

APEC

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1. WELCOME:

Dear delegates, our warmest welcome to the APEC committee. On behalf of the leadership roles we deeply thank you for your interest on Simonu Bogotá Región 2022.

We are convinced that it is the youth that moves Simonu forward, using diversity to build and impact the world through change; the simulation becomes a stage for peace building and democracy, as well as it develops skills like social and emotional sensitivity, empathy, leadership, teamwork, speech and assertive communication.

Equally, this is a safe space that gives integral formation of each and every one of us the place it deserves, not only impacting on the academic field but also in the way we relate to others, making us understand differences unite us and from them we join in the great family that characterizes Simonu.

Within the content of this guide you will find material of great educational quality to further boost the construction of the simulation and development of the debate. We are very glad to have the opportunity to work alongside you to build this simulation hand by hand, becoming your support to generate a kind, safe space for everyone.

The topic in question for this committee will be your window for learning and consciousness about the world and our daily life-impacting environment. It is going to be a very demanding experience, but also comprehensive of each one of us, and educating in the necessary culture of consensus.

We are convinced that this will be a very enriching space for every delegate, enlarging ideas and your ability to communicate them in our XXI century society. We look forward to sharing this experience with you, remembering that Simonu changes your life, and you change the world. Welcome!

2. TOPIC: Hunger and social gaps in the Asian continent.

The topic is the reduction of hunger and poverty gaps in the Asian continent. Since the pandemic started in 2020 over 429 million people has faced hunger and poverty in the Asian continent, in this region alone more than one billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020 leading to over 380 million of children and adults in Asia not getting a proper nutrition in their diets. Nearly 80 million children in Asia under the age of 5 have faced hunger for so long that they are now stunted, but at the same time, Asia is experiencing growing rates of obesity. Millions of children in Asia are becoming overweight and obese because the food their families can afford lacks nutritional value. As a result, they eat a lot of processed foods full of fat, salt and sugar. Poverty and hunger affect a child's physical and cognitive development, and the effect starts even before the child is born. . Anemia and iron deficiency in pregnant women are so prominent in Asia because of the widespread hunger, as a matter of fact, 400 million Asian women of childbearing age are anemic this it has been identified as a public health concern. The inadequate sanitation infrastructure and poor hygiene practices are prevalent across Asia, making existing hunger-related problems worse. [<https://www.compassion.com/poverty/poverty-in-asia.htm>]

3. FOCUS: Creation of regional inflation, inequality, localized wealth, and resource distribution policy.

The focus is the study of inflation, localized wealth, and resource distribution. Likewise, the inequality generated by poverty and hunger, it's well known that the Asia-Pacific countries had an increased in economic inequality which was trigger by Covid-19 because of this the top 1% income share oated around 19% between 1993 and 2005, then it gradually decreased to 17% in 2019. At the same time the share of total national income of the bottom 50% stagnated around 12% during the entire period. Asia and the Pacific used to experienced steady economic growth in recent decades. Job opportunities increased, and many of those jobs pay more than they used to. Unfortunately, the benefits of Asia's recent economic growth are not available to everyone. Far too many people still live beneath the global poverty line. A large percentage of the Asian population is employed by the agricultural sector. But still all farms are located in rural areas and because of this at least three out of every four people in rural communities in Asia Pacific are poor.

As a matter of fact, more than four out of every five people in South Asia who suffer from hunger live in rural communities. Economically, most jobs that pay enough to help people live above the poverty line are found in sectors other than agriculture. Most of the jobs are also only available in urban areas. But many families cannot afford to move in an attempt to find a better job.

More than 700 million people, or 10 per cent of the world population, still live in extreme poverty today, struggling to fulfill the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation, to name a few.

Most people are living on less than \$1.90 a day live in sub-Saharan Africa. Worldwide, the poverty rate in rural areas is 17.2 per cent—more than three times higher than in urban areas.

For those who work, having a job does not guarantee a decent living. In fact, 8 per cent of employed workers and their families worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2018. One out of five children live in extreme poverty. Ensuring social protection for all children and other vulnerable groups is critical to reduce poverty.

Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 32 million and 26 million people, respectively, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic. [<https://www.compassion.com/poverty/poverty-in-asia.htm>]

4. ABOUT THE COMMISSION:

- The APEC commission focuses on creating greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration and APEC also works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. . APEC recognize the impacts of climate change, its members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources. APEC ensures that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region. For example, APEC's initiatives to synchronize regulatory systems are a key step to integrating the Asia-Pacific economy. A product can be more easily exported with just one set of common standards across all economies. APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies participate on the basis of open dialogue and respect for views

of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

The restaurant chain has various programs with which it has helped empower many people in communities throughout Mexico. One of its most important initiatives is Productive Projects. It is an inclusive business model where companies incorporate low-income communities into their supply chains, improving their quality of life.

- The APEC commission main focuses are creating greater prosperity for the people living on the region, some of APEC's biggest issue is the economic inequality that exist in the country by giving bigger opportunities for the for fortunate and less for the ones who actually need it. Taking in count APEC works for provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad this issues are the ones we have to solve by bettering the economic inequality in Asia before it only becomes worse and there's no coming back from it
- The main issue the commission addresses is hunger and the poverty, the study of inflation, localized wealth, and resource distribution. Likewise the inequality generated by poverty and hunger in the Asian Pacific which are one of the issues in the continent that APEC has been trying to solve over the years. All these issues increased with Covid-19. The poor go hungry on a regular basis. What food they can afford is cheap and often lacking in the essential proteins, vitamins and minerals necessary to survive, let alone thrive. Regardless of the setting, poverty and inequality are the main causes of hunger and all the forms of malnutrition across the Asia-Pacific region in addition to the economic inequality the poor in Asia experience, access to health care, sanitation, proper nutrition and education is also inadequate. Additionally, many communities have struggled to recover from a series of natural disasters that have hit Asia hard in recent years, such as cyclones, floods, tsunamis and earthquakes.
- APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. For example, APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad. Recognizing the impacts of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.

The forum adapts to allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being. This includes ensuring disaster resilience, planning for pandemics, and addressing terrorism.

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APEC's structure is based on both a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to APEC Leaders and Ministers who annually set the vision for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked with implementing these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. Members also take individual and collective actions to carry out APEC initiatives in their individual economies with the assistance of APEC capacity building projects.

(APEC, 2022)

5. KEY CONCEPTS:

- **APEC:** The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. (apec.org)
- **Zero Hunger:** Hunger is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. It becomes chronic when the person does not consume a sufficient amount of calories (dietary energy) on a regular basis to lead a normal, active and healthy life. (<https://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>)
- **Region:** an administrative area, division, or district. (Merriam-Webster.com)
- **Poverty gaps:** The poverty gap is the ratio by which the mean income of the poor falls below the poverty line. (data.oecd.org)
- **Continent:** A continent is a large continuous mass of land conventionally regarded as a collective region.

- **Rural zone:** Rural areas are traditionally areas not included in the urban definition, and are usually large, open areas with few houses and few people, as opposed to urban areas which have larger population.
- **Urban areas:** An urban area is the region surrounding a city. Most inhabitants of urban areas have nonagricultural jobs. Urban areas are very developed.
- **The Sustainable Development Goals:** are calls for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery. (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>)

6. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The historical context of Asia Pacific is worrying since the figures of hunger in this region are alarming. According to EPAGRO, Asia Pacific needs to reduce the number of malnutrition by 3 million people per month to at least achieve some of the SDGs that they have proposed to achieve. Likewise, it is worrying to know that more than 500 million people go hungry in this region daily due to the large poverty gaps that exist today and have been entrenched for some years; It is not a secret that Asia Pacific faces large gaps in poverty and inequality that lead to zero hunger, in the same way that COVID-19 had a great negative impact on this type of gap since it caused them to increase by a little more than 50 million in the last two years. A clear example of this problem is Bangkok, a state in which food security and malnutrition increased disproportionately by 2021, in which, according to the FAO, more than 375 million people went hungry (Compassion International, 2022).

