



DELEGATES' HANDBOOK



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
ENVOY ON YOUTH

INDEX



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH

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ABOUT THE SMMUN 2025



The **Southeast Mexican Model United Nations (SMMUN)** is a model united nations made by and for young people who are interested in topics regarding international law, international relations, human rights and everything related to the **United Nations**. It has the purpose of giving participants a chance to experiment the work sessions held by the United Nations in real life, treating with topics of the utmost international relevance, while allowing participants to develop leadership abilities, negotiation, diplomacy, team work, research, among others.

After its success in the year 2016, annual editions were carried out of the Southeast Mexican Model United Nations in Mérida, Yucatán. Every young person from 12 to 26 years old is invited to participate in the event that'll be the highest representative of youth sentiment of the United Nations in southeast Mexico.

As **youth**, we have to dare to take space and act for what we consider right, be the future leaders, start transforming the world we know and keep building a legacy of changes and paving the way so, we can all grow without obstacles. Dare to live this experience to the maximum, if you're scared, do it scared, but don't let this dream go by.

Don't forget that the legacy of the SMMUN is to leave a mark, learn and inspire.

Thank you for being part of the **Legacy of Leaders**.

Thanks to you the **SMMUN** exists.

A part of us stays in the forum and we leave changed because your voices change the world.



LETTER FROM *General* SECRETARIAT

Dear delegate

We have to confess that you being here and being part of this edition feels like a hug to the heart, like feeling you know someone even if you've never seen them and it's the first time you hear their name, but without any doubt, you know it's not the last time, because there's a reason.

Now that we're getting to know each other, we want to tell you a secret (and the reason why we feel this closeness). **"Dreamers recognise one another"**, so if you're here, trust that you have lots to share with every single one of the people you're meeting, but also a lot to learn from them. Being able to harmonize with more brave people that dare to be the people they want to be, but you won't do it by yourself, you'll do it with the people that believe in the magic of coinciding and in the beauty of their dreams. **We invite you to take us seriously and try it yourself!**

Saying we're excited to see the model become a reality doesn't do justice to how we feel, but truthfully, it's not just coming from us, but also your whole chair, as well as the whole organizing committee that with much love and dedication we've looked for so this experience is completely unforgettable. Some advice? Enjoy it. A request, petition or a favour? **Enjoy it!**



Once we've shared secrets and advices, we have to warn you, **did you know that once the model ends, you along with us will be taking part of the legacy?** and when we say legacy, we mean that there's been nine years since the adventure began, a legacy that has been built alongside friendships that became family, building a better world. Because the SMMUN has always characterized itself for being more than a model, it has always looked to create a space that feels human, special and magical, but if we're honest, you have to live it to understand it and you'll perfectly know what we express.

Before saying goodbye (**momentarily**), we want to tell you that we are prepared to celebrate and commemorate a decade of successes, hand to hand with the **organizing committee** and chair people; and we want you to be a fundamental part of this celebration. We want you to, as well as us, enjoy every moment, as small as it is because you'll take from here **unforgettable memories**.

✨ ✨ ✨  *Eternally grateful*

Galilea Silva and Andrea Arreola
General Secretariat

SMMUN 2025: LEGACY OF LEADERS



LETTER FROM *Academic* SECRETARIAT



Dear delegates,

We warmly welcome you to the **SMMUN 2025: Legacy of leaders and to the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth!** We are proud of you being part of the first decade of our Model and we are so illusioned that you're part of it. The SMMUN has always been characterised for being an space where all people are welcomed, every idea is taken into account and every dream is potencialized until it becomes reality; for this reason, we also want to thank you for trusting and having the courage of living this experience that we are sure will be wonderful.

Maybe you don't know us, but we are the **Academic Secretariat, Faina and Fernando**, the people in charge of selecting, training and guiding **the chair people** for more than ten months during this whole preparation process before reaching sessions' days. It's really important for us that you know that you also count on our full support and advice whenever you need it and that any situation, comment, suggestion or question that you wish to share with us we will always be happy to offer you our help.

This year, we have very dearly designed **ten committees** that not only conmenmorate the past 10 editions, but that honor stories, experiences and moments that have defined the SMMUN for the past decade. Each of these committees is innovative, novel and creative, reflecting the values and causes that have been the heart of this model since its first edition. Through For Education, For Children, For Development, For Peace, For Women, For Health, For Youth, For Diversity, For Equality and Legacy of Leaders, we're looking to pay homage to everything we have built together, making sure each committee is a space for learning, reflection and action.

