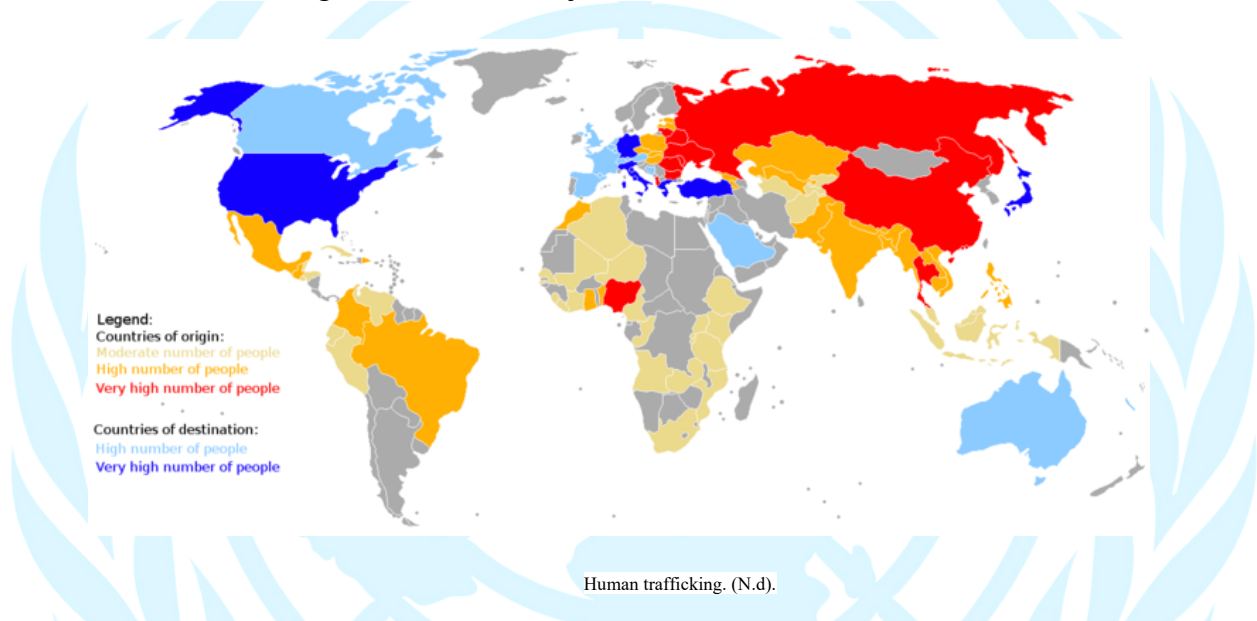


United Nations Human Rights Council

A) Human trafficking in African and Asian countries as a barrier to the fulfillment of human rights.

Background

Human trafficking is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. The practice of exploiting people for profit has a long history, and the fight against it began at least a century ago, long before the modern human rights system was born. However, trafficking has not been a major concern until the last decade.



The international definition of human trafficking consists in the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability. Also, by giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation includes the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. According to the Protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC (2019).



Pace university. (2019).

According to OHCHR (2016). Some of the causes identified are the inequalities within countries and among them, the tightening of immigration policies as well as an increase in the demand for cheap and vulnerable labor. There are many factors that increase the vulnerability of people to trafficking such as: poverty, violence and discrimination.

Human trafficking means that the following rights are being violated, OHCHR (2016):

- The right to life
- The right to freedom and security
- The right not to be subjected to slavery, servitude, forced labor or work in conditions of debt bondage
- The right not to be subjected to torture and / or cruel, inhumane treatment or punishment

Data from the International Organization for Migration (2017) estimate that 40 million people are trafficked for different purposes; reproductive slavery, sexual exploitation, forced labor and organ harvesting. Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo are African countries that have in their hands, among many other problems, a calamity that is expanding more and more all over the world. The so-called slavery of the 21st century has become in these countries and in other latitudes, one of the problems that most affects people's welfare.



Human trafficking. (N.d).



Hernandez, L. (2016).

Human trafficking in Asia generates about 2,000 million dollars (1,800 million Euros) of benefit to criminal groups and causes many deaths and abuses, according to a UN report. The Asia-Pacific region, with an estimated figure of 9.5 million, accounts for the largest number of victims of forced labor in the world, out of a total of 12.3 million. According to the International Labour Organization (2015).

