

Forum: General Assembly 5 - Administration

Issue: The UN Agenda on Humanity

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Introduction

The world today faces a wide range of problems ranging from prejudice to large scale terrorism. Currently, the world is in dire need of help where the Agenda for Humanity is needed more than ever. The rights of humans continue to be violated, minorities continue to face unprecedented human suffering, children are victims of past actions and the foundation of the world is becoming more brutal and fragile by the minute. Vicious global issues follow each other with minimal time in between to take action whilst each issue is believed to become cliché and left behind. The harsh truth that needs to be considered is that no issue is solved and still remains prevalent in a corner of the world. We as the future of our own world need to find a solution that is different from the others, which is more powerful and viable, a solution that can configure real changes that are beneficial and that can implement the changes necessary.

The UN Agenda for Humanity is a five-point plan that configures the changes required to face global issues on a large scale. The five points are the core responsibilities that lie in the heart of global decision making, advocating diverse paths towards plausible solutions through: political leadership to prevent and end conflicts, upholding the norms that safeguard humanity, leave no one behind, change people's lives and invest in humanity. The UN agenda was introduced in the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016 through the report, 'One humanity, shared responsibility', in order to ensure the Agenda serves as a dynamic advocacy and essential tool towards future partnerships and global changes. Although the aspects of the Agenda itself seem to be promising and holds feasible solutions, the question that remains is how effective it will be when placed into action as well as analysing and understanding its distinction from similar treaties and resolutions. As ultimately no matter how strong a plan is, it is the result that determines its success.

Definition of Key Terms

Humanity

The ideal definition would refer to the universal reference of the “people whilst also referring to the state of being human”. Humanity, in this context, refers to important change - the change of lives and mentality.

Accountability

This refers to countries taking responsibility as well as acknowledging their actions. This can be seen in the second core responsibility of “upholding the norms that safeguard humanity” so that respective countries are taking responsibility and acknowledging the issue in order to work towards providing solutions in compliance with international humanitarian law and their respective judicial system.

Address Displacement

Address displacement refers to individuals who are forced to leave their homes due to various circumstances, including natural disasters or political conflicts. The third core responsibility of ‘leaving no one behind’ is where the Agenda expresses that these displaced persons should be allowed to cross country borders for both economic and social improvement. However, member states will find the need to express this point in alignment with the necessary guidelines that adhere to their views and laws.

Change

Change is often a concept or word that is misunderstood. In literal terms, it would refer to an act or process that creates a difference as a result of the action. However, change is often generalized alongside a large action such as eradication, ignoring the possibility that it could be expressed change in a simple concept. The prospect of change is essential towards this issue due to the fact that the UN Agenda for Humanity caters to strengthening and improving previous solutions - without the prospect of change this goal cannot be reached.

Humanitarianism

Humanitarianism is referred to the promotion and expression of human welfare. In order to tackle change and the implementation of the UN agenda of Humanity, the ideology of Humanitarianism needs to be expressed and be set as a clear and concise image in the minds of individuals such that significant change is made and enforced.

Background Information

The UN Agenda for Humanity was formulated and configured in the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. The Agenda for Humanity is part of the report; “One Humanity, Shared Responsibility” progressed by the former Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who hoped that the agenda would call out to all global leaders to acknowledge and enforce the five core responsibilities. The Agenda hopes to enforce and implement the solutions present, to reinforce what is known and to not wait for another issue to come, but work towards preventing it from the very beginning. The UN agenda for Humanity portrays a new act of change where unlike a treaty or resolution it caters to all aspects of every general issue from enhancing political leadership to prevention of global crises.

Political leadership to prevent and End conflicts (1)

The first core responsibility refers to the prevention and end of conflicts. The factors of conflicts are becoming more prevalent through the years as weapons are becoming more advanced and dangerous. **When one war ends, another begins whilst others continue to prolong further, rapid and concise action needs to be taken in these circumstances.** This can be seen in the Syrian Civil war where the lack of political leadership continued to prolong the war, resulting in the world largest refugee crisis in 2015. In order to prevent such instances from occurring again, the strength of political leadership needs to be at optimum and able to take concise and rapid action when needed.