By diving into this model, we invite you to take advantage of every second of this experience. Allow yourself to question, debate, learn and, above all, grow. This is a space where challenges become opportunities and where every argument that you expose will have the power to leave mark on those listening to you. Don't be afraid to be wrong because every mistake is a lesson and every lesson is a step closer to the leadership that you're building.



With that said, during these months we've been able to see the growth of the people that will accompany you during this experience and we're witness of the evolution that your chair people have had and how they've been preparing vastly to receive you with open arms and give you an unforgettable experience; and even if this is your first Model United Nations or if you have participated in one before, rest assured that your chair people are the family that has organized this committee for you with all their love, no matter if this was your first option or not. Things happen for a reason and you're meant for great things. never doubt what's waiting for you and always trust the process.

We want to remind you that the SMMUN is also the space to **forge ties, to discover new perspectives** and to find people that **share your passion for changing the world**. Some of the most memorable moments of this experience don't occur in the formality of debates, but in the moments of companionship, in the shared laughter and in the conversations that you'll take for the rest of your life.

Wholeheartedly, we wish you a **revolutionary transformative and inspiring adventure**. That you can find in the SMMUN that ideal space to be heard, that you discover new friendships and that you find a world where you're capable of dreaming as big as every one of the people that have been through this model. Our biggest reward will be knowing that you will end up with a smile and that you can come back to the SMMUN or to other models. The best experiences begin here, the magic happens here and we hope your passage through the **model of dreamers** becomes the continuation or construction of your biggest dreams and that it can take you to new places where you can make the most of all your potential.

In this **tenth edition** of the SMMUN, you are part fo something bigger than a debate. You are part of a community and of a history that **keeps being written with you...**

✨ 📖 *With great enthusiasm,*

Faina Couoh and Fernando Sánchez
Academic Secretariat
SMMUN 2025: LEGACY OF LEADERS





CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear delegates,

"In the heart of youth burns a flame of passion and inspiration that lights the path to boundless possibilities".

In the name of all the Chair members, it is a true honor to welcome you all to the Committee of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, **OSGEY**. This will be a unique and special space dedicated for your personal learning and growth. This magnificent Committee is not just an international simulation, it is also an opportunity for you to develop astonishing abilities, establish life-lasting relationships, and, as the name of this edition says, **be the leaders who leave a legacy behind**.

We are filled with joy to get to know all of you, however, let us introduce ourselves. Beginning with our Presidency, Jesús Alejandro Corrales Saucedo, who will committedly lead this experience to make it **absolutely unforgettable**; our Moderation, Ana Cristina Guillermo Jiménez, who will serve as the voice that allows the Committee to follow the **right approach**; our Conference Officer, Estefanía Alonzo Durán, who **veils for the effective communication** between you and the Chair; and both of our Room Officers, Jesús Virgilio Ayala Gaspar and Aldrin José Briceño Castillo, who set the **comforting environment** we seek for the debate.



We are sincerely grateful for your **irreplaceable presence** in this Committee, allowing us to share this place with magical personalities. We encourage you to embrace the experience and take this space as your safe place where you can **be yourself and shine!** We are positive your efforts will result in **unimaginable impacts**, both in our society and in the life of every single person taking part of this **new family**.

Regarding the expectations for the debate, we want each of you to feel free to share ideas, propose innovative solutions, and defend your positions and thoughts **with passion**. The main goal is to reach a resolution that represents the consensus of all the delegates, so it is essential to **listen** and acquire knowledge through the **different perspectives** that will emerge during the sessions.

To acquire the best experience for all of us and to achieve our main goal, we would like some lessons we wish someone would have told us in our experiences as delegates. First, be yourself and do not let anyone say that your opinion is not important or valid. Secondly, if you are an experienced MUNer, help new delegations by encouraging them to participate or integrating them to the debate, creating a better experience for yourself and others to have an unforgettable moment. Finally, remember to take photos to remember the Committee forever, because **OSGEY is love**.

We fire you up to stay motivated and focused. You all have the capacity to become a **great leader and agent of change**. This is just the beginning of an incredible experience that will make a difference in your personal and academic life.

Finally, as the chair of **OSGEY**, we again extend you our warmest gratitude for being part of this lovely family and Committee. We assure you that together we will live a **delightful experience full of happiness, love and learning**.

