

Forum: SOCHUM

Issue: Addressing the issue of violence and xenophobia in response to increased transnational migration of displaced persons

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Introduction

Currently, in nations facing conflict and civil war, the government of the country lacks power to resolve the issue and provide protection to its citizens. So, the only option for the citizens is to flee to Europe, Australia, or the US to seek asylum which has more stabilized and safer countries for these refugees to live in.

With over 60 million refugees being displaced worldwide, this amount exceeds in any previous time in human history. Just in Syria alone, 4 million refugees have escaped to Europe in hopes of better protection. However, the amount of discrimination and xenophobia is also unprecedented because of the fear of terrorist attacks and worsening of economic situation. These refugees are suffering from numerous human rights violations, as nations reject them access to asylum and close out on their borders. These refugees often risk their lives in hopes of entering many countries through illegal migration.

In Europe, the majority support of accepting countries is extremely low and many countries are also reluctant to accept more refugees because of popular opposition. Many citizens in countries where refugees are fleeing to are afraid the refugees will be a burden to its economy and fears the possibility of terrorist attacks. However, this causes further division within the countries and forces refugees to seek asylum in other countries. It becomes necessary for all nations reject xenophobic ideas towards these refugees to prevent more division and violence within these countries. The most important thing for member nations government and its people to embrace these refugees into their society so they can provide a positive impact in their new host country.

Definition of Key Terms

Xenophobia

Attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity.

Transnational Migration

The movement of people crossing national boundaries for a certain minimum period of time. It includes the movement of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people as well as economic migrants.

Displaced Persons

Refers to the population who had to leave their homes as a result of a natural, technological or human event. (not to be confused with migrants) Internally displaced person: basically refugees who have not crossed international borders

General Overview

Relevant Organizations

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

A United Nations programme mandated to protect and support refugees around the world and assists in their integration, resettlement, repatriation to their host countries. Forced displacement and statelessness are undoubtedly matters of concern to the international community. In response to these challenges, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office were created as the global refugee institution. The mandate of the High Commissioner was established by the UN General Assembly in 1950, born from the experience of different international refugee institutions that had existed previously.

Amnesty International

A non-governmental organization focused on the protection and advocacy of human rights with over 7 million members around the world. It was founded in 1961 and draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns with international law.

Relevant Countries

Neighbouring countries

Neighbouring countries of areas of conflict face an influx of displaced persons due to the need for asylum. Turkey, for example, holds 2,739,326 registered Syrian refugees in refugee camps; the actual number would be a lot higher due to the unregistered displaced persons in the area. One main source of xenophobia comes from the fact that many neighbouring countries are less economically developed (LEDCs). Many citizens of neighbouring countries believe that their government should put their priority on the citizens, instead of funding potentially risky displaced persons. Refugees coming to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq also experience increasing violence within refugee camps with the local citizens because of the ideas rejecting the inclusion of these refugees.

Transit countries

Despite having a high number of displaced persons, most refugees avoid being accepted into such countries, wishing to travel to destination countries like Germany. These countries—Hungary, Greece, Austria and many more—aim to decrease the number of displaced persons in their country, as the influx of refugees increase risks of terrorist attacks and may potentially erase local culture. Many of these countries have set up (temporary) border barriers to prevent migrants and refugees from entering as border control has been looser since the Schengen Agreement. Offenses towards refugees happen while they are traveling; Hungary, for example, is known for their xenophobic treatment towards refugees. Well known incidents include the Hungarian camera woman who kicked and tripped refugees near the border in 2016, and border guards who refused to give refugees water until reporters came. This shows that many countries—though not necessarily Hungary—are attempting to cover up xenophobic behaviour, thus the truth may be more severe than what is presented on media.

Destination countries

Germany, Spain, Canada and other destination countries scored high on the refugee welcome index provided by Amnesty International; Germany, especially, politically welcomes refugees. Such countries recognise the benefits of immigration,

including solving the issue of aging population, and increasing the size of workforce. Some say that Germany is trying to compensate for their actions during World War 2, showing that a country's history could be a factor on the stance a country holds on the refugee crisis. However, there are still many citizens of such countries and citizens of other destination countries - Lebanon, Poland, Kenya, Nigeria and Turkey-who are hostile to displaced persons. Denmark is another example of countries who spread propaganda to decrease the number of refugees; they discourage the refugees from travelling to Denmark by advertising the 'bad conditions' Denmark has for refugees.

