



STUDY GUIDE:

UNHRC

(UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL)

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LETTER FROM THE EB

Dear Delegates,

The Executive Board of The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), is delighted to welcome you to the highly anticipated conference of HFSMUN'23. Our committee will be focusing on two critical agendas: "Freedom of Expression and Belief" and "Freedom to Information."

The freedoms of expression, belief, and access to information are fundamental rights that play a crucial role in promoting democracy, human rights, and social development. These topics have significant implications for individuals, societies, and the world at large. It is imperative that we explore ways to safeguard and enhance these rights, ensuring their effective implementation and protection.

As you prepare for the conference, we have compiled a comprehensive study guide that delves into the historical context, challenges, and potential solutions related to these agendas. We encourage you to thoroughly examine the guide and conduct further research to comprehensively understand the issues at hand. You are expected to research, collaborate, delegate, network, and shape the trajectory of the committee keeping in mind the decorum and mandate that general conferences expect you to follow.

The HRC is a committee that gives equal power and moral standpoints to countries irrespective of their tactical powers in military or physical oppression. It's the moral defending, ethical standpoints and sheer ability to justify oneself for their moral superiority and not a physical form of dominance. We encourage you to consider the diverse perspectives and experiences represented within the committee and engage in respectful dialogue to foster an inclusive and enriching environment. Embrace the opportunity to develop your negotiation skills, critical thinking abilities, and empathy while working towards consensus-based solutions.

We eagerly await your arrival at the conference and look forward to witnessing the insightful debates and solutions that will emerge from our committee.



Regards,
The Executive Board - UNHRC,

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ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Council was established by the General Assembly in 2006. It replaced the Human Rights Commission after much criticism for allowing states to be members who had significant human rights abuses.

The UNHRC is a subsidiary of the General Assembly and the General Assembly elects the members of UNHRC. The membership seats are divided between regional groups where 13 seats go to Africa, 13 to Asia, 6 to Eastern Europe, 8 to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 to Western Europe and other nations. The Council deals with topics that revolve around human rights violations. It abides by the many different human rights conventions while employing special rapporteurs and working groups to keep states in check. These special rapporteurs and working groups investigate and intervene in individual cases and emergency human rights cases, creating reports that are published for the global community to view.

Every country comprises people belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities that bring about an enriched diversity. However, too often, minorities face diverse forms of discrimination and abuses resulting in marginalisation and exclusion (dehumanisation through political propaganda). Achieving effective enforcement of basic human rights for these minorities requires that we implement the international human rights standards – it is your role as a delegate of the United Nations Human Rights Council to work towards this aim.

The United Nations commonly defines human rights as rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, sex, ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status. These rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. They are universal, inalienable, indivisible, equal and non-discriminatory.



MANDATE OF THE HRC

The Council is composed of 47 Member States elected from the UN General Assembly to staggered three-year terms, with a specified number of seats going to each major geographic region. General Assembly Resolution 60/251 provides that Member States should be elected considering “the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights” and “members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.” In practice, these standards are open to interpretation and the human rights records of States seeking election to the Council have been the subject of significant controversy.

The Council’s mandate is to promote “Universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all” and “Address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon.” The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realisation, by all people, of all human rights. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international human rights laws and treaties established those rights.

The Council serves as a forum for dialogue among States, with input from other stakeholders. As a result of its discussions, the Council may issue resolutions calling on States to take specific actions or uphold certain principles, or it may create mechanisms to investigate or monitor questions of concern. The Human Rights Council has created or renewed the mandates of various “special procedures.” The special procedures are experts appointed to monitor human rights around priority themes or in specific countries with serious human rights problems. The special procedures may be individual experts (“special rapporteurs” or “independent experts”) or working groups. The Council also manages the Universal Periodic Review, a process through which each UN Member State’s overall human rights record is reviewed. In addition, the Council receives complaints alleging patterns of human rights violations, which are considered by the Working Group on Communications and may be referred to the Working Group on Situations. The Working Group on Situations reports substantiated claims of consistent patterns of gross violations to the Council and makes recommendations for action.



General Assembly Resolution 60/251 explicitly acknowledges that “non-governmental organisations play an important role at the national, regional and international levels, in the promotion and protection of human rights” and further determines that the Council should work “in close cooperation in the field of human rights with Governments, regional organisations, national human rights institutions and civil society.”

UN Human Rights was created by the General Assembly in 1993 through its resolution 48/141 which also details its mandate. UN Human Rights is mandated:

1. Promote and protect all human rights for every individual.
2. Recommend that bodies of the UN system improve the promotion and protection of all human rights.
3. Promote and protect the right to development.
4. Provide technical assistance to States for human rights activities.
5. Coordinate UN human rights education and public information programmes.
6. Work actively to remove obstacles to the realisation of human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations.
7. Engage in dialogue with Governments in order to secure respect for all human rights.
8. Enhance international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights.
9. Coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system.
10. Rationalise, adapt, strengthen and streamline the UN human rights machinery.



IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES

Before elaborating upon the numerous treaties, conventions, laws and resolutions, it is crucial to know the meaning of all these important forms of social contract which advocate human rights and basic fundamental dignity. The Theory of Social Contracts is an implicit agreement among the members of a society to cooperate for social benefits, for example by sacrificing some individual freedom for state protection. Theories of a social contract became popular in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries among theorists such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, as a means of explaining the origin of government and the obligations of subjects. Social contract is an essential political theory and human rights is a menial part of the same. However, its extension of human rights does play a vital role in giving structures to many democracies for the formation of legislative and executive documents of law and order. Some examples of social contracts that have played a vital role in weaving the path of human rights are as follows:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The foundations of this body of law are the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1945 and 1948, respectively. Since then, the United Nations has gradually expanded human rights law to encompass specific standards for women, children, persons with disabilities, minorities and other vulnerable groups, who now possess rights that protect them from discrimination that had long been common in many societies. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Since its adoption in 1948, the UDHR has been translated into more than 500 languages - the most translated document in the world - and has inspired the constitutions of many newly independent States and many new democracies. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints procedure and on the death penalty) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights.



