3rd SOCHUM

Novice GA

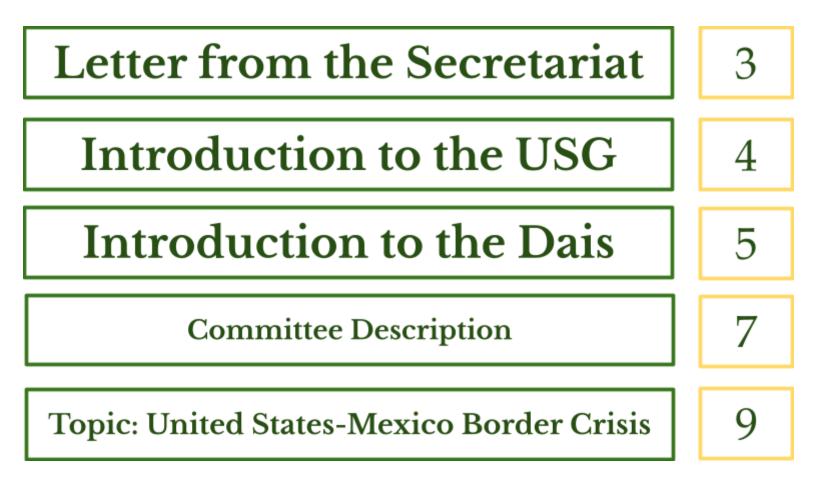


TOPIC: United States-Mexico Border Crisis

CHAIRS: Marlowe Hutter, Kevin O'Connor

LAIMUN XXIX

December 2-3



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Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following <u>these directions</u>. The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the <u>LAIMUN Rules of Procedure</u> for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Welcome, Delegates, to LAIMUN XXIX!

My name is Naomi Kim, and I am so excited to conclude my fourth and final year at Mira Costa Model UN by being the Under-Secretaries General of the General Assembly!

Every year, we select the GA committee topics to reflect the diversity of issues present in our rapidly modernizing world, and this year is no exception. I am excited to hear the novel, creative, and detailed solutions each of you have to address these complex problems, and I hope that all of you can leave LAIMUN not just having given an awesome speech and spectacular formal caucus sessions, but with an enriched and diversified outlook.

But in order to have another amazing LAIMUN, I want to remind you all of our strict no pre-written resolutions policy. Under no circumstances is pre-written resolutions acceptable; additionally, delegates are only allowed to work on resolutions during committee sessions, not during breaks. Your chairs will outline this policy in greater detail before the start of debate, and we urge you all to comply.

Our staff have worked incredibly hard to create an informed, professional environment, and we hope that you enjoy it. Come equipped with knowledge, strong solutions, and your sleek WBA, but do not forget—MUN is fun!

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at the following address: <u>GA@mchsmun.org</u>. If not, I look forward to seeing you all in December!

Best Regards,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra Secretaries-General Naomi Kim Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hi Delegates!

I'm Marlowe Hutter and I'm super excited to be chairing the 3rd SOCHUM Novice at LAIMUN XXIX along with my co-chair Kevin! I'm currently a senior at Mira Costa and this is my fourth year of Model UN. I have attended many fun conferences like BMUN and BERMUN, and was the Head Chair in African Union Novice at last year's LAIMUN!

Aside from MUN, I am on the girls Tennis Team, in the Costa Grammy-Award winning band, a member of the Jewish Cultural Club, and am on the leadership board in the BCHD Youth Advisory Council. I also started a club called iAct for Refugees last year along with another friend in MUN. A fun fact about me is that I play 5 instruments: the flute, the piccolo, the piano, the guitar, and the ukulele! I love all aspects of music and a variety of different artists. A few of my favorites are Billy Joel, J. Cole, Taylor Swift, 21 Savage, and Whitney Houston. I also love traveling to new places, hanging out with my friends, going on sunset drives, and looking for cool experiences everywhere I go.

In 3rd SOCHUM Novice, we are looking for multifaceted solutions that are applicable to all aspects of the discussed topics. Thoroughly researching your country's policy and using it to your advantage in debate is a great tool to have under your belt as you continue advancing in MUN. Work on understanding the topic in its entirety and coming up with realistic solutions that would be difficult to poke holes in; this will make you stand out during the conference! We look forward to seeing you all and hearing your unique, intricate solutions! Best of luck to you!

