2015-2016 Regional Academy on the United Nations

ADDRESSING PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES THROUGH ACADEMIC RESEARCH: FINDINGS OF THE 2015-2016 REGIONAL ACADEMY ON THE UNITED NATIONS (RAUN)

Executive Summaries

Edited by

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Preface

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RAUN Head of Program

The Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) was established in January 2012 in Vienna, Austria by the Academic Council on United Nations System (ACUNS) in close collaboration with United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna, the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Czech United Nations Association, and partner universities – University of Economics Prague, University of Szeged. Other partners include the Hague Institute for Global Justice, University of Vienna, Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Webster University Vienna, Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade in Serbia, and the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Slovakia. RAUN was endorsed by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson in December 2013.

RAUN's aim is to train young scholars in issues related to the United Nations and international system through interactive lectures and workshops on current issues conducted by experts and high level UN and government officials. At the same time, RAUN enables students to develop their academic research writing in English by conducting topical research projects related to UN agencies and other international institutions. The research papers are reviewed and evaluated by experts which gives them added quality assurance and relevant importance in today's competitive academic environment where outstanding academic writing in English plays a crucial role in a successful academic and professional career. Similarly important, RAUN allows students to create strong connections and networks with their like-minded peers, academics, and experts from various fields in an environment that fosters openness, diversity, mutual respect, tolerance, as well as cultural learning and understanding, all of which are attributes of a 21st Century global education. In doing so, RAUN is empowering young scholars to contribute to finding solutions to contemporary global challenges in this age of sustainable development while forging relationships for personal friendship as well as academic and professional collaboration.

As a mobile academy, RAUN consists of three sessions per year starting in April/May until January. The program takes place in all participating countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia and Austria) on a rotation basis.

In addition, students get the opportunity to experience United Nations institutions in Vienna and interact directly with experts and practitioners. Throughout the program participants work in groups of different nationalities from interdisciplinary academic fields on topics including human rights, international security, international development, international law, and nuclear issues amongst others.

During the last session which takes place at the UN Head Quarters in Vienna, participants present the outcome of their research projects, including recommendations, to a group of jury experts who, after reading the papers in advance, evaluate their content, the relevance and usefulness to the current discourse, the strength and coherence of the argument, and the academic contribution as well as students' oral presentation performance.

The 2015-16 RAUN academic year's research projects were centered on topics related to UNIDO, UNODC, UNOOSA, UNCITRAL, IAEA, CTBTO, UNEP, and IOM which are featured in the following section. Please note that the content of the papers reflect only the views of their authors.

For interest in reading the papers in their entirety and learning more about RAUN and how you can get involved please contact us at info@ra-un.org and visit our website at www.ra-un.org

NPT: "No Progress Tomorrow" or Non-Proliferation Treaty? Analysis & solutions to a number of NPT problem areas.

Richard Murphy (Diplomatic Academy Vienna) and Maryia Hushcha (Comenius University Bratislava)

Motivation and problem statement

Our research focuses on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and provides analysis and solutions to a number of problematic areas currently hindering the Treaty's ability to successfully operate and ensure that all signatories retain faith in its capacity to deliver. The paper contributes to the field in that it offers practical, logical and realistic ideas to achieve forward momentum. In an area which too often plays home to unworkable, naïve, rhetorical or unrealistic thought processes, we believe this is drastically needed.

Research methods

Given the impasse which the NPT currently faces, each section of the paper has been tailored to achieve the best possible results by borrowing from a number of disciplines and approaches. For example, the paper's first point makes use of game theory, a practice widely employed by economists and political scientists in order to demonstrate potential win-sets for key players in the region in the hope that progress may one day be achieved in the quest for a WMD free zone in the Middle East. On the other hand, the paper's second point adopts a more historiographical approach to paper writing; for in endeavouring to prove the extent to which each of the five nuclear weapon states (NWS) of the NPT are failing to fulfill their pledges to act in "good faith" regarding Article 6, an argument employing a large variety of both primary and secondary source material was presented with the goal being that NWS representatives could not continue to dispute this fact. The paper's third point offers an international relations theoretical approach to matters by offering a realist vision of a concrete proposal for an Article 6 verification mechanism based upon an expanded version of the New Start Treaty between Russia and the United States. Finally, in terms of the paper's fourth point, our approach involved simply attending a variety of conferences organized by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, along with conducting interviews with experts and stakeholders on what should be done in order to ensure that NPT Preparatory Committees could be made as practical as possible. In this, practitioners and experts interviewed such as Alexander Kmenntt and Jean du Preez proved invaluable by being able to offer us their first-hand insights into what could be done better.