Sincerely,

**WITH GREAT APPRECIATION AND LOVE,
OSGEY'S CHAIR;
ALEX, CRISTY, ESTEFY, ALDRIN, AND JESÚS.**



MEET OSGEY!



The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) is a, relatively recently created, body which takes place among the United Nations (UN) Secretariat's Departments and Offices. OSGEY's main objective is to work with and for young people internationally to engage among UN and intergovernmental policies that meaningfully impact on youth's lives. The UN Youth Envoy position was first envisioned by former Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. Ki-Moon established the position as a response to the colossal demand from young civilians in today's society to be heard, urging for a close interface with the UN.

It was founded on January 17th of 2013, when Ahmad Alhendawi became the first UN Envoy on Youth, the representative of the body, serving from 2013 to 2017. Later, Jayathma Wickramanayake became the current Envoy, serving since 2017. When founded, and as a part of the UN's Secretariat, the Office's headquarters were decided to be located in New York City, USA. Moreover, it typically meets on an annual schedule along with the General Assembly and rest of the UN Secretariat; however, they also hold an event every August 12th: International Youth Day.

The position of the Envoy, at first instance, was meant to entail only advocacy efforts. Nevertheless, the position has been constructed and evolved in such ways that only a third of the Envoy's works today regard defending their significance. The Office does much more than advocacy in the current present. The Envoy, now, holds the responsibility to coordinate inside the UN system, develops strategies for the system to streamline with youth's efforts, sets main principles regarding youth approaches to be truly meaningful, and performs accountability reports to measure the real impact youth has gained within the UN.

OSGEY, also known as the UN Youth Office, unlike most of the UN bodies, is not conformed by Member States, but by Classes. Every two years, 17 young leaders of change, from all around the world, are recognized for their efforts and impact on their society to take part in the Class of the future biennium.

The main priorities, pillars and principles that the Office attaches to "are guided by the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the priority areas of the UN System Wide Action Plan on Youth" (OSGEY, 2016, p. 1). The Office is also guided by the UN 2030 Agenda. There are four main principles the UN bodies, including OSGEY, are guided by: participation, advocacy, partnerships, and harmonization.



On the other hand, the main priority pillars are guided by the UN Youth Strategy 2030, presented by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Manuel de Oliveira, establishing them as: 1 “Engagement, Participation and Advocacy”, 2 “Informed and Healthy Foundations”, 3 “Economic Empowerment through Decent Work”, 4 “Youth and Human Rights”, and 5 “Peace and Resilience Building”.

The UN Youth Office held a virtual consultation in October of 2022 in order to provide a worldwide platform of young people’s ideas to settle down their functions, allowed operations, and faculties. After thorough discussion, the Office’s facilities were established as follows:

- 1.Focus on implementing recommendation from the Secretary-General’s (SG) Our Common Agenda and support purposeful engagements with youth within the UN;
- 2.Structure the work inside the UN Youth Office into divisions for effective collaboration and organization;
- 3.Prioritize the Office’s capacity to facilitate and mediate inter-cultural dialogues and exchanges opportunities.
- 4.Deliver empowering initiatives to strengthen youth movements internationally;
- 5.Engage young researchers to uncover new perspectives SDGs and Human Rights that may not be taken into consideration yet;
- 6.Engage youth beyond UN networks by both, digital and offline, mechanisms in a transparent manner that correctly addresses their needs;
- 7.Collaborate closely with young people throughout projects and decision-making processes;
- 8.Expand the UN Youth Delegate Programme (YDP) and Youth Advisory Groups (YAD) to all countries’ reach and UN entities;
- 9.Ensure adequate financial support for youth in low- and middle-income countries, especially if facing conflict and crises;
- 10.Ensure protection to UN engaged youth, including a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse, violence, and intimidation;
- 11.Lead on coordination with youth movements and milestone compilation;
- 12.Develop standards for partnerships and engagements in and outside the UN reach, as well as creating a parameter to enforce the standards;
- 13.Support efforts to enhance youth representation at the United Nations.



The UN Youth Office often addresses a wide range of topics that fall among three main categories. Inside the sustainable development category, topics such as climate action, education, employment, technology, and innovation are discussed. On political participation, gender equality, LGBTQ+ advocacy, disability inclusion, indigenous youth, and digital safety are only some of the topics deliberated regarding human rights. Lastly, protection in civic space, high-level global conferences, and youth peace and security agendas fit within the peace and security category.

