a state of emergency in some cities and stating that prime necessities of life should not be sold there during this time because the government wants to extend their cooperation in rendering the necessary aid to the refugees from China. This has proved to be a successful temporary solution to this problem. In 2012, the Philippines became the first Southeast Asian country to sign and become a state-party to the 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons which ensures that stateless people have a basic standard of human rights given to them by their host country (the Philippines). However, this was in the past. At the moment the Philippines is struggling to assist neighboring countries and the refugee camps in the country itself.

This is because the Philippines cannot afford to both help its own country and also refugees. Bayley McComb stated: “The key word for the Philippines government’s current refugee policies seems to be *host*. Their priorities lie with establishing a stable economy and prosperous nation, in which 25 percent of the population does not have to live in poverty. Then and only then can the Philippines consider being more than a temporary host to refugees. Without economic stability and a lower poverty rate, the Philippines government cannot hope to provide for refugees much more than what the refugees escaped from.” This is also because UNHCR Philippines had only received 8 percent of their requested funding to help refugees in the Philippines, thereby limiting the number of people they could successfully reach with relief items. Lack of funding for refugee support is a major issue for why it is difficult for the Philippines to improve living and service in their refugee camps. A solution to this problem would be for the UNHCR to donate more money to help refugees in the Philippines. The outcome of this solution would be that the refugee camps would be able to host more refugees in better conditions. That way the Philippines does not have to make a choice between helping its own people and refugees. This is why the delegate of the Philippines takes a stand that nations with a high GDP should assist countries in difficult situations so countries such as the Philippines could reduce their poverty rate and place the money in the refugee camps rather than the people in need.

The Philippines have continued to assist several refugees. Some examples are the ethnic German and German Jew refugees, political refugees with professional qualifications, Vietnamese people and the Rohingya people. In March 7, 1995 President Fidel Ramos ordered the closure of the Philippine Refugee Processing Center by virtue of Memorandum No. 267 because the UNHCR, which funds the refugee center, did not have enough refugees and resources. This majorly affected the Philippines and as stated before, all the neighboring nations which Philippines has been helping.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

A few years ago, the Philippines stated that they will accept all refugees fleeing from their homes (Asia Pacific). In 1982, the topic of Environmental Refugees was addressed for the first time. As climate change has become a growing issue, so has the number of environmental refugees. The issue, though, that the Philippines is faced with is the moral aspect of admitting refugees into its country, and the financial aspect of being unable to provide for that many people.

The Philippines stands as one of the fairly richer countries in its area. Due to this, many of the neighboring countries look towards the Philippines for refuge. Especially during environmental crises, many of the countries' inhabitants look towards the Philippines as a safe-haven for refuge. While "environmental refugees" is not a legal term acknowledged by the government, it is a very serious situation that could affect the Philippines. The Philippines stands to accept all refugees in times of need. In 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte stated that the Philippines would accept all refugees "due to western countries' failure to help them" (Asia Pacific, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/duterte-offers-refugees-home-philippines-161117073606596.html>), even though the delegate did not know how the country would financially accommodate that many people. While the delegate did not explicitly state the acceptance of environmental refugees, it can be inferred that his reference to refugees was a blanket statement including environmental refugees. In the twentieth century, the Philippines served as refuge for six-hundred East Timorese refugees from the South Asian Philippines' neighbor (The UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/philippine-operations>). While this was not for environmental refugees, it shows us how willing the Philippines would be to open its borders or barriers to environmental refugees as well. Also, the Philippines was one of the few countries in its region to have agreed to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 protocol (The UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/philippine-operations>). The article also states that the Philippines has also enacted a national asylum procedure that is used to decide the status of asylum seekers.

While the UNHCR has made efforts to help refugees, they haven't specifically helped environmental refugees. While many refugees are seeking a similar solution, environmental refugees have a bit of a different situation. One of the main issues regarding these refugees is that they are not acknowledged as a separate group of refugees. Environmental refugees is not a legal term used by the government or by organizations which can sometimes exclude environmental refugees and their situations. It is also felt that certain types of actions taken by the UNHCR is lacking efficiency and is a very slow process for those that are environmental refugees. Much action has been taken to help those refugees, but not enough. More action is needed to perfect this process for admitting this special type of refugees. This could include drafting a new process for admitting asylum seekers or creating a complete new process for admitting environmental refugees specifically. This solution would help create a process specifically altered to the need of environmental refugees and would also help speed up the refuge seeking process for those refugees. The Philippines strongly urges the UNHCR to work on both speeding up and focusing a specific process for environmental refugees. The Philippines also requests the UNHCR to provide more funding so that they can accommodate more environmental refugees in the regions surrounding them.

Delegation from: Poland
Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The collective stance that has been proven over a period of time manifests that Poland does not wish to take part in the acceptance of Refugees into Polish borders. Although we do recognize the poor living conditions in these camps, we do not wish to take part in the admission of refugees. However we do plan on helping create container camps in other countries, such as the ones in France and Germany.

Poland does not support refugees living among the citizens of Poland, therefore it suggests that refugees live in separate, fenced-off camps. There are currently very few refugees living in Poland due to the desire to keep a homogenous society. Under a 2015 deal Poland refused to take in any refugees from Africa, the Middle East or from any of the relocated refugees from Italy and Greece. By keeping this deal Poland can keep a predominantly Roman-Catholic and Polish society. Although Poland is not very invested in taking in refugees it has suggested refugee camps as a solution.

Poland would like to continue with holding to the deal made in 2015. However, if this is not possible it proposes refugee camps. This idea would allow officers to detain refugees for four weeks while applications are being processed. Most of the refugees fleeing to Poland are being persecuted in Russia. Although Poland would rather not risk bringing in new diseases and compromising the pure society it has agreed to take in 7,000 people. However, Poland believes it still reserves the right to turn people down seeking asylum and trying to enter at the border.

Poland acknowledges that there is a refugee crisis but is not willing to take in very many people. It has not taken very many people in the past and plans on continuing that way. There has also been a recent rise in anti-foreign, more specifically, anti-Muslim attitudes so refugees could not lead very safe lives in Poland. The Polish border guard denied 80,000 people at the border last year. Only about 1-2% of applications for asylum are approved so refugee camps are not relevant. However, if there is a sudden influx of refugees. Poland has plans to create container camps similar to the ones in France and Germany. There are proposals being made to approve shipping containers into temporary living spaces. Poland will be making refugee container camps for the few refugees let in that are seeking asylum in Poland.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Over time The Republic of Poland has proven that it does not wish to take in any refugees. Regardless of where they are from or the reason they left the Polish Republic does not support any influx of refugees. However, it does recognize the issue at hand and wishes to find a solution. An ideal solution would involve camps for refugees, but preferably in other countries.

The matter of environmental refugees presented to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has been interpreted differently by multiple nations. Countries such as The United States, Germany, and The United Kingdom have all been openly willing to accept refugees as permanent residents. Although, countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland have not opened the doors to refugees. Environmental refugees are people who are fleeing the country due to harsh weather conditions and/or extreme climate change. These people go through obstacles that challenge the way they live everyday life.