Findings and recommendations

In terms of the paper's first point, we found that when utilizing game theory, Israel remains in a 'Deadlock', whilst the Arab states and Iran succumb to a 'Prisoner's Dilemma'. With the Prisoner's Dilemma model offering more strategies of resolution than the orderings of a Deadlock, in order to achieve progress, it becomes necessary from a purely game theoretical perspective that Israeli perceptions shift so that mutual cooperation becomes more favorable

for Jerusalem than mutual defection, the situation we currently have. However, for progress to be achieved, we also argued that the Arab states and Iran also need to demonstrate more willingness to. The paper's second point proved conclusively that, contrary to what each NWS may claim, the sheer magnitude of their nuclear weapon modernization efforts dispels any notion that they are acting in good faith regarding Article 6 of the NPT; to take their word at face value would be sheer naivety. Given this, the paper's third point recommended and subsequently outlined why only a realist Article 6 verification system, based on the tried and tested New Start Treaty where the NWS themselves also have something to gain, has any chance of success. During this process we also illustrated why our idea would have a higher chance of success than if an impartial third party international organization like the IAEA were to conduct verification. Finally, the paper's fourth point offered a number of recommendations to improve the efficiency of NPT Preparatory Committees, be this by setting a more specific timeframe for making recommendations on each cluster issue, not merely rehashing general statements, or by having each Prepcom dealing by and large with only one NPT pillar topic, the paper found that there is ample room for improvement.

Conclusion and implications
In conclusion, this paper can be boiled down to one factor; there is a complete lack of political will on behalf of the NWS to change the current status-quo. By using non-binding and crafty diplomatic language over the years, they have retained their monopoly on nuclear weapons, whilst forgoing any significant nuclear disarmament on their part. However, this situation is coming to an end as the majority of NNWS are now beginning to lose patience. Ultimately, the reader should not underestimate the fact that the world now stands at a crossroads. Policy makers can act now, and choose to ensure that the NPT regain some shred of credibility after a disastrous 2015, or they can remain motionless, put off by having reached a seemingly impossible impasse. Yet make no mistake, not to act, or to continue drifting along in the naïve hope that some of the fundamental flaws in the NPT highlighted above need not be relevant in a non Revcon year, will merely result in the NPT sliding into obscurity. Doubtless, on the 70th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the reader need not be reminded of how costly this situation could prove.

Evaluation of political financing legislation in Serbia

Marija Momic (University of Belgrade) and Darjana Macanovic (University of Belgrade)

Research question

The paper is focusing on political financing legislation in Serbia. It analyzes both, legal and regulatory framework pertaining to political financing. The aim of the paper is to provide an in - depth insight into the current legal and regulatory framework on political financing in Serbia for the purposes of identification of obstacles which such framework encounters and giving recommendations for its improvement. The reason for which the paper is focusing on Serbia, is because Serbia represents an interesting case as it was granted candidate status to the European Union in March 2012 and has recently opened first chapters of accession negotiations. Yet, political corruption seems to remain one of the most problematic issues in Serbia.

Research methods

During the course of the research, several methods were used in order to verify the research question. Firstly, valid international legal framework was analyzed in order to identify outlined requirements to which Serbia has to comply with in the area of political financing. Secondly, valid legal and regulatory framework in Serbia was analyzed in order to determine the state of affairs in the existing frameworks. Thirdly, comparative analyzes was conducted, primarily pertaining to the legislation of the countries in the Balkan region, which are the members of the European Union, so to assess how their legislation differs from the Serbian. Finally, several interviews were held with relevant representatives of Serbian Anti – Corruption Agency. All collected data were compared and analyzed for the purposes of providing an accurate image of the current state of play in the area of political financing in Serbia in order to give recommendations for the improvement of the said area.

Findings

Political goals of each country need to be taken into consideration when evaluating political finance regulations since their financial needs differ depending on whether the political parties play a crucial role in forming a political opinion also during non-election years, or only during electoral campaigns. When it comes to Serbia we found that the in the practice of political funding parties tend to turn to private funds and that leads to the unavoidable quid pro quo that usually represents the law abuse and the essence of corrupt behavior. The current legal framework on financing political activities introduced some good solutions, but we cannot be idealistic to expect that the good legal framework itself is enough to prevent all potential abuses of the political process. From the spectrum of private sources allowed by law, donations remain the most controversial sources of funding from the perspective of corruption. Political parties are legally obliged to submit financial reports that are often submitted incomplete, which also proved to be a threat to financial transparency. Anti-Corruption Agency was established in 2010 and even though the law prescribes that the Agency is autonomous and independent institution, political influence in appointing the members of the Board of the Agency is not absolutely excluded. It is the main body for

controlling and monitoring the financing of political parties. In case of non - compliance, the Agency itself does not have the authority to punish, thus the main powers it has in this case is issuing a warning measure, initiating misdemeanor proceedings and only in one particular case the Agency is allowed to press criminal charges. The core of the problem in the sanction system for disobedience of the political entities in sense is the fact that very few powers, almost none are invested in the Agency and the main player is the prosecutor's office and the court. The decision to raise the indictment or to start the misdemeanor proceeding, as well as the investigation lies in the hands of the public prosecutor. Moreover, the courts have the final say in the domain of choosing the fine in the range given by law. The most recent changes of legal framework did not solve some of the essential problems, and hence, were widely criticized by the experts and civil sector.

