

ACADEMIC GUIDE

SOCHUM



IMAGE 1. Novice Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) – BruinMUN.
(s. f.). BruinMUN. <https://www.bruinmun.org/committees/p/sochum>



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Welcoming letter

United Nations model GCBMUN XXIV

Dear delegates,

Receive a warm welcome to the SOCHUM committee. Our name is Kevin Moscoso and Juliana Carcamo, and we will be the dais of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM). It is an honor for us to be not only your presidents, but also your guide in the GCBMUN experience. For us, the MUN is not only a model, but also a learning journey. It is full of exciting challenges that test the abilities of each of the delegates. Remember that this model is for you to grow personally and academically, seeing the problems faced by countries and how they are solved in a diplomatic and peaceful approach. Academically you will grow on your oratory and your debating skills. You are expected to fulfill the role of your delegation throughout the committee. Always keep in mind your work as a delegate will be the most important thing during the mode. In the following guide you will find the most important information of the topic, so it is very important that you read it and afterwards investigate regarding your delegation.

During this Model of United Nations, we will be discussing topics such as the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela and how this ongoing reality has led to Food Shortages, Absolut poverty, Migration Crisis among others. In addition, we are willing to discuss how this affects different nations and the political, economic, and social affairs nowadays. We hope that as the days go by you will be able to come up with great solutions to this topic.

Finally, we want to express how grateful we are of being part of this learning process in which you are immersing at such young age. We hope that at the end of the model, you have learned and had a fun but serious time. We want to emphasize that if any of you have any doubts or problems, do not hesitate to ask for our help since you will always have our support to be able to make this committee one of your best experiences.

Sincerely, the dais

- Kevin Moscoso (kevin.moscoso@gcb.edu.co)
- Juliana Carcamo (juliana.carcamo@gcb.edu.co)

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

SOCHUM is one of the six committees under the General Assembly, which is the main organ of the United Nations, and they were founded on 1945. SOCHUM specifically is known as the third committee of the United Nations General Assembly and it was created with the goal and purpose of seeking and encouraging the protection of the international community's rights, well-being, freedom and peace, also being a way of reaction to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights after the end of the World War II (SOCHUM: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee s. f.). The letters SOCHUM stand for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. The creation of this committee was made to ensure the compliance of human rights in aspects like freedom, life, political participation, social development, and other aspects that endangered the human rights of people.

Additionally, SOCHUM can also interact with specialized organizations such as UNICEF and/or UNODC, many independent experts, and the chairs of working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council (Zhu, 2022). The committee has a variety of focus topics such as humanitarian rights, gender equality, protecting vulnerable ethnicities and endangered minorities, access to education and health care, the rights of migrants, and any other relevant social and/or humanitarian issue.

The Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee works to ensure that the fundamental rights are guaranteed and promoted around the world. However, in this version of the Model of United Nations we will see how to give a resolution towards the Humanitarian Crisis on Venezuela since 2013, which has led to an uncontrollable wave of immigrants around the world who are seeking for refugee and protection. Therefore, we are looking for resolutions which can respond to the needs of the immigrants', how to prevent this situation to become almost permanent, and how to encourage the rights of immigrants around the world.

Key Points to understand SOCHUM.

Each year the General Assembly meets to discuss international affairs, but before starting SOCHUM chooses their Chair and their officer for the session that it is going to take place that day.

Any member or recognized state can attend and participate in these meetings; every UN member state is also part of SOCHUM, but non-member states cannot vote.

SOCHUM has no power to force nations to keep promises or actions but can set agreed-upon international standards and recommended actions.

If you want to learn more about SOCHUM's history, you are more than welcome to enter to this link:

[Third committee of the General Assembly.](#)

COMMITTEE SPECIFICATIONS

SOCHUM is a traditional committee since it is one of the Six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly, therefore we follow the general rules of procedure of the UN General Assembly, meaning that there is:

IMPORTANT:

1. Role Calling
2. Session Opening
3. Establishment of the Agenda
- 3.1 Delegations read and present their Opening Speeches (If the session requires it)
4. Start of time for Debate and Deliberation between the Delegations or members present in the committee to acknowledge all the points of view towards the main topic.
5. Time to work on the Resolutive or Working Paper. (Their specification is on the HANDBOOK)
6. The dais initiates a Voting Process with the purpose of Approving or Denying the different Papers or Proposals (In case there is more than one) presented by the members in the Committee.
7. After the Voting Process has concluded as SOCHUM could send recommendations or reports to the GA after most of the Committee has 'agreed' on a Resolution. Here the plenary of the GA gives the final approval towards the resolutions 'adopted' by SOCHUM.
8. Finally, the Committee is expected to either Suspend the Session or Closed it.

SOCHUM in this version of the Model of the United Nations must fulfill different conditions regarding some specific aspects of the procedure and rules established by the Directive Committee of the GCBMUN - JUNIOR XXIV.

Remember that for you to be completely prepared for this MUN it is very important to read the HANDBOOK, there you could see the Motions, Points, the Parliamentary Language among others.