Warm regards-Marlowe Hutter

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Hello Delegates

My name is Kevin O'Connor and I will be one of your chairs this year at LAIMUN XXIX. I am a junior here at Mira Costa and have been with the MUN program for three years. Over the years I've been to many local conferences such as adv Socomun, Cerritos, Edison, Surf city and more.

Along with many travel trips such as UC Davis, UCLA, and UC Berkeley. I really enjoy diving! I am the president of Mira Costa's Scuba club, I am a certified master diver and junior dive master, and I have been working at a dive gear repair store for 2 years. My dream job is to be able to become a Marine biologist here on the coast of California.

I also play on the JV water polo and swim team here at Costa. The reason I joined the Model UN program was because I wanted to improve my public speaking skills but in that pursuit I learned so much more about hard work and international topics of tension. Because of MUN, I have become a much more internationally informed person who is able to have informed opinions on many international debate topics.

See you all in debate,

Kevin O'Connor

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Committee Description

The committee 3rd SOCHUM, or the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, was established in 1947 and its participants encompassed the entirety of the United Nation's General Assembly. The committee deals with issues falling under any or multiple of those three categories as one of the 6 General Assembly committees. The main focus and reason for this committee is to examine and question human rights issues and has commonly debated the rights of women and how to enhance their place in society, the rights of children, and the treatment of refugees. In summary, 3rd SOCHUM focuses broadly on the welfare and protection of violated groups in order to alleviate the frequency of human rights breaches on an international scale¹.

One of the main and most important aspects of the SOCHUM committee is that not only does the committee debate upon social and humanitarian issues, but they also directly address and adapt to human rights questions that work in conjunction with the United Nations Human Rights Council, or the UNHRC. In working alongside the Human Rights Council, SOCHUM has notably pursued social development issues amongst the international community in order to provide sustainable humanitarian support where it is needed.

It is important to note that SOCHUM resolutions are not binding, legally enforced, therefore having no concrete power to force change on countries. Changes often come as a result of SOCHUM resolutions either suggesting countries to change, or helping mount international pressure on countries that refuse to respect the policies debated on and agreed upon by the

¹ https://www.odu.edu/al/centers/modelun/conference/committees/third-sochum

United Nations. Even still, what is passed is not law, so compromises should be made for countries to be willing to adopt any passed resolutions.

Topic: United States-Mexico Border Crisis

I. Background:

The border crisis at the US-Mexico border is a prominent issue that is affecting hundreds of thousands of refugees seeking asylum, as well as those seeking opportunities for a work visa in the United States. It is a long-standing, polarizing crisis that has extended for decades. Since the 1980s, many white, working and middle-class Americans have experienced a decline in wages and a decrease in available manufacturing jobs. This is due to an increase in globalization that has resulted in America's deindustrialization and the relocation of certain jobs to countries with cheaper wage structures, which oftentimes is blamed on Mexican immigration.

Currently, Mexicans are the largest group of foreign-born residents in the United States leading them to become the targets of large anti-immigration sentiments. Beginning in March 2020, Title 42 was passed by the Trump Administration, granting the U.S. government the power to rapidly expel immigrants, and even in some cases, suspend the right to seek asylum. Title 42 was invoked quickly after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Its goal was to stop the rapid spread of the virus by prohibiting border control agencies from holding migrants in "congregant settings," like holding stations. Title 42 also gave the government the ability to expel any immigrant without cause.

However, Title 42 has faced severe legal challenges. On December 19th, 2021, the Supreme Court blocked a plan presented by the Biden administration to lift Title 42 regulations

as it would end the nation's COVID-19 emergency order.² Although Title 42 was originally implemented as a law that grants federal authorities the power to deny entry to asylum-seekers as a means of limiting the spread of a communicable disease, it was further used by the Biden administration as a method of border control. Since the original purpose of Title 42 was implemented as a mitigation measure for the rush of migration that came with the Covid-19 pandemic, as restrictions around the country were lifted, Title 42 expired. Officially on May 11th, 2023, Title 42 was replaced by the Biden Administration's new border control policy, Title 8.

Currently, the process of getting into the United States legally is extremely difficult and strenuous. Migrants trying to enter at the border can either seek humanitarian parole, get an appointment at a border checkpoint, or cross the border illegally. However, none of these options are remotely reasonable. Very few nationalities qualify for humanitarian parole. Separately, to get an appointment at the border, one would have to use an unstable app with limited slots per day, called CBP One. In addition to only being operational in northern Mexico near the border or in Mexico City, there are only 1000 available appointments per day, and the app crashes frequently if there are too many users at a time.