Recommendations

The important role that Anti-Corruption Agency has in this domain is acknowledged. It should strengthen its position and preferably be given wider competencies. The Agency should be allowed to fine political entities in the case of breaching the imperative provisions of the Law, instead of waiting for the final enforceable judgment of the court. When it comes to criminal investigation, establishing of special independent institution that resembles aforementioned USKOK in Croatia should be considered. For non - compliance (*i.e.* failing to submit the report, or complete report on financing), more severe sanctions ought to be enforced, such as bigger fines, or in more serious cases even being banned from participating in the elections, or removal from the register of political parties. If the strong and effective system for monitoring compiled of the Agency and civil organizations is to be built, we strongly believe that it would contribute to the bigger transparency and diminish illegal behavior of the political entities. Active engagement of the media is necessary, because it contributes to the transparency, as well, and further enables public influence and pressure during the monitoring.

Minors in assisted voluntary return (and reintegration) situations in the case of Austria practices, challenges and recommendations

Henrik Gomilkó, (Corvinus University of Budapest), Kristina Kroyer (University of Vienna), Clarissa Tabosa (Comenius University in Bratislava), Barbara Ziegler (University of Vienna)

Motivation and problem statement

One of the main areas in which the International Organization for Migration (IOM) works in is Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR), which – by providing logistical and financial support to individuals and families – aims at a safe and humane return of persons, who seek or need to return to their country of origin but lack the means to do so. The present research addresses the issues relating minors in AVR (and reintegration) programs in the Austrian Case. We chose to focus on children since they constitute individuals who need special attention and protection; they are a group to address in a tailored manner when it comes to their experiences within migration contexts, including their treatment within asylum systems but also within return assistance. That applies particularly concerning unaccompanied minors (UAMs), since they enter the immigration system without parents who are supposed to take care of their needs. Therefore, the main questions asked by this paper were how adequately do the AVR (and reintegration) programs in Austria adapt to the needs of minors? Which main challenges can be identified and how could these be overcome?

Research methods

The research focus has been established in collaboration with practitioners from the IOM Austria office, with whom two meetings have been organized. The meetings and the documents provided within these meetings gave access to great qualitative and quantitative data for the Austrian case, which serve as valuable sources for this paper. Furthermore, our bibliographic research combines studies and reports of IOM as well as of other UN bodies, nongovernmental and political actors working in the field, with scientific articles relevant for the topic.

Findings and recommendations

Among our findings and recommendations are the following:

- Transparency among institutions involved in assisted return programs should be ensured in order to better assess the motives of return and to provide better assistance based on this information.
- Harmonizing the practices among different federal provinces would enable Austria to be more effective in providing assistance to migrant children – unaccompanied or not. IOM

and other agencies which deal directly with migrant children are of extreme importance in giving recommendation based on their experiences.

Concerning the pre-return phase, the following is recommended:

- Clear standards and guidelines for legal guardians dealing with UAMs should be elaborated and special training provided.
- Systematizing the process of family tracing is recommended; this could ensure not only a safe return, but also the reestablishment of family ties.
- Development of child-friendly information materials on return processes directed exclusively for children should be implemented. This can include cartoons, films and all kinds of tailored approaches with a child-friendly language.

Concerning the post-return phase the following is recommended:

- Reintegration assistance should be granted to every child returning to the country of origin, especially to unaccompanied children, and respective projects should be elaborated to secure this kind of assistance by the country offices of IOM.
- Specific reintegration assistance but also any other kind of assistance provided to minors, should not end with the 18th birthday of the person, but rather be extended to ensure a healthy development into adulthood and independence.
- Adoption of a long-term monitoring system for the AVR (and reintegration) programs is necessary in order to accompany and evaluate the success of the reintegration of the child
- Rethinking the principle of sustainability is important in order to shift the institutional paradigm regarding voluntary return measures from the "sustainability of return" to the "sustainability of reintegration".

Conclusion and implications

Throughout our research, as particularly challenging we have considered the quality of the existing international dialogue of relevant stakeholders. This comes into play predominantly in the pre-return phase, where significant gaps in the bilateral communication were identified. For this stage of the process, we have also dealt with the importance of legal guardians in the case of unaccompanied minors. Moreover, we highlighted the importance of facilitating the return journey with careful consideration of the individual situation the minor is in. One aspect that is unfortunately not paid enough attention to is the emotional stress any minor in migration situations has to face, unaccompanied or not. For the post-return phase, we have identified the need for a stronger focus on access to and availability of psychosocial and health support, especially for children who might have spent large parts of their lives abroad. The biggest limitation of reintegration efforts might be their short-term perspective and the

underestimation of psychological support. Also, monitoring the 'successful' return has significant room for improvement. We have come to the conclusion that highlighting the extraordinary position and special needs of minors might possibly lead donors towards setting up an AVRR program specifically targeting them regardless of their country of origin.