Background Information

Major Causes of Displaced Persons

One cause of displaced persons is the Syrian civil war. The Syrian civil war erupted in 2011 as many rebel groups challenged the rule of the Assad Regime as it had problems with corruption. Prior to 2011, Syria had the worst drought in Syrian history starting in 2006 that put many people in poverty. This also led to the rise of major Islamist extremist groups including ISIS, Al-Nursa, and the Islamic front influence in the region. The Syrian civil war also affects Iraq as there is also major corruption within the government with a dysfunctional coalition of Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders. This causes civil war in Iraq starting in 2014 which involves Sunni tribal leaders and the Al Sadr Movement. This effect further escalates the civil war with the involvement of many foreign countries including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and eventually the United States and Russia. With the major opposition between the policies of Russia and US, the crisis in both Syria is still not close to being resolved despite multiple ceasefire talks.

The war in Afghanistan has also lead to a rise in refugees. Following the 911 attack in the United States of America, USA, UK and the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan had aimed to overthrow Taliban's control over Afghanistan, where Taliban had allowed Al-Qaeda to set up camps. Though in 2001, Taliban has been driven out of Kabul and Bin Laden has been killed, the war is still ongoing. The war resulted in 1.5 million internally displaced persons, and 2.7 million displaced persons in mainly Iran and Pakistan, where they face unstable political situations.

The displacement situation in Somalia is due to the low living conditions, threats from Al Shabaab and piratical activity near its coast. The ongoing Somali civil war leaves Somalia in a fragile state; it is a conflict between Islamists and the government, where they didn't have a stable government until 2012. Even if the government was established, the officials are still corrupt, resulting in Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Uganda.

Possible Reasons of Xenophobia

Many countries have been reluctant with cooperating with schemes on the issue of refugees due to the potential risks it may bring to their own state. One main concern is the increased risk of terrorist attacks after opening borders to refugees. By opening borders, the chances of terrorists disguising themselves as refugees increase, potentially leading to human right abuses and destruction of world heritage, in addition to acts of terrorism performed around the world.

Another argument is one that concerns the rights of their own citizens. Many states have expressed concern that the influx of refugees will use up limited resources that are rightfully the state's citizens'. In USA, citizens have expressed distaste to the fact that some government funded refugees gain more support than American children who live below the poverty line. USA is not the only country which has had complaints that displaced persons are using up government budget and the opportunity costs funding refugee scheme creates.

Some states uses propaganda to discreetly or openly spread xenophobic information. One prime example is Hungary: Prime Minister Orban has called refugees "poison" to their country and has spread propaganda to alter the results of the Hungarian migrant quota referendum. Another example could be Brexit, as many citizens have voted for UK to leave the EU because of the influx of refugees in Europe.

Violence Towards Displaced Persons

Many countries have not provided displaced persons with adequate protection from refugee camps or their asylums due to lack of resources and regards of human

rights of these refugees. This causes one main concern in which local citizens who have a dislike towards accepting refugees can easily physically harm these refugees. Furthermore, because a lack of an adequate system, refugees do not have access to local officials and report incidents of violence so they often just endure violence or even rape without reporting and fleeing. Therefore, it is necessary for the United Nations and relevant organizations to work with individual governments to ensure protection of these refugees from physical harm, rape, sexual assault, or any other form of violence from the local citizens. However, other than just simply physically protect these refugees from violence, it is also necessary to solve for the root cause which is xenophobia ideas on the rejection of these displaced persons so that local citizens would not support ideas of rejecting these displaced persons.

