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DEENS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA:

"Discussing a Universal Human Rights Convention (The Vienna Declaration, 1993)"

Freeze Date:

24th June, 1993

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings, Delegates! We are beyond delighted to have you here at the 2024 Edition of DMUN! We, as your Executive Board, would like to welcome you to the Historic United Nation General Assembly. This committee is a global inter-governmental body, dedicated towards discussion of a human rights declaration for its promotion and protection. You will be gathered for a formal meeting for a span of two days, representing various countries and will discuss the threats and issues that violate an individual's basic rights hopefully coming to a productive conclusion.

To guide you with your research we have prepared this background guide so that you are familiar with the agenda. Please note that this guide is to merely provide you with a basic idea of the committee, so it is a mandate that you go beyond the guide in your research.

As the Executive Board, we are here to support and guide you throughout the conference. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. Together, we can harness the power of collaboration and diplomacy to make meaningful strides towards a more just and equitable world.

We look forward to having you in our committee and hope that you find this guide helpful. All in all, enjoy your time in committee, be creative and intuitive, and try to steer the committee in the direction you want it to, to your level best. Beyond this, we hope you take an invaluable learning experience away from this conference. All the very best delegates, wishing you an exciting experience at DMUN 24'!

With Anticipation,

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Rules of Procedure - ROP

Rules of procedure refers to the set of rules and conduct that delegates are expected to follow and maintain during the entirety of the conference in order to ensure that decorum is maintained. This committee would follow the UNA-USA format of rules and procedure.

Flow of committee:

1. Motion to begin formal session - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin formal session.
2. Motion to set agenda - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to set the agenda of the committee.
3. Motion to begin roll call - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin roll call. During roll call the delegate can either say "Present" or "Present and Voting".
   Note - If a delegate chooses to say "Present and Voting" then the delegate cannot abstain from voting for the resolution at the end of the committee. If the delegate votes "Present in voting" on the first day, their stance cannot be changed to "Present" during the rest of the conference. Meanwhile if they choose to say "Present" on the first day, a delegate can choose to change their stance to "Present in voting" during the rest of the conference.
4. Motion to open the GSL (General Speakers List) - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to establish the General Speakers List.
5. Motion to move into Moderated Caucus - To put this motion in order, the delegate raises a motion to suspend formal debate/session and move into a Moderated Caucus on the topic "xyz" for a time period of "xyz" minutes allotting "xyz" minutes/seconds per speaker.
6. Motion to move into Unmoderated Caucus - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to suspend formal session and move into an unmoderated caucus for a time period of "xyz" minutes.

7. Motion to adjourn committee - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to adjourn committee session.

8. Motion to resume committee - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to resume committee session.

9. Motion to present Draft Resolution (or any other documentation) - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to introduce "resolution name".

   Note - In order to introduce amendments, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to move into amendments for the "resolution name".

   In order to vote on the resolution the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to table "resolution name" for the voting procedure. Delegates can either vote "Yes" or "No", if their voting stance is "Present in Voting". However if their voting stance is "Present", delegates can choose to abstain from voting in the resolution.

General MUN Terms:

1. Motions – It is a call to take a decision by a delegate that will affect the entire committee.

2. Points – Used to bring something of non-substantive importance to notice in committee and ask questions.

3. Yields – Utilising extra speech time left after a GSL speech.

4. Executive Board – They will facilitate debate within the Committee and are usually seated at the very front.

5. Blocs - Different groups that have similar ideas and opinions about the topics. In the real UN, there are regional blocs, but delegates can choose to build their own blocs in the Model UN. These blocs will typically work together to create a draft resolution.

6. Lobbying – Informal discussion with fellow delegates before and after the MUN sessions regarding the agenda, bloc positions, etc.

7. Quorum – The minimum number of delegates required to begin a committee session (1/5th of total strength).

Debate in MUN conference:

In a MUN conference, debate is of two types -

1. Formal debate - which consists of the General Speakers List (GSL)
2. Informal debate - which consists of Moderated Caucus and Unmoderated Caucus.

