

Human Rights Council

Graded Model United Nations 2017

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THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF SÃO PAULO

Chairs: Gabriella Angelo & Peter Lee

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INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

Welcome to GMUN 2017! We are honored to be your chairs in the Human Rights Committee, and are extremely excited for the debate to come. The topic we chose for you requires detailed and analytical thinking, and its relevancy to current events will encourage you to strive to create elaborate, strong solutions for the problems at hand.

Beginner or not, we expect a high level of debate and encourage all delegates to participate. MUN serves to help you think about the issues in our world, and is an amazing experience, as long as you participate. Know as well the environment will be relaxed but simultaneously serious, for as members of the Human Rights Council it is your responsibility to bring passion and diplomacy to the conference.

While researching, take note of the past solutions your country or an allied country has implemented to solve the problem, and how it has worked so far. It is essential for you to know your own country's position by memory, and we also encourage you to learn other perspectives as well.

You may of course use these solutions as a part of your final resolution, but make sure to brainstorm for new, unprecedented solutions and build strong, convincing arguments to express your country's perspective.

We are both eager to see you on August 29th, 2017, and hope you bring enthusiasm and passion to the Human Rights Council.

Best of luck,

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Evaluating potential human rights infringements due to technological developments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With the progression of the twenty-first century, technology starts to play an increasingly important role in every aspect of the international and national lives of the people worldwide. Consequently, we should foresee a portion of the significant issues that advances in technology will posture for the orders of law and human rights. As of now, lawyers appear to be taking interest in this topic, while science and technology are thundering ahead human rights and law are helplessly watching from the sidelines because they can't match the speed of technological advancements. Law moves slowly, while technology moves in the speed of lightning. Consequently, grave damage can be made to human rights. Technology may be viewed in a kind of scenic survey and see that almost every inch of our lives is influenced by technology. It can be divided into three sectors:

1. The human body
2. The human environment
3. The human society

Take sector one for example. Due to the increasingly poor living conditions in certain Middle Eastern countries and technological advancements in medicine, there has been an increase in organ trafficking.

In regards to sector 2: "New technological goods are often burdensome to the environment." This damage may come from obtaining the resources to produce new technology, or from toxic byproducts of technological production.

Sector 3: Technology has invaded all aspects of our lives, even the private ones. Nowadays privacy faces increasing threats from a growing surveillance system that uses the name of national security to justify their actions. Many governmental agencies - including the NSA, the FBI, the department of homeland security, and state and local enforcement agencies - overstep the citizens privacy to catalog "suspicious activities" based on vague pretences. The collection of this type of sensitive information by the government is itself an invasion of privacy. Therefore, for some it can be considered a human rights infringement.

Organ Trafficking

Organ Trafficking as the name suggests is the trade of human organs, tissues or other body parts for the purpose of transplantation. There has always been a global need and demand for healthy organs/body parts for transplantation and the numbers have been exceeding.

Toxic Waste

Toxic waste in general term is used to refer to chemical compounds produced by industry in which if ingested or inhaled in by humans can cause physiological damage. Sources say that the disposal of toxic wastes is a major environmental problem in the United States.

Government surveillance

A black budget program that is responsible for "close **surveillance**, burglary, wiretapping, breaking and entering." It employs covert listening device technologies to bug foreign embassies, communications centers, computer facilities, fiber-optic networks, and **government** installations. This poses a challenge to international human rights.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

NSA - National Security Agency

The NSA is responsible for the collection and processing of information and data as well as for global monitoring for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes. It specializes in signals intelligence.

Toxic byproducts

Are toxic waste substances that are produced as a result of industries such as farming, construction, manufacturing, automotive, hospitals, and laboratories which may contain chemicals, radiation, dangerous pathogens, or other toxins.

Privacy laws

In regards to the United States, the privacy laws deal with several concepts. One is the *invasion of privacy*, which allows an aggrieved party to "bring a lawsuit against an individual who unlawfully intrudes into his or her private affairs, discloses his or her private information, publicizes him or her in a false light, or appropriates his or her name for personal gain."

Guiding Question

How does the right to privacy vary by country?

What other technological advances have opened the doors to illegalities?

How can we detain the harming of the environment by toxic waste without hindering further development?

Should there be more technological advancement, if so, how do we balance it to the illegalities?

What are some technological advancements that places that are underdeveloped need?

FURTHER RESEARCH

- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/03/26/will-technology-transform-human-rights-movement>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/06/why-tech-double-edged-sword-human-rights>

- [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549034/EXPO_STU\(2015\)549034_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549034/EXPO_STU(2015)549034_EN.pdf)
- <http://www.utne.com/science-and-technology/human-rights-violations-privacy-ze0z1509zdeh>
- <http://www.carnegiecyberacademy.com/facultyPages/environment/issues.html>
- <http://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/renewable-energy/environmental-impacts#.WZ4u78Y-JE4>

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