

Committee: SPECIAL COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Topic: The Question of Population Migration

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Summary:

The Question of Population Migration is a critical complex debate consisting of the implications migration has on countries worldwide. It is a topic that the UN pays a great deal of attention to as throughout history, people have migrated for various economic opportunities, political stability, better living conditions, and more. Today our countries are made up of thousands and millions of immigrants and their ancestors. Understanding the dynamics of migration is crucial for addressing and debating challenges related to integration, cultural diversity, and social cohesion.

Key aspects of the population migration debate include economic standings, particularly those in the developed countries (most likely the host countries of the immigrants), labour markets, and social welfare systems. The debate of refugees and asylum seekers throughout the years has been particularly prominent. An example that we might see today is the British parliamentary debates regarding the 'Stop the Boats' campaign. Climate induced migration and the rights of migrants are also essential topics for consideration during the Debate of the question of population Migration. Furthermore, the role of international agreements, humanitarian aid, and cooperation among Nations in managing mass population migration flows is of the utmost importance.

Delegates should analyse the question of population migration route causes, consequences and potential solutions to the multi-faceted issue. Bearing in mind the

historical context, the debate of current challenges and future trends is population migration needs, policies, and strategies to correctly address this global phenomenon effectively.

Definition of Key Terms:

1. Population migration - Movement of people from one place to another, often across borders, with intention of settling in the new location.
2. Refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape death, persecution, or natural disaster.
3. Asylum seeker: an individual who has left their home country as a refugee and is seeking protection and asylum in another country.
4. Internally displaced person (IDP): a person who's been forced to flee their home but remained within the borders of their own country.
5. migration policy: laws, regulations, and measures enacted by governments to manage and regulate movement of people across borders.
6. migration compact: international agreements or frameworks that aim to address the challenges and opportunities of migration on a global scale.
7. integration programs: programs and initiatives designed to help migrants and refugees adapt to their new host country, including language classes, job training, and cultural orientation.
8. Statelessness: the condition of not having a nationality or citizenship which can result in restricted access to basic rights and services.
9. Resettlement: the process of transferring refugees or displaced persons from their current location to a new place for settlement.

10. Root causes: the underlying factors that drive migration, such as conflict, poverty, inequality, lack of data development, environmental degradation, and human rights violations.
11. migration compact: a comprehensive framework for international cooperation on migration, emphasising the benefits of well-managed migration and the protection of migrants' rights.
12. humanitarian visa: a visa granted to individuals, such as refugees, in need of international protection on humanitarian grounds.
13. Transit migration: the movement of migrants or refugees through a country on their way to a final destination often facing challenges and vulnerabilities during transit.

Background Information

From nomadic tribes roaming the vast territories in search of better resources and livelihoods to current vast populations fleeing Ukraine and Syria away from war-torn cities. Over the many centuries, population migration patterns have evolved as a result of factors like colonisation, industrialization, and globalisation leading to mass numbers of people moving for improved livelihoods.

Population Migration has a diverse history of events, leading to world change throughout the centuries since the beginning of migration of the Romans, Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

Review the timeline of events for historical background information/overview.

Major Countries and Organisations involved:

- United Kingdom
- United States
- Bangladesh
- India

- China
- Vietnam
- Pakistan
- Albania

Timeline of Events:

1492 - Columbus Discovers America: Initiates European colonisation and significant migration to the Americas.

1619 - First African Slaves Arrive in America: Start of forced migration of African slaves to North America.

1830s-1850s - Irish Potato Famine: Caused mass migration of Irish people to the United States and other countries.

1861-1865 - American Civil War: Resulted in significant internal migration within the United States.

1880s-1920s - Great Wave of Immigration to the U.S.: Millions of immigrants from Europe arrived in the U.S., transforming its demographic landscape.

1914-1918 - World War I: Caused significant population displacements and migration within Europe and to other regions.

1933-1945 - Holocaust: Resulted in the forced migration and extermination of millions of Jews and other targeted groups.

1945-1960s - Post-World War II Displacements: Millions of people were displaced across Europe and Asia as borders were redrawn and new nation-states formed.

1960s-1980s - Decolonization and Migration: Countries in Africa and Asia gained independence, leading to migration to former colonial powers.

1990s - Fall of the Berlin Wall: Resulted in the reunification of Germany and significant migration within Eastern Europe.

1994 - NAFTA Enacted: Led to increased migration from Mexico to the U.S. due to economic changes.

2011 - Syrian Civil War: Caused one of the most significant humanitarian crises in modern history, with millions fleeing to neighbouring countries and Europe.

2015 - European Migrant Crisis: Welcome and policy adjustments in response to a massive influx of migrants from Syria, Afghanistan, and other regions.

2020 - Global COVID-19 Pandemic: Led to significant travel restrictions, affecting migrant populations and causing shifts in migration patterns.

Relevant UN Treaties and events:

1. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966): Article 12 protects individual freedom of movement and right to leave a country.
2. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951): This treaty defines who qualifies as a refugee and outlines their rights, including the right to seek asylum.
3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990): Aims to protect the rights of migrant workers globally.
4. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989): Addresses the rights of children in migration, ensuring their welfare and protection.
5. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018): Non-binding agreement aimed at enhancing international cooperation on migration issues.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

1. Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD): An informal, intergovernmental dialogue established in 2007 to address migration and development challenges.
2. UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013): Brought together member states to discuss migration issues and their relation to development.
3. Global Compact on Refugees (2018): Establishes a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing for refugees.
4. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016): Acknowledges the challenges faced by refugees and migrants and commits to improved approaches.
5. World Migration Report: Published periodically by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), providing comprehensive data and insights on migration trends.

These treaties and events illustrate the international community's ongoing efforts to address various aspects of population migration, including human rights, protection, and cooperation between nations.

Possible Solutions:

- Increase funding in nations with mass population leaving
- Tighter border control and enforcement
- Job creation in affected areas
- Efficient peace-keeping/ repair operations in war torn areas
- Comprehensive Migration policies
- Strengthening international cooperation
- Investment in origin countries
- Integration programmes for migrants

- Humanitarian support and protection
- Addressing root causes of migration
- Public awareness campaigns
- Data driven approaches (understanding migration trends)
- Global compact implementation (safe, orderly, regular migration)

Biography

1. Pew Research Center. "Key Facts About Refugees to the U.S." Pew Research Center, 2021. [Link: <https://www.pewresearch.org>]
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3. World Bank. "Migration and Development Brief 32." World Bank, 2021. [Link: <https://www.worldbank.org>]
4. IOM (International Organization for Migration). "World Migration Report 2022." IOM, 2022. [Link: <https://www.iom.int>]
5. Migration Policy Institute. "The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Immigration." Migration Policy Institute, 2021. [Link: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org>]
6. International Migration Institute. "Migration and Climate Change." International Migration Institute, 2021. [Link: <https://www.imi.ox.ac.uk>]
7. Refugees International. "Understanding the Crisis: Context and Solutions." Refugees International, 2020. [Link: <https://www.refugeesinternational.org>]