



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SIMUN XVII EDITION



CLOSURE OF BORDERS BETWEEN COUNTRIES

STUDY GUIDE



Dear delegates,

It is a great honor for the Organizing Committee, the Advisory Team, and the Board of Directors of the institution to welcome you to the seventeenth edition of the San Ignacio Model of United Nations. We are delighted that you can attend our beloved model, where we seek to convey our values: Empathy, Responsibility, Integrity, and Perseverance.

This year, we celebrate SIMUN's twenty-second anniversary. During these years, the institution has been known for its impact on young people, who have left a legacy that serves as an inspiration for new generations. Our goal is to develop leaders who, in such a polarized world, embrace differences rather than seeing them as something that separates us. Therefore, the general theme of this edition of the model will be: "Historical Rivalries between Regions."

Each of the eleven committees that will be discussing this year is proof of the importance of pursuing global peace at every opportunity. From our daily actions and decisions to global projects, change can be generated with actions that promote tolerance and empathy. These are a critical need given how rivalries lead to increasingly frequent conflicts.

Making the decision to delegate to a model seems simple; however, it requires courage, attending a weekend to discuss problems that are often ignored, with a prior research process and discussions with people you don't know, but being open to having a different kind of weekend. Each of these factors gives special value to participating in MUN, marking a before and after for those of us who enter this world, leading us to define who we are and what we are passionate about.

The goal of this edition of SIMUN is to help you dream bigger; as the institution's motto goes: "Man is the Size of His Dreams." The key to this model is challenging yourselves to excel, so you can close the model knowing that you learned and improved during the competition, not only as delegates, but as people. Take advantage of the three days of debate to enjoy and create lasting memories, which will ultimately be the moments you long for when, as in my case, a beautiful stage is coming to an end, one that has given me the best moments of my life since I entered sixth grade. See you at SIMUN 2025!

Gabriel Gabizón Strumskis
Secretary General SIMUN 2025



Delegates,

I extend my warm greetings to you. My name is Alexandra Añez, and for the three days of this model, I will be your table president. I hope you are prepared for the seventeenth edition of our Model United Nations. I am very excited to meet you all and to ensure that the model unfolds in the best possible way.

The IOM (International Organization for Migration) plays a crucial role in the global management of migration, focusing on promoting humane and orderly migration that benefits both migrants and host communities. From its headquarters in Geneva, the IOM formulates policies and strategies, in addition to providing vital assistance to migrants and displaced populations, and mobilizing resources for the most vulnerable. Through collaboration with civil society organizations and the management of partnerships, the IOM seeks to improve migration governance, working jointly with governments and other entities to ensure the well-being of migrants and social cohesion in affected communities.

Migration is a matter of paramount importance worldwide, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays a fundamental role in its global management. Addressing the complex human, economic, and social dimensions of this phenomenon, the IOM leads migration governance, provides crucial assistance and protection to migrants, fosters international cooperation, and provides essential data and research for understanding migration flows. Its work facilitates regular migration pathways, and thanks to its extensive global presence, it implements programs and offers assistance adapted to the specific needs of each local context. In essence, the IOM is an indispensable organization for addressing the challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities inherent in migration, protecting the rights of migrants, promoting collaboration among actors, and promoting migration management that generates benefits for all, with particular relevance in situations such as the current Venezuelan migration that requires coordinated and humanitarian responses in the region.

I hope you find the study guide to your liking. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. I hope all the information is very clear. See you soon.

Alexandra Añez
President
Alexandra.anez.2025@colegiosi.org

History of the Committee

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 in response to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis following World War II. Initially known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), its primary objective was to coordinate the resettlement of millions of displaced persons and refugees who had lost their homes due to the global conflict. This significant endeavor marked the inception of an institution that would evolve into a pivotal actor in managing international migration.

In its early decades, the IOM focused on facilitating the safe and orderly movement of migrants, providing logistical support and technical assistance to member states. However, global dynamics shifted notably with the end of the Cold War and the rise in humanitarian crises, prompting the organization to expand its mandate. From the 1990s onward, the IOM began to play a more active role in emergency situations, managing responses to conflicts such as the Gulf War and other international crises, setting precedents for its institutional growth.