Key Issues

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
July 28th, 1951	The Refugee Convention was signed in Geneva
September 11th, 2001	911 attacks targeted the world trade centre, which increased fear amongst the public in regards to terrorists.
October 7th, 2001	War in Afghanistan started
October 15th, 2006	ISI established by Abu Ayyub Almasri
March 15th, 2011	Start of Syrian Civil War
May 3rd, 2013	ISIS established
September 2nd, 2015	Photo of Alan Kurdi released/captured. It astonished the world as it depicts a dead child on a beach, showing the world the effects of the

Syrian civil war. Many satirical artists and authors have commented on the photo, calling for people's awareness on the subject.

March 15th, 2016 Viktor Orban delivers speech to call for 'political correctness'

June 23rd, 2016 Brexit referendum held; the results were 53.4% to 46.6%. One factor that may have altered the result is the refugee crisis; there is a noticeable rise in xenophobia and rejection of refugees

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR) (1948)
 - The UDHR outlines the basic human rights people are entitled to, including the right to a nationality, a right to seek asylum, the freedom to move, the right to live a life without discrimination and a right to safety.
- The Geneva Conventions (1949)
 - Comprise of four treaties and three additional protocols to outline the international law on human rights in war zones.
- UNHCR Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951
 - The convention serves to define "refugee", build upon the UDHR, clarify refugees' obligations and provide legal protection for refugees.
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa(1969)
 - Address the definition of "refugees", and the rights they are entitled to, such as seeking asylum, non-discrimination and voluntary repatriation.
- UN Refugee Protocol (1967)
- Political Declaration of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly to Commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action "United Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, 22 September 2011 (A/RES/66/3)
- UN Security Council Resolution 2042 (S/RES/2042) April 2012

- General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/67/262) - June 2013
- UN Security Council Resolution 2042 (S/RES/2042) April 2012
- UN Security Council resolution 2139 (S/RES/2139) February 2014

Possible Solutions

There are several possible solutions to address the violence and xenophobia directed at displaced persons. As one cause of xenophobia is misconceptions created by propaganda and social media, it is important to dispel these fallacies and replace them with facts. States could educate citizens about the refugee crisis in an ethical manner to decrease fear towards Muslims and foreigners, in addition to highlighting the benefits of immigration. Education should also include the potential consequences of the refugee crisis, for example, closing gates to refugees would create more instability in areas of conflict, and it would have a negative impact on all nations. Media based campaigns with the goal of reducing xenophobia could be launched using advertising platforms to establish acceptance of diversity.

On top of targeting social media, countries could attempt to increase the citizens' acceptance towards refugees by addressing the complaints of the citizens on the benefits/support refugees get from the government, and on the disruption of local culture. Governments could heighten the benefits and support received by both the citizens and the refugees as to ease the citizens' complaints, though this comes with a high opportunity cost. Measures to preserve culture could be implemented with education schemes, and laws that may protect both the displaced persons and the citizens.

To address the violence towards refugees, member states could investigate and prosecute organisations -- such as trafficking gangs -- who put displaced persons in dangerous positions by encouraging tighter controls where there is a dense refugee population. This could be done through the training of local police forces on recognising victims of violence and violators of human rights, as well as enforcing the (international) laws that protect the rights of displaced persons.

Also, targeted violence against minority groups or refugees can also be better reported by UN officials who are sent to major refugee camps to help out and monitor the refugee

situation in major refugee host countries. Individual governments should also establish effective systems where refugees can easily seek for help in their local government such as reporting issues of violence or discrimination from the local people. Within the government and on the local level, governments should continue advertize and spreading ideas of inclusion of refugees and minorities into the country and integrate them for the better good. Officials in the government who have incidents of discrimination should also be carefully investigated and fairly judged in the respective government's court.

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Forum: SOCHUM I, SOCHUM II

Issue: Promoting the social (cultural), economic, and political rights of indigenous people worldwide

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Introduction

Today, there are about 300-500 million indigenous people. They embody about 80% of the world's cultural and biological diversity, and occupy 20% of the land's surface. They live in nearly all countries around the world, ranging from traditional hunter-gatherers and farmers to legal scholars. Some strive to preserve traditional ways of life, while others seek greater participation in the current state structures. Indigenous people are always trying to adapt to changes in the world. Indigenous peoples are the holders of unique languages, knowledge systems and beliefs and possess invaluable knowledge of practices for the sustainable management of natural resources.