Since its creation, the UN Youth Office has achieved several significant goals: the Youth 2030 Agenda, with which the Office gained massive participation and great impact, when first implemented, inside the UN system; it reinforced its impact through several UN entities and independent bodies; and in 2022, the Youth Strategy continued to gain momentum, gathering even more UN entities and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

Even though the Office's opening path into the UN system has been a great continuous achievement in its history, it is undeniable that another of the more significant milestones for the Envoy on Youth has been the International Youth Day establishment. Every August 12th, International Youth Day is commemorated, bringing youth conflicts into international recognition, as well as their crucial role as change leaders in today's society.

OSGEY's impact on today's international community has significant and meaningful results worldwide. Inside the UN system, young activists, leaders, advocates, and, especially, dreamers, have a voice inside crucial decision-making processes. Without all of the efforts and results achieved, in a little over a decade, young people wouldn't have as much impact and say on international conflict resolutions as they do now.

A place inside global entities empowers youth, and opens a wide range of opportunities for change. Young leaders' interventions on international matters discussions offer institutions a true glimpse of millions of different realities and perspectives that are often neglected. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth provides a space where young advocates are part of worldwide change.



TOPIC A

STRATEGIES TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING FROM BURNOUT SYNDROME

A) General context

Everyday the world places society in stressful and overwhelming situations, which can lead a person to become overloaded and present consequences in their wellbeing. Burnout Syndrome is a health issue, often developed inside working environments, causing people to feel constantly pressured, depleted of energy, weak, discouraged, have a negative attitude towards their jobs or activities, affecting their ability to work effectively and maintaining healthy relationships with those around them. Burnout has positioned itself as an urgent crisis in today's young society.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined burnout as an occupational phenomenon included in the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), and is not classified as a medical condition. It has been registered and approved as a recently emerging phenomenon that presents itself among today's society, in hurried and stressful working environments. However, it has not been recognized by WHO as a disease that affects young people in multiple life scopes, unlike diverse organizations and institutions.

B) Statistical Data

During the pandemic there were many surveys that showed high levels of anxiety and depression, around 12,000 youth cohorts over 20 years. Also, youth's mental health got worse as the pandemic became more severe. After the first months of the pandemic, 40% of young people reported symptoms of anxiety in youth and 30% reported symptoms of depression.

Many epidemiological studies, performed in developing countries, have found high cases of Burnout associated with mental illness among health workers, teachers, youth, and others. Burnout cases ranged from 2.4 to 72% around the years of 2020 and 2022, cases in which depression symptoms are very common especially among workers.

Studies regarding the evolution of Burnout Syndrome among modern-day society, have displayed how younger generations, people between 14 and 24 years old, have been showing higher levels of Burnout in recent years, compared to the levels shown by the older population. It has been demonstrated that 58% of young people between 14 and 24 years old endorsed Burnout in 2021, increasing from the 47% that endorsed it in 2020. Although different surveys and studies have put on view the previous statistics, much information has not been released, as young people are still not taken into consideration inside this framework officially by WHO.

C) Urgency and Importance of the Topic

The Youth Envoy has the objective to give the problematic a proper space where it can be discussed with the importance that it requires, as well as gaining its recognition as a health disease that affects not only adults in working environments, but also youth and children. The Office wants to give the topic an approach based on its interconnected causes and consequences. Furthermore, the Office seeks to prevent the invalidation of mental health issues and misdiagnosis due to the confusion with other diseases, by defining the specific symptoms that each disease entails, as well as their similarities and differences.

The international community has invalidated youth's experiences and has not fully comprehended the need for an interconnected and intersectional approach that could benefit and improve the situation. The Youth Envoy wants to improve the global situation in a way that it gains more visibility, in order to build a better approach and raise awareness about Burnout and the multiple ways to board it. By engaging young advocates to uncover new perspectives inside decision-making processes regarding the problematic, it can be assured that there will not be a better representation than young people themselves.

D) International Action

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) which is in conjunction with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) releases data in which people are lagging behind the number of educational stress. In spite of it, there are deficient performances on the international scale. Unfortunately, many schools use the same antiquated system that stresses the students.

There are not just measures implemented by official resolutions, but youth has also taken the initiative by creating and promoting numerous programs whose objective is to spotlight mental health struggles, as well as the importance of speaking for oneself. The Yellow Tulip Project from the United States of America (USA), a youth-driven movement dedicated to shatter the stigma surrounding mental issues; and Sangath from India, that engages youth to co-design mental health interventions, particularly for underserved communities; are some examples of youth-led programs.

