

# WORLD BANK

*Advanced  
Specialized*



**TOPICS:** The Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka,  
Building Financial Resilience in Haiti

**CHAIRS:** Margaux Stehle, Casiana Dumitrescu

*LAIMUN XXVIII*

*December 3-4*

# LAIMUN XXVIII

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**LAIMUN XXVIII**

*December 3-4*

## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 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 [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) 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,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, we do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

We want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

Don't forget to do your research and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,

Izzy Hory

Under-Secretaries General

## Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Margaux Stehle and I will be one of your co-chairs for World Bank Advance this year at LAIMUN. I am currently a senior at Mira Costa and I have been in the Mira Costa Model UN program since my freshman year. I have been to many travel conferences and hope to be able to attend even more this year!

This is my second year chairing World Bank and I have previous experience debating it as well. I absolutely love MUN and outside of the classroom, I play indoor and beach volleyball. I love reading anything from fictional books to memoirs, and, fun fact, in 6th grade I read over 100 books during the school year.

I am thrilled to be able to chair this committee for the second time and work with you guys to create a meaningful and exhilarating debate.

If you have any questions and concerns please feel free to contact us at:  
[worldbank.adv.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com](mailto:worldbank.adv.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com) and we will do our best to help and respond quickly.

Best wishes and good luck delegates!

Margaux Stehle

Hello Delegates!

My name is Casiana Dumitrescu and I am your co-chair for the World Bank Advanced committee during LAIMUN XXVIII. I am currently a Sophomore at Mira Costa and this is my second year doing MUN. Last year, as a Freshman, I attended multiple local conferences, with LAIMUN XXVII being my very first advanced conference!

Outside of MUN, I enjoy spending time listening and finding new music. My favorite genres include classical music, Indie pop, alternative and classical rock, and at times hip-hop. My favorite artists are by far Arctic Monkeys, Cage the Elephant and Lord Huron. This summer I've actually had the pleasure to attend a festival where I was able to see Arctic Monkeys perform. Currently, I am attempting to get tickets to see Noah Kahan and Pitbull. I also enjoy swimming, hanging out by the beach, and trying new foods.

In World Bank, we picked relevant and serious topics for delegates to come up with creative loan proposals and debate. I am excited to welcome you this year and I cannot wait to hear your proposals!

Best Regards,

Casiana Dumitrescu

## Committee Description

In short, the purpose of the World Bank is to provide loans to nations, to help reduce poverty, and increase development. In 1944, the Bretton Woods Conference was held in New Hampshire, and consisted of the World War II Allied nations. The conference created the Bretton Woods agreement, under which nations agreed to fix their exchange rates between currencies to the dollar, controlled by their central banks. The Bretton Woods Conference also established the US dollar as the global currency, replacing the gold standard<sup>1</sup>. To maintain the new systems proposed in the conference, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were created.

As the first multilateral development bank, the first job of the World Bank was to distribute loans to European nations after World War II. The World Bank has also provided loans to Chile, India, and Mexico in order for these nations to build railways and power plants<sup>2</sup>. Since its creation, the World Bank has provided loans for many nations, in areas such as environmental protections, family planning, and pollution control.

The World Bank is divided into two sections, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association. In addition to these development institutions, the World Bank works with the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Guarantee Agency, and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, all of these organizations together make up what is known as the World Bank group.

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<sup>1</sup>Amadeo, Kimberly. "How a 1944 Agreement Created a New International Monetary System." *The Balance*, <https://www.thebalance.com/bretton-woods-system-and-1944-agreement-3306133>.

<sup>2</sup>Amadeo, Kimberly. "Some Say This Bank Secretly Controls the World." *The Balance*, <https://www.thebalance.com/the-purpose-of-the-world-bank-3306119>.

The World Bank is able to give out low-interest loans, grants, and interest-free credit to nations.

While these loans can be provided for many purposes, they mainly cover health, infrastructure, and education, as well as finance, agriculture and natural resources.

The mission of the World Bank is to “bridge the economic divide between poor and rich countries<sup>3</sup>.” Delegates should come to debate prepared to embody this mission, and ensure that they are constantly working towards achieving this goal.

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<sup>3</sup>Amadeo, Kimberly. “Some Say This Bank Secretly Controls the World.” *The Balance*, <https://www.thebalance.com/the-purpose-of-the-world-bank-3306119>.



## Topic A: The Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka

### I. Background

The current Sri Lankan economic crisis, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, was caused by large amounts of mismanagement, and a lack of foreign currency, meaning that the government is not able to afford the fuel and staple crops. As a result, Sri Lanka cannot pay for basic necessities leading to massive shortages and a considerable increase in prices. The lack of proper government management led to a budget shortfall and the account deficit – creating a twin deficit.<sup>4</sup> Sri Lanka has been in this severe economic crisis since 2019 after the presidential election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He was elected after promising the Sri Lankan people security and economic reforms in the form of deep tax cuts, with the goal to stimulate the economy.<sup>5</sup> Gotabaya drew his support from Sinhalese Buddhists by appealing to them through statements claiming to be a Sinhala Buddhist.<sup>6</sup> Due to the fact that 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 22 million population are Sinhala Buddhists, his connection to them easily won him the election. However, as a result of tax cuts, a massive amount of revenue dropped, and the country downgraded to near-default levels. A large number of investors left the country, opting for

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<sup>4</sup> TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Updated: May 11, 2022. "Explained: How Sri Lanka Fell into Its Worst Economic Crisis & What's next - Times of India." *The Times of India*, TOI, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/international-business/explained-how-sri-lanka-fell-into-its-worst-economic-crisis-whats-next/articleshow/91495670.cms>.