Despite such diversity in Indigenous communities, Indigenous people all share one thing in common- they all share a history of injustice. Many have been killed, tortured and enslaved, others have been the victims of genocides. Indigenous people have sought recognition of their identities and way of life, yet throughout history, their rights have always been violated.

To address these problems, the UNDRIP was drafted on September 13th, 2007. The UNDRIP safeguards the individual rights of Indigenous peoples. Despite international recognition and acceptance of the UDHR, indigenous peoples' human rights still remain without safeguards. Indigenous peoples still lack voice in both local and national decision-making. Indigenous representation in parliament can benefit society at large because indigenous practices and knowledge can provide solutions to complex environmental and governance problems that all society face today. Furthermore, Indigenous peoples are not able to have equal educational opportunities as other people. Their educational marginalization is closely connected to interlinking factors, such as poverty, ethnicity, and language barriers. In order to

address these challenges, it is necessary to understand the role that indigenous movements play as political actors in national, regional and local politics.

Definition of Key Terms

Indigenous people

The United Nations has yet to adopt an official definition of this term. However, indigenous peoples are generally understood to self-identify as indigenous peoples; have historical continuity with pre-colonial societies; have strong links to territories and surrounding natural resources; have distinct social, economic, or political systems; have distinct languages, cultures, and beliefs; form non-dominant groups of society; and resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities. -

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Genocide

The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group. Over the past centuries, indigenous peoples have been the victims of genocide. Indigenous peoples are considered to be ethnic minorities whose historical and current territory has become occupied by colonial expansion. Under colonial rule, many indigenous communities have frequently been involved in acts of genocidal violence.

Self-determination

The process by which a group of people, usually possessing a certain degree of national consciousness, form their own state and choose their own government. - Encyclopædia Britannica

Colonization

The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area. - Oxford Dictionaries

General Overview

Political Rights and Representation

Historically, governments as we know it have been set up by settlers and colonizers, and therefore indigenous peoples have lost much of their political rights in the process. Consequently, many indigenous groups have called for increased political rights and representation; however, little has been done.

Significance of Political Representation

Political representation of indigenous peoples is extremely important to ensure their interests, as a minority group, are taken into account. This can help solidify efforts to guarantee indigenous peoples rights in other areas as well, given that much of former legislation guaranteeing indigenous people's rights have not been significantly implemented. It can also help strengthen democratic processes and values, and facilitate the integration of indigenous peoples and mainstream society. Furthermore, political representation preclude conflicts from breaking out.

Previous Movements and Actions

- Indian National Movement
 - Indian National Congress founded in 1885 to advocate for increased representation of locals in the British-dominated government
 - Muslim League later also founded to guarantee the political rights of Muslims in India within both British and Hindu domination
- Movements in Latin America
 - Emerged in the 1970s, began calling for truly multi-ethnic institutional frameworks within the newly-established democracies in the 1980s
 - Seek to reduce poverty and inequality
- Special parliamentary procedures
 - Used of indigenous languages, qualified majority voting, etc.
 - E.g. New Zealand uses Maori as an official language along with English, Slovenia guarantees veto power to two ethnic communities on issues that directly affect them
- Special electoral rules
 - Quotas, reserved seats, appointments, etc.

- E.g. Afghanistan, Burundi, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Jordan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Romania, Singapore, and Slovenia



Caption #1: Graph showing the special electoral measures used across the world

“Party Laws” and Restrictions

States have previously enforced restrictions on the formation of parties (ethnicity, language, religion, etc.) They are used by states to facilitate national integration and reduce ethnic fragmentation, especially in ethnically heterogeneous countries. However, parties are an important part of the representative process, and these laws can consequently prevent indigenous peoples from effectively and collectively voicing their opinions. The implementation of restrictions are widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa and is also found in Asia and Americas.