General Speakers List (GSL):

- The GSL is a non exhaustive list, if it is exhausted the committee concludes.
- It has a default speaker time of 90 seconds
- It is generally an introductory speech in relation to the agenda, but with the flow of the committee it is recommended to shape the speech in accordance to what is being discussed in regards to the committee.
- Points of information (POI's) can be brought up during GSL speeches. (Points explained below)
- If the delegate finishes their speech before their speaker time ends, the delegate can yield the remaining time in four ways -
    a. Yield to the Executive Board - In this case the Executive Board may decide on how the time can be used.
    b. Yield to Questions - In order to allow questions from the committee.
    c. Yield to Comments - In order to allow comments from the delegates present in committee.
    d. Yield to another delegate - In this case the delegate can yield their remaining time to another delegate, for their own benefit.

Moderated Caucus:

- In a moderated caucus a more specific line of speeches is followed in relation to a sub agenda or subtopic.
- It is time sensitive, which means that it will elapse.
- Points of information and yielding will **not** be allowed in a moderated caucus.
- Points of orders will be entertained in a moderated caucus.

- These speeches made by delegates carry a high weightage compared to all the other speeches in committee.
- The time limit cannot be more than 2 minutes individual speakers time, and 20 minutes for total, but can be extended by half the time of the previous moderated caucus.
- If the delegate is not recognized to speak, a delegate can send in their points through substantive chits.

Format of substantive chits:

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Substantive Chit

To : Executive Board
From : The delegate of (portfolio)

(Include points not being brought up in committee in the chit)

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Unmoderated Caucus:

- Delegates engage in more informal discussions, usually get up and talk to each other and without chairperson intervention.
- Usually used for discussion regarding the Draft Resolution, Resolution, Working Paper or to come up with a road-map for the committee.
- Time sensitive, which implies that it also lapses.
- 'The Delegate of XYZ would like to suspend formal debate and motions to move into an Unmoderated Caucus for a total time period of _____ minutes. (not more than 20 minutes)
- Can be extended by half the time of the previous Unmoderated Caucus.

Points:

- Point of Information – Used to ask questions on the speech that just ended. Follow-ups may be granted according to the discretion of the Executive Board. The delegate must present the question to the Executive board. For example, "The delegate of xyz stated quote 'insert what the delegate said in their speech that you have a question on'. The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to ask the delegate of xyz 'your question'."
- Points of Order – Used to point out a flaw in a delegate's speech. It will either be a Factual Inaccuracy or a Logical Fallacy. A Point of Order of Factual inaccuracy would be pointing out any factual flaws in the delegate's speech. These must also be raised to the Executive board. An example would be, "The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to raise a Point of Order, Factual Inaccuracy/Logical Fallacy. 'State the incorrect fact stated or the flaw in logic'."
- Point of Personal Privilege – Anything regarding yourself and the environment. (Going to the bathroom, Switching off the fans, etc.) This is the only point that can trump anything else in committee, i.e. you can interrupt speeches, etc. if you are raising this point.
- Point of Parliamentary Enquiry – Questions regarding the flow of committee and rules of procedure.

Documentation:

- Working Paper (Draft Resolution but not in format)
- Draft Resolution
- Substantive chits

Resolution:

- A resolution can contain only the solutions which are being brought about during committee sessions.
- Sponsors – Usually the authors of the DR/R. Must vote in favour of the document when put up for a vote. They CANNOT become a signatory to any other resolution.
- Signatories – Neither support not agree with the document, but would like to see it presented in committee. Have no obligation to vote for the document and one delegate

can be a signatory to multiple resolutions. Every DR/R must have at least 1/3th of the total members of committee as signatories to even be presented.

