IMUN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Research Report on the measures to ensure peace, trust, and transparency among Members States.

In July 2020, Secretary General António Guterres stated that "the COVID-19 pandemic is profoundly affecting the peace across the globe" ("COVID-19 'Profoundly"). Moreover, he emphasized that "Our challenge is to save lives today while buttressing the pillars of security for tomorrow" ("COVID-19 'Profoundly"). Guterres stated this considering that the general population was losing trust in the government, because the government was not being transparent with them. ("COVID-19 'Profoundly"). Likewise, according to article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized" ("Universal Declaration"). In other words, it ensures peace, trust, and transparency among nations and among governments and individuals. Furthermore, all Member States should be invested in this issue as it regards to goal 16 and goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals which all Member States have vowed to follow. Goal 16 "promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels" ("The 17 Goals"). Goal 17 aims to "strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" ("The 17 Goals"). These goals directly relate to the issue at hand as well as prove its relevance for all Member States.

This issue is extremely important in the current state of the world. The pandemic magnified the lack of trust and transparency have with other Member States and with their own citizens, which causes countless problems. Many relationships between countries have diminished due to the pandemic, as they believe each other's government is not being truthful about the information they provide about the pandemic, or simply because they believe some countries are not making enough efforts to help neighboring or allied countries. The most notable example of this, is the relationship between the United States of American and the People's Republic of China, in which each country is actively trying to make the other be worse off. Other good examples of countries which lack transparency and trust with each other are, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, Pakistan, and India, within more.

Another aspect of this issue is the fact that with what seems to be the start of the end of the pandemic, many countries will start co-operating at greater levels than in the last two years. In other words, during the pandemic many countries began to act "selfishly" and independently to deal with the coronavirus more effectively ("HAS THE CORONAVIRUS"). For example, by closing borders, ordering mass number of vaccines and masks even if it implicates some other country receiving less resources. Nevertheless, post-crisis countries will need to start co-operating, such as by opening borders increasing trade, not only for their own sake but also to re-establish all previous relations with other countries ("HAS THE CORONAVIRUS"). This characteristic of the issue at hand also relates to the "*the question of sustainably rebuilding health infrastructures post-crises*" another topic being debated by the General Assembly.

Lastly, as Prof. Amitav Acharya, a foreign policy expert from American University in Washington DC, argued that the "coronavirus may reshape world order" ("HAS THE CORONAVIRUS"). He believes that "the pandemic is going to undercut support for globalization

and for the US, […] it will also seriously diminish America's credibility globally and that of the Trump administration within America" ("HAS THE CORONAVIRUS"). As a result of this countries need to start making efforts to create more allies which are loyal and helpful during the following years.

To fully understand the issue at hand delegates must understand the three sub-topics of the issue: peace, trust, and transparency. According to Cambridge University, peace either means the state of not being interrupted by worries or hardships or it means "freedom from war and violence" ("Peace"). Trust means, "to believe that someone is good and honest and will not harm you, or that something is safe and reliable" ("Trust"). Transparency means "a situation in which […] activities are done in an open way without secrets, so that people can trust that they are fair and honest" ("Transparency"). To avoid confusion, delegates are encouraged to refer to these sub-topics according to the specific definition provided.

The goal of this debate is to promote, peace, trust, and transparency among Member States in the current post-crisis world. It is important to understand that delegates should not focus on the ways that Member States lacked peace and transparency during the pandemic, but rather Member States should focus on the ways to build trust and transparency between nations and as a result create peace among them. This detail is extremely important during debate because delegates must remember that the lack of trust and transparency between Member States is a recurring issue.

The aim of the issue at hand is to create peace between nations. One method to begin this process is by ensuring that Member States are being transparent with their population and with other countries; once Member States are transparent, nations will begin to trust each other, and as a result peace will emerge. These steps should be followed in this specific order as it ensures that the solution to the issue is the most effective. This thought process should be found during the

debate, such as in the amendments passed, and should be present in the individual resolutions of the delegates.