The UDHR begins with a preamble. Think of a preamble in terms of a book's introduction: it explains the Declaration and sets out its underlying values. Rene Cassin, the French member of the drafting commission, compared the Preamble to the steps leading up to a house. It is a vital part of the UDHR because it places it within a historical context, and explains what it meant to the 48 countries that ratified the document back in 1948 (the UN had 58 members at the time). The UDHR contains 30 articles and covers the most fundamental rights and freedoms of people (collectively and individually) everywhere in the world.

1. **Articles 1 and 2** are the foundation blocks on which the UDHR is built. They reaffirm human dignity, equality and brotherhood.
2. **Articles 3-11** are the house's first column. They are the rights of the individual: the right to life, outlawing of slavery or torture, equality before the law, the right to a fair trial etc.
3. **Articles 12-17** are the second column. These are the rights of individuals within civil and political society. They include freedom of movement, the right to nationality, the right to marry and start a family, as well as the right to own property.
4. **Articles 18-21** are column number three. They are the spiritual and religious rights of individuals, such as freedom of thought and conscience (i.e. religion), the right to your own opinion, the right to peaceful assembly and association, and the right to vote and take part in government.
5. **Articles 22-27** are the final column to the UDHR house. They are the social, economic and cultural rights of the individual. They include the right to work, the right to rest and leisure, the right to a decent standard of living, and the right to education.
6. **Articles 28-30**, are the pediment that binds these four columns together. They remind us that rights come with obligations and that none of the rights mentioned in the UDHR can be used to violate the spirit of the United Nations.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

This Covenant was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976. By the end of 2001, the Covenant had been ratified by 147 states. § The Covenant elaborates further the civil and political rights and freedoms listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



1. **Article 1** of the Covenant, the states commit themselves to promote the right to self-determination and to respect that right. It also recognises the rights of peoples to freely own, trade and dispose of their natural wealth and resources.
2. **Article 2** says that the right to legal recourse when their rights have been violated, even if the violator was acting in an official capacity.
3. **Article 3** The right to equality between men and women in the enjoyment of their civil and political rights.
4. **Article 6** The right to life and survival.
5. **Article 7** The freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
6. **Article 8** The freedom from slavery and servitude.
7. **Article 9** The right to liberty and security of the person and freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention.
8. **Article 11** The freedom from prison due to debt.
9. **Article 12** The right to liberty and freedom of movement
10. **Article 14** The right to equality before the law; the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and to have a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal.
11. **Article 16** The right to be recognised as a person before the law.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Cultural Rights (1966), together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), make up the International Bill of Human Rights. In accordance with the Universal Declaration, the Covenants recognize that "... the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights."

There are 15 articles, each important in their own right. These conventions are absolutely necessary to understand and keep handy while debating in a committee of Human Rights. The comprehensiveness of the above-mentioned literature shall help you delegates get an idea of essential human rights conventions.



AGENDA 1: “DELIBERATING THE RIGHT TO EXPRESSION AND BELIEF OF PEOPLE GLOBALLY, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Freedom of expression and belief are two fundamental human rights recognized and protected by the United Nations (UN) through international law. Both rights are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which are key human rights instruments. Freedom of expression, as recognized by the UN, encompasses the right of individuals to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers and through any media or platform.

It includes various forms of expression, such as speech, writing, print, art, media, and digital communication. The UN emphasizes that freedom of expression is essential for the functioning of democratic societies, the protection of human rights, and the development of vibrant and inclusive communities. Freedom of belief, also known as freedom of religion or freedom of thought, is the right of individuals to hold, manifest, practice, and change their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others.

It includes the freedom to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, worship, observe religious rituals, express religious or philosophical views, and engage in religious or cultural practices. The UN underscores that freedom of belief applies to everyone, irrespective of their religion, belief, or non-belief, and safeguards individuals from discrimination and persecution based on their religious or philosophical convictions. Both freedom of expression and belief are interrelated and mutually reinforcing rights. They are essential for the development and flourishing of individuals and societies.

Freedom of expression allows individuals to openly express and share their religious or philosophical beliefs, engage in dialogue, and contribute to public debate. It also includes the right to criticize and challenge established religious or ideological norms. Moreover, freedom of belief supports and enriches freedom of expression by ensuring that individuals have the autonomy to choose and practice their religion or belief without coercion or discrimination.



Legislatures impose restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and expression. The reasons for such restrictions are in the interests of:

1. The state's Security such as rebellion, waging war against the State, insurrection and not ordinary breaches of public order and public safety.
2. Interest in Integrity and State Sovereignty: The objective is to give appropriate powers to impose restrictions against those individuals or organizations who want to secession or disintegration of a state as political purposes for fighting elections.
3. Contempt of court: Restriction can be imposed if the speech and expression exceed the reasonable and fair limit and amounts to contempt of court.
4. Friendly relations with foreign states: Legislatures impose prohibitions to unrestrained malicious propaganda against a foreign-friendly state. This is because it may jeopardize the maintenance of good relations.
5. Defamation or incitement to an offense: A statement, which injures the reputation of a man, amounts to defamation. Defamation consists in exposing a man to hatred, ridicule, or contempt.
6. Decency or Morality: Penal Codes have instances of restrictions on this freedom in the interest of decency or morality. The sections do not permit the sale or distribution or exhibition of obscene words, etc. in public places. However, the words decency or morality are very subjective and there is no strict definition for them. Also, it varies with time and place.