Economic and Social Rights

Land and Resource Rights

Indigenous people usually have a strong relationship with their land; their identity and spirituality is connected to it. As the indigenous leader in Nepal said it himself, “Indigenous peoples...have an intimate connection to the land..They have clear symbols

in their language that connect them to places on their land....in Nepal, we have groups that only can achieve their spiritual place on the planet by going to a certain location". However, extractive industries and corporations are competing for access to these lands and their resources. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum, reported that the majority of the world's natural resources - freshwater, minerals, energy sources, etc. - are found in indigenous lands. As a result, indigenous communities lose their homes and are forced to move to cities, where Indigenous peoples cannot adjust well to the fast growth of urban life. Hence, indigenous peoples are losing access to their lands and the resources on their lands at a rapid pace, for a variety of causes. Industries often engage in large-scale privatization of land or of the natural resources found, reducing the territory available for indigenous people to survive on. It also damages and destroys their sacred lands. In Cambodia, 6.5 million hectares of land have been granted to large timber companies in concessions. In Canada, the government only recognizes a portion of indigenous lands as reserves, leaving the rest to privatization. In central Siberia, rich in petroleum, gas, coal, and heavy metals, companies competing for access to these resources, have posed threats to the wellbeing of the indigenous peoples. This is further worsened by corruption, where government officials readily hand off land to large corporations.

Extractive industries also often engage in unsustainable operations or activities, leading to environmental destruction. Mineral extraction, environmental contamination, the use genetically modified seeds and technology, and monoculture cash crop production all pose threats to the natural ecosystem. However, it is these ecosystems - the flora, fauna, and other resources - that provide indigenous people with their livelihoods.

Furthermore, government legislation often favors commercial companies. The processes for applying for land claims is often onerous and complicated, hence disadvantaging indigenous peoples. This problem is most serious with forest resources - 60 million indigenous people worldwide live off of the forest. In Indonesia, 58 of the 143 million hectares of State forest lands populated by indigenous communities are in the control of timber companies; the rest are commercial plantations. In response, there have been previous attempts at change in this area; Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,

Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay have all carried out constitutional reforms to recognize the rights of indigenous people to their lands. However, this process is slow, partially due to underfunding. In Bolivia, for example, only 19,300 of the 143,000 square miles of land claims filed in 2005 have been granted by the end of 2006.



Caption #2: A local woman asks the police, sent to clear the road for mining equipment to be moved into a Guatemalan gold mine, to retreat. May, 2014.

Discrimination in Society

Indigenous people often face marginalization in society. It is essential to preserve their cultures, but in doing so, the general population often alienates them. As a result, Indigenous peoples are forced to abandon their culture in order to avoid marginalization. In the Americas, indigenous people are much more likely to be underpaid, less

educated, and have a lower life expectancy than other citizens. Globally, indigenous people also suffer higher poverty rates and malnutrition. Indigenous women, in particular, are vulnerable to discrimination and abuse. In Peru, 2000 indigenous women were sterilized by state authorities in the 1990s without their consent; the public prosecutors office closed their case, denying the women justice. In southeast Asia, the majority of the victims of human trafficking are indigenous women and girls.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1920s	First attempts of indigenous peoples to gain visibility at the international level
1982	The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) with the mandate to develop a set of minimum standards that would protect Indigenous Peoples
1981-1983	Study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous people is presented to the Commission on Human Rights of the Economic and Social Council
2002	UNESCO adopts the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity
2006	The Human Rights Council adopts the draft declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples
September 13, 2007	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007 (61/295).** This Declaration is an important global standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples and codifies their rights, including their right to traditions, language, education, and indigenous institutions.
- **Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities, 1993 (A/RES/48/138).** This Declaration sets out the rights of

ethnic and cultural minorities, such as their right to participate in the political, cultural, and economic life of the countries they inhabit. The text reaffirms the international commitment towards protecting universal human rights.

- **Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 2005 (A/RES/60/270.)** The International Decades have symbolic purposes, demonstrating that indigenous people are a priority for the international community and encouraging countries to take special efforts to make progress.
- **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, 1985 (A/RES/40/131).** This resolution established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, which allowed both governments and non-governmental organizations to donate money voluntarily for the purpose of financial assistance of indigenous groups.

Possible Solutions

The UNDRIP, though not legally binding, provides good guiding principles. Encouraging countries to ratify the UNDRIP and to modify their laws to be more in line with the document would be a good solution. Implementation of the UNDRIP has been difficult, and having governments research barriers to implementation would be helpful. This may happen in collaboration with the United Nations and the International Labor Organization.

