



ECOSOC Working Committee Report on Analyzing the Efficiency of the Kimberley Process and the Sustainability of Natural Resources

- Anuradha Lawankar (Co-Chairperson of ECOSOC)

In a meeting on 19 October 2023, the Center for International Law hosted the Annual Inter-Batch Model UN. ECOSOC had representatives from 20 countries around the world discussing the "Effectiveness of the Kimberley Process and Sustainability of Natural Resources."

The Committee delved into the complex web of issues surrounding the Kimberley Process (KP). Human rights abuses, corruption, and regional conflicts have been hotly debated as obstacles to its effectiveness. A groundbreaking topic emerged - the impact of 'synthetic diamonds' or lab-grown gemstones on the environment and countries dependent on diamond resources.

Russia ignited the room with its proposal to expand the definition of "conflict diamonds." India championed community empowerment and profiling.

Venezuela introduced the concept of sustainable economic growth through diversification, thereby fueling discussions on economic stability. Meanwhile, Angola raised genuine concerns about working conditions, adding a critical dimension to the discourse. Kazakhstan also highlighted the power imbalances pervasive in international trade.

Moderated committees were used to propose innovative solutions and better analyze the diamond industry. However, much of the committee was dominated by Russia, Venezuela, and India, without much opposition from the Western bloc. The conference unfolded as a multi-dimensional discourse, with each nation presenting different perspectives on the diamond industry and the KP.

Botswana highlighted the serious problem of illegal exploitation within its borders and highlighted the key role of transformation for its economy and security. For Russia, concerns revolved around transparency, particularly at Alross, and the imperative to redefine "blood diamonds" to include ethical practices. Belarus expressed support for the KP, but expressed

News at a Glance

A "raging fire of brutality" is engulfing Myanmar, where military forces have killed more than 4,000 civilians since seizing power in a 2021 coup, according to an independent United Nations expert on Myanmar. On Monday before a UN General Assembly committee, the UN secretary-general, the UN special rapporteur on Myanmar, and a special UN investigative team presented separate reports detailing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country. For more information, see [here](#).

51 UN member countries have issued a joint declaration condemning the Chinese government's crimes against humanity committed against Uyghurs and other Turkic communities, and calling on Beijing to end its systematic human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region. For more information, see [here](#).



concern about its limitations, particularly when it comes to ethically-sourced diamonds.

Ukraine, mired in conflict, stressed the urgency of addressing gaps in the definition of conflict diamonds, specifically related to Russian diamond exports. Armenia stood firmly for the inclusion of synthetic diamonds in the KP framework and advocated for cooperation and expansion of the existing definition. Indonesia's concerns delved deep into human rights issues, while Namibia and Sierra Leone grappled with the illegal diamond trade and the scars left by civil wars.

In the midst of these discussions, issues arose, including Russia's request to expand the definition and Angola's request for financial assistance from developed countries. Meanwhile, India's multi-pronged approach included social media branding, data logging, and a focus on innovation, advocating for transparency and enforcement in the industry.

China and Switzerland delved into sustainability concerns, while Turkey and South Africa raised relevant human rights issues. The

US questioned Russia's claimed values and pointed to potential irregularities in government revenue. As part of these discussions, a proposal was adopted to evaluate the impact of sanctions resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and American sanctions. During this elaborate discourse, nations grappled with a complex interplay of ethical considerations, economic interests, and geopolitical tensions, trying to find common ground on the complex aspects of the diamond industry and the KP.

Interestingly, at the end of the working session, there was a "Challenge" from India and Ukraine. India has previously raised concerns about Ukraine's state anti-corruption agency accusing Indian diamond company, Shree Ramakrishna Exports, of being "international war sponsors" for allegedly buying Russian diamonds. In its response to the challenge, Ukraine said it had removed the company from the list, but the response was not accepted due to the citation of false sources. India continued to argue that it tarnished their reputation.

News at a Glance

Drone strikes by Turkish Armed Forces on Kurdish-held areas of northeast Syria damaged critical infrastructure and resulted in water and electricity disruptions for millions of people. The strikes on more than 150 locations killed dozens of people and damaged civilian structures. For more information, see [here](#).

According to a Human Rights Watch Report, Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution. The finding is based on an overarching Israeli government policy to maintain the domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians and For more information, see [here](#).

The UNGA called the 10th Emergency Special Session to discuss the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce." This is the UN's first formal response to the conflict after the UNSC failed on four occasions to reach a consensus. For more information, see [here](#).