The nature of these circumstances is very subjective in nature. When nations restrict the smallest signs of expression, the implications of it promote thought provoking questions on the need for regulations and the presence of absolute liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. The EB highly recommends the delegates to first determine the need for reasonable restrictions, taking into account the political mechanisms prevalent across many nation-states. It's important to explore a liberalist and a conservationist stand point before coming to a conclusive resolution.



COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS OF COUNTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS & ENTITIES THAT VIOLATE AND PRESERVE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND BELIEF

1. China: The Chinese government maintains strict control over freedom of expression and belief through internet censorship, the Great Firewall, and surveillance systems. It restricts access to foreign websites and social media platforms, censors online content, and suppresses dissenting voices, particularly those critical of the government.

2. Russia: The Russian government has implemented laws and measures to curtail freedom of expression and belief. Journalists, activists, and opposition figures face harassment, imprisonment, and even violence. Independent media outlets are targeted, and laws against "extremism" are used to silence dissenting voices.

3. Myanmar: Following the military coup in February 2021, the military junta in Myanmar has cracked down on freedom of expression and belief. Journalists, activists, and peaceful protesters face arrest, imprisonment, and violence. Internet shutdowns and restrictions on media outlets have limited the flow of information.

4. Belarus: The government in Belarus under President Alexander Lukashenko has suppressed freedom of expression and belief through a crackdown on opposition figures, journalists, and civil society activists. Independent media outlets have been shut down, and peaceful protests have been met with violent repression. Most broadcast and print outlets are owned by the government, and they are effusive in their praise of Lukashenko. Nominally independent radio and television stations avoid politically sensitive subjects. The state has shuttered dozens of independent newspapers in recent years, and the few that remain have been subjected to a government onslaught.

5. Saudi Arabia: Freedom of expression and belief in Saudi Arabia is heavily restricted. Criticism of the government, dissent, and religious expression that deviate from the state-sanctioned interpretation of Islam is suppressed. Human rights defenders, activists, and journalists face arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, and harassment.



6. Turkey: Turkey has experienced a significant decline in freedom of expression and belief in recent years. Journalists, academics, and opposition figures face criminal charges, imprisonment, and censorship. The government has targeted critical media outlets, and social media platforms are subject to restrictions and content removal.

7. Iran: Iran imposes strict controls on freedom of expression and belief, particularly regarding political dissent and religious minorities. Journalists, human rights defenders, and activists face persecution, imprisonment, and harassment. Internet censorship and surveillance are prevalent, limiting the flow of information.

8. Equatorial Guinea: A handful of private newspapers officially exist but rarely publish due to financial and political pressure. An exiled press freedom group AS PAGE-Libre says the only publication that appears regularly is a pro-government magazine published in Spain and financed by advertising revenue from companies operating in Equatorial Guinea, “mainly North American oil companies.” The group says the government has forced all private companies to pay for advertising spots on state broadcast media.

9. North Korea: The North Korean government tightly controls freedom of expression and belief. All media outlets are state-controlled, and access to foreign information is heavily restricted. Any dissent or criticism of the regime is met with severe punishment, including imprisonment and forced labour.

10. Syria: The media are under heavy state control and influence. Some newspapers and broadcast outlets are in private hands but are owned by regime loyalists, or are barred from disseminating political content. Some private and party newspapers offer mild criticism of some government policies or the Baath party, but they are largely toothless. State papers and broadcasters remain unflinchingly supportive of the regime. The press law maps out an array of restrictions against the media, including a requirement that periodicals obtain licenses from the prime minister, who can deny any application not in the “public interest.” The regime has harassed critics through arrests or warnings.

11. Cuba: The Cuban constitution grants the Communist Party the right to control the press; it recognizes “freedom of speech and the press in accordance with the goals of the socialist society.” The government owns and controls all media outlets and restricts Internet access. News is carried on four television channels, two news agencies, dozens of radio stations, at least four news Websites, and three main newspapers representing the views of the Communist Party and other mass



organizations controlled by the government. The media operate under the supervision of the Communist Party's Department of Revolutionary Orientation, which develops and coordinates propaganda strategies. Cuba remains one of the world's leading jailers of journalists, second only to China, with 24 independent reporters behind bars. Those who try to work as independent reporters are harassed, detained, threatened with prosecution or jail, or barred from travelling. A small number of foreign correspondents report from Havana but Cubans do not see their reports. Officials grant visas to foreign journalists selectively, often excluding those from outlets deemed unfriendly.

12. Burma: The junta owns all daily newspapers and radio, along with the country's three television channels. Media dare not hint at, let alone report on, anti-government sentiments. Burma's few privately owned publications must submit content to the Press Scrutiny Board for approval before publishing; censorship delays mean that none publishes on a daily basis. Citizens have been arrested for listening to the BBC or Radio Free Asia in public. Entry visa requests by foreign journalists are usually turned down except when the government wants to showcase a political event.

13. Uganda: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has signed a bill criminalizing same-sex conduct, including potentially the death penalty for those convicted of "aggravated homosexuality," into law. The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 violates multiple fundamental rights guaranteed under Uganda's constitution and breaks commitments made by the government as a signatory to a number of international human rights agreements.



