



T&T MUN 2024



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### Position Paper Expectations

- a. 1 Page
- b. Times New Roman 12pt font
- c. 1 inch margins
- d. Header
  - i. Committee:
  - ii. Delegation:
  - iii. Name, School
- e. Paragraphs:
  - i. Background of issue (based on background guide)
  - ii. Country stance / past United Nation actions (what has your country and the UN done about the issue)
  - iii. Proposed solutions (how do you and your country think this issue should be solved)



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## Letter to Delegates

Co-Chair: Fabian Garcia

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Development Program Committee! My name is Fabian Garcia, and I am very excited to be able to chair at this year's T&TMUN. I am a junior at The Preuss School UCSD and I have been involved with MUN since the 9th grade: as a delegate in JMUN and a page for T&TMUN. (:

As well as my dedication to MUN, I am also very dedicated to a numerous of other clubs, hobbies, etc. I am the vice president of my school's Black Student Union, and I am also a proud advocate and happily involved in our school's Spanish National Honors Society, National Honor Society, Key Club, and even Crochet club. In addition, I am on the track and field team, and also enjoy working out at the gym and generally running in my free time. I play lots of video games (FPS and story based), listen to music, and spend time with my family. I am a huge fan of my APUSH and AP English Lang and Lit courses this year, however, I am not the biggest fan of my AP Spanish class. To wrap this up, I can't wait to see and meet those who are taking the time to read this. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at [fdgarcia@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:fdgarcia@preuss.ucsd.edu).

Best Regards,

Fabian Garcia.



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Co-Chair: Mahlet Mekasha

Greetings Delegates!

My name is Mahlet Mekasha, and I am thrilled to serve as your Co-Chair for this year's T&T MUN. This marks my second year participating and chairing in T&T MUN. Beyond the realm of MUN, I keep myself engaged in activities such as playing Squash, participating in school clubs like Key Club, serving as the Social-Media Manager for my school's Black Student Union, and volunteering at the local Hospital on weekends.

My journey with Model United Nations began in my freshman year when my history teacher encouraged participation in the annual JMUN conference. Assigned to represent South Korea in the ECOSOC committee, I found myself unexpectedly representing China. The challenge of representing a Big 5 nation, particularly one under scrutiny, was initially intimidating. However, through dedicated Position Papers and persuasive debates, I not only survived but thrived at my first conference. This led me to attend two conferences last year, where I not only participated but also had the opportunity to chair one (T&T).

Now, let's delve into our T&T MUN committee and topic for this year. The agenda will focus on Combating Fast Fashion Retailers. This pressing global issue requires your commitment to thorough research, passionate debates, and the generation of real-world solutions. In your sessions, We'll be looking for integrity, hard work, creative ideas, and passionate debates. Your journey through T&T MUN is our priority, and as your Co-Chairs of the United Nations Development Program, we are here to support you. Reach out to us with any questions or concerns, we are always at your disposal, [mdmekasha@preuss.ucsd.edu](mailto:mdmekasha@preuss.ucsd.edu)!

Wishing you the best of luck!

Mahlet Mekasha



## Key Terms

- **Planned Obsolescence:** The practice of designing products to break quickly or become obsolete in a short to mid-term. Products sold in the fast fashion industry are often of this practical nature.
- **Consumer Pressure Culture:** When media pushes products on consumers through direct social media exposure and social/environmental pressures.
- **Fast-Fashion:** A term used to describe the exploitative practice of replicating trends and mass-producing them at a low cost.
- **Labor Trafficking:** The exploitation of an individual for financial gain.
- **Sweatshop:** A factory or workshop, especially in the clothing industry, where manual workers are employed at very low wages for long hours and forced to work under poor conditions. ( generally seeks unskilled employees, such as children, to work for long hours for bad pay in unhealthy environments.)
- **Shein:** A fast-fashion retailer that produces thousands of garments and accessories at a rapid pace. Shein has faced backlash because of labor practices and their fast-fashion contributions to pollution.
- **H&M:** One of the largest fast-fashion retailers in the world, largely known for its inhumane working conditions that produce copied high-end/popular fashion, rapid clothing turnover, and as well as practices that include harmful chemicals in products.



- **Greenwashing:** The act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice. Generally hard to detect, but often falsely portraying a company or institution as pro environment/environmentally friendly.