- Clauses – Preambulatory and Operative
- Amendments – Non-Substantive and Substantive → Friendly and Unfriendly and additions, Modifications or Deletions
- Voting → Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, Abstention.

Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy and decision making body of the UN. It comprises all member states deliberating and discussing international affairs and agendas in accordance with the charter of the United Nations. In total there are 193 member states in the UNGA.

The UNGA makes several of the vital decisions taken by the United Nations as a whole, these include appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations based on the recommendations of the Security Council, electing non permanent members of the Security Council and approving the UN's budget.

The General Assembly works tirelessly from September to December every year in order to ensure peace and cooperation across the globe. Debating and deliberating over several issues of international significance. It enacts its will through the adoption of resolutions and aims to make the world a better place through international cooperation.

Mandate of the United Nations General Assembly

As per the United Nations Charter, the mandate of the UNGA is:

Article 10

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.

Article 11

1) The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.

2) The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 2, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations with regard to any such questions to the state or states concerned or to the Security Council or to both. Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion.

3) The General Assembly may call the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security.

4) The powers of the General Assembly set forth in this Article shall not limit the general scope of Article 10.

Article 12

1) While the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

2) The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

Article 13

1) The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of:
   a) promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification;
   b) promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

2) The further responsibilities, functions and powers of the General Assembly with respect to matters mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) above are set forth in Chapters IX and X.

Article 14

Subject to the provisions of Article 12, the General Assembly may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations, including situations resulting from a violation of the provisions of the present Charter setting forth the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1) The General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council; these reports shall include an account of the measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security.
2) The General Assembly shall receive and consider reports from the other organs of the United Nations.

Article 16

The General Assembly shall perform such functions with respect to the international trusteeship system as are assigned to it under Chapters XII and XIII, including the approval of the trusteeship agreements for areas not designated as strategic.

Article 17

1) The General Assembly shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization.
2) The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.
3) The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialised agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialised agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned, and shall contemplate social aspects listed under Articles 55 through 60.

Introduction to the Agenda

"Discussing a Universal Human Rights Convention (The Vienna Declaration, 1993) Freeze Date: June 24th 1993"

The year 1993 marked a significant moment in the ongoing global dialogue on human rights. As the world emerged from the ideological divides of the Cold War and faced new geopolitical realities, there was a renewed emphasis on strengthening international commitments to human rights. The discussion on establishing a Universal Human Rights Convention in this context was both timely and essential.

Human Rights are the fundamental most basic unit of democracy that must be granted to every individual irrespective of class, colour, creed, sex, religion, nationality, or any other status. The importance of human rights have been enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. However, the decades that followed revealed both the successes and limitations of preexisting legal frameworks regarding Human Rights. Thus, it is the responsibility of the delegates of this committee to come up with a universally accepted document built on these foundations that address contemporary challenges.

The year 1993 was characterised by multiple factors that brought about the demand for reframing this document emphasising on its interdependence and indivisibility. The end of the Cold War brought a shift in global power dynamics, opening opportunities for greater international cooperation on human rights without the ideological constraints that had previously hindered such efforts. The Post Cold War era also characterised the rise of multiple newly emerging democracies in various parts of the world, especially in Eastern Europe and Latin America. These transitions provided both opportunities and challenges for the protection and promotion of human rights. The early 1990s also brought about a new era of globalisation and this increasing interconnectedness of the world highlighted the need for a more unified approach to human rights, addressing issues such as economic inequality, labour rights, and environmental protection.

Thus, the discussion on a Universal Human Rights Convention was aimed at reinvigorating the global commitment to human rights considering new geopolitical realities and emerging challenges, seeking to build a more just and equitable international order.