UN-BASED MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND BELIEF

The United Nations (UN) has taken several measures to promote and protect freedom of expression and belief globally:

- **Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression**: The UN appointed a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This mandate includes monitoring the global situation of freedom of expression, conducting fact-finding missions, and making recommendations to member states.
- **Human Rights Council Resolutions**: The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) regularly adopts resolutions and decisions addressing issues related to freedom of expression and belief. These resolutions often call on member states to uphold and protect these rights and condemn violations wherever they occur.
- **Assistance and Capacity Building**: The UN, through various agencies and programs like the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNESCO, provides technical assistance, capacity building, and support to member states in promoting and protecting freedom of expression and belief. This includes training programs, workshops, and the provision of expertise.
- **Awareness and Advocacy**: The UN conducts awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of freedom of expression and belief. This includes promoting media freedom, condemning attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, and encouraging public dialogue and open discussions.
- **Reports and Resolutions**: The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has adopted resolutions and published reports on freedom of expression and belief. These documents address various issues such as the safety of journalists, access to information, and the role of the Internet in promoting and protecting these rights. They provide guidance and recommendations to member states.
- **Protecting Journalists**: The UN has been actively working to protect journalists and combat impunity for crimes committed against them. The UN General Assembly has designated November 2 as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. Additionally, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) leads the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of



Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which aims to create a safer environment for media workers.

- **Free Media Initiative:** UNESCO launched the Global Media Defence Fund, which supports journalists and media organizations in situations where freedom of expression is at risk. The fund provides legal assistance, capacity building, and emergency support to journalists facing threats, attacks, or persecution.
- **High-Level Events and Forums:** The UN organizes high-level events and forums focusing on freedom of expression and belief. These events provide a platform for discussions, knowledge-sharing, and cooperation among member states, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. For example, the Global Conference for Media Freedom, co-hosted by the UK and Canada in 2019, aimed to protect journalists and promote media freedom worldwide.
- **Internet Governance and Digital Rights:** The UN has been engaged in discussions and initiatives related to Internet governance and digital rights. It aims to ensure that freedom of expression and belief is upheld in the digital realm while addressing challenges such as online hate speech, censorship, and surveillance. The UNHRC has appointed special rapporteurs on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the digital age
- **Collaboration with Civil Society:** The UN collaborates with civil society organizations, including human rights defenders, journalists, and activists, to promote and protect freedom of expression and belief. It supports their efforts, provides platforms for their voices to be heard, and advocates for their safety and well-being.

While the UN plays a crucial role in promoting freedom of expression and belief, the responsibility to respect and protect these rights ultimately lies with member states. The UN's efforts aim to provide guidance, support, and monitoring to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.



RELEVANT REFERENCES TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

1. **Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression (OHCHR)**: In 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Special Rapporteur receives information and complaints about alleged violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and then uses “communications” with the concerned governments. The Special Rapporteur keeps confidential all communications to and from the government until it includes them in the Annual Report, which is submitted to the Human Rights Council annually
2. **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**: CERD, a UN treaty body, monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It addresses issues related to discrimination based on religion or belief and promotes the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and expression.
3. **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**: The UPR is a mechanism under the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights situation in each UN member state. It provides an opportunity to assess the state's compliance with its obligations related to freedom of expression and belief and offers recommendations for improvement.

ADVISED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- Effects of absolute freedom of expression and belief
- Deliberating the extent to which censorship is ethical
- Reviewing the articles on freedom of expression and belief from the UDHR and ICCPR
- Methods of violation of freedom of expression and belief

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER [QARMA]

- What are the root causes of violation of freedom of expression and belief
- What international regulatory bodies can be created to implement the freedom of expression and belief in local governments
- Is freedom of expression and belief an absolute right, where is the line drawn 4. What role does privacy play
- How can the international community better support victims of violation of freedom of expression and belief



AGENDA 2: “DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT”

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The "right to information" refers to the fundamental right of individuals to access information held by public authorities and institutions. It empowers individuals to seek and receive information, enabling them to make informed decisions, participate in public affairs, and hold governments accountable. Determining the extent to which the right to information is a fundamental human right is a complex and important issue recognized and explored by the United Nations (UN).

The UN recognizes the importance of the right to information as a key pillar of transparent and accountable governance. Although the UN does not explicitly outline the right to information as a standalone provision in its foundational documents, it affirms its significance within the broader framework of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and access to information.

The UN has also adopted specific instruments that recognize and protect the right to information. The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is a legally binding agreement that focuses on the right to access environmental information. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a comprehensive framework for global development, highlight the significance of access to information in promoting sustainable and inclusive societies.

Furthermore, regional human rights instruments, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, also explicitly recognize the right to information.

However, it is important to note that the extent to which the right to information is considered a fundamental human right can vary across different legal systems and contexts. Some countries have enshrined the right to information as a constitutional or statutory guarantee, while others recognize it through judicial interpretations or administrative policies.



The right to information is closely linked to freedom of expression, as it facilitates the flow of information, ideas, and opinions, which are essential for democratic participation and informed decision-making. By ensuring access to information, individuals can understand and evaluate government policies, actions, and services, and actively engage in public discourse.

The UN encourages member states to recognize and protect the right to information by establishing legal frameworks, policies, and mechanisms that guarantee public access to information. This includes ensuring that information held by public authorities is proactively disclosed, allowing individuals to access information upon request, and protecting whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing or abuses of power.

Access to information is not limited to government-held information alone. The UN also recognizes the importance of access to information from other sources, such as non-governmental organisations, private entities, and international organisations. This broader scope ensures that individuals have access to a wide range of information necessary for meaningful participation and decision-making.

The right to information is crucial for promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. It helps prevent corruption, human rights abuses, and the misuse of power by shedding light on government activities and promoting public scrutiny. Additionally, it fosters inclusive and participatory societies by ensuring that all individuals, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, have equal access to information.