<sup>5</sup> Yeung, Jessie. "What You Need to Know about Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 7 Apr. 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/05/asia/sri-lanka-economic-crisis-explainer-intl-hnk/index.html>.

<sup>6</sup> *I Am a Sinhala Buddhist Leader and Will Never Hesitate to Say so ...* <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/i-am-sinhala-buddhist-leader-and-will-never-hesitate-say-so-rajapaksa-addresses-sri-lankas>.

nearby, more developed countries, making it an obstacle for Sri Lanka to access international markets, just months before the COVID-19 pandemic.

To lower costs, Rajapaksa banned chemical fertilizers for the 2 million Sri Lankan farmers under the guise of “healthier food.”<sup>7</sup> However, this caused the crop production decline, provoking primary export crops, namely tea, and staple crop output such as white rice to decrease by almost 20 percent in less than six months and forcing them to import \$450 million worth of crops as the national diet surged by 50 percent. Because of the decrease in crop production, the exports decreased, and imports increased, thus allowing for a trade deficit.<sup>8</sup> The massive decrease in revenue caused many protests as inflation soared past 17 percent, and the Sri Lankan currency collapsed. Subsequently, Rajapaksa changed the tea, rubber, and coconut policy in February of 2022, offering \$200 million in compensation to farmers and \$149 million in subsidies to rice farmers. However, the aid was minimal and did not help with the situation as the payments were insufficient and excluded tea farmers. Further, Rajapaksa banned the import of 38 non-essential luxury items under the emergency economic plan to, as Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb claimed, “save the country precious foreign exchange”.<sup>9</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic was also disastrous to Sri Lanka’s economy as travel and tourism contributed \$4.4 billion and 5.8 percent of their GDP in 2018. However, in 2020, their

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<sup>7</sup> Bloomberg, Niluksi Koswanage | “Analysis | How Sri Lanka Landed in a Political and Economic Crisis and What It Means.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 19 May 2022, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/how-sri-lanka-landed-in-a-political-and-economic-crisis-and-what-it-means/2022/05/19/0cb7c374-d757-11ec-be17-286164974c54\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/how-sri-lanka-landed-in-a-political-and-economic-crisis-and-what-it-means/2022/05/19/0cb7c374-d757-11ec-be17-286164974c54_story.html).

<sup>8</sup> Nordhaus, Ted, and Saloni Shah. “In Sri Lanka, Organic Farming Went Catastrophically Wrong.” *Foreign Policy*, 5 Mar. 2022, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/05/sri-lanka-organic-farming-crisis/>.

<sup>9</sup> Dawn.com. “Govt Bans Import of Non-Essential Luxury Items under 'Emergency Economic Plan'.” *DAWN.COM*, 20 May 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1690468>.

tourism contributions dropped to a mere 0.8 percent.<sup>10</sup> While their response was fast in combating the pandemic, Sri Lanka was imposed to a strict island-wide lockdown.<sup>11</sup> Businesses, hotels, and restaurants that relied on Sri Lanka's tourism shut down, and people took to the streets to protest. Therefore, the country turned to China and the World Bank in the hope of acquiring around \$3 billion. Sri Lanka's central bank even referred to the International Monetary Fund, intending to negotiate a program to address the foreign exchange crisis.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka avoided making closer ties with India, instead gravitating towards China and a bilateral debt to fund their infrastructure. However, this relationship has sent New Dehli into a state of concern regarding Sri Lanka's relationship with Beijing, deeming it a "strategic trap diplomacy" with a plan to take over all Sri Lankan strategic ports as they fail to service its debt.<sup>12</sup> Although China has played a hand in the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of infrastructure in Sri Lanka, they have been hesitant to provide them with debt relief, India has taken this as an opportunity to remove Sri Lanka from China's "trap".<sup>13</sup>

Conversely, India extended a \$2 billion in credit, with the plan to further add an extra \$1.5 billion for importing necessary goods. With the absence of Beijing from the crisis, China has begun to

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<sup>10</sup> Person, and Sunil Kataria. "Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis Dashes Hopes for Post Covid-19 Tourism Recovery." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 22 Apr. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lankas-economic-crisis-dashes-hopes-post-covid-19-tourism-recovery-2022-04-22/>.

<sup>11</sup>World Bank Group. "Sri Lanka's Covid-19 Response: Saving Lives Today, Preparing for Tomorrow." *World Bank*, World Bank Group, 9 July 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2020/10/21/sri-lanka-covid-19-response-saving-lives-today-preparing-for-tomorrow>.

<sup>12</sup> Buddhavarapu, Ravi. "India Tries to Pry Sri Lanka Loose from China's Embrace." *CNBC*, CNBC, 1 Apr. 2022, <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/04/01/india-tries-to-pry-sri-lanka-loose-from-chinas-embrace.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Tom O'Connor On 5/19/22 at 5:20 PM EDT, et al. "An Island Nation in Turmoil Allows India Chance to Seize Key China Partner." *Newsweek*, 19 May 2022, <https://www.newsweek.com/island-nation-turmoil-allows-india-chance-seize-key-china-partner-1708319>.

lose its foothold and control over Sri Lanka. According to the Sri Lanka central bank, they own about \$2 billion in foreign exchange reserves against the \$7 billion in total debt due this year. As Sri Lanka turned to its neighbors for help and fell into more debt with only minimal help from New Delhi, Rajapaksa turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance. To qualify for the IMF's debt relief program, the central bank devalued the Sri Lankan by 15 percent, setting the exchange limit to 230 rupees per dollar.<sup>14</sup>