The year 2016 marked a significant milestone in its history, as it became a specialized agency of the United Nations. This new status enhanced its capacity to address not only

migratory challenges but also border conflicts and their humanitarian implications. Since then, the organization has closely collaborated with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other UN agencies to develop sustainable and inclusive solutions that uphold human rights and promote regional stability.



Introduction

Border conflicts represent one of the most significant challenges to global peace and stability. Borders, though originally conceived as administrative divisions between sovereign states, have become arenas of disputes. These friction zones impact not only the countries directly involved but also have international repercussions that alter regional security and global relations.

The humanitarian impact of this situation is profound: each year, millions are forced to leave their homes, suffering violations of their fundamental rights and facing scarce living conditions. Moreover, host countries must manage massive migratory flows and resolve social tensions arising from these displacements.

The commitment of the IOM as a specialized UN agency is crucial in mitigating these crises. Its work extends beyond immediate assistance in emergencies, focusing also on prevention, mediation, and the design of comprehensive strategies that balance

border security with respect for human rights.



Background

Border conflicts have deep-rooted causes that combine various factors. These tensions affect both the states involved and the local communities and migrants caught in these conflict zones. Among the most common triggers are:

- **Territorial Disputes:** These arise from imprecise boundaries established in the past, often remnants of colonial agreements and treaties. The lack of clear definitions and the persistence of historical claims lead to disputes between nations and communities.
- **Competition for Natural Resources:** The presence of essential components such as water, minerals, and fertile lands intensifies rivalries. In many regions, access to these elements is perceived as vital for economic development and food security, leading to prolonged disputes that affect both regional stability and the quality of life of inhabitants.
- **External Factors:** Environmental changes, like climate change, and environmental degradation act as

tension multipliers. The reduction of vital resources, exacerbated by extreme weather events and inadequate environmental management policies causes displacements, and increases pressure in border areas, intensifying disputes.

In the face of this complex scenario, the IOM has developed innovative strategies to address both the structural origins and immediate consequences of these conflicts. Cross-border projects, in collaboration with other agencies such as the FAO, have proven effective in reducing tensions in critical regions.

Problem Statement

The reality of border conflicts today is more complex and volatile than ever. In many regions, borders have been transformed into physical barriers reinforced with advanced surveillance technology. Drones, sensors, and high-security walls are now common, reflecting a growing distrust between neighboring nations. This militarization not only aims to control the flow of people and goods, but also symbolizes the fear of the unknown and the need to protect national sovereignty at all costs.

Communities living in these border areas face unique challenges. The lack of basic services, insecurity, and discrimination are part of this reality. In addition, restrictive migration policies and strict border controls hinder their mobility and access to opportunities, generating cycles of poverty and exclusion.

Current Situation

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) finds itself squarely positioned at the crux of an increasingly intricate global scenario, one sculpted by ever-expanding and progressively complex human mobility.

Recent appraisals from the year 2020 pinpoint roughly 281 million individuals residing beyond their native lands, a figure that not only constitutes 3.6% of the global populace but also underscores a persistent upward trajectory in international migration over time.

This sustained augmentation highlights the critical imperative of comprehending and addressing migratory dynamics as they shape the demographic, socioeconomic, political, and cultural tapestry on a planetary scale. The IOM, as the preeminent intergovernmental body dedicated to this very subject, faces the multifaceted challenge of analyzing, responding to, and guiding policies pertinent to this intricate phenomenon.



A pivotal demographic facet under the IOM's keen surveillance is the gender distribution amongst international migrants. While historical trends indicated a relatively balanced proportion of men and women in migratory flows, the past two decades have witnessed a gradual widening of the gender chasm, with male representation

increasingly dominant. In 2020, men accounted for 51.9% of the international migrant population (146 million), contrasting with 48.1% for women (135 million).