Strengthening and reinforcing political leadership indicates that efforts and determination should be dedicated towards collective decision making where every individual is involved. Ideally, these leaders are the support system of their country and their decisions and actions have the largest impact. In order to prevent conflicts, political leaders should act early and improve governmental systems to become more proficient and aware of their surrounding aspects in order to identify national issues before they start to deteriorate into further complications. Another sub aspect refers to staying financially and socially invested through both long-term engagement as a means of creating appropriate, viable and sustainable goals. The last aspect, inclusive decision making, ensures that all age groups are active and allow their opinions to be taken into consideration in the decision making process, in order to create an inclusive and well rounded solution.

Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity (2)

The second core responsibility refers to upholding the norms that safeguard humanity. This refers holding respect and obeying the law of the land respective to its own country. This was developed to protect the rights of vulnerable civilians and minorities. The first aspect refers to the protection of civilians and civilian property in regards to armed conflicts such that educational facilities, medical facilities and places of worship are not to be harmed or destroyed in the midst of armed conflict. The stance of nuclear

and biological weapons is to be constrained such no biological or chemical weapons are to be used or developed whether it be biological agents or atomic bombs.

The next aspect refers to ensuring the access of humanitarian and medical assistance in the midst of armed conflict such that the access to humanitarian and medical needs are still viable even in the midst of war an example of this today can be seen in the humanitarian crises seen in Yemen or Syria where the prolonged conflicts have left the lives of many innocent individuals scattered and essentially broken. The next aspect refers to the power of voice, where governments and individuals should speak up on any violations in order that they should be publicly known where the ideology of Freedom of Speech should be enforced.

The next aspect refers to improving compliance and accountability specifically focusing on gender based violence as well as improving the compliance with the international humanitarian law. This would refer to governments understanding and taking action against issues concerning gender based violence in regards to the terms of the countries respective judicial system. An example of this can be seen in India where an innocent five-year-old girl faced a form of gender based violence the governments essentially took a vast amount of time to come to a concise and appropriate punishment. This case has been one of many and the government's lack of enforcement and understanding of the laws previously issued on this form of gender violence therefore it is essential that this improvement is made. Lastly, the final concept of the agenda refers to enforcing the universal rules of war in compliance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 and The Hague convention of 1899 which prohibits the use of biological and chemical weapons as well as prohibits holding hostages, any for of racial and gender based violence as well as the implementation of permanent relief medical agencies for all civilians throughout war. This can be enforced further through accountability and international humanitarian law such that includes

Leave no one behind (3)

This refers to exclusion such that they are separated by society based on gender, race and religion. This core responsibility looks at reaching all those excluded and moving them towards becoming agents of positive change such that through the third core responsibility these individuals build up their strength and fight against the prejudice faced. Where the factors of sexual and gender based violence alongside education gaps are eradicated. Traditional mentality has lead to this inclusion such that girls are prevented from going to school based on the fact that their education is not of importance in relation to maternal care as well as gender based violence where the stereotypical view of a woman is exploited. The first aspect refers to address replacement, this refers to countries with humanitarian crisis where displaced persons should be allowed to cross countries in order for economic and social improvement. However, this needs to be addressed in a concise manner in regards to the nature of the countries such

that this may be difficult to implement in countries with strict border rules such as Pakistan as well as international relations between countries.

The next aspect refers to addressing migration, where it reinforces the previous aspect and now deals with the social and economic factors such as the official documents of the individual which pose as an issue during migration. The next aspect refers to ending statelessness where this is given to an individual who is deemed to be unrecognised in the eyes of the respective nation. Other aspects include the empowerment of woman and the youth in order to make inclusive decisions as well as including each group in the key aspects of the government and the judicial system such that an equal voice is heard from each individual in hopes of promoting unity between the government and its respective citizens such that each individual have their own voice and issue heard and addressed.