The World Mental Health Day Poetry Slam, where young poets share their stories of mental health struggles through poetic expressions; Befrienders from Malaysia, provides services and community programs aimed to reduce stigma and promote help-seeking behavior; Art as Therapy from Bangladesh, a community-based project using traditional crafts, painting, and drama to help people process trauma and mental health issues; and hashtags like #letstalkaboutmentalhealth are some results of youth's efforts.

F) Importance in the International Community

The effects of being under stress in this new globalized world have already affected young people in our society. Each year the number of people that share their experiences increases. Experiences of youth talking about how they get stressed during classes, on how family problems affect their mental health, and even how some friendships are shared constantly.

The lack of knowledge and empathy of older generations causes that the voices of youth are many times restrained, and by consequence the problems are not properly approached.

Pillars

There are some crucial factors to consider when Burnout Syndrome in Youth is discussed, these could help to establish important parts of the debate's structure and guide the delegates through it.

- *Recognition of Burnout in Youth*

Introduce the concept of Burnout as a syndrome of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion resulting from chronic demands; adapted to the context of youth.

- *Contributing Factors to Youth Burnout*

Identify the specific factors that contribute to Burnout in young people.

- *Consequences of Burnout in Youth*

Explore the effects of Burnout on the physical, emotional, and social health of young people.

- *Intersectionality*

Identify the groups more likely to develop Burnout Syndrome.

Creating spaces within global entities that empower youth and open opportunities for change is crucial. Young leaders' engagement in discussions regarding international matters can help address systemic issues that contribute to Burnout, offering institutions fresh perspectives on work-life balance, mental health, and well-being. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth seeks to provide a platform where young advocates can be part of the global conversation, highlighting the often-overlooked realities that shape Burnout, and advocating for sustainable changes to foster healthier professional environments worldwide.

TOPIC A'S

GLOSSARY



BURNOUT SYNDROME

A condition characterized by a prolonged stress response to emotional and interpersonal stressors at work, which include chronic fatigue, ineffectiveness, and denial of what happened.



OCCUPATIONAL PHENOMENON

Refers to work-related conditions or experiences that affect individuals in their professional roles. These phenomena often relate to physical, mental, or emotional aspects that arise from one's work environment or responsibilities.



ENDORSED

Supported or backed up



FRAMEWORK

A standardized set of concepts, practices and criteria to focus on a particular type of problem that serves as a reference to face and solve new problems of a similar nature.



COHORT

A group of individuals who share a common trait, such as birth year. In medicine, a cohort is a group that is part of a clinical trial or study and is observed over a period of time.



INTERSECTIONAL

Analytical tool that recognizes that systemic inequalities are shaped by the superposition of different social factors such as gender, ethnicity and social class.



ADVOCATE

Defender or lawyer.

LAGGINF

Getting delayed.

YOUTH

Understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence.

HELP-SEEKING

Communicating an issue or challenge to obtain support, advice or help.

INTERSECTIONALITY

A term that describes how multiple forms of discrimination, such as racism, sexism, and ableism, interact to create unique experiences and outcomes for individuals.

ANXIETY

A feeling of fear, dread, and uneasiness.

DEPRESSION

A serious mental disorder that can affect how a person feels, thinks, and acts.

MENTAL ILLNESS

A medical condition that affects a person's thinking, emotions, or behaviors.

TOPIC A'S

QUESTIONS

- ✦ Does your country follow or apply international strategies regarding Burnout management?
- ✦ What role can world leaders and social movements play in mitigating Burnout?
- ✦ Are there any existent youth social movements in your country regarding mental health?
- ✦ What has youth achieved in your country regarding mental health?
- ✦ Does your country recognize Burnout in youth?
- ✦ How stressed do people tend to be in your country?
- ✦ What are the effects Burnout has had on mental and physical health?
- ✦ Are there any existing cases that exemplify the impact of Burnout inside your country?

- ✦ How has the perception of Burnout Syndrome changed considering the context in where society lives now, after the pandemic?
- ✦ What positive and negative future trends can be foreseen in the management of Burnout Syndrome?
- ✦ What have the governments done to manage the effects of Burnout inside their own territories?
- ✦ What actions can be implemented by the nations to avoid, prevent, and reduce the development of Burnout Syndrome among young people?