If one is lucky enough to obtain an appointment, they will most likely be released into the United States where they can apply for asylum and wait up to months or years for a court date. Only Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, or Venezuelans are able to see humanitarian parole, with

² Gutiérrez, Ramón A. "Mexican Immigration to the United States." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History, 29 July 2019,

 $oxfordre.com/americanhistory/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-146; jsessionid=10\\C82A26DE3C7494DA5EA1C7A27298B8.$

current exceptions for Ukrainians and Afghans because of pressing humanitarian crises happening in these countries. On top of this already limiting factor, there are only 30,000 parole spots available per month and are given only to those with an urgent humanitarian reason to leave. In regards to getting an application approved to cross the border, one also has to have a financial sponsor in the U.S, which is extremely difficult to find unless the person already has connections in the United States. If the application is approved, the migrant will be able to live and work in the U.S for up to 2 years.³ This path of entry to the United States favors wealthy migrants, as one needs a valid passport and the means to pay for a plane ticket and accommodation in the U.S.

Crossing the border illegally is the most risky and complicated route into the U.S, and it is also the most popular. There have been an average of 3,360 illegal border crossings a day since the end of Title 42.⁴ This number is higher than during Title 42 because the Biden Administration has imposed much stricter sanctions on asylum-seekers that attempt to cross the border illegally. They can be barred from the U.S for up to 5 years, as well as being charged with a misdemeanor of illegal entry, or even a felony charge if they have tried to enter the U.S illegally on multiple occasions.⁵ Unless they are fleeing dangerous circumstances, people entering the country

³ Kitroeff, Natalie, et al. "Who Gets in? A Guide to America's Chaotic Border Rules." *The New York Times*, 11 May 2023,

www.ny times.com/interactive/2023/05/11/world/americas/mexico-border-routes.html?searchResultPosition = 8.

⁴ Meko, Hurubie, and Raúl Vilchis. "New Migrants Have a Year to Apply for Asylum. Many Won't Make It." *The New York Times*, 3 July 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/07/03/nyregion/migrants-asylum-nyc.html.

⁵ Garciacute;a, Uriel J. "Border Migrant Encounters Have Dropped by Half since Title 42 Ended, Federal Official Says." *The Texas Tribune*, 15 May 2023,

www.texastribune.org/2023/05/15/texas-border-migrant-encounters-title-42-drop/.

without proper documentation will either be put into formal deportation proceedings, which can take years, or a faster removal process. Families will most likely be put on the slower track, giving them an opportunity to appear before an immigration judge while living inside the country, and working legally until their case has a verdict. However, adults without families will most likely go through the expedited removal process, and could be deported and/or given a felony charge within days.

Due to President Biden's new barriers to seeking asylum, it is significantly harder to qualify as an asylum-seeker than it previously was. The most extreme new restriction of Biden's border approach is the transit van: in order to be considered for asylum in the US, migrants now have to show that they applied or were rejected for asylum by another country the migrant passed through on their journey to the U.S. It is near impossible to show that one has already been denied asylum in another country, leaving most asylum-seekers stranded, with no hope of making it into the U.S. There also are a surplus of meticulous rules regarding entering the United States, many of which have been flagged by United Nations agencies as a violation of international human rights laws.

II. United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations recognizes that the U.S-Mexico border crisis poses many risks to fundamental human rights. UN agencies are actively calling for more international collaboration over the refugee crisis at the U.S-Mexico border. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, stated that the new Biden Administration border policy "undermines the basic foundations of international human rights and refugee law". The "fast-track expulsion" of

Venezuelan, Haitians, Cubans, and Nicaraguans will continue to expel people to Mexico, or back to their home country, without looking deeper into what might happen if they return. This has already happened 2.5 million times during the usage of Title 42. The Commissioner is in favor of extending the United State's "humanitarian parole" to include Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans, instead of being limited to only Venezuelans. Türk is insistent that the new measure should not forgo fundamental human rights, which include "the right to seek asylum, and the right to an individual assessment of protection needs." He stressed that seeking asylum is a human right for everyone, no matter their background or how they arrived at the border. Additionally, the United Nations' Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is actively working to improve the situation at the U.S-Mexico border and believe that "Rather than vilifying (asylum seekers) and stripping them of long-recognized rights, we should be seeking to govern migration humanely and safely with full respect for the human rights of every individual."⁶