RATIONALISATION OF THE NEED FOR ACTION ON THE AGENDA

Right to information is being denied to many individuals across various countries by government officials to ensure the “continuity of their malicious activities.” It is an insidious way to exploit the power and people for the government’s own gains by withholding information and reprimanding those who make an attempt to spread the “withheld” information. Reporters getting killed while chasing a story, and online attacks against women journalists, including death and rape threats, and targeted electronic surveillance to intimidate and silence investigative journalism, have been taking place in various countries across the world. “The decline of media freedom and the rise in threats to the safety of journalists is a worldwide trend, most sharply evident in backsliding democracies and recalcitrant totalitarian States,” said Irene Khan, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. “The consequences for human rights, democracy, public participation and development are worrying. Silencing journalists by killing them is the most egregious form of censorship,” Khan said. With respect to this agenda, one must deliberate on the impunity as well as the investigation and prosecution of attacks against journalists.

In a number of countries, including in Central and Eastern Europe, there is a creeping trend towards State control over public media and in favouring privately-owned media that serves the political or economic interests of those in power. The collapse of the advertising-based news media business model in the digital age has led to staff cutbacks and closures of news outlets in many countries.

The use of such methods hampers people from receiving true, authentic information and coerces them into believing whatever they are told. This truly must be addressed as soon as possible as it is the substratum that promotes the violation of various other human rights.



WHEN IS THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION VIOLATED?

1. **Denial of Access to Government Information**: When governments refuse or fail to provide access to information held by public authorities, it can limit the ability of individuals to obtain vital information about government policies, actions, and decision-making processes, but it is to be noted that there are exceptions with regard to National security and safety.
2. **Lack of Transparency**: Lack of transparency in government operations, such as secretive decision-making or failure to disclose important information, can hinder the public's right to access information and participate in democratic processes.
3. **Censorship and Content Restrictions**: Governments may engage in censorship or impose content restrictions on media outlets, journalists, or online platforms, preventing the free flow of information and limiting people's ability to express their opinions or access diverse viewpoints.
4. **Suppression of Whistleblowers**: When individuals who expose wrongdoing or abuses of power within public or private entities are silenced or face retaliation, it can deter others from coming forward with valuable information and undermine transparency and accountability.
5. **Limited Access to Official Records**: Restrictions on accessing official records, including historical or classified documents, can impede research, historical understanding, and public knowledge.
6. **Surveillance and Monitoring**: Excessive surveillance practices, including mass surveillance programs, intrusive data collection, and monitoring of individuals' communications, can infringe upon the right to privacy and inhibit the free exchange of information.
7. **Intimidation and Violence against Journalists**: Threats, harassment, physical attacks, or violence targeting journalists and media workers can create a climate of fear, self-censorship, and restricted access to information.
8. **Digital Divide**: Unequal access to information and communication technologies, such as the Internet, can create disparities in information access, limiting the ability of marginalized and underserved communities to exercise their right to information.



9. **Lack of Freedom of Information Laws**: The absence or inadequate implementation of laws guaranteeing the right to information can contribute to a lack of transparency and accountability, making it difficult for individuals to access information from public authorities.

10. **Disinformation**: The act of deliberately spreading false or misleading information that is spread with the intention to deceive or manipulate others. It is often propagated to serve specific interests, such as influencing public opinion, creating confusion, or undermining trust. Disinformation can be disseminated through various mediums, including online platforms, news outlets, or coordinated campaigns.

11. **Malinformation**: The act of spreading true information with the intention to harm, defame, or damage someone's reputation. It involves the dissemination of private or confidential information, such as personal data, intimate photos, or confidential documents, without the consent of the individual involved. Malinformation is often used to harass, embarrass, or harm someone's personal or professional life.

12. **Data Breaches**: When organisations fail to adequately protect personal data, it can result in data breaches that expose individuals' sensitive information. These breaches can occur due to hacking, inadequate security measures, or internal mishandling of data. Unauthorised access to personal information compromised individuals' privacy and can lead to identity theft, financial fraud, or other forms of harm.

13. **Surveillance and Mass Surveillance**: Government surveillance programs, especially those conducted without proper oversight or legal safeguards, can infringe on individuals' privacy rights. Mass surveillance, such as the collection and monitoring of communication data on a large scale, can have a chilling effect on free expression and lead to unwarranted intrusions into individuals' private lives.

14. **Unlawful Interception of Communications**: Intercepting and monitoring individuals' communications, including emails, phone calls, or online messages, without proper legal authorization is a violation of privacy. This can occur through hacking, wiretapping, or the use of surveillance technologies without appropriate legal grounds.



15. **Unauthorised Sharing of Personal Information**: When organisations or individuals share personal information without consent or for purposes other than those for which it was collected, it can be a violation of privacy. This includes instances where personal data is sold, traded, or used for targeted advertising without proper consent or transparency.

16. **Identity Theft and Financial Fraud**: When personal information, such as social security numbers, bank account details, or credit card information, is misused for fraudulent activities, it results in severe privacy violations. Identity theft and financial fraud can have devastating consequences for individuals, leading to financial losses and reputational damage.

17. **Non-consensual Data Collection**: Collecting personal data without individuals' knowledge or consent, such as through hidden surveillance cameras, tracking devices, or intrusive data collection practices, violates privacy rights. This can occur in public spaces or within private premises where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

18. **Invasive Government Practices**: Some governments engage in invasive practices that violate individuals' privacy, such as forced surveillance, tracking, or profiling based on personal characteristics, beliefs, or political affiliations. These practices undermine privacy rights and can have a chilling effect on freedom of expression and association.