Work Differently to end need (4)

This core responsibility advocates for change which is not delivered in the terms of the concept or the ideal meaning of change but rather sustainable improvements in the prospects of fragility and vulnerability in the lives of individuals. Where the key aspects of Human Rights are addressed thus decreasing the fragility and vulnerability of the individual themselves. This would be essential in the countries fighting prejudice and humanitarian crises such as Myanmar and the Horn of Africa. Here the value of change is expressed through the unique collaboration and partnership where each solution made is built on and strengthens the solutions made in the past where collaboration between governments and its people are key. The first aspect refers to reinforcing local systems where it expresses the strengthening of local leadership so that they are involved in accountability of the issues at hand as well as decision-making of issues expressed by the governments as well as contributing towards making decisions alongside the government. The community should respect local leadership and not enforce any parallel barriers such as governmental organisations that undermine these local leadership organisations. The next aspect refers to anticipating crisis where countries in coordination with their governments should works towards strengthening local and national response in risk-prone countries such as those in the midst of war or humanitarian crises keeping in order that conflict zones further extensive issues are avoided.

Lastly, the final aspect refers to Transcending Humanitarian development divides into a greater diversity and inclusivity in order to reduce people's risks and their vulnerability in their respective situations. This refers to working together with governments and organisations in order to achieve positive and collaborative results.

Invest in Humanity (5)

Lastly, the final core responsibility refers to investing in humanity. Ideally this core is focused towards looking at the outsourcing of funding where the financing is distributed evenly and used in the

correct areas such as local capacities such as local organisations or NGO's and paths towards global peacekeeping. Immediately it looks towards boosting local responses through the means of NGO's and using the funds gained through these initiatives towards stopping the misuse of the funds where the issues of corruption fall in such that the funds are used by political leaders for their personal use as well as stopping the blockage of funds by individuals and countries leading towards the aspects of corruption. The first aspect looks towards investing in local capacities such that local factors are best known of the current situation as well as the underlying issues that are not immediately visible. This would aid the government in acting on issues that perhaps cannot be seen from a larger perspective this would aid in prevention of extensive crises.

The second aspect refers to investment according to the risk, such that military and social forces and resources are built towards crisis prevention in the means of the country being prepared in times of attacks or natural disasters. In the crisis of natural disasters, countries may be ready to handle issues if they had previously made arrangements in terms of tackling both long term and short term effects. The next aspect refers to investment in stability here the investments are focused towards strengthening the financial conditions within the local and international situations such that the economic and social needs are met and the finance does not become a prevalent issue in handling or taking action against current issues such as rebuilding from war or financing education. The next aspect refers to highlighting the difference between funding and financing where the focus is not to be on small individual projects but rather large scale projects that have greater outcome and positive results. The final aspect refers to diversity amongst resources this refers to using different types of resources to tackle an issue where the issue is tackled from all perspectives as well as tackling the efficiency, where the plans and efforts made towards facing the issue are cost-efficient whilst also being beneficial and marking the terms of efficiency.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The OCHA has developed an online Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformations (PACT) as a form of an advocacy tool for stakeholders to improve and strengthen efforts made towards humanity. It works alongside numerous initiatives, partnerships, platforms and allegiance towards greater inclusivity in humanitarian crisis, catering to the third core responsibility **in reference to including each and every individual regardless of any form of prejudice and where countries and local organisation are able to be a part of this programme through an online portal. Where each initiative is overlooked and coordinated with stakeholders and partnerships within the UN.**

North Korea

Recently, North Korea (DPRK) have started and developed testing on nuclear weapons and missiles. This has become a threat to the North Korea's neighbouring countries in fear of a catastrophic nuclear confrontation or nuclear war itself. North Korea conducted its sixth nuclear test in Pyongyang in September 2017 where the range of the nuclear bomb and in this case the hydrogen bomb's range has increased thus this has shown that North Korea are developing their nuclear program as well as demonstrating their determinations towards the advancement of their nuclear weaponry. The UN agenda for Humanity can be implemented here through the first core responsibility of prevention and end of conflicts where prior or early action can be taken towards this issue before it further escalates. The North Korean Government had declared that they have detonated a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb as a result in compliance with the UN agenda for Humanity the neighbouring countries can take precautions such as emergency preparation towards the possible attack as a form of early response and preventative action. In addition, in coordination with the third core responsibility of leave no one behind can be incorporated here in order that the Human rights are reinforced and expressed in North Korea. The point that must be focused on here would be on enforcing peace as well as enforcing the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Myanmar

