

MUNA 2023 - Draft Resolutions

Attached are ten DRAFT resolutions to be considered for debate at the 2023 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) to be held in Canberra on 12 – 13 August 2023 in the Senate Chamber of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD – Old Parliament House).

As at 16 July 2023, seventeen teams have registered to participate in MUNA – these teams have been asked to select their preferred six resolutions for debate, and are required to advise the MUNA Registrar of their top six preferences by 28 July 2023 at MUNARegistrar@gmail.com. The final six resolutions will then be posted on this website and advised to participating schools.

Resolution A. The rights of the indigenous population

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter.

Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such.

Affirming further that all doctrines, policies, and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin, racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust.

Reaffirming also that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind.

Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests.

Calls on all countries to provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress:

- a. Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
- b. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
- c. Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- d. Any form of forced assimilation or integration; and
- e. Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Resolution B. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of space

The General Assembly,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived there from, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point.

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries.

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Urges States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties as well as incorporating them in their national legislation.

Resolution C. The situation in the South China Sea

The General Assembly,

Urges all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea, in order to fully achieve the goal of universal participation.

Further urges all Member States with territorial claims in the South China Sea to refrain from aggressively asserting those claims by placing permanent or semi-permanent structures for either military or commercial purposes on any maritime or terrestrial territory that is subject to dispute, but instead to pursue the resolution of their claims through the relevant international courts and tribunals.

Encourages States that do not have territorial claims in the region to refrain from inflaming the situation by commenting on the actions of specific claimants, or by unnecessarily or aggressively physically challenging those claims, including by the conduct of so-called “freedom of navigation” and other military exercises.

Reminds all States of the importance to international trade that international waters remain open to all States to use in accordance with international law and consequently insists upon the obligation of all States to observe the relevant laws and respect the decision of the relevant international courts and tribunals, whatever their position on the claims advanced by others.

Insists that the rights of communities with traditional economic or cultural links to waters in their vicinity be upheld and that those communities not be subject to harassment or threat as they exercise those rights.

Resolution D. Strengthening the role of the UN in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting free, fair and inclusive elections, of respect for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom, including through accessible and easy-to-understand formats for new information and communications technologies,

Recognizing the potential of online communication tools to promote freedom of expression and expand political participation, as well as to empower persons who belong to underrepresented groups and those who are marginalized,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair, and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

Reaffirms the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis, and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability;

Strongly condemns any manipulation of election processes, coercion and tampering with vote counts, particularly when done by States, as well as by other actors, and calls upon all Member States to respect the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections.

Resolution E. Preventing and combatting crimes that affect the environment

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by existing research indicating that crimes that affect the environment have become some of the most lucrative transnational criminal activities and are often closely interlinked with different forms of crime and corruption and that money laundering and the illicit financial flows derived from them may contribute to the financing of other transnational organized crimes and terrorism,

Recognizing that crimes that affect the environment may also have a negative impact on economies, public health, human safety, food security, livelihoods and habitats,

Recognizing the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime and to this end underlining the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers,

Urges Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, such as illicit trafficking in wildlife, including, inter alia, flora and fauna as protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, in timber and timber products, in hazardous wastes and other wastes and in precious metals, stones and other minerals.

Calls upon Member States to make crimes that affect the environment, in appropriate cases, serious crimes.

Also calls upon States, in accordance with national legislation, to take all appropriate measures within their means to provide effective assistance and protection for those persons who contribute to combating in a peaceful manner crimes that affect the environment.

Resolution F. State of global food security

The General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern over the current state of global food insecurity, with 811 million people affected by hunger in 2020, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the risk of famine around the world, especially in developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries,

Noting the unprecedented surge in international food commodity prices which, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reached their highest peak in March 2022 since its inception in 1990 in particular the rise in global prices of vegetable oil and grain, including wheat, further affecting people in vulnerable situations,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,

Determined to address the global food security crisis on the basis of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation, and recognizing the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating a comprehensive global response,

Calls upon the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis through coordinated actions, including the provision of emergency food supplies, food programmes, financial support, and increased and diversified agricultural production, and to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.

Calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, including capacity for seeding, protecting standing crops, rearing livestock, infrastructure for processing food, and all logistical systems, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimize food loss and waste.