Furthermore, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) call for more "ambitious, innovative, and principled cooperation among all stakeholders." In accordance with UN Regulations, all plans and solutions to the crisis must be in alignment with the framework in the Global Compact on Refugees, Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. The UNHCR and IOM specifically emphasize the

⁶ "New US Border Policy Poses Risk to Fundamental Rights, Warns UN's Türk | UN News." *United Nations*, news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132372. Accessed 10 July 2023.

commitment to "reduce the risks and vulnerabilities migrants face at different stages of migration by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights and providing them with care and assistance,"⁷ which is outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. While the agencies welcome initiatives that expand resettlement for asylum-seekers, they remain concerned about new restrictions that may be established to restrict access to asylum after the extremely strict Title 42 was lifted. According to international refugee law, the US Government's new rule that restricts admittance of refugees that have traveled through another country is discordant.

The United Nations believes that the most beneficial efforts will be through supporting communities that host displaced peoples and providing access to effective and legal placement arrangements for asylum-seekers. Family reunification, labor, mobility, schemes, and humanitarian parole or other fundamental challenges that must be considered when creating solutions to this ongoing migration crisis. It is strongly emphasized that these current challenges cannot be solved by a singular county; it must be a joint effort across multiple nations. The UNHCR and IOM have stated that they are willing to redouble efforts to work with *all* countries to ensure the safety and protection of those seeking refuge at the US-Mexico border. These agencies stress that any efforts to return asylum-seekers to their home country must adhere to the principle of non-refoulement, which states that it is forbidden to force the return of peoples to places where their security and wellbeing is threatened. Although the United Nations has actively

⁷ "UN Agencies Call for More Collaboration over Refugee, Migration Crisis in Americas | UN News." *United Nations*, news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136617. Accessed 10 July 2023.

called upon the United States and other countries to address the current situation as well as causes of displacement, it has yet to implement specific resolutions on the matter.

III. Topics to Consider:

A. Humanitarian Concerns

At the center of this Crisis lies the impact on humans. Over 468,000 individuals have been apprehended at the border and millions more have been estimated to cross each year. There have been almost 7,000 deaths recorded along the US-Mexico border and it is estimated thousands more have occurred on migrants' journey to the border. Though there are many reasons why these deaths occur, the most significant factor is arguably the lack of humanitarian aid. Many have died from dehydration, starvation, harsh environmental conditions, criminal activities, unsafe means of transportation, mistreatment/lack of medical care, and border enforcement measures. In reaction to increased border control measures along the US-Mexico border, many immigrants are choosing to take more risky paths to get into the US leading to many deaths. All of these causes can be mitigated if proper humanitarian aid is provided. Many humanitarian groups have attempted to provide aid to the people traveling to the border such as doctors without borders and other NGOs, and faith-based organizations. However, many of these organizations lack the proper funding to provide aid to millions of people all over central and south America. The UN has also responded to this crisis such as the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration creating relief packages for the border and providing legal and humanitarian aid.

You should consider ways of creating humanitarian aid, funding humanitarian aid, and distribution not just in Mexico but to other South American countries as well. Consider language barriers, needs for children and the elderly, and all other disabilities when creating solutions regarding humanitarian aid.

B. Economic Impact

Another major topic to consider when debating this topic is the global and local economic impact that the border crisis creates. The US-Mexico border is a hub for trade, drawing millions of dollars in annual revenue for the United States. Connecting South American countries to the US by road, the border allows expanded free trade for all countries in Central and South America. With large amounts of people traveling to the Mexican-American border, it can disrupt trade routes by closing off roads and forcing drivers to take more unreliable routes to cross the border. This affects both US and international economies as it disincentivizes trade along the border. Another economic factor which is affected by the border is the labor market. With a mass exodus of working-class citizens from both Mexico and many other Central American countries, we can see a reduced amount of laborers in these countries. Meanwhile, in the United States, a large population of American citizens believe that high levels of illegal immigration is saturating the job market within the US.

The tourism industry is negatively affected as well. Many South and Central American economies rely on tourism but because of the crisis, individuals are choosing to stay home because of health and safety concerns regarding the high amounts of people traveling to the

American border at one time. By decreasing tourism in tourists dependent parts of central and south America many local businesses that thrived with high tourism might fall into bankruptcy.