Currently, the Sri Lankan people have protested against Gotabaya Rajapaksa as they sink deeper into poverty and need to repay their \$51 billion debt. To save money, Gotabaya decided to make power cuts during certain times of the day. However, his actions have only sent the Sri Lankan people into more of a crisis as they do not have the ability to cool themselves from the springtime heat, and have to stand in long lines for fuel. Even so, Rajapaksa refuses to take the blame, instead opting to blame "forces beyond his control".<sup>15</sup> Losing patience and essential goods, the people have taken to the streets of Colombo to demand the removal of Rajapaksa from office. In a recent interview, the president responded by vowing to finish the term but not run for re-election.<sup>16</sup> In protest, 900 of the 1,000 engineers of Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) went on strike, triggering power cuts across the nation. In response to the power cuts, as of June of 2022, one of the capital cities of Sri Lanka, Colombo, is experiencing swarms of angry

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<sup>14</sup> Person, and Uditha Jayasinghe. "Sri Lanka Devalues Rupee, Seen as Step towards Getting IMF Help." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 8 Mar. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/sri-lanka-allow-rupee-weaken-230-per-dollar-2022-03-07/>.

<sup>15</sup> Schmall, Emily, and Atul Loke. "An Angry Public Wants Sri Lanka's President Gone." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 12 Apr. 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/12/world/asia/sri-lanka-protests-gotabaya-rajapaksa.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Ondaatjie, Anusha, and Sudhi Ranjan Sen. "Sri Lanka's Gotabaya Rajapaksa Vows to Finish Term, Won't Run for Re-Election." *Bloomberg.com*, Bloomberg, 6 June 2022, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-06/sri-lanka-leader-vows-to-finish-term-won-t-run-for-re-electio-n#xj4y7vzkg>.

civilians crowding the Rajapaksa official residences in protests against the mistreatment and mismanagement of the economy.

## II. UN Involvement

The UN has documented over 1000 protests since the start of the crisis, claiming that they started as peaceful, driven by citizen participation requesting a change in government. According to the World Food Program, more than 73 percent of Sri Lankan families have been forced to lower their food intake due to decreased food production and imports.<sup>17</sup> As prices of necessities rose, food production decreased, power cuts became frequent, fuel shortages worsened, and protests became violent.<sup>18</sup> The United Nations has worked to alleviate the crisis's impact on vulnerable groups by partnering up with financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. The United Nations has expressed concern over the possibility of a “full-blown humanitarian emergency”.<sup>19</sup> As the protests become more violent, resulting in at least 200 injured and eight dead as of May 10th, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) regards the situation as at risk of severe civil unrest. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has also appealed for \$25 million to allocate humanitarian aid for the 1.7 million Sri Lankan children at significant risk of malnutrition, who need health care, clean drinking water, and education with other mental health services.<sup>20</sup> The

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<sup>17</sup> Ians. “Un to Provide \$48 MN Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka amid Crisis.” *Business Standard*, Business-Standard, 7 June 2022, [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-to-provide-48-mn-humanitarian-assistance-to-sri-lanka-amid-crisis-122060700520\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-to-provide-48-mn-humanitarian-assistance-to-sri-lanka-amid-crisis-122060700520_1.html).

<sup>18</sup> “Human Rights Must Be at Heart of Solution to Sri Lanka Crisis : A UN Resident Coordinator Blog || UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118442>.

<sup>19</sup> Person. “Sri Lanka Risks Full-Blown Humanitarian Emergency, Un Agency Says.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 10 June 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lanka-risks-full-blown-humanitarian-emergency-un-agency-says-2022-06-10/>.

<sup>20</sup> Schlein, Lisa. “Thousands of Children in Sri Lanka at Risk of Dying as Economic Crisis Worsens.” *VOA*, Thousands of Children in Sri Lanka at Risk of Dying as Economic Crisis Worsens, 10 June 2022,

UN plans to provide \$48 million to help regarding four topics: health, food security, social protection, and economic policy advice.

Due to the lack of foreign exchange, Sri Lanka cannot obtain medicine. By supporting and monitoring the ministry of health and their available medical supply, the UN is ensuring that any medical supplies urgently needed are provided by development partners. Additionally, they are planning to give the farmers cash transfers and help them adopt better farming practices to maximize their crop yield. They advise the Sri Lankan government to evaluate social protection and prioritize certain measures. The UN has provided Sri Lanka with policy advice regarding stabilizing their macroeconomics and debt sustainability. As of June 2022, the United Nations has provided Sri Lanka with only \$48 million to assist with the increasingly concerning humanitarian issues and discussing innovative financing to put Sri Lanka on the path to recovery from this economic crisis.

### **III. Topics To Consider**

#### *A. Food Insecurity*

With the political turmoil and growing debt, Sri Lankan civilians have had catastrophic food shortages. In April of 2021, Gotabaya Rajapaksa banned chemical fertilizer in order to lower the cost of imports. His alleged mission was to make all Sri Lanka's crops completely organic; however, he miscalculated as this caused an annual drop of at least 30 percent in rice production alone.<sup>21</sup> With Sri Lanka's primary crop production, paddy rice, decreasing and the