Timeline of the Events

1760 BCE - King of Babylon, Hammurabi, creates the "Code of Hammurabi" on a stone slab, promising to "make justice reign in the kingdom and promote the good of the people"

528 BCE – 486 BCE - In India, Buddha preaches the importance of morality, righteousness and the right conduct

26 – 33 CE- Jesus Christ preaches morality, forgiveness and a need for tolerance amongst men

613 – 632 CE - Prophet Muhammed stresses on the need for equality, justice and righteousness

930 - The oldest parliament, the Althing was founded in Iceland

1215 -The Magna Carta is signed in England, restricting the powers of the king and allowing free men to be judged by their peers

1789 - During the French Revolution, The French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was written to guarantee liberty, equality, property and resistance to oppression

1791 - The Bill of Rights was passed in the United States of America where the Congress amended the Constitution to include fundamental human rights of speech, belief, assembly and trial by jury

1807 - Anti Slavery laws were passed in Britain and United States of America

1859 - The Battle of Solferino took place which inspired Swiss Humanitarian to found the International Committee of the Red cross, which further led to the first Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law

1863 - The International Committee of the Red Cross was created

1864 - The First Geneva Convention is adopted.

1893 -New Zealand becomes the first country in the world to give women the right to vote

1899 - The first Hague Convention was signed, forming the basis for international Humanitarian law, along with the Geneva Conventions

1907 - Second Hague Conference was held and the Second Hague Convention is signed

1919- The Treaty of Versailles was signed as a consequence of the First World War.
1920- The League of Nations was created.

1945 - End of the Second World War and the Holocaust, one of the greatest tragedies in human history

1945 - The United Nations is created and its Charter specified its purpose to "reaffirm the faith in human rights, in the dignity and worth of a human person"

1948 - The United Nations Adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1949- The Second, Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions are negotiated and signed

1950 - The Council of Europe adopts the European Convention on Human Rights.

1965 - The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was signed, which entered into force in 1969.

1966 - The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was signed which entered into force in 1976

1979 - The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was signed which later entered into force in 1981

1984 - The Convention Against Torture was signed which entered into force in 1987
1986- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into effect.

1989 - The Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed which entered into force in 1990, it was one of the most widely ratified human rights treaties, however major countries like the USA have not ratified it

1990 - International Convention on the protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) which entered into force in 2003

Case Studies

1. **JAPAN**

The humanitarian situation in Japan in 1993 was marked by significant challenges due to natural disasters and economic recession. The government's response, combined with international aid, helped to address immediate needs and set the stage for long-term improvements in disaster preparedness and economic policy.

The economic bubble burst in the early 1990s led to a prolonged recession, known as the "Lost Decade," which increased unemployment and poverty

Natural Disasters
- Mount Unzen Volcanic Eruption: The eruption of Mount Unzen in Kyushu had been causing destruction since 1990, but in 1993, it continued to displace residents and destroy homes and infrastructure. The pyroclastic flows were particularly deadly, causing significant casualties and necessitating large-scale evacuations.

Economic Impact:
- Recession: The economic stagnation led to a rise in unemployment, which in turn caused an increase in homelessness and poverty. Many people who had lost their jobs and savings were unable to secure housing, leading to a visible increase in homelessness, especially in urban areas like Tokyo and Osaka.
- Government Response: Efforts to strengthen social safety nets included extending unemployment benefits and social housing programs, though these were often seen as inadequate.

2. **RUSSIA**

In 1993, Russia faced severe political and economic turmoil due to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The transition to a market economy brought about widespread poverty, unemployment, and social instability within the country.

Economic Agitation
- Economic Reforms: The shift to a market economy, known as "shock therapy," led to hyperinflation, mass unemployment, and a dramatic decline in living standards.
- Poverty and Unemployment: Many people lost their jobs as state-owned enterprises closed or downsized, leading to increased poverty and homelessness.

Social Impact
- Healthcare Crisis: The healthcare system deteriorated due to underfunding, resulting in reduced access to medical services and a decline in public health.

- Crime and Corruption: The economic instability and weakened law enforcement led to a rise in crime and corruption, further exacerbating social problems.