After World War II, Poland became a communist nation that accepted an immense refugees. An estimated 20,000 refugees and asylum seekers found refuge in Poland. However, after communism collapsed in 1989, Poland's transition to Democracy followed with refugees from the Soviet Union. By the late 1990's, the number of people applying for refuge doubled because of the recent plans to descend into the European Union. However, only 1-2% of applications were accepted. During the 2015 European migrant crisis, Poland was not fond of accepting refugees. About 52% of the population were not willing to accept immigrants, increasing the worsened attitudes towards refugees. Also, refugees face difficulties when they seek places for refuge such as learning the dominant language, securing work and education, transportation, and cultural barriers. These obstacles make it more challenging for countries, therefore acceptance into Poland is minimized.

As a whole, Poland does not want any refugees. The United Nations does have a crisis at hand, however Poland does not want to be a solution. Refugee camps and guidance with overcoming obstacles is all Poland has to offer. Poland promotes the ideas of how Germany is making migrants learn German in order to solidify citizenship. We believe that laws and guidelines should be enforced in places that do accept refugees. Certainly, the only possible way the crisis of the EU can be averted is by a framework of nations. Although we are not willing to take in refugees, we are willing to provide other solutions to the crisis at hand. One country will not change the immense problem of immigrants (both environmental and war). Responsibility of fixing this problem and finding a steady solution is shared amongst all of the great United nations.

Delegation From: Qatar

Represented by: Campus International High School

Position paper for: United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

I. Improving living conditions and service in refugee camps

The delegation of Qatar believes that addressing living conditions in refugees is an issue of absolute importance. Refugees that have been forced to leave their country of origin due to war, environmental changes, or being kicked out have come upon the only choice of refugee camps. At least 44,000 refugees come into a different country every day. Most of the countries don't have enough funding to give families the proper amount of food, water, and vaccinations. Many of the times in refugee camps also don't have the resources to provide for their families.

Due to the new law established in Qatar, the government of Qatar can provide refuge to the refugees that have come. Qatar has in counterewd 30,00 refugee families that have escaped from war or other types of endangerment. With other countries, we have many ties to see what solutions we can create to make this environment better than it is right now.

Our delegation believes that we can create a solution that can prevent illnesses, provide more medical resources, an easier way to find water, and separate men from women with no family relation. Our resolution would also propose food rations, smaller refugee camp populations, irrigation systems that work so more food is available, and adequate water because more than 50% of camps don't have adequate water to drink. Our delegation will address the countries that have larger populations and begin to help them first.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

The delegation of Qatar believes that addressing barriers for environmental refugees is an issue of the utmost importance, as those who have been forced into fleeing their country due to long-term changes to the local environment is a problem that can become much larger at an incredible pace if action is not taken immediately to find a solution. For quite a while now, refugees of all kinds have been mistreated and oppressed by many, including those who hold large amounts of power in certain countries. In the past, Qatar generally has had much respect for the international standards for the protection of refugees and provides universal healthcare for all of those who are in the country, including environmental refugees. Barriers to environmental refugees must be addressed.

Climate change is a problem that has become a much more prevalent issue in recent years, and by extension, barriers for environmental refugees have become a topic of conversation as well. Citizens of every country in the world are becoming more and more aware of the effects of climate change, and are inquiring about how they can aid in preventing the effects to the greatest degree possible. Many countries still are in opposition to dealing with the climate change problem and are in opposition to aiding refugees in their plights. As of 2018, Qatar had held 80

refugees, with 55 percent being female and 31 percent being children, as well as 57 asylum seekers, with 46 percent being female and 37 percent being children. Qatar's system does not allow refugees to stay in the country for long.

Qatar's desired outcome in this situation is for environmental refugees to be provided with food, water, and shelter in any given country that is willing to provide aid to them. Our plan to achieve this goal would be to convince rulers all across the world to provide funding for this project. We could assemble those leaders to a conference, which would be all about presenting our idea, to then hopefully gain the support of various other world leaders all across the globe. This solution to the aforementioned problem best suits, as it is a peaceful solution that would allow for leaders being able to spend time throwing their two cents in on the issue, presenting ideas of their own as to how they can help. The topic of addressing barriers for environmental refugees is one of high importance because the effects of climate change are becoming much more prevalent, and the number of people who are forced to become an environmental refugee will only increase as the effects of climate change occur. Qatar's solution is the greatest as it allows for a peaceful resolution to the issue, whilst also allowing for the opinions of other leaders to be presented.

Delegation from: Russia

Represented by: St. Vincent- St. Mary High School

Position Paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps, and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The People's Republic of Russia is committed to finding viable solutions with merit on both of these topics.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

In the world today, many countries have refugees that are seeking asylum. Refugee camps are set up in many places, offering the homeless shelter and support, however, these locations of help and joy has many problems. Many refugee camps have a lack of water and food, overpopulation, and many suffer from events of sexual abuse and mental illness. Without proper help and necessities, the refugees will not be able to survive to the best of their ability. The lack of support and help impacts how these people grow and survive; sending a message to the world that they are deemed as unimportant.

Russia opens its borders to refugees, but if refugees come illegally they have to file an application to MOI (Ministry of Interior). Refugees can not be detained for entering Russia illegally for seeking asylum. When refugees are waiting for their status to be determined they can stay in TAC (Temporary Accommodation Center). If application is denied the individual becomes immediately excluded from the Law on Refugees. The FMS can grant temporary asylum to those who cannot be deported for humanitarian reasons. If the individual application is determined legitimate the individual will receive a refugee ID card, and will receive travel documents. The UN created an organization to help with these issues, and it is called the UNHCR (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). The UNHCR works to provide safety for refugees and helps them seek asylum. In the middle of World War II, the UNHCR was created to help displaced Europeans caused by conflict.

Immigrants/refugees that have fled to Russia have been granted refugee status and receive asylum temporarily. Immigrants that receive legal status are qualified to be given medical and social benefits as Russian nationals.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As the world grows and changes climate change and other environmental factors like natural disasters must be considered when talking about displaced people. Natural disasters and climate change cause food insecurity, health problems, and even limited resources like water and wood. These factors can cause people to want to leave their country in search of a better home. There is

a thin line between migration and refugee status. An aspect of refugee status that is usually called upon as a good definition is whether or not the person(s) have a “well-founded fear of being persecuted” within their home country. It is also important to remember that it is common for families who are heavily affected by climate change or natural disasters for the men of the household to migrate away from home to find work while the children and women are left behind to deal with the circumstances.

On October 7, 2019 Russia officially signed onto the Paris Climate Agreement. The Paris Climate Agreement is an agreement that talks about greenhouse gases, adaptation, and finance affected by climate change. Russia also put out the Climate Doctrine in 2009 which was an outline of the strong intent to go against mitigation and helps to outline how future climate change actions can be taken. Russia has a very comprehensive and important process for refugees seeking asylum within its borders. This process is necessary for the benefit of refugees and helps them find a place to rest faster if they fit the guidelines. These guidelines should be considered when discussing environmental refugees and how they should be regulated.