That said, it is important to emphasize that one of the triggers for this problem is inadequate access to nutritious food. In the year 2021 Asia and the Pacific regional overview of food Security in Nutrition stated that in less than a year Asia Pacific increased the zero hunger gaps with 150 million more people in this state. We also know that another of the possible triggers is the increase

in prices, that is, inflation, which has affected the workforce; Consequently, unemployment gaps increase, which causes more poverty (Compassion International, 2022).

COVID-19 caused a negative trend in this type of problem since in recent years the fight for compliance with the SDGs such as: zero hunger and poverty reduction has stalled, UNICEF also informs us that during this period the The children's growth and development was greatly affected as the lack of a nutrient rich diet caused their immune and anatomical systems to lag behind. In the same way we know that there was a struggle on the part of the government through food supply chains, however this did not have a positive effect, but on the contrary, it further aggravated these hunger and poverty gaps (Sustainable Development Goals (2022).

These factors or trends are too worrying since they allow us to see the reality of some countries such as Asia Pacific where it is very likely that more than one million people do not have access to a nutrient-rich meal per day, for which we know that this would imply a caloric deficit that would corrosively affect the subsistence of the human being. That said, it is also known that the government has tried to improve this situation, which is why they intend to end poverty in Asia by 2030. On the other hand, we are also aware that at the same time in the Pacific there is a gap of overweight in people, from which we could deduce that there is a decline in the administration of vital resources for the human being, this leads us to realize that in reality Asia Pacific It has the natural resources for the subsistence of its population, however there is an inefficiency in the management of its resources and their administration. During the year 2022, the government and several political and business leaders have made clear their fidelity to the ideology of free trade since they intend that the conviction of this creates a space where people can undertake and thus have sufficient economic income to 3 meals a day. Thus, it is proposed to reverse protectionist ideas in this region so that in this way the economic freedom that would lead to a balance between supply and demand is allowed (FAO, 2022).

Taking into account the foregoing, we know that by promoting the abolition of the protectionist culture, focused support would be given to agri-food systems which would provide better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better quality of life. The FAO and UNICEF

affirm that the government must concentrate on meeting these types of needs so that in this way small family farmers have support that allows economic stability. They also call for a focus on feeding vulnerable groups, among them the young children women and disabled (FAO, 2022).

The government has made commitments that guarantee the recovery of food security where they promise to promote hard work is transformed systems that will provide adequate nutrition for the population, the nutrition for growth summit and the United Nations conference also talk about change climate and its repercussions on the malnutrition that Asia Pacific is experiencing, this tells us that climatic problems have affected agriculture since many of the crops or agricultural products have been affected physically and chemically, in some cases there is talk about climate change that causes crops not to prosper in the same way even though the soil is totally fertile (Europapress, 2022).

Some of the countries with the highest malnutrition in Asia Pacific are North Korea with more than 40%, Afghanistan with more than 25%, Papua New Guinea with almost 25%, and East Timor with more than 22%. In the same way, Index Mundi informs us that 1 of the countries located in Asia with the greatest malnutrition is Yemen, where its value is over 45.40%, it is currently considered the country with the greatest malnutrition (FAO, 2022).

Another of the great triggers is the increase in the poverty gap where during the year 2022 it has been calculated that more than 500 million people, mostly women and girls, continue to face extreme poverty, which hinders economic growth since there is a great difference between rich and poor that is marked in society, we could say that there is a localized wealth that does not guarantee a future of prosperity and total regional stability in which there is a balance between supply and demand and economic status , Since it is necessary for the government to improve fiscal policies and public spending. Likewise, places like Van Gogh have different residential modernizations and skyscrapers where people live without basic services and with little protection against environmental problems such as the weather, here we can see reflected the effects on the economy that cause the gap between rich and poor. poor and their differences. In fact, at the same time, the economists of the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank show

us and inform us that inequality is extreme and compare it with the situation that Asia is currently experiencing, in the same way it shows that there is a great obstacle with respect to a futuristic development.

We know that inequality is one of the consequences of development, however, extreme wealth and poverty are the result of deliberate political choices in which many of the governors make bad decisions regarding the administration of the country and its resources. In many cases, climate change or global warming is taken into account.