Incorporating a gender perspective into counter-trafficking efforts in humanitarian work - The Syrian crisis

Daniela Paredes Grijalva (University of Vienna), Alena Hlubučková (University of Economics Prague), Alexandra Gulyás (University of Szeged)

Trafficking in Persons (TiP) is condemned by international instruments as a crime and much work has been done to combat it. However, it remains the third most profitable international crime industry in the world, generating an estimated USD 32 billion annually, and though its clandestine nature poses difficulties on data collection, it is estimated that from the millions trafficked, 70% are female. TiP happens across all time periods and locations. Research points to the significant increase of risks to TiP in times of crisis and to a protection gap in the humanitarian response: Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) or potential VoTs. Building on recommendations from IOM and based on other recent reports, this paper explores specific strategies to prevent and protect (potential) VoTs in the humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis.

In addition to a literature review of international organizations' documents, academic sources, and recent reports from the field qualitative interviews, advice and information exchange with experts and humanitarian workers took place. This contributed to a bridging of top-down and bottom-up perspectives. Four key recommendations for humanitarian actors that address key problems emerging in the Syrian crisis such as forms of violence against women, sexual slavery, early/forced marriages, debt bondage, instability and insecurity, economic hardship, persecution, babies born without certification, and the presence of armed groups, have been selected. Specific strategies and indicators have been developed to implement them with a focus on women and girls (W&G).

For 1) including Counter Trafficking (CT) measures into humanitarian responses it is necessary to a) include CT (female) experts, b) formally integrate CT as a sub-cluster, c) strengthen existing cooperating mechanisms, d) raise awareness among male and female refugees and IDPs, and e) empower and decrease economic vulnerability of women and girls by income generating projects. To 2) adapt TiP capacity building trainings to humanitarian trainings it is recommended to include a module on CT to humanitarian trainings. In order to produce 3) rapid assessments to assess the scope, scale, and risks factors to TiP it is key to a) create a concrete tool for identifying risks to TiP and data gathering and to b) establish data sharing guidelines and platform making use of existing humanitarian tools for monitoring. Finally 4) safe places for VoTs should be identified and secured by a) creating safe spaces for W&G with multi sectoral assistance, b) raising awareness among female refugees and IDPs, c) establishing more entry points for VoTs: hotlines, mobile safe spaces, etc., d) including local women in decision-making processes, and e) special protection for single female-headed households.

The fact that women and girls are at higher risk of being trafficked in crisis situations needs to be seriously considered by humanitarian actors to adequately respond to this gendered crime, not only in the region but as recent events in Europe indicate, the crisis spills over national borders.

In order to do so it is key to understand CT efforts as a life-saving activity, intrinsically related to the crisis and not TiP as a mere side effect. Pointing to particular problems affecting women and girls in the region, the paper provides specific strategies as starting points. Providing women and girls with their rights, such as, security and empowerment, contributes not only to the wellbeing of individual women and girls, but does so to society at large. The fact that women and girls are disproportionately the VoTs is related to underlying societal inequalities which place them, and have placed them historically, in a disadvantaged position.

More research and experimentation is needed to determine which particular strategies work best in which scenarios. Moreover, the closing of borders boosts smuggling industries which could lead to an increase in TiP. This also needs to be explored in order to inform policy makers.

Preventing Radicalisation Towards Violent Extremism - A Matter of Society not Security

Richard Bärnthaler (Vienna University of Economics and Business) and Stuart West (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

1. 'Radicalisation' is considered to be a structural process (relational, non-linear, and context-specific) that involves an attempt to reach an ideological or political objective (which might aim at radical societal change), undermines prevalent values (not necessarily only democratic ones), and has the potential (but not the necessity) to involve violent means including terrorism.

2. 'Radicalisation' (as touched upon in the definition above) refers simply to the attainment of views considered in opposition to those harboured by mainstream society and the potential desire to pursue political or ideological objectives associated with such views. However, the particular form of radicalisation studied in this report is that which is conducive to later violent extremism. Due to this relationship between radicalisation and violent extremism, anti-radicalisation often tends to fall within nation states' counter-terrorism strategies.

3. Anti-radicalisation differs from de- and counter-radicalisation. Whilst the latter two concepts are perceived to be focusing on rehabilitation and mitigation respectively, anti-radicalisation aims at prevention. Therefore, it has a different objective than de- and counter-radicalisation; namely mitigating the risk of individuals becoming radicalised or engaged in violent extremism. A distinct demarcation, however, is not always possible as these concepts overlap partially.

4. The design of contemporary policy regarding radicalisation clearly aligns with a concept that predominantly focuses upon the individual perpetrator as the unit of analysis.