Even where strict rules exist, laws protecting indigenous rights against land-grabbing and violence are not well-enforced. As a result, partnering with non-governmental organizations to educate indigenous communities on legal courses of action should they find their rights violated, while also making it easier for them to access courts. Creating an independent committee managed by central governments to monitor low-level officials in the provinces and districts would ensure that the government is not giving concessions to corporations on indigenous land without consultation with the people living there. If the committee were run in part by indigenous communities, it would help them have a voice so that the government can know and address their grievances. This is even a problem in democratic countries. As indigenous peoples are a minority in some countries, Reserving seats in government or setting quotas might mitigate this.

Indigenous people who can no longer or have difficulty supporting themselves because they have been forced off their land must be supported by the state through employment programs, perhaps related to tourism and the promotion of indigenous cultures.

Such policies protecting indigenous communities may cause resentment from the public if the citizenry is not aware of historical wrongs committed against indigenous peoples. Sometimes, a desire to promote patriotism causes countries to erase shameful atrocities in their history. Integrating indigenous issues into public school history curriculums, giving reparations to indigenous communities, and creating truth commissions that investigate and publicize past government cruelties would help to prevent this collective amnesia.

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Forum: Social and Humanitarian Council (SOCHUM)

Issue: Implementing the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

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Introduction

One of the aspects of this issue we would touch base on is mass tourism. Mass tourism is considered unsustainable due to its economic, social, and environmental impacts. To begin with, in order to host a large amount of tourism, nations must already have an established basic infrastructure (roads, information centers, hotels, etc). As a result, the cost of creating such infrastructure becomes the duty of the government, subsequently leveling tax rates to match the need for funding. Even though tourism may be seen as a way for countries to increase their revenue, it is only on a macro level. For individual citizens, the money earned from tourism is not trickled down to benefit the local population. In addition, during the urbanization of a tourist destination, many of its cultural sites could be destroyed or damaged in order to create many of the basic infrastructure aforementioned. Another aspect that could be affected is its environment. An increase in carbon dioxide, as well as other issues such as littering, may negatively impact the environment. Thus, issues stemming from mass tourism paves way for creating innovation and feasible solutions in order to mitigate such problems.

In order to solve the issues generated by the traditional mass tourism, the United Nations General Assembly has approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The resolution emphasizes the importance of international tourism to advance its contribution to the three pillars of sustainability— economy, society, and environment. International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development comes at a particularly important role as the international community embraces the new Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tourism is included as targets under three of the SDGs. In the SDG 8, tourism takes part in aiming to achieve the goal of promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic

growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for everyone. In the SDG 12, tourism takes part in promoting sustainable consumption and production. Last, in the SDG 14, tourism take part in conserving and using the oceans, seas, and marine resources sustainably for sustainable development.

The problem now is “what can be done in order to implement sustainable international tourism that is beneficial to a country’s development in the three aspects mentioned above. Bear in mind that destinations don’t noticeably move from one phase to another but rather move fluidly between planning and implementation. Implementation of sustainable tourism is a delicate balance of developing without over-developing, marketing without over-promoting, and managing without stifling the natural, social, and cultural attributes of the destination.

Definition of Key Terms

Alternative Tourism

A form of tourism which involves travel that encourages interaction with the local environment, people, and communities rather than international corporations.

Destination Planning

Management that relies on an iterative and continual planning process that integrates tourism into a community’s social, economic, and environmental aspirations.

Mass Tourism

A form of tourism that involves tens of thousands of people going to the same resort often at the same time of the year. This type of tourism is considered unsustainable due to its environmental effects.

2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals)

A UN agenda that involves 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. UN seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and complete what these did not achieve.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention

A general conference in which articles are created in order to protect world heritage sites as well as recognizing them.

World Heritage Site

A landmark which has been officially recognized by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) based on its basis of having cultural, historical, scientific, or some other form of significance.

General Overview

Issues of mass tourism

Mass tourism is considered unsustainable due to its economic, social, and environmental impacts.