In August 2017, Myanmar military forces alongside Local Buddhist extremists attacked the Rohingya people in Rakhine through mass persecution, arson and sexual violence against women. This is regarded as a form of genocide in the terms of ethnic and religious persecution as well as human right violations by the Myanmar police force and local militants. The violence is escalating at an alarming rate towards a catastrophic level leading to an estimate of 690,000 refugees such that it has stimulated to become a critical humanitarian crisis. The humanitarian crisis has been regarded as "ethnic cleansing" by various countries and leaders as well as the Myanmar leader and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has been criticized for her silence and negligence towards the issue. Each day these people witness the abuse of their human rights and watch as their lives fall apart. They are in dire need of shelter, food, water and basic necessities. This had lead not only to violations of human rights but to an international uproar such that the Rohingya people plea for justice and for help. This issue is not entirely based on spreading awareness or long term based solutions but is in dire need of efficient, rapid and solid solutions that will help them evade their current situation and provide them both safety and security. This humanitarian crisis has already been prolonged for a long time and the situation of the Rohingya people is deteriorating by the second. The humanitarian crisis in Rohingya is being regarded as devastating and catastrophic. The fourth and third core responsibility of the UN agenda for Humanity can be incorporated here such that perhaps alongside early action and enforcement of human rights this issue of the

Rohingya Refugee crisis would not grow towards this extreme extent and the suffering endured by the Rohingya people would not reach such extremities.

The Democratic Republic of Congo

The political struggle in Congo has continued to escalate the humanitarian crisis in Congo such that it has become a large humanitarian emergency. Due to the lack of political stability and coherence the country itself is suffering from instability in terms of economic and social as well as has brought rise to uprisings and has natured a chaotic environment. The increasing political unrest has increased the number of violence through the increase of protesters and uprisings has left approximately 3000 people dead and several injured. International relations amongst the African continent and the west are deteriorating and this further increases the issues that are to be faced by the civilians. In addition, the political unrest has brought rise to negligence towards other issues such as lack of medical aid such that DR Congo has now witnessed the worst outbreak of Ebola in DR Congo history. This correlates with the core responsibilities that lie in the heat of the UN agenda for Humanity specifically the fourth and fifth core responsibility such that the essentially the lack of coordination within the political system as well as the political unrest has become a foundation or starting point for many of the issues mentioned above hence, the main aspect that needs to be considered is that perhaps the enhancement and strengthening of the political leadership itself could have prevented these issues to arise. The aspects of civil war and corruption has made it extremely difficult for external organisations such as NGO's to intervene and aid the people. The outbreak of Ebola has had significant and severe effects on the people such that 11,300 have died due to the negligence of medical aid and support. The coordination and unity through collaboration between the government, local forces as well as NGO's is crucial towards establishing the desired change as well as improving the current situation of the land and the individuals themselves.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD, 21 December, 1965)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 16 December, 1966)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 16 December, 1966)
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED, 20 December, 2006)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT, 10 December, 1984)

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Previous attempts to solve global issue have usually been based on treaties or laws that have been released and partially implemented within the country or by the United Nations itself, where agencies and NGO's worked towards helping refugees gain asylum or have access to fundamental requirements such as food, water, shelter and medical aid. This was expressively shown recently in the Rohingya Refugee crisis, when the UN coordinated with local agencies in order to help the government of Bangladesh to respond to the humanitarian crisis. They provided food, shelter and medical aid to the refugees and thus reduced the severity of the crisis itself. The problem that is displayed here is that the action taken towards this crisis was delayed and therefore the Rohingya refugees had faced greater hostility and suffering such as execution as well as lack of basic necessities such as food and water before the UN had arrived. Perhaps with early precautions or earlier action the Bangladeshi Government alongside the UN could have taken early and essential actions that would have saved the lives of many innocent people, where perhaps the 43,000 people who are presumably dead could have essentially been in a better state. This refers to the core responsibilities itself.

Although treaties and laws have been in place within countries, the problems that barricade its success lies towards the external factors such as corruption, lack of support, finance and lack of coordination between governments and its people. The treaties and laws set boundaries and punishments for the acts that are committed but the effect and future of the results itself seems to be disregarded, essentially what needs to be kept in mind is that the previous attempts have one thing in common, they are all different and they all form different paths and hence, whilst each path is being taken care of, the other path starts to deteriorate. If the solutions made strengthen each other whilst achieving its own respective goals then succession itself can be achieved simultaneously. The issues of the world become more prevalent at each step and appear quicker than the next, determined and concise action is required where each and every step make a significant change towards the issue. This is where the UN Agenda for Humanity falls in, the UN agenda recomposes the solutions that were previously made. The UN agenda for Humanity strengthens and lays out a concise guideline or plan towards enforcing and ensuring peace and solving political and humanitarian crises.