5. Whilst willingness on the part of the intentional individual is deemed a necessary condition for violent extremism, it is insufficient alone as an explanation for an individual becoming radicalised. Instead, recruitment and radicalisation are social processes through which individuals become part of collective institutions and internalise the views and practices embodied in them. Autonomous individuals are therefore inseparable from the social realm within which they are embedded; specifically the informal institutions they operate under.

6. Contemporary anti-radicalisation policy is thus arguably misdirected. The European Parliament's Directorate-General for Internal Policies identified three key policy categories: 1) pre-emptive judicial powers such as extended pre-charge detention periods, 2) administrative measures such as stop and search activities by law enforcement agencies, and 3) soft policies such as community cohesion programs. Traditionally, nation states focused upon categories one and two, with category three policies appearing in national strategies to differing extents in later revisions.

7. Policies that have sought to promote certain values traditional to a geographical setting in a 'muscular' manner have failed as a means through which to prevent radicalisation towards violent extremism; unity through homogeneity actually serves to reproduce 'us and them' dynamics and exacerbates socio-cultural divides and instability.

8. A level of discrimination against certain groups within society is inevitable with such policies, resulting in the generation of resentment within these groups towards the authorities and their host society in general, as well as a sense of alienation. Such discrimination has come, namely, in the form of ethnic profiling. A positive feedback loop occurs, whereby the very behaviour a policy agenda seeks to stamp out is further encouraged by such policies due to their prejudicial side effects.

9. Attempts to change an individual's behaviour must thus adopt a social approach that considers structures and the power embodied within them, as opposed to simply perceiving society as a collection of distinct, empowered agents.

10. A proposed alternative approach to anti-radicalization policies is illustrated through the development of the EETIS (Education, Enlightenment, Togetherness, Illuminations, Sensitivity) model. Each of these five sub-components has a vision and a set of recommendations (which, due to the limited scope of this executive summary, cannot be illustrated here). The visions outlined are suggestions. As part of the model design process societies must formulate their own visions and renegotiate them regularly throughout their qualitative transformation. Similarly, the examples included as strategies to fulfil the recommendations associated with each vision are intended for inspiration only and not to be seen as collectively exhaustive.

The model is characterized by its:

i. aim to nurture a unified 'society' and move away from previous efforts to 'manage diversity' between disparate 'communities'
ii. wide applicability regardless of ideological position
iii. consideration of society as more than the mere totality of a broad range of unique identities and communities; rather society is considered as a distinct entity representing a qualitative transformation of these elements, whilst preserving their independent characteristics
iv. policies that respect and reflect all identities embodied, whilst always addressing societies as a whole
v. provision of a generic framework that allows for a standardized starting point, which is then to be tailored to local conditions and operationalised in a bespoke manner by an inclusive, balanced partnership representative of the whole society (e.g. diversity in administration), with a key role for local governments as facilitators of action
vi. emphasis on implementation outside of bureaucratic structures so as to maximise its flexibility and iterative nature. At the same time leadership from local governments, alongside that of the wider public sector and civil society, is necessary
vii. aspiration to change both society itself and the way in which society is experienced through one's socialisation
viii. limited approach on hard policies. Whilst they are not excluded from the model, they are rather limited in scope and restricted to dealing with the most imminent threats for which the soft policies of the EETIS model are inapplicable due to their long-term focus.
ix. separate consideration of radicalisation from the 'security' agenda (except for the hard policy component). Therefore, funding the model must involve a significant transfer of roles, responsibilities and budget from 'counter-terrorism'/law enforcement to society programmes.

Public Diplomacy and the Role of Communication

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(University of Vienna), Nicholas James Lieb (University of Vienna)

Public Diplomacy has been a powerful tool on national and international levels of political communication. It can be understood as a process of communication with the foreign audience which is being addressed by using a variety of tools aimed to achieve a positive image. The United Nations Information Centres carry out and fulfil this assignment for the UN as the extension of the Department of Public Information in the countries they serve. In the wake of increasing illegal immigration into the EU in 2015 and given the expertise, regime and reputation the UN has in this field, it is of great interest to learn how the UN can convey its message competing for attention with possibly another supranational organization with the EU. The paper evaluated the migration agenda out of a communicative point of view, possibly giving pieces of advice in an on-going subject for the involved actors. To observe different sides of the story, this research focused on discovering the media agenda during the migration crisis in Europe in 2015, as well as civil initiative groups' communication, so that the UN's appearance, opinions and public impressions would be seen from different perspectives.