Impacts on economy

Successful tourism relies on the establishments of a nation's basic infrastructure, such as roads, visitor centers, and hotels. The cost of this usually falls on the government, so it has to come out of tax revenues. This could create a significant burden on both the people and government of the LEDCs and possibly hinder a country's development in terms of unequal distribution of the governmental budget. Furthermore, jobs created by tourism are often season (temporary) and poorly paid. Despite this fact, mass tourism can still push up local property prices and cost of goods and services. Money generated by tourism doesn't always benefit the local community as well. In most LEDCs, it is estimated that currently up to 50% of revenues from tourism leave the country through foreign-owned businesses, imported goods, and promotional spending. Even so, the money that stays in the country still goes to the richest strata of the society— to the hotel owners and alike. Destinations dependent on tourism can also be adversely affected by events such as terrorism, natural disasters, and economic recession. For example, when a natural disaster or terrorists attack causes a deformation to the site, or when the workers in the tourism industry lose their job

resulting in an increase in the local crime rate, tourists might no longer be visiting the destination, causing a substantial impact on the local economy.

Social Concerns

Visitor behavior can have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the host community. For example, crowding and congestion, drugs and alcohol problems, prostitution and increased crime levels can occur. Tourism can even infringe on the human right, with locals being displaced from their land to make way for new hotels or barred from beaches. Furthermore, interaction with tourists can also lead to an erosion of traditional cultures and values when the locals change their traditional, cultural practices to meet the tourists' demand. For example, mass tourism can turn local cultures into commodities when religious rituals, traditional ethnic rites, and festivals are reduced and sanitized to conform to tourist expectation, resulting in what has been called "reconstructed ethnicity."

Environmental Burden

Mass tourism poses a threat to a region's natural and cultural resources, such as water supply, beaches, coral reefs, and heritage sites, through overuse. Some of the consequences of exceeding the environmental capacity include strain on already scarce resources such as water, energy, food, and natural habitat area. It also causes increased pollution through traffic emissions, littering, increased sewage production, and noise. All the pollutants mentioned above leads to an increased pressure on endangered species of animals, plants, and heightened vulnerability to deforestation, as well as loss of biodiversity.

Major countries and organizations involved

Numbers of UN organizations and countries are involved in the implementation of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism as the new Agenda 2030 is adopted by the UN General Assembly.

World Tourism Organization (WTO)

WTO is a United Nations Agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. It offers leadership and support to different sectors of the tourism industry in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. Besides fostering education, training, and works to make tourism an effective tool for development through technical assistance projects, generating market knowledge, promoting competitive and sustainable tourism policies and instruments are also its primary goals. The organization's membership includes 157 countries, 6 associate members, and 500 affiliate members representing the private sector, education institutions, tourism associations, and local tourism authorities.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO has adopted the World Heritage Convention in order to conserve, protect, and present the World Heritage sites worldwide. Since World Heritage sites are important travel destinations, if managed properly, they can have a great potential for the local economy and long-term sustainable tourism to develop. Furthermore, the recently initiated UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme, which represents a new approach based on dialogue and stakeholder cooperation where planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at a destination level, the natural and cultural assets can be valued and protected, therefore, appropriate tourism can be developed as well.

Small Islands Developing Nations (SIDs)

Islands are a top destination for millions of tourists each year for their special geographical situation and their natural and cultural heritage richness, which make them unique for visitors. However, they also confront a number of challenges and vulnerabilities. For example, many SIDS demonstrate a high level of dependence on tourism in terms of export and contribution to GDP. Since their maritime environment allows them to have strong tourism assets, but it also increases their vulnerability to climate change (rising sea level, storms, extreme weather, etc). Furthermore, their small size also puts pressure on their resources and limited their economic diversity (usually only tourism and fishing). Lastly, their remoteness and isolation make international trade very challenging. As UN has been promoting sustainable development worldwide, this

seemingly insignificant, but important issue of SIDS should be something that is expected to be brought up during the conference.

