



UNESCO committee

Topic 1: The need to raise awareness towards racism in schools,
due to its increase during the last decades

President: Ines Aschenbrenner

Moderator: Marina Komissarchik



Welcoming letter

Dear delegations,

Speaking on behalf of the SEKMUN organization, it is a big pleasure to welcome you all to the UNESCO council. We are Ines Aschenbrenner and Marina Komissarchik, president and moderator of the council, and we are excited that you will be part of this United Nations Model.

We have selected the following topics to to be debated:

- “The need to raise awareness towards racism in schools, due to its increase during the last decades”
- “Strategies for the development of the project “Ocean decade”

Both topics deal with deep themes that have been carefully selected by Ines and Marina. These topics are an issue that has to be dealt with as quickly as possible in order to prevent any disasters or damages to both living beings and nature. We are certain you understand the seriousness of these issues and will be able to defend the positions and the opinions of your assigned countries. The ineffective resolutions made by the United Nations Model previously, should be rectified by you, delegations. You should be able to reach effective, fruitful and well thought agreements/solutions in order to guarantee successful changes that will lead to a prosperous future.

Given the breadth of both topics, to avoid vagueness and inaccuracies during the debate and the resolutions, Ines and Marina have cleverly chosen the subtopics that will be specified later on in the guide that will help and guide all the delegations throughout the debate.

From the committee table, we expect all the delegations to bring truthful information, respect other delegations while they are speaking, defend the position of their assigned country well and be able to develop analytical, communication, teamwork and other skills throughout the debate.

Summarizing everything previously stated, we hope that all delegations will be able to have a serious and at the same time fun debate, make new friends, be able to reach solutions with other countries, and learn new things that will help you, delegations, in the future life.

Information about your president and moderator

Your dear president:

"Hello delegates! My name is Ines Aschenbrenner. I am a 2nd year IB student, and my plan is to study Medicine or Law at university next year. I have been to many MUN conferences, such as BosMUN and MEI, but I have a special interest in SEKMUN, as this was when I started my journey in debate as a page in 2019. On a personal note, I am both Spanish and Austrian and I like piano, skiing and matcha."

Your dear moderator:

" Hello fellow delegates! My name is Marina Komissarchik. I am half Israeli and half Russian and I am in my 2nd year as an IB student. In the future I would like to do something related to business and economics and to be a jewish activist. I have taken part in many debates such as BFMUN,CMUNCE... and I am very thankful to be your moderator in the UNESCO council. Some curiosities about me are: I am a huge fan of Russian literature, I love Star Wars and I am passionate about learning new languages."

UNESCO

UNESCO can stress the ultimate need for world political unity and familiarize all people with the implications of the transfer of full sovereignty from separate nations to a world organization

*Julian Huxley, Inaugural Director-General UNESCO and
Founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*

UNESCO is the organization in the United Nations that handles Education, Science and Culture. The aim of this organization is to contribute to peace and security while playing a role in promoting global cooperation in science, education, communication, culture and information. UNESCO encourages sharing knowledge and the free flow of ideas to have an accelerated common ground to understand human being's life all around the world. The programs carried out by UNESCO make a vast contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that were defined in the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

UNESCO is the only United Nations organization that counts with a global network of cooperating bodies; National Commission for UNESCO. The commission relevant for the second topic that will be debated is the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

On the other hand, the Ocean Decade Project is handled by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) within UNESCO. The IOC is the United Nations body which is responsible for supporting the science and services in the ocean on a global scale. It enables its 150 Member States to work in unison in order to protect the health of the ocean via the coordination of programs. In the 21st century, IOC is focused on assisting its Member States for these to build a scientific and institutional building block to achieve the global goals, such as the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

Context

Throughout history racism has been present in all the nations around the world. Racism is a belief that a person, community, nation is inferior to others for their distinct characteristics, qualities, abilities and actions. During the last decades there was a significant increase of racism in school and it is urgent to raise awareness that urgent changes should be made to prevent its rise.

All the students at all schools around the world should understand how serious the situation is and what consequences it may have if racism is not stopped. Historical events have proved that racism starts with words and if it's not stopped in time it may lead to massacres or genocides of whole nations.

The future of humanity is the children and adolescents and it is in their hands to change the present and not make the same mistakes as their ancestors. Racism is a topic that UNESCO has been dealing with from the beginning and unfortunately it is still present in a lot of student's lives. New suggestions, strategies or ways should be implemented in schools to prevent the rise of racism in developed and developing countries.

Racism in schools

By the end of 2030 Unesco wills to end, or at least reduce all types of racism around the world. UNESCO believes that education is where all racism starts. Once an activist and educator, Jane Elliot said: “ You are not born racist. You are born to a racist society”. Schools for many students are their second home and from a very early age all of them should be taught to erase and stop racism.