Overall, the Committee focused heavily on human rights abuses but hesitated to address fundamental issues related to the governance of the Kimberley Process. Due to the lack of time and consensus of the committee, only the first agenda could be discussed.

Report of the IAEA Committee Discussing Strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- Arya Mitkari (Co-Chairperson of IAEA)

On 19th October 2023, the Centre for International Law conducted its 1st Inter-Batch Model United Nations. The IAEA committee had two agendas:

1. Addressing Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management for Sustainable Environmental and Social Protection; and
2. Strengthening the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation (NPT) of Nuclear Weapons.

The Committee decided to solely work on the second agenda and discuss its controversies. Starting off, each delegate discussed their stance and gave insights as to what their nation would do to

support the cause. The first moderated caucus was pertaining to the universalisation of the NPT. Delegates primarily focused on how international disarmament of nuclear weapons was necessary, and engagement with other countries to promote the peaceful use of nuclear power.

The second half saw the Committee debating more. The Committee put three more moderated caucuses and an unmoderated caucus motion to vote. The first moderated caucus, which passed, saw delegates deliberate on restricting the number of nuclear weapons in their respective arsenals, with an emphasis on promoting the application of IAEA safeguards in all countries. The Committee also discussed the unfair advantage possessed by nuclear weapon states, where delegates criticized the P5 nations and suggested establishing Nuclear Free Zones (NFZs). Finally, the Committee discussed the solutions and some great suggestions were put forward by the delegates. China and India pushed for inclusivity and non-discrimination, France and Russia supported the idea of strengthening the NPT, and Canada and Australia focused on

News at a Glance

Russia's military conducted exercises with nuclear-capable missiles shortly after the legislature unanimously voted to revoke their ratification of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. For more information, see [here](#).

The UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution renewing sanctions, an arms embargo, a travel ban, and an asset freeze on Haiti. These measures were initially adopted in October 2022 to address the increasing gang violence, criminal activity and deteriorating political, economic, human rights and humanitarian situation in the country. For more information, see [here](#).



reducing the intensity of nuclear weapons.

The committee overall came to a unanimous conclusion to further work on the NPT by establishing NFZs and strengthening the NPT review process by introducing IAEA standards and safeguards. The Committee also focused on resolving issues pertaining to discrimination and non-inclusivity by increasing trust amongst the signatories and non-signatories of NPT. Overall, the Committee was a massive success.

DISEC Committee Report on Evaluating and Discussing the Use of Drones in Warfare, Especially in Context of the Ukraine-Russia Crisis

- Aditya Sidha (Member of the International Press)

The Disarmament and International Security Council deals with global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. The issue of the use of drone warfare in the Russia-Ukraine war was debated on.

France initiated the discussion by bringing up the misuse of drones. Delegates described the destruction in Ukraine and quoted statistics on the number of civilians killed in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) were raised as a point of concern by common consensus.

However, the point of contention arose wherein potential solutions for resolution were debated upon by the Committee. Countries like UK, Turkey, India, and Albania talked about ethical guidelines to be followed on a global level. The setting up of a transparent and accountable registry to keep a track of the supply and usage of military drones was also discussed.

However, several countries failed to address their own failures in the peaceful use of drone technology, including Russia and Ukraine. In the modern age, global institutions must stress upon the protection of land and infrastructure. The delegates widely supported the necessity of talks and dialogues to protect humanity and respect States' sovereignty.

USA deeply condemned the attack on Ukraine as a serious violation of

News at a Glance

The European Commission issued formal requests for information to social media giants, Meta and TikTok, seeking explanations on their compliance with the EU's Digital Services Act. The DSA requires these platforms to take proactive measures to combat harmful posts and disinformation, particularly in light of the Israel-Hamas conflict. For more information, see [here](#).

International Criminal Court prosecutors stated that they have attempted to withdraw all charges against Maxime Mokom, a former minister of disarmament in the Central African Republic (CAR). Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan submitted that this was done because "there are no longer any reasonable prospects of conviction at trial even if the charges were confirmed." For more information, see [here](#).



IHL. Debate sparked again on the ground of Article 51 of the UN Charter and its narrower interpretation. UK and Turkey sought the establishment of a multinational framework for the regulation of military drones by innovation in drone detection technology. Additionally, States, including China, also urged the need for surveillance of drones to reduce risk of casualties when used for defense purposes.

Contradictory claims in the Committee were countered vehemently through verbal Points Of Information (POIs) and via chats. The manufacture and use of drones in areas other than the military, such as medicine and agriculture, were also brought to the table by neutral blocs like that of India. The technicalities of the working of drones were also briefly touched upon. India expressed support for the legalization of all the manufactured drones to protect humanity and fight terrorism.