3. **CHINA**

During the early 1990s, China was characterised by the dual challenges of managing rapid economic growth and addressing persistent poverty and social inequality. The country was also transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one, which brought upon both opportunities and challenges.

Social Impact

- Healthcare Crisis: The healthcare system deteriorated due to underfunding, resulting in reduced access to medical services and a decline in public health.
- Crime and Corruption: The economic instability and weakened law enforcement led to a rise in crime and corruption, further exacerbating social problems.
- Urban Migration: Millions of rural inhabitants migrated to cities in search of better opportunities. This rapid urbanisation strained urban infrastructure and services.
- Healthcare and Education: The reforms led to increased privatisation of healthcare and education, making access to these services more challenging for the poor.

Economic Implications

The world at the time was going through multiple changes including a dynamic economic situation characterised by various factors.

1. Global recession was seen during the early 1990s in The United States, Japan, and several European nations. Some factors that were contributing to this recession included high interest rates, reduced consumer confidence, and the aftermath of the 1980s financial excesses.

2. There were also several transitioning economies brought about by the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 leading to severe economic disruptions in the former Soviet satellite states. These countries transitioned from centrally planned economies to market economies, often facing severe economic contractions, hyperinflation, and increased poverty.

3. Many Latin American countries were recovering from the debt crisis of the 1980s. Structural adjustment programs, often mandated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were common, focusing on reducing fiscal deficits, privatising state-owned enterprises, and liberalising trade.

4. Several Asian economies, particularly the "Asian Tigers" (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore), continued to experience rapid economic growth. This period also saw the rise of China and India as significant economic players. China continued its economic reforms initiated in the late 1970s, transitioning from a planned economy to a more market-oriented one. This period saw rapid economic growth and significant increases in foreign direct investment.

The early 1990s were thus a period of significant economic change and transformation, influenced by a combination of technological advancements, policy reforms, and shifting global dynamics.

Humanitarian Implications

The purpose of the assembly at the World Conference of Human Rights was to create a common plan to strengthen any drawbacks in existing human rights law that were brought to light over the course of the latter half of the 20th Century. The following were the major drawbacks that were identified as vital issues that required deliberation at the Conference.

Lack of Country and State Specific Legislation

Conventions on Human Rights that have been drafted by the UN and other organisations are not applicable directly to national and local law. They effectively act as suggestions and guidelines for countries to follow and implement within their state. However, they fail to have effect locally if they are not supported by national law. In order for these rights to be applicable and exercised by individuals, these laws must be enacted and implemented on a national scale.

Human Rights laws set out general rights that cover various areas including civil rights, political rights, economic rights, social rights and cultural rights that in theory, must be guaranteed to every individual by virtue of them simply being human. These laws are to prevent states from mistreating their populace and setting arbitrary rules that govern human rights locally. However, the UN recognizes country sovereignty as above all and thus leaves it to countries to transpose international human rights law principles into their own legislation. Thus, the ability of international treaties and conventions on Human Rights is subject to countries' willingness to follow these guidelines when creating local laws. Further thus, it is subject to the resources that a country may possess to make implementation of those laws possible, both socially and economically.

Conflicts and Local Tensions cause countries to suspend Human Rights

As stated previously, the implementation of human rights law and its exercise by individuals depends on the resources available to that country. In peacetime, these resources may be more readily available and States can fully commit to providing their citizens these fundamental human rights. However, during periods of unrest, insecurity or conflict, countries have been known to suspend human rights for the benefit of law and order. This brings up further challenges, the first being what and when must balance be struck between human rights and order and the second being the fact that taking away the facility to exercise rights during conflicts may be more detrimental to the populace.

The laws in place now allow States these provisions to suspend human rights in these situations, giving them legal backing on the international forum even if rights are severely violated during times of conflict.

The laws do have provisions to act as safety mechanisms for these situations, by listing the indispensable rights and also by establishing a procedure for notifying internationally when these rights would be suspended.