Most of the previous studies were applied to English-speaking countries and focused on domestic media coverage. However, our group expanded the research to 6 countries covering online media because of its responsiveness and reactivity, as well as looking into forming all sorts of civil initiatives around the subject. Thereby, we had the chance to compare two different social clusters: the world of the political and economic elites (excessively represented by traditional, non-interactive media) and the world of the civil society (represented by Social Media). This study suggests the level of resonance of the above stated crisis in media and civil society is very high, and the international laws, instead of being a legitimate basis, added a criminal subtext to the discussion on migrants. The UN plays different roles in frames of this crisis and the communication with the audiences. Especially the visibility within the civil society is alarmingly low. The case study performed has revealed that there are possible straight causal relations between the country's involvement, participation and activeness in the process of Public Diplomacy on a global scale and its allusion in the media coverage. Furthermore, the way of the migration crisis in Europe in 2015 leads to the impression it is depicted by the media as a crisis of national states rather than supranational organizations, whereas the civil society tried to raise awareness on an international scale.

It is clearly recommended to the Office to take measures in order to increase the UN's presence with Social Media and collaboration with educational facilities.

The increase of opinion-expressing media coverage supports the idea that the frame of the issue changed. Over time, the media more and more added individual notes to the crisis, a sign the subject evoked more differentiated public views. It did not necessarily mean the public view was twisted into the positive. The topic was and still is a chance for the Information Centre Prague to display the UN in Europe in a field where it is highly skilled and could show its strengths, with Europe being one of the places where the UN's fieldwork is usually not apparent.

Emergency relocation and the future of solidarity in the European Union – a fresh approach?
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Motivation

Our paper discusses the emergency relocation schemes envisaged in the 2015 European Agenda on Migration focusing on their ability to serve as a mechanism of solidarity for all Member States as proclaimed by the European Commission in May 2015. It includes a comprehensive analysis on past and present European relocation policy, presenting the strengths and weaknesses of the programs as well as expected impacts and offers tangible recommendations for an effective relocation mechanism to strengthen solidarity among European Member States.

Research methods

As the implementation process is to this date in its early stages, and the specifics of the measures will continue to be subject to change, the paper is confined to the agreements Member States have reached at the end of September 2015 set out in Council Decisions 2015/1523 and 2015/1601, making no claim to be exhaustive. It follows an inductive approach using qualitative data provided by UNHCR Austria as well as quantitative data in the form of relevant Eurostat statistics and EU documents, to conduct a program effect case study. Based on this, it aims to answer three essential questions. First, how far do the current schemes differ from previous relocation measures which pursued the same objective and are therefore a "fresh approach"? Second, have there been any lessons learned and whether UNHCR's suggestions are included in the new schemes? Third, how far are they indeed able to achieve success both in terms of actually meeting their relocation target in the short run and most importantly in terms of increasing solidarity among the Member States in the long run for a future permanent solution? For this purpose, the paper gives a brief overview of the solidarity principle in European law and shortly introduces the 2009-2013 Pilot Project EU Relocation Malta (EUREMA). It further analyzes the specifics of the relocation schemes in comparison with previous relocation measures, as well as relevant legal instruments and proposals made by UNHCR to the Commission to enhance intra-EU solidarity.

Findings and recommendations

The research findings indicate that the Commission's proposals have overall increased the pressure on the Member States to act in solidarity and achieve considerable progress with regard to relocation within a concrete timeframe, paving the way for a future permanent solution. With the support of UNHCR, key lessons to be learned from past relocation projects were identified and valuable suggestions included in the new schemes. While the Council Decisions are considered a move in the right direction, they essentially merely constitute emergency measures designed to deal with a specific emergency situation, thus limiting the principle of internal solidarity to a state of exception. Our paper therefore offers a number of recommendations such as establishing a firm legal basis for a permanent scheme by reviewing the Dublin Regulation and triggering Articles 78(2) and 80 TFEU, expanding criteria for a fair distribution of applicants by considering the population density and the size of the territory of the Member States and adopting a binding and mandatory resettlement program as a means to reduce smuggling and trafficking.

Conclusion

Although the agreed relocation target will surely not be met until 2017, the Decisions have turned lip service into tangible actions and raised awareness of the importance of internal solidarity for the future of the European Union. However, the schemes in their current forms do not go beyond an emergency response, restricting the principle of solidarity to emergency situations. Therefore, further action needs to be taken especially with regard to the legal basis of the envisaged permanent relocation system. Recent unforeseen developments that could not be included in the paper such as the United Kingdom withdrawal from the European Union illustrate that solidarity among the Member States and in effect the Union as a whole is fragile and that further research in this field is crucial to retain this unique economic and political multilateral organization.

Revitalization of the General Assembly by reforming its procedures

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Problem statement

Since 1991, the UN General Assembly (hereafter: General Assembly) has expressed the desire to improve the effectiveness of its own work. The intended improvement is known as the 'revitalization of the General Assembly' and has been addressed in several General Assembly resolutions to date. In these resolutions, several problems have been put forward that inhibit the proper functioning of the organization, three of which are the concern of this paper. 1) There is too little co-operation between the General Assembly and the UN Security Council (hereafter: Security Council) 2) the General Assembly has too little power in selecting the UN Secretary-General (hereafter Secretary-General) and 3) too few adopted General Assembly resolutions are implemented. In this paper, we seek to find an answer to the question of how these specific problems can be overcome, or in other words, how the 'revitalization' can take effect.