More than 90% of the countries of the world typify as a crime the human trafficking. Many countries have enacted new laws or updated existing laws from the entry into force in 2003 of the Trafficking Protocol of Persons of the United Nations. While this legislative progress is remarkable, much remains to be done. Nine countries still lack legislation in this area, while 18 others have partial legislation that only protects some victims or only provides for certain forms of exploitation. Some of these countries are big in territory and they are densely populated, so that more than 2 billion people lack the full protection provided for in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. UNICEF (2018).

Guide Questions

1. According to the annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), at what level of responsibility is your country located, what does it need to achieve a better level?
2. What measures is your country taking to sanction human trafficking?
3. How is the government of your country fulfilling with the standards of the act on human trafficking?

4. How have the percentages of human trafficking move in your country, have they increased alarmingly in recent years?
5. Has the country been a victim of slavery, what connections can you establish with human trafficking?
6. Are there any organized crime groups in your country and can you consider them as a possible cause for human trafficking?
7. What measures can your country take to support those affected?
8. What resources does your country have to help other nations, and does the country agree in lending these resources?
9. What security actions in favor of vulnerable people has your country taken that can be applied in neighboring countries?
10. With which countries can you ally to make proposals that favor the fulfillment of human rights in the affected areas?
11. How has your country intervened in another country to advocate for the fulfillment of human rights, has there been a positive or a negative impact?
- 12.

Resolutions

1. UNODC offers practical help to States, not only helping to draft laws and create comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies but also assisting with resources to implement them. States receive specialized assistance including the development of local capacity and expertise, as well as practical tools to encourage cross-border cooperation in investigations and prosecutions.

UNODC. (2019). *Human trafficking*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

2. An awareness-raising initiative to combat human trafficking and its impact on society. The Blue Heart Campaign is about encouraging massive participation and inspiring measures that contribute to ending this crime. It also allows you to express your solidarity with the victims of trafficking in persons.

UNODC. (2018). *UNODC launches Blue Heart campaign against human trafficking*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/es/about-us.html>

3. UNICEF and its partners developed in 2005 the document "Guidelines for the protection of the rights of child victims of trafficking". This document proposes a series of good practices regarding the protection and assistance of child traffic victims: from the initial step of identification to the integration and recovery of the child. The objective is to provide action guidelines on the development of protection procedures for governments, international organizations and NGOs.

UNICEF. (2018). *Trafficking in persons, especially women and children in Central and Western Africa*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.es/noticia/el-traffic-de-personas-especialmente-mujeres-y-ninos-en-africa-central-y-occidental>

4. USAID (The United States Agency for International Development,) has supported Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) programs in over 71 countries and regions since 2001. USAID's C-TIP approach follows the 4Ps: Prevention of trafficking through awareness-raising and addressing root causes, Protection of victims and survivors, Prosecution of traffickers by building government law enforcement capacity, and Partnership building for a strengthened response.

USAID. (2018). *Countering trafficking in persons*. Retrieved from: <https://www.usaid.gov/trafficking>

Important definitions

- **Exploitation:** the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work. UNPAN (2019).
- **Prosecutions:** the institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge. UNPAN (2019).
- **Violation:** the action of violating someone or something. UNPAN (2019).
- **Harboring:** keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly. UNPAN (2019).
- **Profit:** a financial gain, especially the difference between the amount earned and the amount spent in buying, operating, or producing something. UNPAN (2019).
- **Human rights:** a right that is believed to belong justifiably to every person. UNPAN (2019).
- **Coercion:** the practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats. UNPAN (2019).
- **Abduction:** the action or an instance of forcibly taking someone away against their will. UNPAN (2019).
- **Fraud:** wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. UNPAN (2019).
- **Deception:** wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. UNPAN (2019).
- **Recruitment:** the action of enlisting new people in the armed forces. UNPAN. (2019).

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USAID. (2018). *Countering trafficking in persons*. Retrieved from: <https://www.usaid.gov/trafficking>



B) Water access and sanitation: The Democratic Republic of the Congo Crisis

Background



UN/Regina Merkova

According to United nations (N.d.) “Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in and there is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this.” “Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy

ecosystems and for human survival itself. Water is also a rights issue. As the global population grows, there is an increasing need for balance of the competing commercial demands on water resources. At the human level, water cannot be seen in isolation from sanitation. Together, they are vital for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the health, education and economic productivity of populations.” - United nations (N.d.). However, According to United Nations (N.d.) "due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, millions of people including children every year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene." This is way the Assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water for personal and domestic uses which must be safe, acceptable and affordable.