In light of these facts, it is essential to identify what rights under Human Rights Law must be considered indispensable, absolute and fundamentally guaranteed, and what is relative and can be limited.

The Current Ineffectiveness of Sanctions as a Mechanism to Punish Violations

Most human rights laws have provisions to account for deviation or non-adherence of these laws. However, these provision mechanisms to monitor the application of the law seem lacklustre and ineffective in the event of an actual violation.

On a local and individual scale, if any human rights are violated, the person is to approach the courts of their own state, which is assumed to be well established, functional and function as an independent organ, since they may need to rule on actions of the State.

On a large scale, when mass and systemist violation of law occurs, under current legislation, countries of the world may be open to international proceedings to establish punitive methods in these cases. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Convention Against torture are the only documents that define mechanisms for egregious violations of human rights to bring legal action against perpetrators.

<u>Progress so far</u>

As of June 13, 1993, the United Nations has undertaken several key initiatives and actions in the realm of human rights which have significantly contributed to global progress.

Firstly, the Member States have adopted key human rights instruments such as
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): It was established as a common standard for all people and nations. It set out, for the first time, the fundamental human rights to be universally protected
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966): The ICCPR focuses on civil and political rights and the ICESCR focuses on economic, social and cultural rights. Together these covenants form the International Bill of Human Rights (along with the UDHR), setting comprehensive standards for human rights protection.

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965): The CERD declares that no State, institution, group, or individual shall make any discrimination whatsoever in matters of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the treatment of persons, groups of persons, or institutions on the ground of race, colour or ethnic origin. State parties have undertaken this convention to prohibit any sort of racial discrimination
- Several other fundamental treaties including
  - Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention) (1948)
  - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
  - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (1984)
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
  - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)
  - International Humanitarian Law such as the Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977)

Next, Member states have established and implemented a myriad of mechanisms to conserve the rights of people including
- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights - the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established to contrive the international legalities that protect fundamental rights and freedoms. It also serves as a platform for expressing concerns from both large and small nations, non-governmental organisations, and international human rights advocates.
- Special Procedures: The Human Rights Council's Special Procedures are a group of impartial human rights specialists tasked with reporting and offering country- or theme-specific advice on human rights. They are some of the most crucial instruments available to the UN for advancing and defending human rights. Working groups, independent experts, and special rapporteurs are examples of special procedures. They
  - Monitor and report
  - Advise and are involved in capacity building
  - They raise awareness
- Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process involving a periodic review of the human rights records of all UN member states. This aims to promote accountability and transparency in the human rights practices of member states.

Additionally, several Member States, such as the Republic of South Africa who reformed their Apartheid laws, These efforts have made significant efforts to promote and protect human rights during the period leading.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. What mechanisms should be established to ensure the universal implementation of human rights?
2. How can the resolution address and prevent human rights violations in post-conflict and conflict zones?
3. How can Member States protect the rights of persons with disabilities?
4. How can the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and indigenous peoples be enhanced?
5. What measures should be implemented to improve states' accountability in cases of human rights abuses?
6. What steps should the international community take to guarantee that everyone may exercise their human rights, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, or other status?
7. How can human rights education and awareness be promoted nationally and internationally?
8. What strategies may be utilised when dealing with certain human rights issues like violence, poverty, and discrimination, that impede the full realisation of human rights for all individuals?
9. What acts should be considered human rights violations and conversely, what constitutes fundamental human rights?
10. How may previous human rights resolutions be more efficiently implemented?

Research Links

Credible websites for reference: BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN (non USA), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, Forbes Magazine, Bloomberg, UN branches' websites.

1. Vienna Declaration - (As a reference, has not been created as per freeze date)
2. Guide to Humanitarian and Human Rights Law
3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

These links provide a general idea on what to research and only give you a starting point. None of these are country specific. We suggest that you research on the topics mentioned in the BG for your particular country as another push in the right direction.