The closing speeches saw renewed enthusiasm in the demand for the set up of a drone regulating committee. The proposal was to introduce a panel of various stakeholders, leaders, military

advisors, and administrators, who would formulate a set of comprehensive rules against unlawful drone strikes. Turkey suggested the development of a global register of licenses to check on harmful technologies. Russia and Ukraine warned each other against deploying combat drones. Countries collectively focused on idealistic solutions for international institutions and restrictions on drone-making companies.

The DISEC essentially experienced diplomatic failure due to an absence of blocs and the inability to settle on reasonable collective action. Funding, as a major obstacle to the implementation of the suggestions given by delegates, for establishment of a drone regulatory committee was unfortunately sidelined.

Working Committee Report on Addressing the Issues of Autonomy and Democratic Freedoms in Hong Kong in the Context of its Relationship with China

- Devansh Bhatt (Co-Chairperson of UNGA)

In the heart of the Model United Nations (MUN) proceedings, where

News at a Glance

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that Israel's siege of Gaza, combined with a recently-issued evacuation order, could potentially amount to the international crime of the forcible transfer of civilians. For more information, see [here](#).

Hackers from the group Anonymous disabled multiple Guatemalan government webpages. The cyber attacks follow days of protests involving social leaders, indigenous people and the general public against police repression towards citizens. They also demanded members of the Public Prosecutors Office resign, accusing them of interfering with the democratic process throughout the general election. For more information, see [here](#).



voices from diverse backgrounds converge to discuss critical global issues, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Committee stands as a symbol of diplomacy and debate. The United Nations General Assembly's topic of discussion was, "Addressing the Issues of Autonomy and Democratic Freedoms in Hong Kong in the Context of its Relationship with China."

The topic of Hong Kong's democratic aspirations holds a special significance in the global arena. It touches upon fundamental principles of sovereignty, human rights, and international law, making it a matter of grave concern for the international community.

The committee had 25 delegates, including Hong Kong (as a separate entity) and they collectively indulged in the discussion and diplomacy surrounding the topic. The delegate of the United Kingdom (UK) set the agenda of the committee and formal debate began with delegates stating their respective viewpoints. The debate was divided into two factions. One comprising of countries like the USA, UK, France, Hong Kong, and

Mexico putting forth the 'pro-democracy' idea of handling the situation while the other, comprising of China, South Africa, Argentina, Vietnam, and Russia stressed on realising the importance of 'China's territorial sovereignty and non-interference in its internal matters.' Countries like India, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Canada remained neutral.

A moderated caucus called by Mexico discussed the "Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Democratic Principles with respect to the Chinese Aggression" with delegates stating their perspective in a diplomatic manner on Chinese aggression. Canada, realising the need for a fair judicial process in the Hong Kong region, raised a motion for a moderated caucus to discuss "the rule of law and a fair judicial process in the region of Hong Kong," which was unanimously passed.

Unfortunately, due to the limited time allotted for the formal sessions, the Committee was unable to reach a resolution which could be implemented. There were ideas proposed by various nations on how to peacefully and efficiently

News at a Glance

Gaza experienced communication blackouts following Israeli airstrikes and expanded ground operations, the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel) reported. Paltel said "the heavy bombardment of the last hour has caused the destruction of all remaining international tracks linking Gaza to the outside world." The internet blackout, resulting in complete loss of communication with Gaza, drew global concern and criticism from human rights groups who believe the communications blackouts create a risk of war crimes and violations against civilians. For more information, see [here](#).

A spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that Pakistan's plan to deport the "undocumented" remaining foreign nationals in the country after November 1 should be suspended as it disproportionately impacts more than a million undocumented Afghans who will remain in Pakistan post the final deadline. For more information, see [here](#).



come to an acceptable solution, all the while upholding the democratic and sovereign values of the nations. However, the Committee was unable to formalize them.

The Committee was marked by passionate discourse, thoughtful diplomacy, and a collective pursuit of a peaceful and equitable resolution to a challenge that profoundly impacts the lives of millions. As we recount the highlights of our committee happenings, it is our hope that this report will serve as a testament to the dedication and commitment of delegates in the pursuit of global peace, security, and justice.

Working Committee Report on Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Health in the Greater Horn of Africa

- Pritesh Shende (Co-Chairperson of WHO)

In the Inter-Batch MUN held on October 19th 2023, the WHO committee embarked on a significant discussion addressing the climate-related health crises in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHOA). The delegates, representing 15 diverse States, displayed exemplary

cooperation and enthusiasm throughout the deliberations. Kenya initiated a moderated caucus, focusing on 'combating climate change and its impact on healthcare through international cooperation.' Subsequently, Sudan proposed another moderated caucus centered on 'medical assistance to the affected countries by countries with higher emissions.' These motions paved the way for discussions on reducing carbon emissions and providing medical aid to nations grappling with climate-induced health challenges.