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<https://www.voanews.com/a/thousands-of-children-in-sri-lanka-at-risk-of-dying-as-economic-crisis-worsens-/6612449.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Person, and Uditha Jayasinghe. "Sri Lanka Appeals for Farmers to Plant More Rice as Food Shortage Looms." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 31 May 2022,

severe decline in tea yield, a significant source of foreign exchange, the agricultural sector has been in disarray.<sup>22</sup> As a result, thousands of farmers protested, hoping for a hybrid policy agreement to allow chemical and organic fertilizers. In fear of losing support from rural voters, Rajapaksa lifted the fertilizer ban in November of 2021. However, according to Jeevika Weerahewa, an agricultural economist, the unbanning of chemical fertilizer this year will not aid as the “time for fertilizer application for rice is past and the crop will not recover”, and are warning of the possibility of losing more than 50 percent of paddy rice yields in the upcoming cultivation cycle.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to the significant drop in agricultural goods production, food inflation has grown by 45.1 percent in the last year alone. Civilians have been on the brink of starvation as rice production has not rebounded, and Rajapaksa refuses to import food products due to the lack of foreign exchange. In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, Sri Lanka ranked at an overall moderate level; however, recent developments have changed that to an “alarming” level. With the limited yield, Sri Lanka has become more vulnerable to shortages as natural disasters like droughts still occur. According to the World Food Programme, an overwhelming 500,000 citizens have been pushed into poverty in the last two years and are suffering from malnutrition.

### *B. China's Debt Trap*

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<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/sri-lanka-appeals-farmers-plant-more-rice-food-shortage-looms-2022-05-31/>.

<sup>22</sup> 75. “Sri Lanka - Agricultural Sector.” *International Trade Administration | Trade.gov*, <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/sri-lanka-agricultural-sector#:~:text=Sri%20Lanka's%20primary%20food%20crop,also%20cultivated%20in%20the%20country>.

<sup>23</sup> Person, and Uditha Jayasinghe. “Sri Lanka Rows Back on Chemical Fertiliser Ban, but Yields May Not Rebound.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 24 Nov. 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/sri-lanka-rows-back-organic-farming-goal-removes-ban-chemical-fertilisers-2021-11-24/>.

As a developing country, Sri Lanka has received financial help from more developed countries, such as the People’s Republic of China, to develop needed infrastructure through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative. Through borrowing several loans to build expensive infrastructure, Sri Lanka has been digging its financial hole due to the tax cuts that have massively dropped Sri Lanka’s government revenue. While China claims to only value its image, using its investment of more than \$800 million in BRI projects since 2013 as proof, saying that the initiative is essential to selling more goods and obtaining contracts for its construction companies. However, many other countries, one of the most vocal being the United States, claim that China has put Sri Lanka in a “debt-trap diplomacy”.<sup>24</sup> They claim China is attempting to weaken said developing states and make them reliant on China’s support for China’s own benefit, also known as a foreign aid dependency status. Additionally, Sri Lanka’s government struggling to pay back debts has caused them to hand over most of the port of Hambantota’s shares to a Chinese state-owned company on a 99-year lease, helping fuel allegations.<sup>25</sup> Although Chinese diplomats deny all accusations.

The claim against China has proven very harmful and powerful according to several reporters. While many state that China will not negotiate the terms of the existing loans, taking China’s lack of response to Sri Lanka’s request to delay the repayments of the \$11 billion loan

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<sup>24</sup> Dasgupta, Saibal. “China's Global Image under Strain as Sri Lanka Faces Debt Trap.” *VOA*, China's Global Image Under Strain as Sri Lanka Faces Debt Trap, 25 Apr. 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-global-image-under-strain-as-sri-lanka-faces-debt-trap-/6544106.html>.

<sup>25</sup> India, Press Trust of. “Chinese-Built Hambantota Port to Be Fully Functional by next Year.” *Business Standard*, Business-Standard, 12 July 2021, [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/chinese-built-hambantota-port-to-be-fully-functional-by-next-year-121071201165\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/chinese-built-hambantota-port-to-be-fully-functional-by-next-year-121071201165_1.html).



used for infrastructure building as proof of the legitimacy of the “debt-trap”<sup>26</sup>. However, China claims they are willing to restructure the existing loans’ terms and that they have no assets, like Sri Lanka’s port of Hambantota, from any countries they have invested in<sup>27</sup>.

*C. Lack of Foreign Currency (foreign exchange reserves)*

Much of Sri Lanka’s problems come from the massive decline in foreign currency reserves and, more specifically, the US dollar. The world economies use the US dollar for trade; however, Sri Lanka’s US dollar reserves have been running low, and according to the country’s finance minister, it sank to less than \$50 million.<sup>28</sup> With these developments, the central bank has announced that civilians can only possess \$10,000 from \$15,000 and is looking to find anybody who holds it for a while longer than three months. Additionally, Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe demanded that all excess foreign currency be converted to the Sri Lankan rupee or placed in the bank for up to two weeks; failure to do so will result in penalizations in the form of fines, as well as government conducted raids.<sup>29</sup> The strict regulations have started being implemented as of June 2022. The severe lack of foreign exchange reserves has gravely restricted the number of essential imports such as fuel, medicine, cooking gas, and food. Furthermore, it has also inhibited the imports of raw materials for manufacturing, contributing to

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<sup>26</sup> Dasgupta, Saibal. “China's Global Image under Strain as Sri Lanka Faces Debt Trap.” *VOA*, China's Global Image Under Strain as Sri Lanka Faces Debt Trap, 25 Apr. 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-global-image-under-strain-as-sri-lanka-faces-debt-trap-/6544106.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Deborah Brautigam, Meg Rithmire. “The Chinese 'Debt Trap' Is a Myth.” *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 12 Apr. 2021, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2021/02/china-debt-trap-diplomacy/617953/>.

<sup>28</sup> Mallawarachi, Bharatha. “Sri Lanka Foreign Reserves at Record Low, Politics in Crisis.” *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 4 May 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/covid-business-health-economy-sri-lanka-a742a0ebe7a7e0734960d68e49bed69a>.