Through working to find guidelines that specifically define what actions should be taken when areas or groups of people are affected environmentally should take to ensure their safety and progress towards a better life the committee can find the best possible solution to this problem. All countries in the committee should get to have a say in what actions need to be taken and what needs to happen. The goal of the committee to help those who are severely affected by climate change and extreme environmental factors must not be forgotten.

Delegation from: Senegal

Represented by: Berea Midpark High School

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps. The delegation from Senegal looks forward to cooperating with other nations with hopes for finding lasting solutions. Senegal Unit has partnerships with National Eligibility Committee (CNE) and National Committee for Refugees, Repatriated and Displaced Persons (CNRRPD) to ensure the best protection for persons under UNHCR's mandate.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Senegal is the only country in post colonial Africa that has avoided a military coup against its democratic government. However, the conflict between Mauritania and Senegal began in 1989 due to conflicts over water resources in Senegal River Valley. According to the article, "Senegal: Around 45,000 have fled political uncertainty in The Gambia", more than 45,000 people have fled from Gambia since 2017 due to political uncertainty in Gambia. There are more than 62, 640 internally displaced people (IDP) around Senegal. As of 2019, there are more than 14,120 Mauritanian refugees. The refugees in Senegal are also mix of Gambians, Senegalese, bi-nationals, as well as Ghanaians, Liberians, Lebanese, Guineans and other foreigners.

Refugees and other IDP seek out to refugee camps to receive at least the basic survival necessities. According to the article "2017 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Senegal" refugee camps are vulnerable to child labor and vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. There is high rates of human trafficking especially close to the borders. Children are being internally trafficked for sexual commercial. These children are forced into domestic servitude and are working in dangerous gold mines. With more refugees fleeing in the camp are easily overcrowded with unsanitary conditions increasing the chances of spreading diseases. The refugees and IDP receive inadequate food and medical care. Refugees are also not getting their refugee status. Malaria is also a major threat to the people living in these camps.

According to "Enhancing livelihood security among Mauritanian refugees Northern Senegal: a case study" the UNHCR is working with humanitarians to provide expertise on assisting displaced populations. They are working to support authorities to establish a harmonized registration system and to train border personals on refugee rights and protection principles. The authorities in Senegal have developed plans to distribute food such as rice, oil, and sugar and relief items including mats, mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets and soaps for up to 100,00 people. The UNHCR are working to improve the registration system with the Senegalese government for refugees to get legal status in the county. The UNHCR is also promoting self-sufficiency activities for refugees through agricultural, livestock, fishery, and micro-credit projects. There have been better access to health clinics and dispensaries that treat childbirth and emergencies. The nursing staff are well trained and the clinics have a fair ratio of patients and nurses.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Senegal is greatly in favour of a productive solution to the barriers faced by environmental refugees. An environmental refugee is someone who is forced to leave their home region due to an environmental change. These changes are often linked to climate change.

While Senegal doesn't have the capacity to take on refugees nor the funds to provide much support to a programme, we would like to contribute in the ways that we can. Senegal is a small coastal nation which puts it at risk of many natural disasters. These hazardous disasters could lead Senegal to have environmental refugees leaving our nation in hopes to find safety in another. There are many issues that can cause a refugee situation, but in the current day and age, climate change is becoming a greater factor. Senegal supports previous actions taken by the United Nations in establishing support for these environmental refugees. Senegal also knows that we need to get people on the same page in order to come up with a solution.

Senegal believes that there may not be a perfect solution to this issue because it has so many different facets to it. There must first be a way to get all parties involved talking about the issue together before making a solution. We cannot expect to get rid of barriers if nations and the refugees trying to enter these nations can't talk about what needs to be achieved. The next issue would be funding, many of the nations the refugees are fleeing are poor. It would be the good will of richer and more powerful nations to spearhead the intake and funding of the refugees. The final issue Senegal sees in taking steps around these barriers is to provide hesitant nations with a long term plan to solving the problem that originally created the refugees. The environmental refugee crisis can only truly be solved once climate change is dealt with.

Country: The Republic of South Africa
School: St. Edward Highschool
Committee: UN High committee on Refugees

Topic A- Improving Living Conditions and Services for Refugee Camps

A refugee camp is a temporary settlement built to receive refugees and people in refugee-like situations. In recent decades the refugee crisis had become bigger than ever before. Over ¼ of the world's refugees are in Africa. Refugees face dire conditions such as disease and malnutrition.

South Africa houses many refugees from African countries that are escaping war, famine, and severe economic problems. In 2005 the UNHRC assisted around 10,000 refugees seeking asylum in South Africa. South Africa has been a magnet for refugees who are escaping economic problems. Refugee camps in South Africa face a lack of funding and priority. Around 3000 refugee children were sent to school with help from the UNHRC.

South Africa Faces 29% Unemployment and cannot accept foreign workers or refugees until economic problems are solved. Only 5% of applicants meet the criteria to be considered a refugee. South Africa thinks that most migrants are unskilled and cannot attribute much to the economy. South Africa believes Refugee camps cost too much money and put the interest of native South Africans at risk.

Topic B-Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

We believe that refugees should be taken care of, and should receive remedy from their oppressions. However, refugees fleeing environmental problems are coming to South Africa rapidly, and at the expense of citizens. An estimated 25.9 million people in the world are refugees, and approximately 280,027 of these people are coming to South Africa, seeking asylum. An estimated 150-200 million people will be displaced from their homes due to extreme weather conditions as a result of global warming and climate change. South Africa cannot handle all of the refugees due to the geography and capacity.

Reacting to these issues, we suggest helping the people most in need of asylum, and least responsible for climate change first. We cannot accept all of these environmental migrants at the expense of South African natives. These migrants are pouring into South Africa, and are taking jobs from citizens. They are pushing citizens into poor living conditions. There are currently too many migrants and too few jobs.

South Africa is not able to support all of the people migrating here. It is still developing, and does not have enough of a workforce for people to come into it without citizenship or registration. South Africa will begin slowly letting in environmental migrants based off of the gravity of their situations, and contribution to climate change as a whole. These refugees will be given rights granted by the constitution, but they will receive opportunities after citizens of South Africa.

Delegation from: Republic of South Korea

Represented by: Cleveland Heights High School

Delegate: Fiona Macke, Javier Vallejo

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees

The topics before the United Nations High Commission on Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. South Korea recognizes that these are both pressing issues and is eager to assist in any way possible.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The global population of refugees is constantly growing (at an alarming rate of about 44,000 a day) one of the biggest assets to help these people survive are refugee camps. However, these camps are often underfunded and unable to provide the resources necessary to satisfy all the needs of refugees. Its quite common for these camps to have a lack of food, freshwater, shelter, access to personal hygiene, as well as resources to deal with issues such as violence, crime, and mental health. This type of environment puts a tremendous mental and physical strain on refugees already facing a life-changing and traumatizing event.