TOPIC A

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

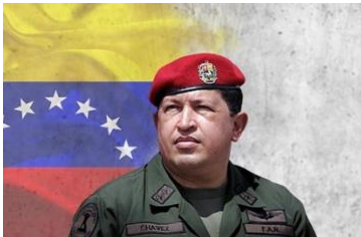


[image 4](venezuela - Google Search, s. f.)

INTRODUCTION

To understand the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela which has been an ongoing situation for more than a decade it is pertinent to start by establishing the causes of this situation. Therefore, we should start off by saying that Venezuela is going through an Economic, Political and Social crisis since the death of the Ex- President Hugo Rafael Chavez in 2013 who left the presidency to Nicolas Maduro, the current President of Venezuela, but Who was Hugo Rafael Chavez? and Why is he relevant when talking about the Humanitarian Crisis in Venezuela?

Hugo Chavez was Venezuela's President since 1999 after he won the elections, until 2013 when he died from Cancer. However, many things during this period defined what Venezuela was going to go through in the next years. Starting off with their Economy; "Until the early 1980s, it was one of the only four Latin American countries certified by the World Bank as an upper-middle-income economy." (Corrales, s. f.) However, since the middle 80's they went into an economical downhill and they were suffering the atrocities of inflation, only in 1998 the inflation rate was at 35% (Corrales, s. f.). Many experts, politicians, reporters, and more blame this on the economical dependency towards Oil Exploitation, since "Oil comprises 95% of Venezuela's exports and 25% of its gross domestic product (GDP), so high prices provide a boon to the country's economy" (DePersio, 2022)



*Image 2. Chavez
esperanza de vida a un
pueblo leal*



In respect to the situation mentioned previously we also need to scope into the **Political disconformity and instability**; Already in the beginning of the 2000's the company PDVSA (which stands for Petroleos de Venezuela S.A) went out to the streets to show their inconformity towards 'Chávez's appointment of political allies to senior positions at state oil company PDVSA.' (Lee, 2017) and there were more than 1 million people out protesting his mandate as president. Then he destroys a 35-year-old friendship and 'alliance' with the U.S, later expels the U.S ambassador, he strengthens his friendship with Fidel Castro in Cuba and Vladimir Putin in Russia, by 2008 the NGO Humans Right Watch is already onto Venezuela and wins again the elections in 2012 with 54% of the votes in favor (BBC News Mundo, 2019). By then Venezuela in sinking in poverty, hunger, corruption, and the abandonment by the international community starts to make more presence.

Furthermore in 2011 Chavez announces he has Cancer an undergoes a series of surgeries, but it is until 2013 that he dies, and the Vice-president Nicolas Maduro takes over the presidency. Years later when Maduro was already 6 years into his mandate the U.S Embassy said, "**Nicolas Maduro has consistently violated the human rights and dignity of its citizens, plundered the country's natural resources, and driven a once prosperous nation into economic ruin with his authoritarian rule and socialist economic policies**" (Havana, 2019)

Image 3. Nicolás Maduro, candidato a su propia reelección, pese a la crisis

ACTUAL STATUS

It can be said that Venezuela since 2013 has been living a same reality, has been suffering the same problematics regarding everything we explained in the introduction (Economic, Political and Social crisis); however, this obvious situation has led to a serious Humanitarian Crisis, because due to the Hyperinflation, low incomes, low GDP and the high rate of unemployment has forced many citizens to migrate to the neighbor countries seeking a better economic stability. As well the same political inconformity has shown no-changes, in fact Maduro is already celebrating 10 years in the power, and meanwhile there is an ongoing corruption causing industries and companies to sink, as well the elections tend to send off the alarms around the world due to its poor trustworthiness, also it has been proved that the current President's government has manipulated votes during elections ; for example in 2017 the "results from a controversial election for a new Venezuelan political assembly were "manipulated" and are off by at least 1 million participants" (Faiola, 2023). On the other hand, Venezuela's civilians have shown their discontent and preoccupation for their country, by getting out to the streets and lead long term protests; for example, on the 10th of January of 2019 started a movement against the Socialist Government, and this series of protest went until the 10th of March of 2020 lasting more than a year, seeking for a stable government capable to fulfill the citizen's basic needs. Matter of fact only between January and May of 2023 there were 3,900 protests which gives an average of 26 street demonstrations each day (Infobae, 2023).

If you want to revise more about the protests in Venezuela, we suggest visiting the following page:

Economy: On 2023 Venezuela's economy increased a 5% on 2023 however it is still referred as a stagnant economy due to the poor police- making by the Government and as well the economist Luis Vicente León said that "The year 2023 started terribly badly. A first semester that was really very negative, which was marked mainly by the acts of corruption in PDVSA" (Kolster, 2023). If we look at 2023's GDP we can see that it is still very low compared to what the experts were expecting , since was on 2022 that Venezuela's economy started to show timid signs of recuperation because for example, it had an estimated "growth of 9%, in 2023 but in October it was lowered to 1.7%, then it was alleged little dynamism in the oil sector, serious problems in public services and a very precarious export sector." (Kolster, 2023).

ANÁLISIS

Based on the information provided previously, we can start to make conclusions and therefore infer what were the subsequent actions from this stagnant economy, desperate society, and corrupted government.