<sup>29</sup> *ABC News*, ABC News Network, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sri-lanka-lowers-amount-foreign-currency-people-hold-84829123#:~:text=Sri%20Lanka%20has%20suspended%20repayment,million%20in%20usable%20foreign%20reserves>.

the massive rise in inflation. At the start of the implementation of these regulations, Sri Lanka had only a total of \$25 million in usable foreign reserves compared to the suspended repayments of \$7 billion due this year and the total foreign debt of \$51 billion.

#### **IV. Case Study: Venezuela**

Much like Sri Lanka, Venezuela has been in a political and economic crisis for decades due to poor management of its finances. While Venezuela used to be one of the most prosperous countries in Latin America due to its massive amounts of oil and natural gas resources, its status as a petrostate and its inadequate governance has led them to ruin. As a petrostate, Venezuela's economy relies heavily on exporting oil, with petroleum accounting for 99 percent of its exports and roughly 25 percent of its GDP.<sup>30</sup> Petrostates are completely reliant on their exports; oftentimes, this results in capital and labor abandoning other crucial economic sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture, leaving them very dependent on their exports of natural resources and vulnerable to swings in the global energy prices that could result in massive negative effects. Frequently, petrostates like Venezuela tend to have weakened relationships between their governments and the civilians, as they do not rely on taxes and more on their exports. According to Stanford University professor Terry Lynn Karl, the countries that become petrostates tend to make this switch after "establishing a democracy, state institutions, an independent civil service and private sector, and rule of law", and usually, political leaders then use the country's wealth to squash any opposition.<sup>31</sup> Venezuela has dealt with many issues in the last few decades due to its

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<sup>30</sup> "Venezuela." *OPEC*, [https://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/about\\_us/171.htm](https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/171.htm).

<sup>31</sup> "Venezuela: The Rise and Fall of a Petrostate." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/venezuela-crisis>.

growing autocracy and oil dependence, such as a spiraling economy, soaring debt, and hyperinflation. The COVID-19 pandemic and sanctions have caused massive shortages in food, medicine, and fuel, sinking 77 percent of the Venezuelan population into extreme poverty.

Although Venezuela's economy seemed to be thriving for decades after the discovery of oil in their territory, the rise in dictatorship started to take control and therefore put obstacles in their progress. Beginning with the election of President Hugo Chaves, he was able to cut poverty by 20 percent and expand social services; however, he was a contributor to the decline of oil production with his decision to fire thousands of PDVSA workers who had taken part in an extended oil strike, causing for technical expertise and human resources to decrease substantially. Throughout his presidency until his death, Chaves caused the government debt to double and the petroleum reserves to decline by subsidizing oil to other countries. Additionally, laying the groundwork for dictatorship by nationalizing private businesses and foreign-owned assets, ending term limits, and taking control of the Supreme Court.<sup>32</sup> He paved the way for Nicolas Maduro to lay an authoritarian regime over Venezuela.

Under Maduro, government transparency declined, and censorship became frequent. The central bank stopped releasing economic data such as public spending, economic growth, and inflation rates, this lack of transparency led to opposition groups, who demanded an explanation for the lack of information and were appalled by the collapse in the currency; many acted in the form of protests. Nevertheless, Maduro quickly squashed them, arresting the opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and causing dozens of civilians to be arrested, injured, and killed at the protests.

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<sup>32</sup> "Venezuela: Chávez Allies Pack Supreme Court." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/12/13/venezuela-chavez-allies-pack-supreme-court>.

<sup>33</sup> Venezuela garnered a lot of concurrence from the international community regarding the authoritarian status as active efforts from the National Assembly began to remove Maduro from office. As oil production collapsed, the government sought to restructure foreign debt, but the recently imposed sanctions from the United States resulted in hardships in negotiating with their creditors. As a result, the bonds went into default. Due to the growing authoritarian regime, escalating crime, annual inflation of 686.4 percent (as of 2021), and food shortages, the Venezuelan people have quickly migrated into neighboring countries, causing a migration crisis and growing tensions. An additional rigged election against the politician Juan Guaido and the closing of borders to stop humanitarian aid from getting inside Venezuela caused Guide to free the previously arrested opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and call for an uprising.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. What is your country's relationship with China? Do you think China is attempting to expand its influence and "debt-trap" developing countries?
2. Other than food insecurity, what other issues should humanitarian aid aim to alleviate the Sri Lankan civilians?
3. Considering the lack of foreign currency, resulting in the inability to import medicine, fuel, and food, what other regulations can be put in place to increase Sri Lanka's reserves?
4. Observing the public disfavor of the government management, how can your country assist with reforms without infringing on their sovereignty?

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<sup>33</sup> Millard, Peter, et al. "A Timeline of Venezuela's Economic Rise and Fall." *Bloomberg.com*, Bloomberg, 16 Feb. 2019, <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2019-venezuela-key-events/>.

5. Regarding the agricultural and manufacturing sector, how can your country help Sri Lanka increase their exports and lower the trade deficit?

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## Topic B: Building Financial Resilience in Haiti

### I. Background

The Haitian crisis has been going on for decades and has ridden Haiti with food insecurity, corruption, gang violence, and a lack of infrastructure. This economic crisis and instability grew when late president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, a massive, 7.2, earthquake hit Haiti, a month later, causing chaos and destruction and demolition of the already poor infrastructure of the country. All of this can be traced back to 2018, when the Haitian government announced that it would eliminate all fuel subsidies.<sup>35</sup> This announcement caused mass civil unrest and created an environment that enabled widespread protests and chaos. Around the same time, evidence about fund embezzlement arose, which led to even more demonstrations causing president Moïse to respond with even greater police force. This led to a rise in gang violence and mistrust of the government.<sup>36</sup>

Building resilience to natural hazards like flooding, hurricanes, and earthquakes is not straightforward, especially for a country like Haiti, which is highly vulnerable to these threats. High levels of financial condition, weak infrastructure, associated unstable political landscape, fast and unregulated urbanization, and fragile government agencies—including those responding to disaster risks—raise many hurdles when trying to build resilience in a country. With global

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<sup>34</sup> “World Report 2022: Rights Trends in Haiti.” *Human Rights Watch*, 14 Jan. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti>.