Following these rigorous debates and negotiations, the committee voted on two resolutions. The resolution sponsored by Sudan, USA, and Kenya emerged victorious, garnering widespread support. This resolution outlined a comprehensive plan to address the challenges exacerbated by climate change in the GHOA.

The key provisions of the resolution included:

- China's commitment to develop sustainable infrastructure in education and healthcare, i.e. offering scholarships in medicine to African students;

Upcoming Activities

Global Constitutionalism and Supranational Adjudicative Bodies Seminar: Global South Experiences vis-à-vis Hegemony

This webinar will take place on 16 – 17 November 2023, convened by Dr. Natalia Torres-Zuniga (Peru/Norway), Researcher, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo; and Dr. Juan-Pablo Perez-Leon-Acevedo (Peru), DPhil in Law student (second doctoral course) at the University of Oxford, Affiliated researcher at the University of Oslo, and Lecturer at the Catholic University of Peru. For more information, see [here](#).

Call for Abstracts: Yearbook of International Disaster Law

A call for abstracts has been issued for the sixth issue of the Yearbook of International Disaster Law, edited by Brill. Abstracts for potential articles should be 300-500 words and shall be sent by 30 November 2023 with a short CV. For more information, see [here](#).



- China's promotion of renewable energy projects like wind, solar, and hydroelectricity, aiming for 75% implementation in GHoA within the next decade. China was also urged to reduce its carbon footprints and work towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2060;
- Countries' agreement to provide financial assistance of USD 100 million to combat climate change effectively;
- Establishment of a research institution for climate and health, emphasizing the need for a reduction in carbon emissions within ten years;
- Support pledged, with the UK offering immediate medical assistance and training. Russia agreed to provide subsidized food grains and agricultural expertise. Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya agreed to collaborate on a deforestation control policy and;
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was called upon to boost GHoA exports through international trade agreements, supplementing economic growth in the region.

The Committee demonstrated the power of international

collaboration in addressing critical issues. Delegates exhibited exceptional diplomacy and dedication, crafting innovative solutions to combat climate-related health crises in the GHoA. The resolution passed stands as a testament to the committee's collective resolution to create a sustainable and healthier future for the region.

Working Committee Report on Intemperate Food and Displacement Crises and Challenges Faced in Holding Perpetrators Responsible for Impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

- Sragvi Gaur (Member of the International Press)

The proceedings began with opening speeches by all countries, exhibiting their concern for the ongoing crisis in DRC. Various delegates talked about issues concerning internally displaced persons (IDP), sexual harassment, food crises, and the education gap faced by children due to ongoing conflicts. But the major concern was the funding gap faced by DRC. A lot of time was consumed by delegates defending their countries and mentioning the

Upcoming Activities

Call for Papers:
MenschenRechtsMagazin – 30
Years Human Rights Centre

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the MenschenRechtsZentrum, the MRM will be converted to Open Journals and further developed. Contributions for the next issue 29/1 (2024) of the MRM on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the MenschenRechtsZentrum must be submitted by 15 December 2023. For further information, see [here](#).



financial, military, and humanitarian support they have provided to DRC.

USA stated that total funding it provided for the current fiscal year was \$486 million. Egypt mentioned the financial help provided in refugee settlement, military aid, and major steps taken by them for reducing gender-based violence. Zambia, a neighbouring country, provides shelter to 60,000 refugees from DRC, and helps them with education and voluntary repatriation. South Sudan sent 750 troops to DRC despite its own internal crisis and helped in setting up camps for refugees. The UK has provided funding for food, healthcare, and education programs in the DRC, particularly in conflict-affected areas and has supported diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The first motion was raised by Egypt concerning the “sexual harassment faced by women in the country.” The motion brought forth a discussion regarding how women in DRC are forced to engage in sex work for survival. It raised concerns regarding increase in sexual violence and harassment. The food crises and the

education gap faced by children made North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces the target regions.

The next motion regarding “Transparent policies for distribution of humanitarian aid” became one of the most controversial, raising various questions over DRC not being transparent in its distribution process. Zimbabwe raised questions over DRC not being transparent enough while distributing the funds it received from other countries and using them for non-crucial and irrelevant purposes. DRC accepted political instability as the reason for less transparency and further promised to address the issue on an internal level.