Humanitarian Crisis: Due to the low wages, inflation, and the rates of unemployment lead to many citizens taking the decision of leaving their country with the hope of finding refuge or political asylum of any kind on any other country. Since Maduro was officially Venezuela's president in 2013, he suffered on his first year of presidency in 2014 one of the biggest oil price drops seen in modern times. The collapse of these prices during that period, which reached 70%, was one of the three largest falls recorded since World War II. (Stocker et al., 2024) Consequently Venezuela's economy enter to a state of recession which was impossible escaping from since Oil represented 25% of their GDP and now, they have lost their strongest financial muscle (Kolster, 2023). Therefore, many Venezuelans took the high road and tried to build a new life away from their country, however this amount of people was bigger than the experts were expecting.

Número de migrantes venezolanos en algunos de los principales destinos mundiales



Fuente: Naciones Unidas, septiembre de 2022



The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has become the second largest international displacement crisis in the world with 7.3 million Venezuelans displaced globally. Most displaced Venezuelans, 6 million, are currently residing in Latin America and the Caribbean (Venezuela Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News | USA For UNHCR, s. f.). For example, Image 4 shows that most of the immigrants tend to search for refuge in countries like Colombia, Peru, and the U.S which have had to search for solution to receive and contain the vast amount of people entering their country. For example, Colombia has had the biggest rate of Venezuelans, therefore in 2020 they had to attend this situation by receiving US\$31.5 million in international budget support; money that will help the country serve Venezuelan migrants and refugees through the promotion and effective delivery of basic social services such as education and health (Migración Venezuela | Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional, s. f.)

On the other hand, Spain has been one Europe country with high rates of Venezuelans on their territory, in fact arrivals to the Canary Islands increased considerably in 2023, nearly 40,000 people arrived on its coasts, a growing trend that appears to be consolidated in 2024 (Inmigración y Refugio En España, s. f.). However, this increasing number has been reflected not only in Spain but worldwide therefore it is your time for you to look how had his crisis affected employment, security, and how has this challenged nations to respond to their citizens needs the immigrants as well needs. This wave of migration has put considerable pressure on receiving countries, creating challenges in terms of integration, service provision and management of xenophobia. The international response has included humanitarian aid and political efforts to address the underlying causes of the crisis, but the situation continues to require a globally coordinated and compassionate solution, highlighting the need for international support and solidarity to address both the causes and consequences of this deep humanitarian crisis.

Important Documents:

OPENING SPEECH

‘Are an opportunity to explain your country's position, introduce your resolution topic and key sub-issues you want the committee to focus on.’ (Opening Speeches, s. f.)

STRUCTURE

Should include the name of your delegation, the flag, the date, a greeting to the Dais, the other delegations and others present in the Committee. Start off by an introduction referring to the topic, then in the following paragraph you should clearly state your Delegations position supported by an argument, then on the 3rd paragraph you should close your speech by inviting the rest of the Delegations to cooperate to find a resolution.

POSITION PAPER

This type of documents will not have to be read during the days of the model however it is very important to do it since it is helpful for the presidents to be able to know the position of the delegation.

STRUCTURE

It must contain header which must have the name of the committee, the topics, the delegation, and the name of the delegate. History of the topics which is a brief explanation of the topic and its importance. The relationship that the issue has with the delegation in that point you must answer What has been done? And What is being done? Finally, the solutions and contributions that the delegation can make of the issues.

PREPARATION QUESTIONS

1. What action does your Delegation has taken to respond to the Migration Crisis?

6. Have there been any sanctions to Nicolas Maduro, or Venezuela itself? And have they been successful?

2. What is your Delegation's point of view towards the Presidency of Nicolas Maduro?

7. What impact does the Socialist Politics and Government in Venezuela has affected the international affairs between nations?

3. Does your Delegation recognizes Nicolas Maduro as Venezuela's president?

8. Has your delegation been affected in any way (Economically, Politically, Socially) since the Migratory crisis of Venezuelans'?

4. Has your delegation received immigrants from Venezuela during the past decade? And have them offered refugee for the immigrants?

9. Is there something that can be done to reverse the situation in Venezuela and improve their Economy?

5. Has the UN made something to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela? If yes, what has been done?

10. What are the primary causes of the Humanitarian crisis in Venezuela? And does your delegation may have a resolution for this situation?

GLOSSARY

General Assembly: The General Assembly (GA) is the main policy – making organ of the United Nations, where all member states are part of.

Ethnicities: It refers to a social or cultural group or community with certain characteristics, common backgrounds, and experiences. For example, they can share their language, religion, beliefs, values among others.

Immigrants: A person that goes to a foreign country to live.

Refugee: Refugees are people who have left their country of birth and started seeking for safety in another one.

Crisis: A condition of instability or danger, as in social, economic, political, or international affairs, leading to a decisive change or need of action.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): Is the term referring to the total market value of the goods and services produced by a country's economy during a specified period.

Inflation: It is the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time.

Petroleum: Is a naturally occurring liquid found beneath the earth's surface that can be refined into fuel.

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