To prepare for debate delegates should extensively research this issue. For background information, and context in general, delegates should be looking for studies and analysis made by trustworthy organizations who aim to maintain peace among nations. Some examples of these organizations are the United Nations, the Council of Europe, Amnesty International, and Transparency International. Make sure to stress that the issue existed before the pandemic, the virus simple enhanced it. Regarding the solutions there are many ways to find inspiration. The first thing to research is previous resolutions on similar topics. Note that the United Nations designated 2021 as 'International Year of Peace and Trust', meaning there is extra emphasis by the United Nations into this topic, for example by drafting new resolutions and starting debate on the topic. Additionally, delegates should study the relationship of their countries with other nations and understand who their allies are and for what reasons; for example, is it for convenience, due to economic advantages, or simply because of a long history working together. Nevertheless, delegates should emphasize the rippling effects the lack of transparency had globally. For example, it decreased collaboration between countries. Delegates should research methods for countries to co-operate better.

Regarding the solutions, as always delegates, are expected to be creative and innovative with their resolutions, as only with deep thinking can people solve these global issues. Nonetheless, there have been some initiative started by the Council of Europe to strengthen the relationship of countries. These solutions can and should be spread outside of the European Union and all delegates are recommended to investigate the measures taken by this organization as inspiration for their resolutions.

The first solution is "Promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development" ("Promotion of peaceful"). This solution essentially involves creating a youth camp which promotes peace and inclusive societies, in the camp the youth learn about peace, co-operation, and conflict transformation. The camp joins youth from several different countries and work to overcome any prejudice and hatred they might have, thus establishing a peaceful future for the countries. Moreover, there are different camps which teach about different topics. For example, the "Youth Peace Camp" which "brings together young people from conflict-stricken communities and helps them to overcome hatred and prejudice, as well as to develop joint projects and initiatives to promote inter-community dialogue and, when appropriate, reconciliation" ("Promotion of peaceful").

The second solution is "Addressing post-conflict situations through confidence-building measures" ("Addressing post-conflict"). The aim of this solution is to strengthen the relationships of countries which were once in conflict with Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). The CBMs are aimed at "facilitating dialogue among populations, different professional groups across dividing lines, and at raising awareness and respect of human rights principles as contained in the relevant instruments of the Organization" ("Addressing post-conflict"). Further, through these measures the countries can create mutual trust, which later evolves into peace.

Another way to solve this is by introducing methods to increase transparency and decrease misinformation, disinformation and malinformation. Note that, misinformation means "when false information is shared but no harm is meant"; disinformation means "when false information is knowingly shared to cause harm"; and malinformation means "when genuine information s shared to cause harm, often by moving what was designed to stay in private into the public sphere" ("Transparency, communication"). Some methods to do this, are by having a team of professionals

target online platforms in which incorrect or harmful information is being exposed and either be taken down or to spread the real information. Nonetheless, this would be a hard task to implement because of the concept of free speech. There is a very thin line identifying what is free speech and what it is not, and these group of individuals would have full control on these decisions, making it possibly become a type of censorship.

For the issue at hand, the main sources of information are the United Nations and the local newspapers, as these are the sources that directly address the relationship among nations. Regarding solutions, delegates can also find information in past resolutions and with organizations like the Council of Europe. Additionally, for this issue the countries most affected are the United States of America and China, as well as most Non-governmental organization such as Amnesty International and Transparency International. there are no countries which are more important than other and that necessarily have a leading role in debate. This issue deals with interacting between nations and thus makes all nations equally important during debate.

Overall, the pandemic had an immense impact on relationships between countries. The lack of trust and transparency between nations is a recurring issue and the coronavirus magnified this. However, as the crisis begins to settle down there is an opportunity to resolve it. The aim of this issue is to is to promote, peace, trust, and transparency among Member States, even though this may be hard several non-governmental organizations have started leading the way to solve it. Delegates may choose to solve this by adopting strategies used in the past or by creating completely new ones.

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