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL

✦✦✦ *What Types of Educational Practices Impact School Burnout Levels in Adolescents?*

Bonvin, P., Meylan, J., Meylan, N., Rodriguez, M., & Tardif, E. (2020). What Types of Educational Practices Impact School Burnout Levels in Adolescents? *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/4/1152>

✦✦✦ *Whiplash*

Chazelle, D. (Director). (2014). *Whiplash* [Film]. Sony Pictures Classics.

✦✦✦ *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (1989). *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*. United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>



✦✦✦ *What Is To Be A Youth*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). (n.d.). Youth Definition. United Nations. Retrieved _____ from <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>

✦✦✦ *Dead Poets Society*

Weir, P. (Director). (1989). *Dead Poets Society* [Film]. Touchstone Pictures.

TOPIC B

STRATEGIES TO EMPOWER YOUTH FROM VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND PREVENT THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN CRIME

A) General context

Young people have become increasingly involved in diverse situations that surround organized crime. Either they fall on the necessity to join these criminal acts, in order to get ahead, or they find themselves forced to face the consequences crime leaves on society. Regions of the world such as Latin America are clear examples of how the socio-economic context of countries can drive youth to join criminal groups to fulfill their basic needs. The Youth Envoy aims to provide empowering programs for young people, while granting clear alternatives that prioritize their personal development, avoiding a future criminal life.

Worldwide, more than three-quarters of the population live in countries with high levels of violence and criminality. This problem hasn't sprung up spontaneously, but is the result of a culture ruled by familiar, social, economic, and political conflicts, and by a globalized world whose problems permeate different sectors of society. Leaving youth, victims of social discrimination and excluded from important decisions, driven to an uncertain future, dependent on the world's evolving challenges and obstacles faced by the world. Consequently, criminality is taken as the first alternative to survive, achieve their personal development and find a purpose in life.

B) Importance in the International Community

Crime is an obstacle the international community, nations, and global organizations have dealt with since the beginning of modern history. However, the situation has aggravated significantly. Coping with its effects has gotten increasingly complicated in today's society. Today, youths find themselves being very vulnerable targets, easily engaging in a wide range of dangerous circumstances. Due to the various factors that make young people a vulnerable community, international organizations have highlighted the need of addressing crime with a specific focus on youth. Therefore, this necessity has introduced several initiatives.

C) Urgency and Importance of the Topic

The development of prevention policies that emphasize empowering and understanding young people's experiences, and the prevention of their engagement in criminality, has become a crucial commitment the authorities have made. For instance, the Youth Envoy grants visibility to the problematic inside the document considered the basis of itself: the Youth 2030 Strategy. Nevertheless, the Envoy on Youth is not the only organism among the United Nations (UN) System that recognizes the issue.

The UN has released diverse resolutions and programs focusing on the role youth has gained inside organized crime:

- Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention, from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), that encourages Member States to adopt holistic approaches to prevent youth involvement in crime;
- Resolution 70/174, of the General Assembly, focusing on youth and children's protection from violence and exploitation in criminal justice systems;
- Youth Initiative, created by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), that empowers youth as leaders in drug prevention through education and awareness campaigns.

There are also programs developed and promoted by youth to fight the effects of organized crime and inequalities in youth:

- "Youth Crime Watch of America", a youth-led initiative encouraging young people to take an active role in crime prevention within their schools and communities;
- "I Am a Role Model" from South Africa, a mentorship-driven program aimed at providing guidance to at-risk youth in underserved areas;
- "Juvenile Justice Advocates International Youth Program" from Mexico, which engages youth in improving conditions within juvenile detention facilities and advocating for legal reforms;
- "Leap to Success" from the Philippines, a youth-led program that combats inequality by addressing education gaps in vulnerable communities.
- "Canvas for Hope" from Kenya, a program that focuses on mural painting and creative workshops to empower and develop youth living in crime prone neighborhoods.

D) Statistic Data

The increase of the crime rate all over the world has surprised specialists in the topic. With some countries presenting the biggest increase of crime cases in history, this has affected not only the economy of a country, but also its social environment. Statistics on youth and organized crime point to a concerning trend: youth are more susceptible to getting involved in criminal activity. People that are involved in organized crime are often between the ages of 15 and 29 years old. Young individuals make up between 30% and 40% of criminal group members in many regions, including Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the link between youth and organized crime is especially strong. Countries like El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala have high levels of youth participation in gangs, with over 50% of gang members being under the age of 24. Furthermore, there are also extremely high youth homicide rates in countries like Brazil and Mexico, where young people are both victims and perpetrators.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in employment losses, school closures, and a lack of government help, making the issue worse and increasing the vulnerability of young people to engage in organized crime. This has also led to an increase in the engagement of young people in cybercrimes such as online fraud and drug trafficking via digital platforms. In addition, the UNODC states that between 200,000 and 300,000 youths are detained worldwide, with a significant number of them going through unofficial court systems.