With a high influx of people into border regions many disruptions may occur that impact local business. Many workers might try to flee to cross the border leaving small businesses understaffed in central and south America. In the US small businesses might be forced into bankruptcy because of the introduction of larger corporations into these border regions. A large influx of labor into the US could potentially improve the economy by providing more workers who are willing to do jobs that regular Americans aren't willing to do such as field work and fish gutting. On the other hand it could saturate the market for blue collar work such as construction and manufacturing reducing the amount of jobs for American citizens. As many southern and central Americans are leaving their cities and towns to travel to the US Mexico border they are creating a mass exodus of labor from these areas. The impact of a decrease in farmers in central and south america could be detrimental to international trade as many crops such as coffee, tobacco, and many other crops are primarily produced in the Americas.

C. Border Security Challenges:

Many challenges come up when discussing the Mexico-American border crisis but one of the most prominent ones is the amount of border security challenges. Having a high volume of authorized crossings, it becomes difficult for border patrol to detect and apprehend individuals without proper documentation.

National security has been a main focus of the US ever since Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the attacks on the world trade centers in 2001 because of this National security has been a very

important part of American politics. Politicians such as Donald J. Trump has told the American people that terrorists may be coming through the US Mexico border. These statements along with others have created fear around illegal immigrants coming into the United States.Criminal organizations also can leverage the crisis for themselves. Having a more open door into the country caused by the crisis can lead to criminal organizations exploiting and increasing the amount of human trafficking and drug trafficking cases that remain undetected to Mexican and American authorities. This poses risks to national security by potentially increasing the number of criminal organizations in the United States and North America.

Many parts of the border also face many resource constraints such as limited personnel, poor or no infrastructure, and lackluster surveillance technologies. Once many of these immigrants cross the border they will seek asylum and they will be put in detention centers. These detention centers normally are not at max capacity but if these centers would be overflowing with people governments wouldn't have anywhere to send the asylum seeking immigrants. With a large influx of immigrants in a short amount of time these facilities overflow with people waiting for legal and humanitarian assistance. Inadequate facilities also contribute to the amount of disease spread and the lack of humanitarian assistance given to new immigrants. With many immigrants coming to the United States they are forced to strike a balance between security and humanitarian concerns. Doing this is very challenging and can cause border security or humanitarian aid to the people to seem lackluster. As the crisis continues smuggling tactics to smuggle people and goods into the United States will continue to evolve and because of this, the

U.S. is forced to compete in a sort of arms race making border security even harder for border security to detect them.

IV. Case Study: The Trump and Biden Administrations

From the beginning of his run for president, former president Donald Trump was adamant on his solution to the Mexican border crisis; yet, almost 6 years later it is as relevant as ever. The Trump administration implemented title 42 which attempted to reduce the amount of legal immigrants coming into the United States by not letting any immigrants in unless it was a family. It also let the federal government stop asylum seekers during the Covid 19 pandemic and turn them away, only increasing the need for illegal immigration. Soon after the Biden administration was introduced they reformed title 42 into title 8 which they used as a border control policy. During Trump's run for presidency one of the largest promises he gave to the American people was that he was going to build a wall between the US and Mexico in order to stop illegal immigration. Soon after Trump started to promise increases in border security many people in Central and South America felt that they had to act quickly to get into the United States because if they did not then the opportunity for a better life in America would close. As we know now the wall never was completely built but even still the wall scare along with title 42 of the trump administration showed the people of Central and South America that they needed to travel to America sooner rather than than later because their ability to be able to cross the border might

just be removed by the US government creating an Urgency to cross the border that still exists to this day.

The Biden administration saw the Trump administration's faults and attempted to take a new approach to the immigration crisis. Instead of keeping title 42 the Biden administration reformed it and introduced title 8. This had many differing policies. Once Biden got into office he halted the construction of the Mexico-American border wall and then ended a travel ban that Trump had put into place on 14 central and south American countries. These changes were not all positive however as this created a second wave of incoming illegal immigrants into the United States. Title 8 created a lot of interest in coming to the United States illegally because it punished people who were denied asylum multiple times. This also led to a massive increase in immigrants in the coming months seeking asylum in the United States. In the same year that Biden introduced many of these policies, there was a sharp increase in fentanyl being illegally imported into the US. Many criminal organizations could have used this time of many immigrants coming to the US at once to smuggle drugs and traffic humans across the border as well. In the end, both the Biden and Trump administration made decisions that increased the number of illegal immigrants coming to America. You should base your solutions on incorporating policies from both sides to create a safer way to travel to America as well as offer incentives for people to stay in their native countries.

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