There are some programs working to help refugees and improve camps. There are many NGOs that are working towards this, but especially in western countries, they face harassment, barriers, and the near criminalization of their aid work. One alternative to traditional refugee camps is Community-Based Refugee sponsorship programs. They were endorsed by 6 countries (Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Argentina, Ireland, and Spain). This type of program has helped combat overcrowding, as well as providing both emotional and financial support to refugees. This type of program has proved to be extremely successful not just in getting refugees the help they need but in allowing them to start a new stable life from the violence and hardship they've had to flee.

South Korea believes the best way to solve the problem of living conditions in refugee camps is multifaceted. Firstly the UN must work with countries (especially western countries) to spread awareness and decrease animosity towards NGOs working with refugees. If these volunteers didn't face these types of barriers they would be able to more effectively help existing camps. Additionally, the UN should encourage more countries (specifically developed countries with more resources) to commit to programs like Community-Based Refugee sponsorship programs. These programs have been shown to be effective

in both the short and long term and would, therefore, be a much better use of resources, when possible, than traditional refugee camps. The Republic of Korea is eager to assist in these endeavors.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As climate change becomes more intense, its effect on the lives and human rights of people increases. In 2017 alone there were 18.8 million natural disaster-related displacements. Natural disasters are combining with already existing conflicts uprooting people's lives both temporarily and permanently furthering the already out of hand refugee problem. As humans face a changing environment, lack of resources, etc that would otherwise cause them to move, they are restricted by barriers such as governmental regulations, family, socio-economic status, and more. These barriers can trap people in unsafe circumstances or make it more difficult and risky to leave and find a safer place to live. To avoid being vulnerable to groups that work to take advantage of these types of vulnerable refugees (such as Boko Haram) many are forced into cities. Everywhere though refugees face horrific conditions, lack of safe housing, food, water, medical or mental healthcare, and more often causing long term effects such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety. Environmental refugees are faced with a multitude of challenges in finding a new, safe life.

An overarching issue in dealing with this fairly new and increasing type of environmental refugee is that they often don't technically meet the UN's definition of having a "well-founded fear of being persecuted". This makes it especially hard to get them access to aid that may otherwise be available. This problem expands to various countries and areas where policies relating to refugees don't necessarily align with environmental refugees. The United Nations and other organizations have recognized the urgency of this matter and are offering some assistance. The UNHCR has already been working to provide emergency resources such as food, shelter, and personal when needed. Other organizations offer more extensive assistance programs than UNHCR.

South Korea believes that it is extremely important that the UN revises and broadens the definition of "refugee" as seen in the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to include refugees forced out of their homes by natural disaster and not specifically because of a "well-founded fear of being persecuted". This would allow refugees greater access to the aid that they desperately need. Additionally, the UN should work with other organizations and countries to broaden definitions across the board. Finally UNHCR should do its best to expand aid to refugees across the board. The Republic of Korea strongly feels that broadening the definition of refugees to allow environmental refugees greater access to resources is a key way to breaking barriers that they face.

Delegation from: South Sudan
Represented by: Gilmour Academy

Position Paper for High Commission on Refugees

Ever since the birthing of war, there have always been people who get affected by its awful nature. Historically speaking, this has almost always been through death by those fighting, or by those who happen to be in the crossfires. The negative effects that war has had on civilians has mostly been those relating to death, but what happens to those who get displaced, or do get caught in the crossfires, but survive and have nothing to return home to? Those who are displaced through war or through similar means are called refugees. With the recent rise in nation leaders who have taken too much power, such as (egypt leader, syria leader), and with the rise in terrorist organizations, the number of refugees worldwide has skyrocketed, with the number going up more and more each year. Having started out as something many people had thought to be of little concern, the number over the last few decades have inflicted much concern indeed. With nearly 25 million people having been classified as refugees last year, the problem is setting a horrible worldwide trend. While this the most refugees that the world has ever seen, there are nearly three times as many displaced persons. The trend is that more and more people, due to a number of scenarios, are having to leave their homes, villages, cities, countries, or even families, just in hope to get a better shot at life elsewhere. Due to the rapid growth in the number of refugees, what little that countries have had in terms of refugee camps have quickly become obsolete. With the numbers growing at such a high pace, it has been hard for countries to keep up with the demands of those seeking help. Countries as large as the United States have even fallen victim to this, with many even going as far as to criticize them for their lackluster facilities. While some of this might stem from opinion, it is without a shadow of a doubt that improving upon these facilities to accommodate the growing number of refugees is urgent. This needs to take place globally, for the number of refugees is not poised to slow down any time soon.

As a very new nation, South Sudan takes no exception in terms of refugees. A nation birthed from war, the basis of the population, so far, has been one of displacement. Of our population of nearly 10 million, it is estimated that nearly one third of the population have fled from their homes, and that nearly two million people have been domestically displaced. While these numbers are terrible, and are the results of the wars, the most alarming result of the wars has been the number of South Sudanese refugees. It is estimated that over two million people have fled the country over the last decade. With refugees fleeing their home countries for things such as the bad conditions, cruel leaders, or lack of governmental attention, it is concerning how what would be one fifth of our population has left. What is causing our war torn refugees to leave are concerns of domestic safety, and with so many of our people having left, and with many still leaving, this is a sign that we need to act fast in providing for our displaced citizens. We have a tough situation in terms of refugees, for nearly all of Africa has experienced some form of domestic war such as ours. We want the best for our people, and while we clearly do not have the means to do so as of now, our neighboring countries do not necessarily have these amenities either. With this being said, the majority of our refugees have taken asylum in Uganda, who have developed an effective system for acclimation. Uganda allows for South Sudanese refugees to take up work, and with our alarmingly high rate of unemployment, we do not seem to be in a position to help our displaced people. We have only been around for eight years, all of which have been violent, so for our country to have as many displaced people as we have had, and for us to seemingly failing to provide help for them, it is clear that we need to improve upon these facets.

While we do not have much impact over what happens to those refugees who have left, the population of internally displaced people in South Sudan needs attention. Our nation has one of the lowest GDP per capita in the world, so as a result, our people cannot do much to help themselves in times of war. With war still ongoing, that leaves much of our population not being able to do much for themselves. Lacking governmental aid, the best option for many of our people is to either stay displaced, or to seek asylum elsewhere. This is not good, for with the incredibly large amounts of South Sudanese refugees are placing large burdens on the nations to which they defect. South Sudan believes that we can handle this problem, however, not without help. It is the civil war that has been raging since 2013 that has been detrimental to our growth as a country. The war has sucked up much of our funding, and therefore has had us practically turn a blind eye to those that the war has affected. We ask for those nations who so graciously host our displaced people and refugees to, instead of absorbing our refugees and having them overpopulate your outdated, small, and unsuitable camps, to instead help us sort our or domestic wars. With our conflicts sorted out, we then believe that we could carry on. However, while we can reevaluate this situation once our war is over, we cannot move any further until it is done.