Possible subtopics:

1. Anti Semitism in North African and Middle Eastern schools

Antisemitism is a type of racism which means hostility and discrimination towards the Jewish community. This issue has been affecting Jews for more than 2000 years. To be a Jew means either to believe in Judaism, to be ethnically Jewish or both. It can be seen through history how the Jewish population has been marginalized, expelled and massacred due to their religion, ethnicity or both. For example, the expulsion of Jews from Spain, the Hebron massacre in 1929, and the worst known genocide the Holocaust, or Shoah in Hebrew. As it can be seen, Jews have been a target of many nations around the world and when the only Jewish country, Israel, was established with the help of UN in the mandate of Palestine, the Jewish population had to face many wars against North African and Middle Eastern countries which were against the existence of the Jewish state. It is important to understand that due to these wars a lot of Jews fled as refugees to Israel from North Africa and Middle Eastern countries because they were suffering antisemitism, violence and pogroms. Due to antisemitic governments, the hatred towards Jews that the parents taught to their children and the Holocaust, in many North African and Middle Eastern schools there was a big rise of antisemitism. In many schools teachers are told to deny that the Holocaust happened and to try to show the inferiority of the Jewish community even in the presence of Jews.

Antisemitism should be eliminated in all of the schools where it is present, as soon as possible, because Jews deserve to live with the same rights as the rest of the population without being discriminated against for being Jewish.

UNESCO council understands that all type of racism starts with education and has identified 4 priorities to erase anti semitism in schools:

- Recognize antisemitism as a problem that must be addressed internationally;
- Develop educational programs that address anti-Semitism within a framework of human rights and global citizenship;
 - Build the capacity of education systems to deal with anti-Semitism, conspiracy theories and all other forms of hate speech;
 - Greater investment in social cohesion.

2. Racism towards asian population due to Covid-19 in all the schools

Covid-19 a virus that changed everyone's life. It is believed that the virus originated in a small city in China and spread through the whole world. From 2020, a lot of people started hating and discriminating against the Asian population with the excuse of -“ they have started the virus”. Asian racism is not something recent, it existed for a long period of time and is still an issue that has to be dealt with. In many American and European schools Asians are treated unfairly and the racism towards them increased due to the pandemy of Covid-19. One example of rejection and discrimination towards Asians can be seen throughout history: during World War II, when Japanese people were badly treated in the United States due to the Japanese expansion in Asia and Pearl Harbour. Many east asians are still called the “yellow race” and many unpleasant comments are made with reference to their eye structure, skin color and their body composition. Many racist cases have been reported from a large number of Asian students in both universities and schools. However a lot of racists have not paid for their actions because of the lack of school responsibility or even sometimes of the police inactions.

UNESCO understands the importance of eliminating asian racism in school and with the help of AAPI project which examines how the lives of Asians have been changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Racism towards muslims students in Europe

Islam, one of the three main abrahamic religions, has been a target religion for a long period of time. It is common knowledge that the majority of the countries in Europe are christian and only a few countries such as Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina among others, are muslim countries. The rise of racism towards muslims in European schools has affected the muslim students. Due to the immigration of many muslims from Africa to Europe, many muslims were the target of racism in many schools. In France for example, it is prohibited by law to not wear any kind of veil that covers the face or hear. In islam, women should wear

veils, it is the decision of every woman, but a big number of them want to wear it because of their faith and loyalty towards Allah. This law was established in 2011 and is still not changed and in many universities and schools female students are prohibited to enter the class if they cover their face and hair with a veil. Other cases of racism towards muslims are expressed in the form of derision because their religion has different values than the christian ones. In Spain, for instance, in many conservative provinces such as Castilla de La Mancha, many racist cases towards muslims students have been recorded and the spanish police or the school is not doing anything to stop it.

Many campaigns are carried out to erase the racism towards the muslim students in Europe but it is still an issue that should be dealt with to prevent the discrimination and injustices towards the muslim students in Europe.

Links for additional information

-General information UNESCO

<https://www.unesco.org/en/no-racism-no-discrimination>

-Facts and myths of antisemitism in arab world

<https://www.jmberlin.de/en/antisemitism-arabic-world-facts-and-myths>

-AAPI project: COVID-19 crisis how it shapes the lives of Asians

<https://www.aapicovid19.org/>

- How to deal with antisemitism with the help of education

<https://www.unesco.org/es/education/antisemitism>

-Muslim and jewish students in Berlin

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/no-progress-in-fighting-discrimination-of-german-muslim-students/2757896>

-Solutions to end racism proposed by UNESCO

<https://en.unesco.org/futuresofeducation/ideas-lab/barbieri-ferede-education-eradicate-racism>