<sup>35</sup> “Haitian Public Forcing New Approach to Fuel Price Reform.” *Knoema*, 26 Apr. 2022, <https://knoema.com/infographics/wdtpvnc/haitian-public-forcing-new-approach-to-fuel-price-reform#:~:text=Currently%2C%20the%20Haitian%20budget%20is,GDP%2C%20according%20to%20the%20IMF>.

<sup>36</sup> “Haiti: Un Sounds Alarm over Worsening Gang Violence across Port-Au-Prince | | UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1122662>.

climate change increasing the strength and magnitude of these hazards<sup>37</sup>, which creates a scenario where new infrastructure needs to be able to withstand current natural disasters but also natural disasters of the future which will only be more powerful than the ones now. Despite the determination of the Haitian individuals to build back after the tragic 2010 earthquake and cyclone Matthew in 2016, the country was once more hit by a huge 7.2 magnitude earthquake on August fourteen, 2021. In step with authorities, over two 200 individuals died, and up to 130,000 homes were destroyed or broken in southern Haiti<sup>38</sup>. Then, several days later, Tropical Depression Grace drops extraordinarily significant rains within the same southwestern dry land, still reeling from the earthquake's impact, delaying pressing humanitarian help and harm assessments. Furthermore, resilience against natural disasters is only one of the many resilience Haiti needs to grow. Financial resilience is the big one. It is incredibly hard to create stable, honest and secure financial institutions in Haiti because of the corruption that is rampant in the country. Additionally, Haiti is known to be financially dependent on many more developed countries, making it hard for them to create their own infrastructure since these MDCs fund what they believe is best for them and push their own political agenda on the people of Haiti. This causes MDCs to have more control over Haiti and take away their resources, leaving them with nothing to grow their economy. This stalling of their economy makes it almost impossible for them to grow their infrastructure, causing many people to be left without shelter, food and clean

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<sup>37</sup> “How Climate Change Makes Hurricanes More Destructive.” *Environmental Defense Fund*, <https://www.edf.org/climate/how-climate-change-makes-hurricanes-more-destructive>.

<sup>38</sup> “Many Still Seeking Food, Shelter a Year after Haiti Quake.” *Timesleaderonline.com*, The Times Leader, 21 Aug. 2022, <https://www.timesleaderonline.com/news/international-news/2022/08/many-still-seeking-food-shelter-a-year-after-haiti-quake/>.

water. With Haiti receiving over \$13 billion dollars of financial aid<sup>39</sup>, but still remaining one of the poorest countries on Earth, something must be wrong in the system.

Haiti's unstable government has led to growing gang violence in Haiti's capital. This violence has left nearly 200 people dead and heaps of displaced people within the month alone, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report. Multiple armed rival gangs started clashing and seizing territory in Port-au-Prince with new intensity beginning in April, forcing more than 16,800 people to desert their homes and shelter in temporary lodging. The rise in violence has spilled into dozens of neighborhoods, with hundreds of households stuck within the crossfire. The depth and duration of the violence have wracked the country of Haiti. The power vacuum left after Moïse's killing has left gang violence issues to rise tenfold, which is leaving communities and people fearing for their lives. Authorities say that the scale of the pack savagery has come to exceptional levels. Declarations collected and cited by Bachelet included beheadings, chopping and burning of bodies, and the murdering of minors blamed for being witnesses for match gangs. Gangs have perpetrated sexual violence against children as young as 10, a strategy utilized to rebuff individuals living in zones beneath equal control. The clashes have forced 11 medical centers and at least 442 schools to close -- with some burned down and burgled. They have also blocked the two main national roads connecting the capital to the rest of the country, restricting the movement of people and goods.

## **II. UN Involvement:**

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<sup>39</sup> "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development>.

The United Nations has created and funded many projects to help Haiti. One of these is the United Nations International Organization Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was an operation dispensed by the international organization between Sept 1993 and 1996. The Mission was reestablished (MINUSTAH) in 2004 after a rebellion ravaged the country of Haiti. After revising its mandate in 2014, the UNMIH would help create a stable environment in Haiti and assist in the securing of the environment that would be established during the multinational phase of getting a more stable government in Haiti and creating a separate police force.<sup>40</sup> Furthermore, the UNMIH would assist the constitutional Haitian authorities in establishing that stable government and environment and if requested, they would be monitored by the OAS in cooperation with the UN.

The United Nations Security Council has also decided to extend the mandate United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (UNIOH)<sup>41</sup>. The (UNIOH) would create a unit of 42 civilians and advisers that would be dedicated to addressing gender-based violence and sexual violence in Haiti, and reporting it back to the United Nations. Furthermore, during the same meeting, the UN security council decided to unanimously adopt resolution 2645. This resolution reiterates the need that Haitian holders of shares reach an agreement on a framework for political process. The framework must be sustainable, and commonly accepted as a Haitian led political movement. This would allow for peaceful, fair, free, and transparent presidential and legislative elections.