19. **Online Privacy Intrusions**: Online privacy violations include unauthorised access to personal accounts, tracking individuals' online activities without consent, or the misuse of personal data by online platforms. These violations can compromise individuals' privacy and lead to targeted advertising, profiling, or manipulation of personal information.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT IN SEVERAL NATION STATES

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conducted a global survey of countries to identify existing laws on the right to information, and how they are observed. The researchers found that 135 countries have enacted right-to-information laws (RTI) or similar provisions. 11 countries have adopted access to information laws. Some of these countries include South Africa, Ethiopia and Liberia in Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Finland, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Ukraine, Slovenia, India and Nepal.

REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Finance

If there are certain irregularities in the working and functioning of such banks and institutions, the citizens certainly have a right to know about the same. In some countries, the right to information is not applicable in cases when disclosure of information affects the economic interest of the State. The revelation of information may cause a potential market reaction which may not be desirable. Thus in any policy of transparency, there is a need to build processes which ensure that the benefits of supervisory disclosure are appropriately weighed against the risk to stakeholders, such as depositors.

Health

In the healthcare context, the importance of maintaining patients' confidentiality is clear. Patients must feel comfortable sharing private information about their bodily functions, physical and sexual activities, and medical history. This is information that they would not want widely known because it may be embarrassing or may have negative practical consequences. If an individual has poor health and if the condition of his health is made public, he may have difficulty in finding a spouse, obtaining health or life insurance, or obtaining employment. Some health conditions are stigmatising and, if known, may cause an individual embarrassment or difficulty in interpersonal relations. Therefore, healthcare providers need to keep patients' health information confidential. Respect for the confidentiality of personal health information requires that healthcare providers do not disclose this information to others without the individual's permission. Sometimes even acknowledging that a particular person is, in fact, one's patient may constitute a harmful breach of that person's confidentiality. Medical professionals should not disclose any health



information of the patient unless required by law or given permission by the patient.

National Security

Although Right to information laws are vast and diverse, a key exception are when regarding national security concerns. Many governments do not release governmental, political or military information under concerns for national security. National Security Concerns is a privilege against the right to information, making them both go fundamentally in opposite directions. Since both matter, it is necessary to maintain a balance between the two. The government cannot censor this right by imposing National Security concerns as a constraint beyond a reasonable limit, but the right to information cannot be exercised to the degree that it results in the disclosure of information of National significance. An unreasonable application of this restriction would violate the public's right to demand that their government be held accountable for any abuse of power. The Tashwane Principles, made in 2013 set out to build a framework for the right to information for the common man about governmental information, while simultaneously helping governments conceal sensitive national information that affects their nation's security.



MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UN TO PROMOTE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

- 1. *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*:** The SDGs, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, include a target (SDG 16.10) specifically focused on ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms. This target recognizes the critical role of the right to information in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance
- 2. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*:** The ICCPR, adopted in 1966, recognizes the right to freedom of expression (Article 19), which includes the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas. The ICCPR emphasises the importance of this right in democratic societies and obliges states to protect and promote it.
- 3. *Access to Information as Good Governance*:** The UN promotes access to information as a fundamental aspect of good governance. It highlights the importance of transparent and accountable institutions that provide access to information to facilitate public participation, decision-making, and the fight against corruption.
- 4. *Assistance to Member States*:** The UN provides assistance to member states in developing legal frameworks, policies, and practices that ensure the right to information. This assistance includes capacity building, technical support, and knowledge sharing to help governments establish robust systems for access to information.
- 5. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*:** UNESCO plays a significant role in promoting the right to information and freedom of expression. It supports initiatives to strengthen media development, media literacy, and press freedom, all of which are closely connected to access to information.
- 6. *World Press Freedom Day*:** The UN celebrates World Press Freedom Day on May 3rd each year. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of freedom of the press and access to information. It provides a platform to advocate for the right to information and highlight challenges faced by journalists and media professionals.



7. ***High-level Panels and Reports:*** The UN convenes high-level panels and publishes reports on various topics related to access to information and freedom of expression. These panels and reports draw attention to emerging issues, challenges, and best practices, promoting dialogue and generating recommendations for action.

8. ***Sustainable Development Goal Indicator:*** As part of the SDG monitoring framework, Indicator 16.10.2 tracks the existence of legal frameworks that guarantee the public's right to information and fundamental freedoms. This indicator helps monitor progress towards ensuring access to information at the national level.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UN IN RECENT YEARS TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

1. ***UNESCO's Global Media Defense Fund:*** In 2019, UNESCO launched the Global Media Defense Fund to enhance the safety of journalists and support media outlets that face attacks and threats. The fund provides emergency assistance, legal support, and capacity-building initiatives to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media professionals.

2. ***World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Report:*** UNESCO regularly publishes this report, which provides an analysis of global trends and challenges related to freedom of expression and access to information. It serves as a resource for policymakers, researchers, and civil society organisations, highlighting key issues and recommendations for action.

3. ***UN General Assembly Resolutions:*** The UN General Assembly has adopted several resolutions in recent years emphasising the importance of access to information and freedom of expression. These resolutions call on member states to ensure the right to information, protect journalists, and promote media pluralism and independence.

4. ***Global Conference on Media Freedom:*** In 2019, the UK and Canada co-hosted the Global Conference on Media Freedom in London. The conference aimed to increase international cooperation and commitment to protecting media freedom, including access to information. It resulted in the adoption of the Global Pledge on Media Freedom, which encourages governments to commit to safeguarding media freedom and the safety of journalists.



5. **Statements and Advocacy:** Various UN entities, including the Secretary-General, Special Rapporteurs, and UN agencies, regularly issue statements and engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the importance of the right to information, condemn attacks on journalists, and promote transparency and accountability in public institutions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVACY IN RELATION TO RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The relationship between privacy and the right to information can be complex, and finding the right balance between the two is crucial. While both rights are essential, conflicts can arise when they intersect. Here are some key considerations regarding the fine line between privacy and the right to information:

1. **Public Interest:** The right to information is often considered essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and democratic governance. However, it is important to weigh the public interest in accessing certain information against potential privacy concerns. The public's right to know must be balanced with the need to protect sensitive personal information.