Topic B: Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As with most unexpected disasters, problems with a country's environment leads to the displacement of many of its people. This comes alongside many different types of catastrophes such as earthquakes, tornados, and famines. No matter the disaster, if a country can help support its people following these events, then all will be well. However, what implications occur if the country can not provide aid to those affected by these natural tragedies? If a nation cannot provide aid and support for those affected by a natural disaster, then those people might choose to seek aid elsewhere. If somewhere else, usually a country that borders the affected country, can provide adequate aid for those who have been displaced, then defection occurs. These defectors are also known as environmental refugees. While not always directly relating to natural disasters, these refugees are forced to leave their communities, or even countries, because of government caused issues, or the catastrophes themselves. Many notorious occurrences of these disastrous environmental scenarios have been famines, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, among others. In modern times, however, shortages in resources, poor living conditions, and volatile communities are being created by governments, with or without intention, and creating soaring numbers of environmental refugees. Even things such as forest fires can displace people, and many of these fires are now being inflicted by mankind. With the human race causing destruction to the earth more than ever before, too many people are losing their place in their communities. While this is bad enough, many countries have barriers that socially and legally ignore the problem, preventing those who have been affected from speaking out and trying to fix the environmental issues at hand. Knowing how we have been causing more and more of our environmental downfalls, eliminating barriers that silence the affected is a vital step in fixing our ways.

In our country's short history, there have been numbers of environmental shortcomings. South Sudan is constantly at extreme risk for natural disasters, such as floods and those already mentioned. Also, the rising global temperatures have only made this issue worse. Being vulnerable to environmental dangers is devastating especially for the vast part of the population that relies on the trade of agriculture to make a living. Crops and harvests can be destroyed, leaving laborers homeless, and without a job. Where can these people go? How will they recover after losing their source of income? Our people need to be assured that after the weather strips them of their livelihood, they are welcome to safety. However, there are stigmas and social constraints that cause refugees to question whether they should seek help and how they should go about it. In fact, many are fleeing to neighboring nations due to having no place to seek refuge in their home country. With the internal conflicts of war and poverty that South Sudan is currently battling, there are no resources available to provide refugees the assistance that they need, therefore causing them to feel like a burden to society. The amount of people that are experiencing this is horrifying. There are over four million citizens remaining in the country that have no place to go, and there are over two million that have already fled the country. In addition, the camps and programs for refugees that do exist in South Sudan are in terrible conditions. They are not enough to solve this growing conflict in South Sudan and the neighboring countries that these people are fleeing too. Also, the costs of maintaining the camps are only being roughly 50% covered due to the lack of available funding. People are losing their jobs, leaving, and the funding is being depleted in South Sudan causing barriers in the refugee system.

To solve this problem, not only in South Sudan but also globally, nations must join forces and work together. If this does not happen, there is no way to solve this growing issue because of the lack of resources each country has on its own. Nations surrounding South Sudan such as Ethiopia and the Central African Republic must send representatives to a conference to discuss this refugee crisis. There must be an agreement for an initiative, program, or system that will extend throughout this entire region and work to provide refugees the opportunities and resources that they need to recover from disaster. Also, there must be more funding; therefore, these countries must reach out to their allies and request assistance from wealthier nations. This is the only way to make significant progress in solving this crisis because even by joining forces, there is not enough money and resources for these nations to fully recover by themselves. This progress will also not happen immediately, and it will not be helpful to drastically change policies overnight, so the agreed conclusion must also be gradual. By working through this problem, South Sudan and nations around the world can make significant progress in welcoming new refugees and providing them a way to recover after losing their jobs and homes.

Delegation from: The Kingdom of Spain
Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues presented before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are as followed: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Spain is devoted to ensuring good living conditions for all refugees and protecting those harmed by climate change.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

In the Kingdom of Spain, we have been trying to let in as many refugees as possible. The problem we have been encountering in this struggle is the horrid conditions of Refugee Camps and the number of illegal refugees causing some problems in the camps. There is no doubt that the conditions of refugee camps are dire. There is barely enough food, little water, rolling blackouts, and crimes against females are rampant. The Kingdom of Spain would like to let more set up more camps in order to allow more refugees into our country. We would also like to decrease the number of illegal refugees so the number of legal refugees can have a better quality of life in the camps.

Our country can take in many refugees but only a certain number like any other. We have run out of space in our camps and have resorted to asking the International Red Cross to help and set up camps. Unauthorized refugees are coming through Morocco filling up our camps and causing some of the problems that we face today. We signed the 1951 Geneva Convention which dictates who can qualify as a refugee. And the illegal refugees coming in do not qualify under the Geneva Convention of 1951 which dictates that a refugee, according to the Convention, is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted. The unauthorized refugees come into Spain and go into camps and reap our benefits. We very much want our refugees who came from horrible conditions to live in good conditions, but they are in the same and sometimes worse conditions because of these illegals who do not meet the standards of the 1951 Convention's definition of refugee.

If we could get the unauthorized refugee's out of our camps then we predict the quality of life would go up in the camps. The main source of these refugees is from Morocco. If all UN member states would unanimously decide to help the government of Morocco deal with their problem we could deal with the problem of poor conditions in Spain and then the rest of the top countries with a domino effect. To get Morocco to accept the terms of limiting the amount of people leaving their country UN member states must agree on either grants to the country to help them in their efforts or a small occupation force to deal with the problem ourselves.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

The Kingdom of Spain recognizes the fact that climate change is a problem and that there are refugees because of it. There has been evidence that the climate has been changing and degrading from 1982 when a group of climate refugees came from the International Organization for Migration saying that climate degradation was causing some migrations. The UN has not recognized the term "Climate Refugee" or any similar terms. Now it is reported a total of around 19 million long and short term disaster related migrations. With climate degradation on the rise it is expected so will the number of migrations.

With the UN recognizing Climate Change as a threat, Spain believes that the UN and all member states should recognize the fact that people are migrating countries because of Climate Change. The Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has proposed a 53-billion-dollar fund to help explore renewable energy options, rather than continuing to use fossil fuels. We should be carbon neutral by 2050. We believe that 74% of our electricity will be switched over from fossil fuels to renewable sources by 2030 and 100% by 2050. We have also taken part in short term aid, such as taking in 55,000 refugees and having another 68,000 whose entry is pending at the end of 2018.

We believe that we can severely decrease the number of environmental refugees by decreasing the everyday carbon emissions and begin to start reversing the effects of greenhouse gases. Not just Spain need to do this, all of the U.N needs to take part whether in funding for research. If we all switch to at least 50% electricity based on renewable energy that can make a huge impact. The U.N should also begin discussions with China because they are the country with the highest amount of carbon emissions. Currently China is emitting 7.54 tons of carbon per capita compared to Spain's 5 tons of carbon per capita. At a point Spain has a higher carbon emission per capita compared to China but we have been able to decrease our carbon footprint of the world while China's emissions continue to grow steadily.