## **I: Committee Background**

Since the creation of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1965 by the United Nations General Assembly, the UNDP has aimed to help countries eliminate poverty by building, sharing, and connecting solutions to poverty reduction, while achieving sustainable human development. “Human development is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live.” (Human Development Reports Organization, n.d.) “Also, UNDP seeks democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and energy for sustainable development, and equality . However, extreme poverty rates, general disproportionate socioeconomic inequalities, and displaced citizens are being tackled by the UNDP today through their organized and strengthened resilience in aiding governments to ensure inclusive and accountable governance. Currently, the UNDP is striving to address and has successfully and greatly achieved (awareness in many countries regarding) gender based violence, biased gender norms, and poverty (through a global multidimensional poverty index) in order to limit and put an end to these topics.



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## II: Topic Background:

Fast fashion is currently a huge problem economically, environmentally, and socially. In the late 1990s and 2000s, retailers such as Zara and H&M took advantage of low cost fashion and rapidly set online shopping to a peak, where designs were stolen from top fashion manufacturers and sold for a cheaper price with lower quality. Worldwide, 80 million pieces of clothing are sold each year through these retailers, while 85% of these textiles also find themselves in landfills each year. According to the United Nations Environmental Program, many more people are buying clothes but only owning or keeping them in possession for half as long, which could affect water or air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, where 20% of water waste and 10% of global carbon emissions are from the fashion industry. “The numbers are astronomical: to make one pair of jeans, it takes close to 8,000 liters of water---the amount a person drinks over seven years. Even a simple cotton shirt requires close to 3,000 liters of water.” (Pavithra Rao, 2019). As more and more products are sold from these fast fashion industries, the greater impact it leaves on our environment, society, and people. Why is it that we have to deal with such harmful consequences for such disappointing and lazy-like productions? Not only is our environment under attack because of these practices but so are the workers behind the scheme.

American trade agreements (Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930) prohibit the importation of products made by forced labor, however, no action has been taken since the creation of this treaty. 75 million people are registered as workers in the fast fashion





industry, yet barely 2% of those people make a general living wage. This shows the poverty that many of these workers are placed in, in which the UNDP is actively trying to prevent. Many of these working conditions include cancerous and other health threatening conditions that affect our workers, which in many are children. According to the UN, child labor is defined as “Work for which the child is either too young or work carried out to the detriment and endangerment of a child.” . These children are often recruited because of their small hands which go perfect in sewing and other delicate forms of work in the apparel department, where they are also generally low-skilled and undeserving of any humane payments. Because of a disregard of rules and regulations, many companies in the fast fashion industry tend to get away with this, “on accident”.



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### III: UN Involvement

For many decades the United Nation (UN) has faced exploitation issues surrounding slavery and human trafficking. As such the UN launched a protocol in the year 2000 to prevent, suppress and punish those caught in human trafficking actions. Since the protocol has been enacted, up to 177 countries have signed and agreed upon the protocol.

The UN has 3 types of campaigns that focus on human trafficking. Start freedom where the UN engages with young people to get them aware and allows for an increase of votes on ending human trafficking within certain countries. As proven by the UN, young people have been able to engage and share with their communities on objecting to human trafficking. There is also the Active Communities against Trafficking that is given resources to understand how local communities are affected by human trafficking and how to prevent it in where it is happening. This project allows them to study and stop a community if they find human trafficking happening. Lastly, there is the Chocolate Campaign. This stems from Côte d'Ivoire where many kids have been documented under child trafficking and has focused a campaign where they get big chocolate manufactures and check if they are human traffic free. While the UN has all these campaigns and more resources set up to battle human trafficking it is still a big problem that is ongoing and has not become aware enough with the people of today.



## IV: Timeline

**1949** - The first Countries in the UN held a convention and drafted a document to suppress human trafficking, but was only able to get up to 66 countries to sign it at that time.

**1980** - From 1980 to the present day, the internet expanded the human trafficking market to all types of websites.

**2000** - U.N starts rolling out protocol to prevent human trafficking actions with most happening towards women and children.

**2007** - 3 Types of campaigns are set by the U.N to stop and counter attack human trafficking and would get up to 116 nations to sign it by end of the year.

**Present day** - Many NGOs and other organizations include themselves in the fight against human trafficking.



## **V: Questions to Consider**

1. How does someone get trapped in human trafficking?
2. Does fast fashion ensure a wholesome and healthy environmental status upon your nation?
3. What are the environmental effects of human trafficking?
4. What have you as a nation done to combat the negativites following the fast fashion industry
5. Where does human trafficking start?
6. What do countries do to prevent the actions of human trafficking?
7. Does fast fashion affect your relations with any other nations?
8. How are some products and companies linked to the cause of trafficking?
9. How can information about human trafficking reach and teach people the effects and gain their help and support?



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## VI: Recommended Sources

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