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<sup>40</sup> “United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) - Background (Full Text).” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/past/unmihbackgr2.html#:~:text=Under%20its%20revised%20mandate%20%20UNMIH,of%20a%20separate%20police%20force>.

<sup>41</sup> “Security Council Extends Mandate of United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti for One Year, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2645 (2022) - Haiti.” *ReliefWeb*, 16 July 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/security-council-extends-mandate-united-nations-integrated-office-haiti-one-year-unanimously-adopting-resolution-2645-2022>.

The United Nations passed this resolution in hopes to create a more transparent relationship between the people and the government of Haiti, which in turn decreases corruption in a government.

The U.N. has also sent tons of humanitarian aid and relief to help Haiti after its countless natural disasters that constantly ravage the country, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and more. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) from the UN , has enabled countless humanitarian responders to deliver aid in the region of Haiti. Furthermore, UNICEF has requested that over \$97 million be sent to the people of Haiti after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti.<sup>42</sup> The United Nations have sent millions upon millions of dollars to the people of Haiti and they have also created agencies to help the Haitian government and people get back on their feet. Even with all of that money sent to Haiti, because of the corruption in the country only 32% of that money has actually been used to help the building of infrastructures or helping the people of the country.<sup>43</sup>

### III. Topics to consider

#### a. Food insecurity

The country of Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the entire world. It ranks 170th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index.<sup>44</sup> And with nearly half the

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<sup>42</sup> “Un Releases \$5 Million for Humanitarian Needs Triggered by Gang Violence in Haiti | UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125042#:~:text=The%20assistance%20comes%20amidst%20the,OCHA\)%20spokesperson%2C%20Jens%20Laerke.&text=I've%20allocated%20US%245,by%20gang%20violence%20in%20%23Haiti](https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125042#:~:text=The%20assistance%20comes%20amidst%20the,OCHA)%20spokesperson%2C%20Jens%20Laerke.&text=I've%20allocated%20US%245,by%20gang%20violence%20in%20%23Haiti).

<sup>43</sup> “Un Releases \$5 Million for Humanitarian Needs Triggered by Gang Violence in Haiti | UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125042#:~:text=The%20assistance%20comes%20amidst%20the,OCHA\)%20spokesperson%2C%20Jens%20Laerke.&text=I've%20allocated%20US%245,by%20gang%20violence%20in%20%23Haiti](https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125042#:~:text=The%20assistance%20comes%20amidst%20the,OCHA)%20spokesperson%2C%20Jens%20Laerke.&text=I've%20allocated%20US%245,by%20gang%20violence%20in%20%23Haiti).

<sup>44</sup> “Haiti: World Food Programme.” *UN World Food Programme*, <https://www.wfp.org/countries/haiti>.

population (4.5 million Haitians) not having enough to eat and an additional 1.3 million being highly food insecure there is clearly a pervasive all encompassing issue plaguing the nation. Despite billions USD in foreign aid being donated to the nation from 2011 to 2021 the Haitian people and government still have been unable to adequately supply their many and remain dependent on organizations such as WFP and their school feeding programme (the largest food related aid initiative in the country currently) delivering meals to more than 1,000 schools and nearly 300,000 children each day. While this aid is certainly a crucial tool in the arsenal of the Haitian government in fighting food insecurity it is clearly not a long term sustainable solution for any of the parties involved be that the aid organizations donating food, or the people relying on outside nongovernmental organizations to feed their children. This is why the development of a nationally-owned school feeding program by the government in tandem with the WFP is essential and so far has proven effective with successes such as the signature of the first National School Feeding Policy by the Haitian government in collaboration with the WFP in 2016. Creating new projects to help with food insecurity is one of the main priorities that needs to be taken care of to help rebuild Haiti's infrastructure.

#### **b. Foreign Aid Dependency**

More than 1/2 of Haiti's population lives beneath the poverty line, and plenty rely upon subsistence farming to feed their families. Haiti is likewise closely dependent on outside revenue: Since 2010, Haiti has acquired extra than \$thirteen billion in worldwide aid, the maximum of which has funded disaster-remedy missions and improvement programs. Meanwhile, remittances from the Haitian diaspora have regularly risen over the previous few



years, totaling \$38 billion in 2020, or 23 percent of Haiti's gross home product (GDP). For the past ten years, Haiti has run a mean annual deficit of \$190 million. Its essential industries encompass sugar refining, flour milling, and cement and fabric manufacturing; textiles account for ninety percent of all its exports. This is Haiti's biggest alternate partner. In recent years, political instability, disease, natural disasters, mismanagement of humanitarian remedies, and a depreciation of the gourde—Haiti's currency—have strained the economy and made it hard for Haiti's economy to grow and flourish. Tourism, as a colorful sector, has declined. The COVID-19 pandemic decreased the number of tourists visiting Haiti, one of Haiti's biggest industries that left Haiti's economy in shambles. International creditors canceled Haiti's debt following a massive earthquake in 2010; however, its borrowing has since risen to \$394 billion, along with almost \$2 billion from PetroCaribe—the Venezuela-led nearby alliance that gives its contributors sponsored oil. Further upheaval, along with an escalating protest movement, the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise, and lower back-to-lower back herbal screw-ups in July and August 2021, have located pressure similarly. These issues make it hard for Haiti to grow its economy, so it must take money from wealthier nations like the US. This can lead to foreign aid dependency on these nations where the donated country now relies on the donor nation. Furthermore, the government can more easily be corrupted by the nation contributing the money because nations are more likely to invest in sectors they want to see grow. Lastly, it makes it easier for contributing nations to push their political agenda on the receiving countries.