This discernible trend, marked by a consistent decline in the proportion of female migrants since the year 2000, necessitates a nuanced and differentiated approach from the IOM. Its policies and programs must be meticulously crafted to identify and alleviate the specific vulnerabilities encountered by female migrants, champion their empowerment, and ensure their access to adequate protection and services throughout every stage of the migratory journey.

From an economic vantage point, the IOM keenly acknowledges the profound role of remittances dispatched by migrant workers to their homelands. These financial conduits not only provide vital sustenance for millions of families but also contribute substantially to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of numerous developing nations. In 2022, countries such as India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and Egypt firmly established themselves as primary recipients of these monetary transfers, with India leading the charge, surpassing an unprecedented \$111 billion.

The IOM actively engages in facilitating more secure, swift, and cost-effective remittance channels, alongside promoting their productive investment to maximize their impact on the sustainable development of origin communities.

It remains fundamentally crucial for the IOM's endeavors to contextualize international migration within the broader spectrum of human mobility. While attention often gravitates towards cross-border movements, the vast

majority of migratory patterns unfold within national boundaries.

Nevertheless, the steady and proportional ascent of international migration underscores its mounting significance in the reshaping of societies globally. The IOM diligently strives to unravel the intricate interconnections between internal and international migration, recognizing that the underlying factors propelling mobility in general can exert influence on both types of movements.

The IOM operates within a global landscape characterized by a striking heterogeneity in the proportions of international migrants across different nations. While they constitute a minority of the population on a global scale, in certain countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, they exceed 88%. This diversity of contexts mandates policy and programmatic responses that are highly tailored to the specific realities of each region and country.

The IOM serves as a facilitator for the exchange of best practices and the development of innovative solutions that take into account the unique circumstances of countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Ultimately, the bedrock of the IOM's mission resides in an unwavering commitment to the human rights of migrants. The organization advocates for an approach that prioritizes the inherent dignity of each individual, irrespective of their migratory status.

The IOM champions the adoption of legal frameworks and migration policies at both national and international levels that guarantee the protection of the civil, political,

economic, social, and cultural rights of migrants.

This encompasses the combatting of discrimination, xenophobia, and human trafficking, as well as the promotion of access to justice, healthcare, and education for all migrants. In this capacity, the IOM functions as a pivotal facilitator for dialogue and cooperation among states, international organizations, civil society, and the migrants themselves, all with the overarching objective of ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration that benefits all stakeholders and is firmly grounded in the profound respect for human dignity.

Case Studies

The border between the two Koreas:

The Korean peninsula, divided into North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and South Korea (Republic of Korea), remains one of the world's most volatile regions.



The border between these two nations isn't a typical demarcation but rather a heavily secured, fortified, and monitored area known as the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ for short. The conflict started in June 1950, when North Korea, supplied and advised by the Soviet Union, invaded the South. The United Nations, with the United States as

the principal participant, joined the war on the side of the South Koreans, and the People's Republic of China came to North Korea's aid.

After more than a million combat casualties had been suffered on both sides, the fighting ended in July 1953 with Korea still divided into two hostile states. Negotiations in 1954 produced no further agreement, and the front line has been accepted ever since as the de facto boundary between North and South Korea. The DMZ is a 50-kilometer (160-mile) long, and approximately 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) wide buffer zone between the two Koreas. The DMZ roughly follows the 38th parallel but crosses it at angles.

Proposals to alleviate or "solve" the problems between the two Koreas have been proposed but weren't successful. Some of the proposed ideas consisted of trying to implement diplomatic talks between the nations, creating economic cooperations such as the now-closed Kaesong Industrial Complex, implementing a peace treaty, and even bringing to the table denuclearization talks against North Korea.

United States and Mexico:

The complex relationship between the United States and Mexico regarding immigration is arguably one of the most significant, yet often overlooked, consequences of America's past conflicts. While the stated goal of immigration policies in both countries is often to address shared challenges, in reality, both nations have primarily focused on the flow of undocumented labor. This focus, combined with issues along the border, has predictably led to several problems. For instance, in Fiscal

Year 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reported over 2.4 million encounters at the Southwest land border, highlighting the sheer volume of individuals involved.