Research methods

Little empirical research has been done on the topic of the revitalization of the General Assembly, by which we mean research to obtain information on the topic that goes beyond what is publicly known through General Assembly resolutions. For this reason, we conducted an exploratory research, analysing information from publicly available documents and research papers and performing a survey consisting of questions based on the issues that were pointed out above. Whereas the analysis of publicly available information served to clarify the specifics of each problem, the survey was used to get an insight from (ex-) practitioners in the General Assembly into possible solutions to each problem. After conducting an analysis of written sources, we formed a set of open-ended survey questions, which was sent out with 200 e-mails to Permanent Missions of the UN Member States, the regional integration groups of the United Nations in New York and to 20 former and current diplomats that are and were involved in the work of the General Assembly (General Assembly presidents and vice-presidents, national diplomats and UN staff).

Findings

The Security Council holds a strong position relative to the General Assembly, which is reflected in a lack of transparency of this body towards the General Assembly and its de facto exclusive power of selecting the UN Secretary-General. Furthermore, the General Assembly lacks effectiveness in implementing resolutions. In our survey, we asked practitioners to share their view on these issues and their answers generally confirmed the existence of these problems and the necessity to deal with each of them. In short, we find that the General Assembly and the Security Council should see one another less as a threat to their respective functions (less fear of encroachment) and that the Security-Council has to be more transparent in its dealings with the General Assembly; that the General Assembly should play a more important role in the selection of the Secretary-General and the selection process should be more transparent and competitive; that the reasons for why so few adopted General Assembly resolu-

tions are implemented are mainly the large number of resolutions adopted, the lack of enforcement mechanisms and a lack of political will to turn resolutions into a reality.

Conclusion and recommendations

The UN General Assembly is not as effective as it could be and the proof of this is the existence of several adopted General Assembly resolutions addressing this issue in an effort to change the situation. The irony is that these resolutions have mostly not been put into practice, even though the first resolution on UN General Assembly revitalization was adopted in 1991. Both awareness of this situation as well as optimism with regards to the relevance of the UN General Assembly are expressed by practitioners who are or have been involved in the work of the UN General Assembly. We recommend the General Assembly and the Security Council work together more closely and improve issues of transparency, to push forward with the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/69/321 on the selection of the Secretary-General and to reduce the number of General Assembly resolutions adopted and to make those that are adopted in some way binding for Member States in order to improve implementation.

A Human Rights Approach to Industrialization in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals

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One of the most contradictory aspects in contemporary development research is the role of economic growth and under what circumstances it can contribute to a positive development and increase in well-being. This question has gained momentum with the increased emphasis on human rights in the development discourse, which underlines the role of economic development as a means to an end instead of a goal by itself. The current paper contributes to the ongoing debate by taking a closer look at industrial development programs and trying to establish a causal relationship between these programs and the human rights situation in developing countries.

In the theoretical part, human rights are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to establish a coherent framework for analysis. The SDGs are clustered under the umbrella terms of basic physical, socio-cultural, political and economic needs and the most relevant in the context of the paper are selected. A positive relationship between industrial development and economic needs is assumed in order to explore the (indirect) effects of industrialization on the remaining categories and human rights.

For the analytical part, two typical examples of industrialization programs are taken from the UNIDO portfolio, as UNIDO is one of the most prominent actors in the field of industrial development. Entrepreneurship education and trade capacity building are used as case studies to estimate the possible effects such programs can have on human rights. Examples of both types of projects are analyzed qualitatively in Nigeria as well as Tanzania in order to gain a certain level of abstraction from country and project specific effects. Nevertheless, the current paper is to be understood as explorative case study and does not aim to achieve the levels of internal and external validity found in controlled experiments and large scale impact evaluations.

The analysis conducted in this paper suggests that there is a positive link between industrialization and human rights. Depending on the type of project, the effects on human rights vary and tend to affect some of the established categories stronger than others.

Although generalizations are difficult in contexts as complex as human rights and development, future research should aim at identifying elements to be integrated into the different project types to increase the possible effect on the human rights situation in the partner country, even if these human rights are not the explicit target of the respective projects.

Child Soldiers: Victims or War Criminals?
Criminal responsibility and prosecution of child soldiers under international criminal law
Darija Marković (University of Belgrade)

Motivation and problem statement

The research focuses on the issue of child soldiers in modern armed conflicts, with particular focus on the very definition and age threshold, from where it goes on to further analyze the possibility of child soldiers being prosecuted and the standings of the international legal and political community on the same issue. Though seen as a topic already widely and thoroughly researched, the reality of the problem still hinders the International Community, especially with the apparition of modern forms of armed conflicts and the increase in the number of children recruited even in the recent years. In that manner, this research tries to primarily bridge the legal gap in an area that is in dire need of a more universal solution, therefore giving suggestions for possible optimal route when talking about liability of child soldiers. Though most of the research conducted on this topic vies for victimization of child soldiers, this research offers middle ground considering the dual nature of the child soldiers' status.