The issue of racism and prejudice against racism, sexes and religion continues to be a global struggle despite the various conventions, laws and treaties made to prevent it. The UN and several NGO's efforts towards reinforcing these treaties and laws date back to the early 1965 convention "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD, 21 December, 1965)". Today, Racism and prejudice remains to be the most severe and excruciating form of mental and physical injustice and it has become a foundation for many other global issues such as the Rohingya Refugee Crisis which was fuelled from the difference in religion. This is where the third core responsibility of leaving no one behind falls in. Each solution made towards combating the challenges laid down by

racism, sexism and generalised prejudice is different from the other and falls onto once again different paths. In order to combat this, we need to build solutions that strengthen each other and complement each other in order that coordination become a successful weapon in the face of prejudice and discrimination.

Possible Solutions

The possible solution towards this issue does not exist in any extreme new change but rather focusing on each core aspect and responsibility as mentioned previously. The essential path that needs to be focused on is strengthening and reinforcing the methods made towards the core responsibilities. Such that for each of core responsibilities the main focus or concept would essentially be in reinforcing the concept or strengthening its terms to cater each core. For the first core responsibility, referring to the “Prevent and end conflicts”, solution should be focused on enhancing political leadership and constantly being aware of the dangers surround them. Essentially this can be done by the use of setting a media facility within the country that can update the political leaders on the world issues as well as having a weekly meeting with these media officials, military official and public officials where any problems can be discussed with the political leader in advance such that appropriate action can be taken at an earlier stage. If countries have systems similar to one described above a key aspect that needs to be addressed would be that local organisations and governments need to work towards reinforcing or strengthening these institutions or system in order that success is guaranteed.

The second core responsibility refers to “pholding the norms that safeguard humanity”, where the focus is prevention and protection of innocent civilians and significant infrastructure. This can be done perhaps by imposing sanctions such as economic sanctions or embargo sanction or punishments on the side that has caused damage to civilian property, where punishments can be enforced. Governments incorporation with NGO’s should have medical and educational facilities in areas of conflicts in the forms of camps within areas of conflict such that it can be easily accessed. These could be within safe zones such that people can have a safe route towards educational and medical care. In addition, violation centres can be set up holding a political or UN official where people can give out violations securely such that necessary action can be taken. The UN should hold logistic and compliance reports in places of conflict such that the accountability and rules of war are upheld to the necessary standards.

The third core refers to “Leave no one behind” primarily focusing on discrimination and exclusion. Enforcing laws that at least one woman and youth are part of the councils that develop important decisions such that of war. Enforcing laws on migration and immigration perhaps allowing temporary access for refugees within the country such that they can prove themselves and have opportunity for a better and secure life. Allocating a small percent of jobs towards them such that they can stand on their

own feet. Enforcing laws to end statelessness, where governments should conduct intensive research under the UN and specify the terms of why the individual is declared as stateless to the UN.

Governments should have or establish small committees of youth or woman where they are included within collective decision making. spreading awareness through local and international media as well as education of the rights the individuals possess as well as the consequences of the violations.

The fourth and fifth core responsibility, “Work differently to end need” and “invest in Humanity” are essentially interlinked. Where it highlights the importance of strategic awareness and planning to prevent and end conflicts, such that the country is aware of its situation and the problems that they potentially could face. Where the main focus is not changing the concept or idea but changing the way the solution is delivered. This can be done perhaps by boosting and investing in local capacities and systems such as NGO’s, such that a representative is including in key parts of the government in order to aid in collective decision making as well as representing the voice of the citizens. The government could hold a crisis prevention team or institution that a small part of the funds should be directed towards such that the country is essentially always prepared for all aspects of crisis prevention and is ready to face any obstacle at hand. In addition, countries should have organisations that unite humanitarian and local actors such that they can combine and invest in humanity as a part of unity and collective efforts towards implementing a global change.

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