High levels of poverty, instability, and violence in various regions of both Mexico and the United States have fueled significant migration. This, in turn, has resulted in increased border encounters between Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and migrants, a surge in asylum claims, growing humanitarian concerns, and a deterioration of relations between the two countries. Notably, the backlog of asylum cases pending in U.S. courts reached nearly 1.5 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2024, demonstrating the strain on the asylum system.



With this in mind, there have also been various attempts to help address these situations, such as increasing security around the borders, the reform of Immigration in the US, sending humanitarian aid to homeless immigrants, and diplomatic efforts between the countries.

Israel and Palestine:

The conflict's origins lie in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of Zionism, a movement advocating for a Jewish state in

Palestine, and the growth of Arab nationalism. The Jewish population in Palestine grew significantly during the British Mandate, increasing from roughly 50,000 in 1918 to over 600,000 by 1946, a key factor contributing to the escalating tensions with the existing Arab population. The 1947 UN Partition Plan proposed dividing Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states, but this was rejected by Arab leaders.

The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, following Israel's declaration of independence, resulted in significant Palestinian displacement and Israel's control over more territory than allotted in the Partition Plan. The West Bank came under Jordanian control, and the Gaza Strip came under Egyptian control.

The border between the state of Israel and Palestine has not yet been settled, and has instead been postponed to final-status negotiations. This shows, as a case study, how the Green Line, a temporary separation line determined by military considerations, changed over time into a de-facto boundary, and later became regarded as an international border—thus highlighting that what may be intended to be ‘temporary’ in bordering processes can rapidly seem permanent.



It indicates that bordering processes are complicated matters that must take into account many factors, including narratives, changing ethno-

demographic realities, and powerful interests, in contrast to ceasefire and separation lines, which usually relate solely to military matters.

Some of the Solutions proposed to resolve these conflicts have been: The 1947 UN Partition Plan, The Oslo Accords, The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, The Two-State Solution or The One-State Solution.

Past Actions

As displacement rises to record levels, the IOM has increased its own capacity, and that of other humanitarian actors, to reach and sustain access to communities in need of life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance. It has developed and adopted new technologies and approaches to increase the already enviable speed, efficiency and scale of responses.

IOM's expertise assisting people on the move, and agility and operational presence, mean that the IOM is uniquely placed to develop practical and scalable solutions across allcore intervention areas. In emergency settings, it has been provided cash and non-food items; health care; water, sanitation and hygiene support and shelter, so that basic needs are met.

When people face difficulties accessing basic services, in-country movement assistance has been provided. The use of specialized protection services has also been used, such as child protection measures, activities to mitigate the risk of and respond to gender-based violence and human trafficking, and psychosocial support.

The migration expertise has allowed the OIM to assist States in

developing appropriate border management responses so that more people can move to safety.

IOM's prominent role in humanitarian coordination and planning architecture will be central to the efforts to promote principled and inclusive humanitarian action, increasing and maintaining humanitarian access. Increased localization, with more participation and leadership of governments and local actors, will provide IOM with opportunities to share its expertise to plan and deliver responses that save lives and promote recovery.

QARMAS

1. What measures can be implemented to ensure the protection of the human rights of those displaced by border conflicts?
2. How can the international community prevent mass displacements resulting from these disputes?
3. What role should States play in the management of shared resources to avoid conflicts?
4. What strategies can be adopted to address ideological tensions in border areas?
5. How can the IOM work with States to ensure orderly and safe migration in conflict-affected regions?
6. What legal mechanisms can strengthen the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes?
7. How can international organizations ensure the sustainability of the solutions proposed for border conflicts?



MATRIZ IOM

Armenia	Mexico
Azerbaijan	North Korea
Cambodia	Palestine
China	Russia
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Eritrea	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Korea
France	South Sudan
Greece	Sudan
India	Switzerland
Iran	Turkey
Iraq	Ukraine
Israel	United States
Kenya	Vietnam
Laos	Yemen

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