

(LOGO)

STUDY GUIDE FOR Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to ODM MUN 2020. We, at the 'SOCHUM', shall be looking for a debate charged with facts as well as efficient diplomacy.

This resource guide by no means, should serve as the end of your research but only as a starting point to familiarise you with all possible umbrella topics we would like you to discuss. However, since the agendas mentioned here are so broad, we would love to see you all explore newer realms within them and bring forth unconventional caucuses to debate on. Extensive research, combined with strong argumentation and an honest representation of facts makes for a good MUN performance. Given the political nature of this committee, we shall be judging you based on your reflexes, presence of mind and your socio-political skill set.

Rather than cloning existing statements of the portfolio you are representing, we would be expecting you to find newer ideas and implementations, while abiding by your political and ideological constraints. Do not limit your research to the topics mentioned here but logically deduce the issues mentioned and associate your research with them to bring newer facets to the table.

This committee will strictly proceed in English, please feel free to speak as often as you wish because while your oration influences your modulation to some extent, it is your content that makes the biggest difference to us.

We are confident that this will be an enriching experience for you as well as us. Let us make sure together that we enjoy the debate and learn from each other while discussing imperative issues of national trust. Wishing you all the very best and hope to see you at the conference. Feel free to reach out to any of us in case of any queries!

Best Regards,

Shubhanker Gupta
(President, SOCHUM)

Mareyum Sultan
(Vice-President, SOCHUM)

What is SOCHUM?

When the UN General Assembly debates human rights and social issues, it does not authorize specific action by UN agencies; that job belongs to the ECOSOC. This committee works instead to establish the goals of international humanitarian policy. Always working through member states, it tries to forge the long-term agenda for governments as they consider their social problems, aid other governments and work with international civil society (non-governmental organizations).

SOCHUM's primary focus is on questions of human rights, particularly those specific issues addressed by the Human Rights Council. Other humanitarian issues include women's rights, rights of the child, treatment of refugees, racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. Some social issues addressed include crime, justice, drug control, family issues, and people with disabilities.

Social issues often overlap with armed conflict and the security of states. Armed conflict often is directly linked to the scarcity of food, water and other resources, all worsened by global climate change. For example, the desertification of Sub-Saharan Africa forces tribes to compete for water and grazing land, enflaming fighting. Similarly, the illegal drug trade has turned major cities around the world into virtual war zones.

How Is SOCHUM as committee important for National Security Law implemented in Hong Kong?

In regards to what has been implemented in Hong Kong is strictly a domestic issue which under an existing framework shouldn't be interfered by an International organisation. That being said it is important to realise that certain humanitarian clauses do come into play when this law is seen under a microscope.

Agenda: National security law implemented in Hong Kong

What is this law all about?

Hong Kong was always meant to have a security law, but could never pass one because it was so unpopular. So this is about China stepping in to ensure the city has a legal framework to deal with what it sees as serious challenges to its authority.

The details of the law's 66 articles were kept secret until after it was passed. It criminalises any act of:

- secession - breaking away from the country

- subversion - undermining the power or authority of the central government

- terrorism - using violence or intimidation against people

- collusion with foreign or external forces.

What will it mean in Hong Kong?

The law came into effect at 23:00 local time on 30 June, an hour before the 23rd anniversary of the city's handover to China from British rule.

It gives Beijing powers to shape life in Hong Kong it has never had before. Critics say it effectively curtails protest and freedom of speech - China has said it will return stability.

The new law's key provisions include that:

Crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces are punishable by a maximum sentence of life in prison

Damaging public transport facilities can be considered terrorism

Those found guilty will not be allowed to stand for public office

Companies can be fined if convicted under the law

Beijing will establish a new security office in Hong Kong, with its law enforcement personnel - neither of which would come under the local authority's jurisdiction

This office can send some cases to be tried in mainland China - but Beijing has said it will only have that power over a "tiny number" of cases

Besides, Hong Kong will have to establish its national security commission to enforce the laws, with a Beijing-appointed adviser

Hong Kong's chief executive will have the power to appoint judges to hear national security cases, raising fears about judicial autonomy

Importantly, Beijing will have power over how the law should be interpreted, not any Hong Kong judicial or policy body. If the law conflicts with any Hong Kong law, the Beijing law takes priority

Some trials will be heard behind closed doors.

People suspected of breaking the law can be wire-tapped and put under surveillance

Management of foreign non-governmental organisations and news agencies will be strengthened

The law will also apply to non-permanent residents and people "from outside [Hong Kong]... who are not permanent residents of Hong Kong".

Research

Once you know which delegation you will be part of in which committee, you should start learning more about both of them. During committee sessions, it will be useful to have a working knowledge of the following areas:

- » Structure and history of the United Nations, with a special focus on your committee: What are its competences and in which areas is it active?
- » The agenda items of your committee
 - » “Your” country/delegation: Important historic events, current government (that’s what you’ll be representing!), different ethnic groups within the population, etc. There will always be situations in which you have to improvise so it’s important to know the key facts about your country’s positions.

Questions

Here are a few questions that could guide you through this process:

- » What are the key aspects of the agenda items?
- » What makes the issues relevant?
- » Which solutions are conceivable? Which disadvantages do they have?
- » What has already been tried by the UN or others? Did it work?
 - » What is your delegation’s position towards the topics that will be debated in your committee?
- » What is most important to your delegation? Is there anything that you need to see in the final output of the committee?

Research Links

<https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc>

[https://web.stanford.edu/~tomz/working/TingleyTomz-UNSC-2012-11-04.p](https://web.stanford.edu/~tomz/working/TingleyTomz-UNSC-2012-11-04.pdf)

[df](#)

[https://cpr.unu.edu/a-comprehensive-analysis-of-the-un-security-council.ht](https://cpr.unu.edu/a-comprehensive-analysis-of-the-un-security-council.html)

[ml](#)

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-members-security-council>