2. **Context and Purpose:** The context and purpose for accessing information play a role in determining the balance between privacy and the right to information. In some cases, there may be a legitimate public interest in accessing certain information, such as government records or corporate transparency. However, in other situations, privacy considerations may outweigh the public's right to access specific personal data.

3. **Consent and Data Protection:** Respecting privacy often involves obtaining informed consent when collecting, using, or disclosing personal information. Individuals should have the right to control how their data is shared and used. Privacy laws and data protection regulations help establish boundaries and ensure that personal information is handled responsibly.

4. **Proportionality and Necessity:** When considering the balance between privacy and the right to information, it is essential to assess the proportionality and necessity of accessing certain information. There should be a clear justification for accessing personal information, especially when it may infringe on an individual's privacy rights. The harm caused by the lack of access to information should be weighed against potential privacy violations.



5. **Safeguards and Anonymization**: Privacy protections can be strengthened by implementing safeguards and anonymization techniques. For example, data can be aggregated or de-identified to protect the privacy of individuals while still providing access to relevant information for research or statistical purposes.

6. **Legal and Ethical Frameworks**: Clear legal and ethical frameworks are necessary to navigate the fine line between privacy and the right to information. Laws and regulations should provide guidance on how to balance these rights, outline the limitations on access to personal information, and establish procedures for addressing conflicts or disputes.

7. **Judicial Review and Oversight**: An independent judiciary and robust oversight mechanisms can help adjudicate disputes between privacy and the right to information. Courts and oversight bodies play a vital role in interpreting the law, balancing competing interests, and ensuring that privacy rights are respected.

Finding the right balance between privacy and the right to information requires careful consideration of the specific circumstances, the nature of the information, and the potential impact on individuals. It requires a comprehensive approach that respects privacy rights while also recognizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and the public's right to access information that serves the public interest.



CASES OF VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION

1. **China's Internet censorship**: The Chinese government heavily controls and restricts access to information on the Internet through its "Great Firewall" system. Websites and social media platforms are often blocked or censored, limiting citizens' ability to access diverse sources of information and express dissenting opinions.
2. **Press freedom restrictions in Turkey**: Turkey has faced significant criticism for its crackdown on press freedom and the right to information. Journalists, media outlets, and social media users have been targeted, leading to self-censorship and limited access to independent and critical reporting.
3. **Suppression of information in North Korea**: North Korea has one of the most closed and controlled information environments in the world. The government tightly controls media, access to the internet, and all forms of communication, severely restricting the right to information for its citizens.
4. **Repression of journalists in Russia**: Russia has faced scrutiny for its treatment of journalists and the suppression of independent media. Journalists critical of the government have been attacked, imprisoned, or faced legal harassment, inhibiting the free flow of information.
5. **Internet shutdowns in various countries**: Governments in several countries, including India, Iran, and Ethiopia, have resorted to Internet shutdowns as a means to control the flow of information during protests, elections, or social unrest. These shutdowns violate the right to access information and impede freedom of expression.
6. **Restricted access to information in Saudi Arabia**: The Saudi Arabian government has faced criticism for its limitations on access to information and its treatment of journalists. The murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018 highlighted the risks faced by those seeking to uncover sensitive information.
7. **Limited transparency in Eritrea**: Eritrea is known for its lack of media freedom and limited access to information. Independent journalism is severely curtailed, and the government controls all media outlets, hindering the right to access diverse sources of information.



8. **Internet censorship in Iran:** Iran has implemented strict Internet censorship, blocking access to social media platforms, news websites, and other sources of information. The government actively monitors online activities, leading to self-censorship and limited access to independent news and information.

CASES OF VIOLATION OF PRIVACY

1. **Mass Surveillance by the NSA:** The revelations by Edward Snowden in 2013 exposed the extent of mass surveillance programs conducted by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA). The collection and monitoring of communication data, both within the United States and globally, raised concerns about privacy infringements and the lack of adequate oversight.

2. **Facebook-Cambridge Analytica Scandal:** In 2018, it was revealed that Facebook had allowed the personal data of millions of its users to be harvested by the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica without proper consent. This case highlighted the risks of unauthorised access to personal information and the potential for manipulation based on individuals' data.

3. **Aadhaar Data Breach in India:** India's biometric identification system called Aadhaar faced multiple instances of data breaches, where personal information, including biometric data, of millions of Indian citizens, was compromised, leading to concerns about privacy and the security of sensitive personal data.

4. **Facial Recognition Surveillance in China:** China has implemented extensive facial recognition surveillance systems, particularly in the Xinjiang region, where the Uighur minority faces widespread human rights abuses. The use of facial recognition technology for surveillance purposes raises significant privacy concerns and the potential for discriminatory targeting.

5. **Equifax Data Breach:** In 2017, Equifax, a major credit reporting agency, experienced a massive data breach that exposed the personal information of approximately 147 million people. The breach highlighted the vulnerabilities of storing vast amounts of personal data and the risks posed to individuals' privacy when such data is compromised.



6. **European Union-US Data Transfers**: The EU-US data transfer mechanisms, such as the Privacy Shield Framework, faced legal challenges and criticism over concerns about the privacy of European citizens' data when transferred to the United States. The case highlighted the importance of robust data protection frameworks and safeguards for international data transfers.

7. **Surveillance in Xinjiang, China**: The Chinese government has implemented extensive surveillance measures in the Xinjiang region, including the use of surveillance cameras, facial recognition technology, and mobile phone monitoring. These practices infringe upon the privacy rights of Uighur Muslims and other minority groups.