Lastly, a major problem is the issue of recidivism among youths convicted of crimes. Compared to adults, youths typically have greater rates of recidivism. In the United States, for example, within three years of being released from detention, 76% of youths convicted of crimes are arrested again. Similar trends have been noted in various regions of the world, which highlights the challenges young people have when trying to reintegrate into society after being involved in criminal activity.

E) International Action

Taking in consideration the programs that have been made by the governments and different institutions, the new generation and each state are creating their own campaigns to try to solve this problem in marginalized places. Programs like the “Certified Crime Prevention Community Program” are helping different communities by looking for its problems and necessities, to later assist them to help them to get out of the difficult situations in which they are involved, this with the help of informative and awareness talks, as well as teaching them other ways to subsist.

Pillars

There are some key points to account on the problematic that could help to have a more inclusive approach that covers every factor involved in it, and that represents crucial information that the delegates should consider for the debate:

- *Vulnerability Factors that Lead Youth to Engage in Crime*

Find the main causes that lead youth to be involved in crime.

- *Crime Prevention*

Develop strategies to prevent the incidence of youth in crime that addresses the vulnerability factors identified.

- *Types of Crime Webs Where Young People are Involved*

Understanding and categorizing common offenses.

- *Rehabilitation and Prevention of Recidivism*

Explore and identify the causes of recidivism of crimes and find strategies that target rehabilitation and a healthy reintegration to society.

The Envoy considers young communities as the opportunity of solution, rather than the hopeless perpetrators. Youth is the foundation of the future, the source of innovation and courage today's society needs. Offering alternatives, opportunities, and support to the future of the world will never be considered as a waste of time by the Youth Envoy. With the right approach, not only will young people's engagement in criminality achieve global improvement, but it will also cope with many more issues that surround the main problematic. Youths are, indeed, the voices of positive change, but global support also plays an important role in their empowerment.

TOPIC B'S

GLOSSARY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The exosystem-level that reflects the life quality of an individual or a community, including educational quality and health care.

CYBERCRIMES

Illegal activities that are done in a digital environment.

MARGINALIZED PLACES

A place or a group of people that is treated as insignificant or peripheral.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Communities which include women, racial or ethnic groups, low-income individuals and families, individuals with disabilities, individuals with mental health conditions, children, etc.

NARCO STATE

A state whose government, judiciary, and military have been effectively infiltrated by drug cartels, or where illegal drugs are traded.


 **NARCOTICS**

A substance to treat extreme pain, in high quantities can be addictive for the patient.

 **RECIDIVISM**

The tendency of a convicted felon to commit a new crime after being released.

 **REHABILITATION**

The action of restoring someone through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

 **CRIME**

Illegal activities perpetrated by an aggressor.