DRC described the progress made by Congolese authorities in adopting laws and judicial mechanisms in promoting the fight against impunity and the prosecution of perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

The proceedings concluded with a motion passed to submit a working paper. The authors were: DRC, Ethiopia, and Egypt. Alongwith the signatories, they

Upcoming Activities

Call for Abstracts: Human Rights and Digital Design Conference

The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford in collaboration with the Center for Technology and Society and its Diversity and Inclusion Program at the Getulio Vargas Foundation have issued an invitation to participate in an interdisciplinary conference focused on human rights and digital design. The theme of the conference is to explore the existing and potential ways in which rules and norms deriving from human rights and human rights law can be incorporated into the design of digital systems. Those interested in participating may interpret the conference theme broadly. For more information, see [here](#).



submitted a draft on “Access and Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance and Ensuring Justice for Civilians.” It focused on: generating shelter for refugees and providing financial support internally to increase self-sufficiency and reduce the dependence on external humanitarian assistance; restricting illegal export of valuable mining minerals through enactment of laws and regulations; and improving the legal system to make justice accessible to victims of sexual harassment.

Working Committee Report on Streamlining Sex Work in Developing and Under-Developed Countries and Addressing Migrant Policies and their Implication on Human Trafficking.

- Abha Dalal (Co-Chairperson of ILO)

The only Tripartite UN Agency since 1919, ILO brings together workers of 187 members to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. Its aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection, and

strengthen dialogue on work-related issues, The Committee worked rigorously with great determination at the MUN proceedings conducted on 19th October 2023 The Committee was presented with two Agendas namely, “Streamlining Sex Work in Developing and Under-Developed Countries” and “Addressing Migrant Policies and their Implication on Human Trafficking.”

Sex work and human trafficking, while distinct, often intersect due to trafficked victims being coerced into the sex industry. Recognizing the intricate relationship between these issues, the ILO delves into addressing root causes. Poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities are identified as fundamental factors, prompting the ILO to integrate these considerations into its initiatives, underscoring a holistic approach.

There were 25 delegates. Agenda 1 was raised by Myanmar. A formal debate and discussion began with delegates stating their viewpoints and their contribution to formulating and implementing a solution to the issue under Agenda 1. The debate had contradictory views divided between two blocs, one supporting legalisation of sex

Upcoming Activities

Call for Papers: International Workshop on the Law Applicable to the use of Biometrics by Armed Forces

The NATO Cyber Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, the War Studies Research Centre of the Netherlands Defence Academy, and the University of Amsterdam are organizing an international workshop on the law applicable to the use of biometrics by armed forces. The aim of the workshop is to provide a platform for debate between academics, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss the legal aspects of the military use of this new technology. Those interested are invited to submit an abstract of 500 words and a brief CV before 1 December. For more information, see [here](#).



work and other not in support of the same. Spain focused on International cooperation and gave creative solutions like, setting up hotlines and bettering accessibility to basic healthcare facilities. Canada focused on access to better working conditions. Pakistan and Iran maintained their position on the criminalisation of sex work, USA discussed founding National Programs on HIV/AIDS.

During the second session, an unmoderated caucus was passed to discuss Agenda 2. Due to paucity of time, the second issue was briefly discussed by the delegates. The Committee was able to submit a working paper. Three groups submitted their papers: first was submitted by Russia, China, Israel; second by USA, Japan, Spain, Canada, Myanmar; and the third by Venezuela, India, Thailand, Netherlands, Brazil, Mexico, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

On Agenda 1, while most of the delegates agreed upon certain points like access to healthcare, education, and awareness programmes, there was a divide between the blocs on the issue of decriminalisation of sex work. On Agenda 2, all the three blocs

formulated solutions along similar lines, majorly focused on providing protection and asylum to migrants and the formulation of better anti-trafficking laws.

Delegates were thoughtful and showed their diplomacy skills and willingness to work together. They were committed to the goal of achieving international cooperation to achieve viable solutions to the problems addressed in both the agendas.

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Upcoming Activities

Call for Submissions: Cyber Law Toolkit

Cyber Law Toolkit, the online resource on international law and cyber operations, is inviting submissions for its next general update in September 2024. Successful authors will be awarded an honorarium. The Toolkit consists of a growing number of hypothetical scenarios, each of which contains a description of cyber incidents inspired by real-world examples and accompanied by detailed legal analysis. The Toolkit has been expressly referenced in a number of State national positions on international law in cyberspace and it has become a reference point for governments, militaries, international organizations, and academics. This call for submissions is open until 1 December 2023. For more information, see [here](#).