UN Photo/ Omar Abdisalan

“And for it, the WHO produces international norms on water quality and human health in the form of guidelines that are used as the basis for regulation and standard setting world-wide. The Guidelines for drinking water quality (GDWQ) promotes the protection of public health by advocating for the development of locally relevant standards and regulations (health-based targets), adoption of preventive risk management independent surveillance to ensure that Water Safety Plans are being implemented and effective and that national standards are being met.” - World health organization (N.d)

“Currently, there are 2.3 billion people worldwide, who still do not have basic sanitation facilities such toilets or latrines. According to the WHO / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation, at least 1.8 billion people world-wide are estimated to drink water that is not protected against contamination from faeces.” - United nations (N.d.)

To be more precise according to USAID (N.d.) “the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the second largest country in Africa, is endowed with large quantities of freshwater. However, water security is low because of economic and governance constraints. Economic growth is negative in real terms, which limits the government’s basic infrastructure investments and maintenance. Currently only 42% percent of the population has access to basic water and 20% percent has access

to sanitation. Lack of access to water and sanitation, coupled with poor hygiene behaviors, are among the top five risk factors associated with death and disability in the country. The lack of such basic services is a direct cause of diarrhoea, of which 14% of children under the age of five die annually, and epidemic outbreaks of cholera, which cause over 20,000 deaths per year, particularly in the provinces of Katanga, Orientale, North Kivu and South Kivu.”

In this committee, the objective is to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all the population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Seeking that the different countries of the Committee, unify forces and resources to achieve a resolution of this topic; what is intended to achieve is that the different countries that have the best quality of life thanks to the quality and distribution of the hydraulic resources grant different resources and invest depending on their possibilities in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene at every level to the Democratic Republic of the Congo , and by this resolution make the fulfillment of human rights with respect to water access and sanitation equitable in most of the world.



WHO/Fid Thompson

Guide Questions

1. In the country that you represent, what percentage of the population has access to safe and clean water?
2. What measures is your country taking to achieve the compliance of the right that refers to the access to safe and clean water?
3. What measures is the Democratic Republic of the Congo implementing to eradicate its water crisis?
4. What countries and / or organizations have established actions or treaties to eradicate the crisis in the Congo? And what are these agreements?
5. Which technological resources and infrastructure does your country have to offer for its implementation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to guarantee the specifications to be considered safe and clean water in this country?
6. Which agreements has your country established in order to contribute to the fight against the water crisis on the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
7. What are the most important systems and technologies that exist nowadays with the objective to improve the water access and sanitation? In which countries are they being applied? Are they able to be implemented on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and how?
8. Nowadays different countries and organizations are trying to improve the situation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; who are these countries and organizations and how are they fighting against this crisis? Are the different plans and strategies that are being applied efficient?

Resolutions

1. In the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015: “The human rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation”, you will be able to read the different measures and strategies accorded on this assembly, referring to the importance of the water and its sanitation. Highlighting the most important points that were addressed on this document, we could mention: The Reaffirmation of the previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Calls upon States to ensure the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. To read more about it, click on the following link:

United Nations (2016) *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015*. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/169

2. In the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016: “International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–2028”, you will be able to read different measures and accords adopted between the different members of the general assembly according to the subject treated.

It is important to highlight in a general way the most relevant points established in this resolution: the Reaffirmation of the sustainable development goals and targets, including those related to water resources, contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Welcomes the activities related to water undertaken by Member States, the Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, through inter-agency work, between other organizations and members from the assembly to contribute to the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”. To read more about it, click on the following link.

United Nations (2017) *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016*. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/222

Important definitions

- **Water:** “Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself.” - United Nations (N.d.)

- **Clean:** A state in which the resource covers the healthy guidelines for its consumption.

- **Sanitation:** the process in which are given to the resource the minimal conditions to be consumed.

- **Safe:** “The water required for each personal or domestic use must be safe, therefore free from micro-organisms, chemical substances and radiological hazards that constitute a threat to a person’s

health. Measures of drinking-water safety are usually defined by national and/or local standards for drinking-water quality.” - Coordinating the UN's work on water and sanitation (N.d.)

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