Research methods

The research is mainly theoretical, based on an analysis of a variety of publications, legal documents and reports of organizations dedicated to protection of child soldiers and human rights. Using the historical method, the author delves into former practices regarding the status and prosecuting of child soldiers, therefore giving a perspective to the evolution of this issue. Complemented with this method, the normative method is applied in the analysis of operative definitions of the paper provided in relevant international legal instruments, while the comparative legal method is used to present different legal solutions in international and national legislation. In addition to these, deduction and induction were also used for this research, which can be found in the author pointing out the need for more universality in the relevant area, especially when it comes to jurisprudence that shows a lack of harmonization between national norms and rules of international law, to say the least.

Findings and recommendations

Seeing as how one of the main aims of the paper is the possibility of prosecuting child soldiers for actions against international regulations, the establishment of an age threshold

was of crucial importance for the rest of the research. By comparing various legal documents and including psychological and neuroscientific results, coming with the age threshold for criminal responsibility to be 15 years of age appears to be the most optimal number, especially bearing in mind the duality of the status of child soldiers. Furthermore, it was important to make a difference between child soldiers prosecuted as children and those prosecuted as adults, and the implications of such proceedings. The author finds that, it is possible to prosecute child soldiers as children but that the penal policy should be handled with care, i.e. with particular accent on alternative measures and reintegration into society. Regarding the prosecution of child soldiers as adults, the author leaves space for further thought in light of a recent case at the ICC, *case Ongwen*, relating to the possibility of using the fact that someone was recruited as a child as an extenuating circumstance in a trial.

Conclusion and implications

Though the author does not negate the fact that the topic of child soldiers has been researched a lot, she sees this issue as topical at a time when there is still a large number of child soldiers, especially in Central Africa, but also with the rise of groups such as ISIS, that only furthers the need for filling in the already existing legal gaps and harmonizing national and international norms in regards to child soldiers. However, though in theory it is relatively simple to come up with a solution, such a suggestion ought to receive positive reaction and acceptance, which never comes easy in the international community, even though best interests of children are at stake. It is the political aspect and the (non)existence of will for hands-on approach to the issue that are actually the obstacle, what the author in one part shows in a review of the relationship between the ICC and the African Union.

Containing Boko Haram's Transnational Reach: Toward a Developmental Approach to Border Management

Enia Bearzotti, Andrea Geranio, Vivien Kata Keresztes and Monika Müllerová

Problem statement

The focus of our paper is set on the terrorist group Boko Haram operating mainly in North-eastern Nigeria and spreading its criminal activities to the neighbouring states. More specifically, our work addresses the transnational reach of this group and investigates on border management in areas where borders present complex social issues. Through our research we tried to answer the question: "Is border control necessarily equivalent to border management?"

Research methods

While researching, we analysed the relevant secondary literature, as well as newspaper articles and official reports. Based on these resources, we focused our attention on some of Boko Haram's cross-border activities, namely arms trafficking, recruitment and training of affiliates, human trafficking, and smuggling of migrants. Because Boko Haram's activities heavily rely on border porosity, we proceeded questioning the traditional approach usually adopted in border management by states, an approach that merely foresees an increase in the number of soldiers and heightened law enforcement measures. We, instead, advanced a different kind of border management, one that prioritizes the socio-economic development of people living in border regions. The idea behind is that such geographic areas should be considered as critically important centres of cultural, social and economic interactions that shall be not only protected, but also promoted by state institutions. Addressing these concerns would be a fundamental first step to make people more resistant to any pressure from Boko Haram. Upon such argumentation, we then drew our recommendations for Nigeria and our conclusions.

Findings and recommendations

In our work we identified some crucial points of Nigeria's current situation when it comes to Boko Haram, namely:

- The multidimensionality of Boko Haram's threat
- Border porosity as an advantage for Boko Haram
- An inefficient security-oriented approach to border management
- A chronic underdevelopment in border areas

Given these guidelines, we further focused on seeking some possible solutions and formulating recommendations. Based on our research findings, we presumed that for effective border management – which would allow the borderland communities to live their lives again under secure and ordinary circumstances – it is necessary to improve four independent but correlated issues:

- Social development
- Economic development
- Securing frontiers
- Cooperation with neighbouring countries

We came to the conclusion that cooperation at all levels, harmonization of development and security and a people-centred approach to border management are needed.

Conclusion

In our opinion, there is the need for a different approach to border management. One that does not only view frontiers as lines demarcating territorial sovereignties, but as a holistic, comprehensive and developmental approach that considers in the first place the wealth and safety of border communities. This is the key for weakening Boko Haram's transnational spread. To conclude with a quotation from our research paper, "although border security is an extremely important pillar of border management, it shall not be the sole."