New Zealand

Tourism industry plays a significant role in New Zealand's economy, responsible for 10 percent of the nation's employment and nine percent of its GDP. It is one of the earliest countries that has adopted and implemented the sustainable tourism in the world. In order to implement sustainable tourism into the industry, the government has adopted several important measures. For example, the government demarcated over 30 percent of the country as national park lands, strengthened the cooperation between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment to run the Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Project, and established Tourism Strategy Fund in 2010 to aid environmentally oriented practices of the local tourism-related businesses.

Morocco

Morocco has the greatest number of tourist arrivals in Africa in 2015 (10.2 million). There are nine sites in the nation that are considered eligible to be UNESCO World Heritage and most of them are famous for their cultural significance. It is one of the leading players in the sustainable travel industry as well. In order to implement sustainable tourism, the government has taken measures including encouraging the industry to focus on eco-tourism, providing tourists with opportunities to interact with local people, promoting the purchase of local products, and offering tourists with customized travel programs.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
November 16th, 1971	The "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO. This adoption is later known as the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

September 25th, 2015	The United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
December 4th, 2015	The UN General Assembly has approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development
December 9th , 2015	The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), with the support of the Regional Council for Tourism of Marrakesh and the Government of Morocco, organized the 4th Global Summit on City Tourism in Marrakesh, Morocco.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations has put effort into eradicating poverty and countless resolutions on the topic, which is still yet to be solved. UN also had multiple resolutions written for the purpose of protecting vulnerable people from natural disasters. Another resolution that would be relevant would be one attempting to enhance economic growth:

- International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Islands Developing States (SIDs) and other islands, 1988
- Sustainable Tourism and Competitiveness in the Islands of the Mediterranean, May 17th, 2000
- International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in the Islands of the Asia-Pacific Region, December 6th, 2000
- International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States, January 10th, 2005
- Resolution passed on the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, December 4th, 2015 **(A/C.7/70/L.5/Rev.1)**
- The 4th Global Summit on City Tourism, December 9th, 2015

Possible Solutions

Tourists Limitation Method

This is a solution that involves limiting the numbers of tourists visiting a destination annually. Furthermore, encouraging the member nations to make the applications of the tour to a specific destination mandatory and outlaw any tourists entering the destination without proper application would greatly improve the programs regarding the maintenance or preservation of the cultural heritages or the natural heritages. Other than that, the establishments of a fund to encourage the local tourist business to emphasize on a more quality-based strategy rather than a quantity-based strategy are also essential to this solution. For example, instead of having companies to come up with cheap travel plants, try to encourage them to increase the prices of individual tours to enhance the quality of the accommodation, diversity of the activities, and so on. Despite its beneficial aspects, this solution could actually have a potential impact on a country's economy (especially LEDCs) during the transition. This also could be very complicated to implement as different policies for limitation and requirements for an application might vary from states to states and most LEDCs might not be economically-motivated to do so.

Industry Localization Strategy

The first thing that needs to be done in this solution is for member states to impose more taxes on the international tourist corporations. Then, providing more governmental subsidies for the local tourism-related businesses is the second, however, the most crucial part of the solution since strengthening the local businesses is the base of any future economic policies. Although this solution could solve the issue of international corporations taking most of the income generated by tourism and creates more job opportunities for the local community, however, it also has a substantial impact on the tourism industry at the beginning of the implementation. As a result, balancing between industry localization and creating hostility towards international cooperation is something that should be carefully evaluated before the implementation begins.

Raising Awareness Method

This solution revolves around the promotion of sustainable tourism to the public. The first thing that needs to be done is to promote local NGOs or tourism group whose focus is sustainable tourism through the national mass media rather than continuously advertising for big international tourism companies whose focus is profit. Secondly, making sustainable tourism more appealing to the public by supporting governmental policies that help sustainable tourism within the nation (such as providing local businesses with governmental subsidies when they

adopt sustainable tourism or advertizing local NGOs' tourism plan) is something that needs to be done in parallel with the first advertisement method. After that, greatly fine those corporations that violate the environmental or cultural heritage preservation law is one way how the preventives for future violation could be implemented. Although this method covers a wide range of solutions and most countries can adopt it, it is too general and vague. As a result, it might not be as effective as the two solutions that were mentioned previously.

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