Delegation from: Thailand
Represented by: Orange High School

Position Paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees

The issues presented before the High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. Thailand, recognizing the significance of these two topics in relation to its own state and the rest of the world, looks forward to working with its fellow delegations to find lasting solutions.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

As the population of refugees increases daily, their camps that they call home are struggling to fit the needs of the surplus of people. When they seek a new residence due to growing dangers from their home country, they do not expect to be put into a place that will risk their lives once more. Thousands of refugees join new camps every day, and that causes a strain on everyone's needed resources, as well as shared conditions of the camps.

Thailand has been made home to many refugees searching for shelter. As of 2017, there are 111,000 recorded refugees in the Thai refugee camps and counting. That massive number fits into nine refugee camps. Most of this number is made up of children that were born inside the camp. They are unable to get a birth certificate and they are stateless, which endangers their future. One thing that they have done to try to fix this growing problem is with the Handicap International. This program strives to fit refugees into rehabilitation services and prostheses. They have also empowered people with disabilities with social events. This helps them fit into their communities better. They have also helped with the prevention of many mining accidents.

Thailand advocates for the growing population of refugees and improving living conditions and services in refugee camps. To fix this continued problem, Thailand has started many programs that help the refugees connect with their local communities and get more needed resources. They have also committed to protecting their refugees with legal documents. Through these tactics, slowly but surely, refugee camps are going to start having good living conditions and services.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

As global warming and climate change begin to grow, people encounter more and more issues dealing with displacement and human rights every day. It is not as easy as just moving, especially with our changing environment. This will cause problems such as tearing families apart as well as strains on the socio-economic status. The UN has intervened but the action has not been able to keep up with the high demands of the people.

The Thai government has repeatedly expressed commitment to protect the refugees of Thailand, including most recently the U.N. Human Rights Committee review of

Thailand's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in March 2017. Although Thailand is trying to work out the details they are unable to attain legal framework along with providing legal status to the refugees. This has also taken a toll on the ability for the refugees to work. Without a legal status the refugees can not work legally in the country. According to the UNHCR Thailand host about 102,000 refugees, a majority of whom are protracted refugees from Myanmar living in temporary shelters along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Thailand is doing a lot to help these refugees, but we remain concerned about the lack of progress on addressing these commitments and all of the problems.

Delegation of: Uganda

Representation by: Chardon High School

Position Paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps; and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The delegation of Uganda is committed to a productive debate that comes to a resolution reasonable to all countries involved.

Topic A: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there are roughly 1.4 million refugees located in Uganda. This number continues to increase. With this data, the conclusion that has been made shows that there is approximately one doctor for every 24,000 citizens of Uganda and one nurse to every 11,000. The increasing number of refugees has taken a drastic toll on healthcare professionals in Uganda.

There are multiple refugee camps located in Uganda, but the largest is Bidi Bidi, located in northwestern Uganda. It is currently holding a quarter million South Sudanese refugees who have fled from the civil wars in their home country. Just to reach the camp, families have to walk several miles through rivers, creeks, and jungles. They climb over dead bodies and bury their loved ones in shallow graves, denying them a proper burial. They have to trade the only possessions they own in hopes of receiving enough money back to pay for a ride in old, broken down cars that are not guaranteed to reach the border.

Once they reach the refugee camp, adults till free land provided by the government from dusk until dawn. They have barely enough food to feed their families. Not only are they starving, but women are raped on a daily basis. The women of Bidi Bidi have been found to run away, kill themselves, and forge into the jungle in hopes to get away from their rapists and attackers. They risk their lives because they cannot feel safe at a place that should be considered their home. Violence against women in Uganda is increasing despite laws put in place to try and prevent it. In hopes to stop and lower the amount of rapes and murders going on in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement, Ugandan government forces have come together to try and prevent violence against specifically women and girls.

The government has launched a National Gender Based (GBV) policy that specifies the roles that each geographic region is supposed to play to help prevent violence against women (VAW). According to Brenda Kifuko Malinga, Ugandan Women Entrepreneurship Programme's national programme coordinator, 3,416 projects have been launched and 43,602 women assisted throughout the country. These projects have helped women across the country receive clothing, healthcare, and assistance after being raped or sexually assaulted. The projects also assist women in caring for their children. Although Ugandan forces has done a lot to protect women and refugees, an exponential amount of work still needs to be done.

To improve these organizations, Uganda's government forces could come together to raise and collect money from our different outside nations to benefit them. Although they are steadily moving forward on their own, we could benefit them more by giving donations collected from other countries.

Topic B: Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Global warming is increasing the temperatures of the world's oceans and atmosphere, leading to more intense storms and natural disasters of all types. These weather and atmospheric changes can lead to tremors and forced human movement. People who are forced to move due to the changes in their environment are known as environmental refugees.

In 2017 there were 18.8 million long term and short term disaster related displacements. There are multiple environmental disasters occurring in Uganda that is a barrier but also a cause for people to move. Some of the Natural disasters that occur in Uganda are epidemics, drought, famine, floods, landslides, earthquakes and hailstorms. Droughts occur in a cyclic pattern every 3 to 5 years, which also lead to famine. Causing people to move to a place where water, and food are available. In addition, the mountainous areas of East and the Rwenzori Regions are prone to landslides. Architecture and many other human activities accelerate the effects on landslides. Landslides can cause destruction to houses, work, crop, etc. Which also leads to movement. Certain parts of Uganda have frequent hail storms made up of heavy rains and violent winds. Hailstorms and thunderstorms result in destruction of crops, animals, public infrastructure and human settlements.

It is important that the community needs to take action to address the needs of environmental refugees. Increased support to environmental refugees will need to be addressed to improve upon their life.

*Delegation from: United Arab Emirates
Represented by: Solon High School*

Position Paper for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The issues presented before the High Commissioner for Refugees are: Halting the Human Trafficking of Syrian Refugees in the United Arab Emirates; and Providing the Safe Accommodations of Workers and Workers Rights. The United Arab Emirates opts to welcome people and greet them with hospitality and security of anyone- citizen or refuge.

I. Halting the Human Trafficking of Syrian Refugees and Citizens of the United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates has been a regional leader in combating human trafficking and has concocted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law. In 2007, the United Arab Emirates formed that Nationals Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, who tracks, coordinates, and plans all anti-trafficking activities throughout the country, and has made progress on implementing a four-part anti-trafficking strategy. They have also funded several shelters provide protection, rehabilitation and assistance to victims. So far, the UAE had granted to as many as 15,000 refugees seeking asylum a “safe passage” in their country, many of which who do not make it have been positioned into the human trafficking business and trade.

The UAE had recognized the importance of providing safe passage to asylum-seeking refugees, whom have since September 2016, allowed the entrance of 15,000 Syrian refugees in a five year period. The UAE grants the refugees a permanent residence and freedom of movement to maintain their dignity. They also have access to work, medical care, and education, all free. A 2014 report by the United States Department of State concluded that the UAE was “making significant and proactive efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and that the government continued to prosecute and punish sex trafficking offenders, support victims of trafficking and make trafficking prevention a priority.”