### **c. Humanitarian aid**

More than four million Haitians -- 60 %of them women -- will want emergency help this year. Last year, gender-primarily based violence instances spiked 377, consistent with 6,500 uncovered to sexual violence within the coming months. Nearly five 000 internally displaced individuals are vulnerable to sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), which include HIV/AIDS. In the following three months, 15 consistent with cent of the expected 1,000 deliveries are likely to have complications, growing the danger of maternal death. There is want in all corners: 15,000 require their own circle of relatives making plans and offerings, and nearly 3,000 want STI treatment. If fitness centers remain open, scientific employees can't journey to those in affected areas. Disrupted delivery chains, roadblocks, and safety-demanding situations have ended in shortages of meals and scientific supplies. Just like the pandemic, clashes have restrained motion and accessibility. Women "are stuck withinside the crossfire among COVID-19 and violence," stated Dr. Marie Deschamps, assistant director of sanatorium GHESKIO. "Victims are locked out of their houses or temporary shelters and can't ask for help. Another weak spot is the shortage of prison aid for the sufferer who tells us that she has been raped."Some are brutalized on the arms of gang members. "Bandits with guns got here to rape us again, kicked us out, beat us," one female withinside the Martissant neighborhood recounted. "They burned our house they took the whole thing from us." UNFPA has deployed a body of workers and helped internally displaced individuals (IDP) camps. In the first 5 months of the year, UNFPA and companions have additionally cared for 1,347 sexual violence survivors (including nearly seven-hundred youngsters and one hundred ten men) and controlled 6,356 instances of bodily violence. In addition, UNFPA and its companions have operated cell clinics and furnished mental counseling

withinside the Vallée de Bourdon, Canaan, Delmas 103, Bel-Air, Martissant, and Carrefour areas. Approximately 130,000 human beings, which includes human beings residing with disabilities, obtained sexual and reproductive fitness, own circle of relatives making plans, and sexually transmitted contamination prevention offerings. Pregnant ladies received easy shipping kits with primary hygienic necessities and sun lamps. Once again, the lives and dignity of ladies and ladies are pointless casualties of conflict. According to the 2021 UNFPA Humanitarian Action Overview, Haiti is one of the pinnacle ten international locations in want of investment for emergency response, as UNFPA seems to mobilize \$4five million (of the whole ask of \$25.five million) to preserve supplying on the spot sexual, reproductive and maternal fitness aid and help to gender-primarily based totally violence survivors.

#### **IV. Case Study: Lebanon**

Since 2019, Lebanon has been facing one of the worst economic collapses in history.<sup>45</sup> Lebanon's economy, post war, has been relying on various different sources including real estate, tourism, and inflow of foreign cash into the country. These inflows created high interest rates and furthered the large trade deficit in the country and the growing public debt. In 2016, Lebanon got its first taste of a slowing of the foreign cash inflow. As a result, the main bank of Lebanon initiated a series of operations, known as the swap<sup>46</sup>, where the bank exchanged the already existing public debt into Eurobonds. In later months, the Lebanese Central economy exchanged

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<sup>45</sup> "One of the World's Worst Economic Collapses, Now Compounded by the Ukraine Crisis: What's next for Lebanon?" *Ifpri.org*, 6 May 2022, <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/one-worlds-worst-economic-collapses-now-compounded-ukraine-crisis-whats-next-lebanon>.

<sup>46</sup> Person, and Edmund Blair. "Explainer: Lebanon's Financial Crisis and How It Happened." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 23 Jan. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/lebanons-financial-crisis-how-it-happened-2022-01-23/>.

these bonds back for foreign currency. This led the Lebanese economy to avoid the liquidity crisis at the time, but they only grew their public debt enormously. Still, Lebanon kept trying and failing to attract enough foreign inflow into the country. This led to commercial banks, in 2018, to start restricting the depositor's access to funds in foreign currency. This deterred countless clients from withdrawing US dollars from the bank causing the bank to go into even more debt. This liquidity crisis has caused Lebanon's economy to crash in a short couple of years, leaving the people of Lebanon in ruins as interest rates on loans continue to skyrocket and inflation continues to rise disproportionately. These issues can be mostly attributed to the corruption found in Lebanon. The country needed to stop spending as much as it was, when foreign cash flow stopped coming in. That did not happen as Lebanese politicians continued to splurge the country's money on the sector pay rise of 2018<sup>47</sup>. After this, the government failed to deliver projects and reforms to help the economy, which led foreign donors to hold back the billions of dollars that were pledged to Lebanon. In October of 2019, came the last spark that lit up the flame of chaos and unrest. The plan was to start taxing the public's WhatsApp call, which was many Lebanese's final straw as they kept seeing the diaspora and the favoritism that the Lebanese government had towards the political and rich elites. Lebanon is the perfect example of how a country needs to create its own economical resilience to be able to survive. Furthermore, it illustrates how foreign aid dependency crushes a country's economy and stability since the

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<sup>47</sup> Person, and Edmund Blair. "Explainer: Lebanon's Financial Crisis and How It Happened." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 23 Jan. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/lebanons-financial-crisis-how-it-happened-2022-01-23/>. /

country cannot support itself without foreign cash flow, resulting in a corrupted and unstable system.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. What has your country developed in terms of helping with natural disasters and technology to help with relief and making sure next natural disasters are not as bad?
2. What can be done against the raging gang violence going on in Haiti at the moment?
3. Is there a way to send humanitarian aid to the people of Haiti without Haiti being forced to rely on more developed countries for its resources?
4. What can your country do to help Haiti grow its economy and gain financial independence and for the people of Haiti to gain financial resilience?
5. What is the best way to help create infrastructure in Haiti without helping fund the growing corruption in the government?

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