Asians live in a difficult situation since, through inequality, they are feeding deep-rooted discrimination involving women, ethnic minorities such as indigenous people, lower castes and differences between races. During the year 2022, the current government of Asia has decided to reform its policies to guarantee a totally stable future with a better quality of life for each 1 of the citizens. Its strategies to combat the gap of poverty, hunger and inequality are:

Empowerment of citizens, where low-income people are guaranteed to actively participate in the design of institutions and political development.

Equitable access to basic services, where it is planned to offer the population free health and educational services with the best possible quality.

Equitable access to land and other productive resources; In this field, they will strengthen the rights of poor people and expand their access to the resources and goods necessary for their subsistence.

Fair wages, in which it is planned to guarantee that all people receive a fair remuneration with respect to the relationship between their work and their effort, taking into account supply, demand and the amount of money necessary to survive.

Fair taxation, where it is guaranteed that all people will pay taxes depending on their economic income, for which it is understood that there will not be an excessive tax burden on the poorest

people.

In conclusion, it is necessary for the contemporary government to fight for climate change and begin to make use of zero-polluting alternative energies, since in this way they will reduce global warming. Likewise, it is necessary to review the product and the fiscal value to verify that in reality Asia Pacific is facing a difficult situation where more than 500 million people suffer from famine due to the great gaps of extreme poverty where many people they don't even have a home. Having said the above, it is necessary to clarify that proposals must be drawn up in which all fields, both rich and poor, benefit and none is affected in the future, since a common good will be built. Finally, we know that Asia Pacific faces a difficult situation, however, by having proposals focused on a common good and collective progress, it will be possible to achieve zero hunger by 2030, with inequality gaps and extreme poverty gaps.

7. GUIDING QUESTIONS TO LEAD THE DEBATE

- What can my delegation do to help the Asia-Pacific Continent taking in count my resources?
- What are the most sustainable options for the Asia-Pacific Continent?
- What would be the fastest and most effective ways to end hunger in APEC?
- How could food sovereignty help in hunger in APEC?
- The pandemic increased hunger in APEC? How does poverty increase hunger?

8. METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE IN THE COMMISSION:

Recommendations for the preparation and participation in the debate, is recommended to the delegations to, It is recommended that the delegations assume their role, whether they are representatives of states, departments, municipalities, localities, youth or students.

For Simonu Bogotá-Region it's very important that you go prepared to the simulation with the next information: The construction of the portfolio (saves the necessary information for your time of debate), your commission profile, your delegation's profile, etc. All these inputs become relevant for the training and development of your work as a delegate. All these in the search of greater knowledge regarding the topic to be discussed. Remember to use reliable sources and important elements, watch out! Not all the data you identify is relevant. Be strategic!

Also, keep in mind how Simonu Bogotá-region helps you; you have access to the commission guide, where you can find essential information on the topic and approach of the commission,



remember to build your supporting documents, such as the opening speech and the position statement, documents included in the portfolio. Keep in mind that you must consider historical, social, demographic, cultural and economic aspects of the delegation.

Remember, that in Simonu there are two types of commissions: (Specialized and Traditional), in the case of traditional commissions, you will represent countries, cities, departments or municipalities, which means, you will not be representing yourself, keep in mind that Simonu is a great role play. In the case of specialized commissions such as Bogotá, Network of Representatives, Comptrollers, Lobbyists and Restorative School Justice, the delegation is "Youth" or "Student Representative" that is, you represent yourself.

During the simulation

At this time, you should be super excited and prepared thanks to the training you have acquired and the construction of work tools that will be put to the test in the simulation. Don't worry, everything will be fine. Remember to make use of the information you have prepared in the contextualization, the historical analysis, the development of proposals and solutions, of the theme and approach assigned to the commission. Be proactive, question your colleagues, analyze the scope, impact and needs of the delegation you represent, interact and work as a team.

For your interventions, make proper use of your body language as it enhances your oratory, be careful with the use of fillers (“eeeh!”, “mmm!”), etc.), some spaces in silence are also useful.

Remember the diplomatic language, because you are a representative of a State, department, municipality, locality, you must be respected for such dignity, as well as be respectful to others.

After the simulation

By this time, you should have already given your best in building the options to respond to the commission's problem. The product of your work and your teammates will be visible in the projects resolutions that are the final result of the debate in the commission.

9. MAIN WEBSITES:

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