Considering that the United Arab Emirates have consistently provided the safe passage and care of refugees of any kind, it's accurate that their act to stop the human trafficking has barely made a dent compared to just giving the refugees safe passage. Even though the U.A.E. prohibits all forms of trafficking through Federal Law No. 51, which prescribes penalties ranging from one year to life imprisonment. The U.A.E.'s labor law, however, does not sufficiently protect workers in domestic service, making them vulnerable to forced labor connected through the human trafficking trade. It is substantially clear to the UAE government that the effort of the United Arab Emirates in stopping Human Trafficking, has not met any minimal requirements in doing so. The increasing efforts have been recognized, and it's clear that there's more needed to be put forward. The Emirati consulate had the consideration of harboring a new security tracking technique implemented in military and special forces. The UAE has seen and recognized the base of the problem, but there has been limited significant push to a new way of life for labor workers or people who have been involved through human trafficking.

II. Providing the Safe Accommodations of Workers and Workers Rights

The UAE has recognized the problems with laborers and workers all across their country, and is actively committed to strengthening the rights and safety of workers. There is a lack of formal integration systems, and a division between migrants and Emirati nationals. Domestic work reviews facilitated by “researchers

Froilan T. Malit, Jr. and Safa Ghafoor”, found that policy measures, despite ongoing review, are not coherent or strong enough to mitigate labor violations, undermining both the effectiveness and stability of institutions.”

Understanding all the restrictions and bias placed on migrants and refugee workers in the UAE, the United Arab Emirates has started to work in regulatory measures that protect the rights of workers, providing access to litigation processes, guaranteeing a safe accommodation of workers. The UAE ratifies 9 major ILO’s (International Labor Organization) conventions related to the rights of workers, and adopted many, varying laws that protect the rights of workers and laborers, including pay, housing, and health. The Emirates Ministry of Human Resources introduced a series of reforms that focus on transparency relating to job application, culture and community works. TIP (Trafficking in Persons) reports winded up that, “Through the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, governments seek to foster policies that offer greater transparency and protections for would-be migrants from labor source countries.” The report concluded that other countries in the region need to overhaul their sponsorship systems, as well as expand and improve efforts to protect vulnerable workers. ”.

Reflecting that the UAE has taken to support workers and laborers in the UAE, there has been little to no action done against refugees in the UAE workforce. Along with migrant workers, refugees don’t receive much importance and should gain more support from the government. There are significant amounts of connections between the laborer rights and conflicts in the UAE, and it is possible that any anti-human trafficking actions being taken place in the UAE government can emphasize the need for reform, in the work force. There has been a proposition to implement benefits and flexibility to employers and workers in their jobs, which can then lead to constrict human trafficking by giving workers a bad working environment or labor while promising to provide a better opportunity at living standards and raise their chance for being protected from the risky trade of human trafficking. While the UAE does provide migrant workers with jobs alone, it is considered that the UAE is very precise with handing out citizenships to their country. The UAE is very restricted on that issue, and it is clear that the terrorism area of interest has somewhat blindsided the citizenship system of the UAE. The citizenship, front of the UAE is the somewhat fine line division of the migrant workers and Emirati nationals from having a collaborative culture and society between the country. Generating this link between the labor force and trafficking, it is substantially clear both of these topics can be resolved in the topic of labor force. The UAE is restricting and eliminating main rights of workers that any non-third world country should be handing over to their citizens. In regards to a solution to these conflicts of worker rights the government can implement new programs that allow for a better pay and accommodation such as providing them with better health care and housing administration. For example, the United States had passed the Refugee Act in 1980, providing refugees a permanent procedure in admitting refugees into the United States. This links to a faster and efficient resettlement for refugees into the economy of the United States with no hassle giving them the basic rights of a citizen. By establishing a true connection and making a reform to both areas of conflict, the UAE will be a balanced place where laborers, workers, etc... can stay safe and the UAE can be considered more as a home than a temporary safe passage.

*Delegation from: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Represented by: Gilmour Academy*

Position Paper for High Commission on Refugees

The Issues before the High Commission on Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased to have the opportunity to work with member states to begin resolving the problems surrounding refugee camps, and setting standards for environmental refugee protocols. The United Kingdom recognizes the humanity and inherent value of these refugees and thus understands the importance of their safety and that they deserve adequate living conditions.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

Our delegation is dedicated to ensuring that all refugees are provided with sufficient resources and protections but recognizes that current methods employed by the UN to meet this goal have not sufficed. Several problems in refugee camps, such as a lack of medical supplies, water, food rations, and adequate housing persist. The United Kingdom believes that the solutions to these problems lie in the realm of sustainable economics, community engineering, and budget increases. By restructuring the layout of refugee camps, the United Kingdom believes that a standard grid system incorporating basic structures under which reinforced tents can be pitched out of the way of most of the elements would provide adequate housing for temporary situations, whereas more permanent situations can be addressed with simple builds capable of being constructed by an industrial three dimensional construction printer. Food can be partly addressed by organizing refugees, wherever possible, to grow food themselves in addition to receiving their rations. Water can be kept sanitary through the implementation of distilleries and the distribution of “improved buckets” like those used in camps located in southern Malawi. Issues involving things like sexual assault can be partly addressed through the organization of refugees and staff members into communal groups, which work and live with or around each other, in addition to meeting at certain times throughout the week or month, to discuss current events happening at the individual and community level. Our delegation believes that if this were to be implemented, refugees would have adequate means to protect each other and provide support for one another, in addition to UN workers also on site.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

The Delegation of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is concerned about those who have been forced from their homes due to environmental reasons, as these individuals lack the proper classification and therefore their problems are unsatisfactorily addressed. Our delegation insists on the development of classification protocols to properly

document environmental refugees so that their needs can be successfully met. Without the proper classification, millions of people currently and in the future will lack the ability to secure their basic needs from our organization. Environmental disasters caused by climate change are set to displace up to hundreds of millions of people, and it is in the interests of all countries to contribute to the sustainable protection and relocation of these victims, as if such is not done properly, those millions, with no other choice, will be fleeing to developed nations anyways, including those that refused to help. Therefore, all countries are incentivized through the implications of not doing so, to properly address this situation as early and efficiently as possible. For this goal, the development of proper classifications for environmental refugees is key, as it will allow for individuals affected to be integrated into the current refugee infrastructure.

Delegation from: The United States of America
Represented by: Mentor High School

Position Paper for the High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the High Commission for Refugees are: Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps and Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees. The United States of America looks toward a global plan to promote the welfare of refugees such that any nation can concurrently securely promote its own national welfare and sovereignty.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The United States has a long history of providing aid and support, both militaristic and humanitarian, in conflicts around the world. Furthermore, the United States has historically been a global leader in resettling refugees from around the world. That being stated, in the current political climate and under the current government of the United States, the maximum number of refugees that can be admitted into the US has drastically decreased. Furthermore, the US has implemented higher security measures for vetting potential refugees, including country-specific holds on refugee consideration. As opposed to years previous in which the United States would resettle over 70,000 refugees in a calendar year, only 33,000 were settled in 2017. This trend continues to this day, as the ceiling for maximum number of refugees drops and the complexity of the vetting process increases. Within the current administration, the United States wishes to offer support to other nations in resettling and accommodating for refugees but cannot at this time recommend a global further opening of borders to refugees.