8. **WhatsApp Pegasus Spyware**: The discovery of the Pegasus spyware in 2019 revealed that it could exploit vulnerabilities in messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, to surveil and monitor individuals' activities. This case raised concerns about the potential for government surveillance and intrusion into individuals' private communications.



ADVISED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

1. Effects of absolute freedom of information
2. The role of cybersecurity in relation to the agenda
3. Deliberating the extent to which censorship is a necessity
4. Discussing the term “Data Breach” and its relevance to the agenda

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER [QARMA]

1. What are the root causes of violation of freedom of information
2. What are the characteristics of the balance between privacy and freedom of information
3. What international regulatory bodies can be created to implement the freedom of information in local governments
4. What role does privacy play
5. How can the international community better support the local press and media



RESOLUTION GUIDELINES & **FORMAT**

1. Use 12-point Times New Roman and 1.0 spacing throughout
2. Do not exceed four pages in length, for committee convenience
3. The heading at the top of the resolution, must include three main components, in the following order:
COMMITTEE; QUESTION OF; MAIN AUTHOR + 2 CO AUTHORS
4. After the title of the resolution, a single line spacing is placed, followed by the full name of the committee written in capital letters with a comma at the end
5. Acronyms and abbreviations are spelt out the first time they are mentioned, in the following manner:
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Use formal, 3rd person, diplomatic language at all times

PERAMBULATORY CLAUSES:

1. The introductory word/phrase of each perambulatory clause is italicized
2. Only a selected set of phrases can be used as introductory words/phrases
3. The first letter of the introductory word/phrase is capitalized
4. No introductory word/phrase can be repeated in a resolution
5. Commas separate the preambulatory clauses from each other Preambulatory Phrases:



Preambulatory Phrases:

Acknowledging	Having devoted attention	Expressing its appreciation
Affirming	Reminding	Noting with appreciation
Alarmed by	Having examined	Expressing its satisfaction
Approving	Seeking	Noting with approval
Aware of	Having heard	Fulfilling
Believing	Taking into account	Noting with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Having received	Fully alarmed
Confident	Taking into consideration	Noting with regret
Congratulating	Having studied	Fully aware
Contemplating	Taking note	Noting with satisfaction
Convinced	Keeping in mind	Fully believing
Declaring	Viewing with appreciation	Observing
Deeply concerned	Noting further	Further deploring
Deeply conscious	Welcoming	Pointing out
Deeply convinced	Realizing	Further recalling
Deeply disturbed	Having adopted	Reaffirming
Deeply regretting	Recalling	Guided by
Deploring	Recognizing	
Desiring	Having considered further	
Emphasizing	Referring	
Expecting		



OPERATIVE CLAUSES:

1. Each operative clause is numbered: 1, 2, 3, 4,
2. All operative clauses and sub-clauses are indented
3. The introductory word/phrase of each operative clause is underlined
4. The first letter of the introductory word/phrase is capitalized
5. Only a selected set of phrases can be used as introductory words/phrases
6. The following starters are only applicable to UNSC; 'condemns', 'demands'
7. This is because DISEC is a suggestive body and cannot take action
8. No introductory word/phase can be repeated in a resolution (but may be re-used with the addition of "strongly" or "further" as in: "Further requests...")
9. Semicolons separate operative clauses from each other
10. Sub-clauses are lettered: a, b, c, d,
11. Sub-clauses are numbered with Roman numerals: i, ii, iii, iv,
12. Sub-clauses and sub-sub-clauses are indented by using tabs, NOT by using individual spaces (sub-clauses are tabbed once and sub-sub-clauses are tabbed twice)
13. The first letters of sub-clauses and sub-sub-clauses are not capitalized
14. Single sub-clauses are not allowed
15. A period is used at the end of the final word of the operative clause



Operative Phrases:

Accepts	Encourages	Further proclaims
Affirms	Recommends	Strongly affirms
Approves	Endorses	Further recommends
Asks	Regrets	Strongly condemns
Authorizes	Expresses its	Further requests
Calls for	appreciation	Strongly urges
Calls upon	Requests	Further resolves
Condemns	Expresses its hope	Suggests
Congratulates	Resolves	Hopes
Confirms	Further invites	Trusts
Deplores	Seeks	Proclaims
Designates	Urges	Transmits
	Proposes	

FOR GRAMMAR AFICIONADOS:

1. The resolution is one very long sentence. It begins with the committee (the subject of the sentence), e.g. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2. After the subject, come the perambulatory clauses. These are participle (or adjectival phrases modifying the subject (modifying by describing the committee's intent, motivation, and frame of mind in writing the resolution).
3. The operative clauses make the predicate of the sentence (i.e. describe the action of the resolution); thus operative clause starters should be present tense verbs in the third person singular.
4. The last operative clause should be completed with a period to mark the end of the very long sentence.



REFERENCE LINKS

1. UNHRC Mandate

hrc mandate

2. UN charter

un charter

Credible Sources:

1. UN Articles

2. UN Libraries

3. Official Country Websites (and) Statements or Speeches made by Heads of State

General Points to note:

1. A GSL speech lasts 90 seconds, it may address any aspect of the agenda
2. The delegate may even use their GSL as an extended way to respond to comments made prior in committee
3. Delegates are to speak in 3rd person by addressing their country as the core voice;
The delegate of the United States of America believes xyz.....
4. One does not use personal pronouns in committee for the simple reason that you are not a representative of your own views and personal biases, but the views of the government that represents your country
5. Foul language is not permitted in committee and will lead to suspension (barring)
6. It is important to enjoy the conference.
7. The EB will always be at your disposal for any assistance you may require.