Resolution G. Countering disinformation for the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and countering disinformation, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities,

Highlighting the global concerns about the rapid spread and proliferation of disinformation, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, clear, accessible, multilingual and evidence-based information, and emphasizing the need for all relevant stakeholders to address the challenge of disinformation,

Expressing concern also about the spread of disinformation on online platforms, including on social media, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to undermine public health messaging, to breach individuals' right to privacy, and to incite all forms of violence, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, civil society and academia in countering this trend.

Affirms the responsibility of States to counter, as appropriate, and in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of disinformation which undermines the promotion of peace and cooperation;

Condemns any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media, social media or any other means;

Calls upon States to counter all forms of disinformation through policy measures, including education, capacity-building for prevention and resilience to disinformation, advocacy and awareness-raising.

Resolution H. International Cooperation for access to justice, remedies, and assistance for survivors of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, as well as its resolutions on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and all other relevant resolutions,

Welcoming efforts on the empowerment of all women and girls, and noting all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, including those aimed at safeguarding the rights and promoting the participation of all women and girls and those convened in cooperation with United Nations entities, in partnership with civil society,

Recalling the responsibilities of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against civilians, and in this regard noting with concern that only limited numbers of perpetrators of sexual violence have been brought to justice, while recognizing that in conflict and in post-conflict situations national justice systems may be significantly weakened,

Commending the continuing efforts of Member States to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes under national and international law, and stressing the need for the perpetrators of those crimes to be held accountable by national justice systems or, where applicable, international justice,

Urges States to take effective action, through their national legal systems and in line with international law, to provide access to justice, remedies and assistance for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including by:

- (a) Providing relevant, comprehensive, gender-responsive legal protection, in full respect of human rights and centred on such victims and survivors, to support and assist all victims and survivors of such violence, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence, paying particular attention to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;
- (b) Ensuring for all victims and survivors timely and unimpeded access to justice and to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings, providing procedural accommodation for those with disabilities, so that all cases of violence are brought to justice, including the cases related to victims and survivors, and also ensuring that all victims and survivors have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary.

Resolution I: A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling the suffering of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the need to honour their memory,

Underlining the need to promote tolerance, inclusion and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations in order to address common challenges to humanity that threaten shared values, universal human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion,

Alarmed at the spread in many parts of the world of various racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote nationalist, right-wing agendas and racial superiority, and stressing that these practices fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Deploring the ongoing and resurgent scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in many regions of the world, often targeting migrants and refugees, as well as people of African descent, expressing concern that some political leaders and parties have supported such an environment, and in this context expressing its support for migrants and refugees in the context of the severe discrimination that they may face,

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Acknowledging the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit racial discrimination and racial segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms,

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of *priority for the international community*,

Calls on States to make concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Resolution J: The Situation in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and

Expressing grave concern about the declaration of the state of emergency by the Myanmar armed forces on 1 February 2021 and subsequent actions taken against the elected civilian Government, which also impact regional stability, and stressing its continued call upon Myanmar to act in accordance with the principle of adherence to the rule of law, good governance, the principles of democracy and constitutional government, respect for fundamental freedoms and the promotion and protection of human rights, as also provided for in the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Countries.

Strongly condemning the use of lethal force and violence, which has led to injuries and fatalities in many cases, against peaceful demonstrators, as well as members of civil society, women, youth, children and others, expressing deep concern at restrictions on medical personnel, civil society, labour union members, journalists and media workers, and people who protect and promote human rights, and calling for the immediate release of all those detained arbitrarily,

Expressing unequivocal support for the democratic transition in Myanmar and for the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence and fully respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

Expressing concern that recent developments pose particular serious challenges for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and all internally displaced persons, including those displaced since 1 February 2021, and in this regard stressing the need to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine State and for the Myanmar armed forces to abstain from taking measures that would lead to further displacement of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, both internally and across borders,

Calls upon the Myanmar armed forces to respect the will of the people as freely expressed by the results of the general election of 8 November 2020, to end the state of emergency, to respect all human rights of all the people of Myanmar and to allow the sustained democratic transition of Myanmar, including the opening of the democratically elected parliament and by working towards bringing all national institutions, including the armed forces, under a fully inclusive civilian Government that is representative of the will of the people;

Calls upon the Myanmar armed forces to immediately stop all violence against peaceful demonstrators, as well as members of civil society, women, youth and children, and others, and to end restrictions on medical personnel, civil society, labour union members, journalists and media workers and restrictions on the Internet and social media.