The United States acknowledges that one of the most efficient methods to improve the state of a problem is to improve all current efforts and strive for efficiency. Currently, there remains a significant amount of lost potential in global efforts to resettle refugees. When nations distribute humanitarian aid globally, there is no guarantee that the distribution of all aid from all nations accurately reflects the global distribution of refugees, taking into account which areas need aid preferentially over others. Stratifying and optimizing international humanitarian aid towards refugees is viable through an international group for the purpose of collecting and analyzing data from around the world to determine where aid most needs to go and in what amounts, so nations can better assist others in directing humanitarian aid and other forms of assistance in dealing with the refugee crisis.

The most pressing issue for the United States in this crisis is the issue of promoting reliable medical care. It is unacceptable that so many refugees are injured or fall ill without adequate treatment when they are already in their host country. Foreign aid from nations that are unable to further accept refugees can be directed towards nations that are accepting refugees that need more support than can be provided domestically. In particular, reinforcing not just the presence of aid, but the proper distribution and use of aid will be quintessential to a well-rounded solution. Despite the ubiquitous importance of medical care, certain situations may necessitate further evaluation on a case-by-case basis to determine what facet of humanitarian care has the most import. In situations in which abuse towards refugees from personnel at the camp occurs, addressing direct abuse should be the primary focus of reform efforts. The wellbeing of

refugee children is of high importance, and the best way to ensure their protection is through establishing better refugee camp conditions through coordinated international aid efforts.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

Currently US law does not classify those affected by environmental issues to be refugees. The definition of a refugee, consistent with US law, has been defined in the 1967 protocol that defines a refugee as "any person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it". With the 1980 Refugee Act, any reference to natural calamity or disaster was eliminated in refugee policy, in line with the United Nations definition of refugee status. The US is not looking to expand this definition of refugee to include climate specific disasters as they are often a result of natural occurrences. However, the US is open to providing foreign aid to disaster areas. By expanding the definition of "refugees" nations may risk a large influx of refugees they cannot support. Especially increased U.S. border stress due to the severe effects of climate change in parts of Central America.

Providing international aid is an important solution to providing assistance to those affected by natural disasters. The US has been historically open to providing foreign aid to nations in need as it provided \$46 billion in 2016 (accounting for 1.2% of the national budget). In addition to assistance from sovereign nations, many non-government organizations, such as the Red Cross, bring in an adequate amount of money to address disasters, raising up to \$500 million dollars, the key is to utilize these funds effectively and ensure they reach the right hands, in the case of the Red Cross only 90% of donation may go to relief and in several cases, such as the Haiti earthquake, the money raised exceeds what the Red Cross needs. Developing a global reaction plan to natural disasters specific to each region may decrease reaction time and address issues quickly to repair homes and communities so that their residents may resume their lives there.

The US has shifted focus onto America's energy revolution, that has produced affordable, reliable energy for consumers along with stable, high-paying jobs for small businesses. The nation looks to find a balance between environmental protection and economic health. Efforts by many nations to reduce carbon outputs through carbon taxes or incentives for businesses are admirable. As a nation the US is currently looking to prioritize the interests of business to stimulate the economy and provide jobs for our citizens. A stable economy is foundational to a nation able to assist others and make advancements. Building a profitable, domestic US clean energy system would be favorable as it would stimulate a new innovative market rather than impede on current US companies. US renewable energy production and consumption both reached record highs of about 11.7 and 11.5 quads, respectively, in 2018. As we work towards exploring renewable energy the expansion of nuclear energy programs may be explored as well. Global corporation towards sustainable energy and environmental protection should be explored with consideration to a nation's economic situation as well.

*Delegation from: The Republic of Venezuela
Represented by: Berea Midpark High School*

Position Paper for the High Commission for Refugees

The issues before the High Commission for Refugees are improving living conditions and services in refugee camps and addressing barriers for environmental refugees.

I. Improving Living Conditions and Services in Refugee Camps

The conditions of refugee camps vary between areas, but in general they are not safe to live in. Often refugee camps are more dangerous than the conditions that the refugees are trying to escape from. Camps often become overcrowded, and the amount of food and water is not enough for the amount of people staying at these camps. The conditions are incredibly unsanitary. Fatal disease is not uncommon in refugee camps, and the living conditions only allow it to spread more. Death rates are very high, and they tend to rise in the winter. This is most likely due to the lack of adequate shelter from the cold. Conditions like these often are a result of countries not wanting people to stay in these camps for any longer than they need to.

The Republic of Venezuela believes that conditions should be improved, but not to the point that refugees will want to stay there forever. Venezuela is experiencing an economic crisis due to the amount of inflation, and the more people that leave, the worse it will get. If conditions in other countries for refugees becomes too good, too many people will leave. Refugees leaving also becomes problematic for the countries they go to. These countries are strained to use resources to help these refugees, and with the increasing numbers that is going to become more difficult for other countries to sustain. For example, Columbia hosts about 1.3 million refugees from Venezuela. These countries are not equipped to handle such high numbers of people coming into them.

This is not to say that the current conditions are acceptable. Living conditions for refugees should be liveable, at the very least the people should be able to survive until they get back on their feet. The lack of resources in these camps has caused many deaths, with widespread disease almost untreatable due to lack of medication.

The Republic of Venezuela hopes to find a way to improve living conditions in refugee camps without causing more people to leave. It is known that there are few resources to work with for improving conditions, so the solution should be focused on the increase in resources to at the very least keep the people there alive. However, The Republic of Venezuela also wants to prevent so many refugees leaving in the first place. If too many people leave, it will be bad for the economic crisis and the countries that will be helping the refugees.

II. Addressing Barriers for Environmental Refugees

There are many things that cause people to become environmental refugees, including but not limited to, droughts, desertification, rising sea levels, and the disruption of seasonal weather patterns. The view on whether or not to provide more protection for the refugees is mixed at best. Some countries are trying to prevent these refugees from entering the territory, while others are

allowing them to enter. Worst of all, these refugees have no international protection because they have no recognition in international law. Small conflicts can also arise due to barriers to stop environmental refugees.

The Republic of Venezuela believes that there should be barriers stopping environmental refugees because a tenth of the population will leave the country by the end of the year. At the end of this year, about 5.3 million people are estimated to have left the country because the climate change is causing the political and economic issues worse by tenfold. With a 50 to 65 percent less rainfall between 2013 and 2016 caused power and water shortages throughout the country because of the reliance of hydropower. The country has not had enough electricity to power the electrical grid for two decades.

The Republic of Venezuela believes that if these citizens leave it will cause the economic system of the country to worsen. The inflation rate will increase drastically, which is set to be about 1,000,000 percent by the end of the year, which will cause even more citizens to leave the country. The Republic of Venezuela wants to find a way to stop these citizens from leaving because of the strain it could put on countries taking on millions of refugees and worsen the economic problems in Venezuela.