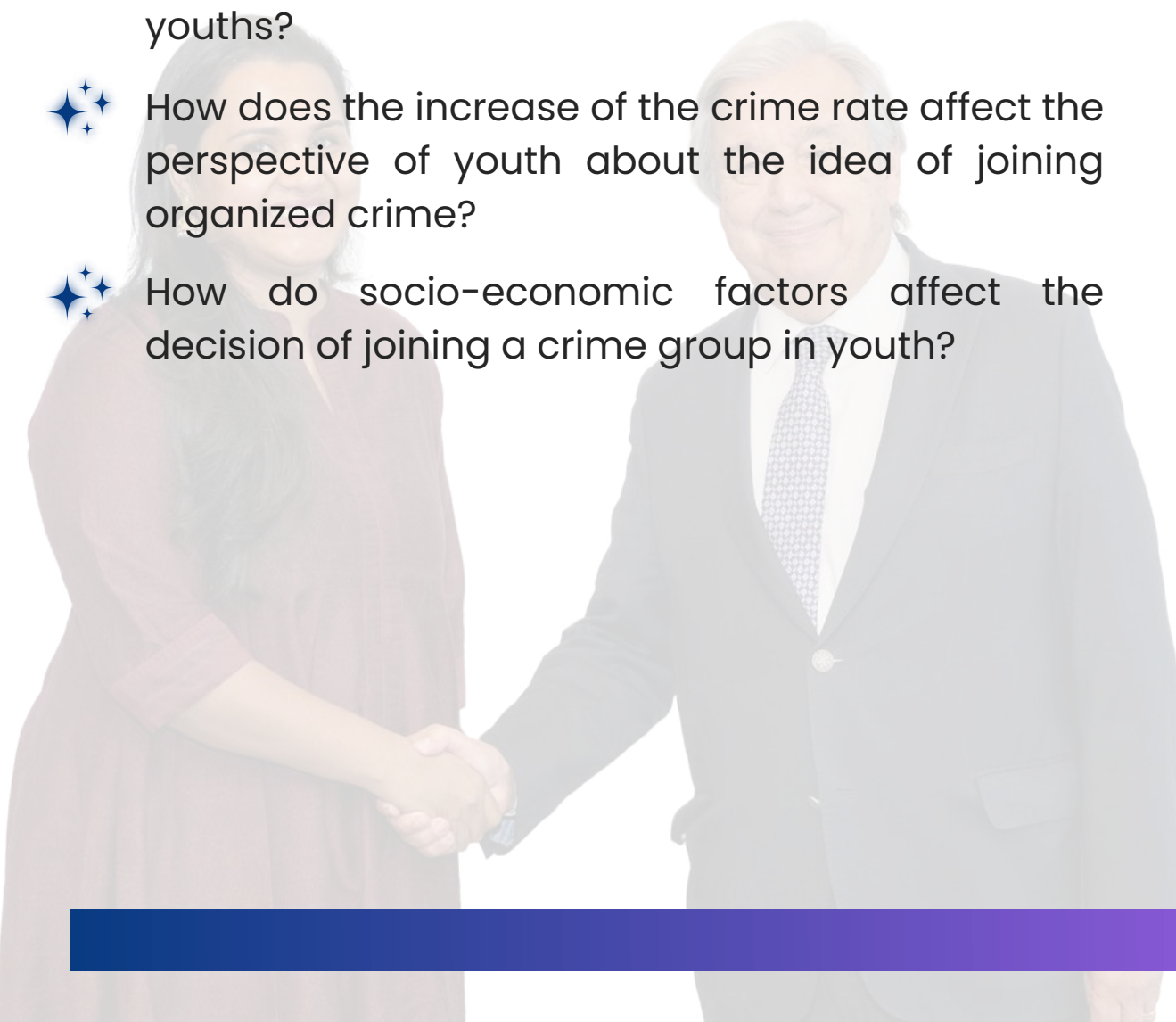
 **BEING CONVICTED OF A CRIME**

A court has determined that a defendant is guilty of a crime

TOPIC B'S

QUESTIONS

- ✦ Does your country have international or national strategies?
- ✦ What role may leaders and organizational culture play in mitigating and preventing the vulnerable communities from their engagement in crime?
- ✦ What are the effects of empowering youth from vulnerable communities and preventing their engagement in crime?
- ✦ Are there any cases that exemplify the strategies to empower youth from vulnerable communities and prevent their engagement in crime?
- ✦ What future trends can be foreseen in empowering youth from vulnerable communities to prevent their engagement in crime?
- ✦ What have the governments done to protect youth from their engagement in crime?

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- ✦ What actions can be implemented to empower youth from vulnerable communities and prevent their engagement in crime?
 - ✦ What percentage of youth in your country is considered as a vulnerable community?
 - ✦ How has the use of addictive substances or behaviors affected the opportunities of the youths for a better future?
 - ✦ How have the vulnerable communities have been affected by the usage and sale of narcotics to the youths?
 - ✦ How does the increase of the crime rate affect the perspective of youth about the idea of joining organized crime?
 - ✦ How do socio-economic factors affect the decision of joining a crime group in youth?

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL

Solving the Youth Crime Problem

Case, S. (2016). Solving the youth crime 'problem' [Video]. TED & LoughboroughU. YouTube. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYWPyiZlpV8>

Changing the Odds for Chicago's Youth

Quinn, J., & Wolf, J. (2017). Changing the Odds for Chicago's Vulnerable Youth [Video]. TED & Youth@LatinSchool. YouTube. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vC_fFEKoZU

Resilience of Youth to Organized Crime

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. (2022). Resilience of Youth to Organized Crime. Retrieved from <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GMFA-Strengthening-Resilience-of-Youth-to-Organized-Crime-ENG-web.pdf>

Radical

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