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**Model United Nations**

**Innlandet 2023**

[United Nations Economic and Social Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Economic_and_Social_Council)

A logo of a united nations organization

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**Rebuilding infrastructure and preventive measures in the wake of the -October- floods in Nigeria.**

**Chairs: Mikkel Eng Mathiassen, Arve Reier Tømmerstigen**

Distinguished Delegates,

We wish you the warmest welcome to our third annual INMUN conference: As this year’s ECSOC OCHA chairs, it is our role to introduce you to the committee, the topic and issue, and provide you with basic information, which you will find in this report. Also, we would like you to know that you can approach us concerning anything and everything.

This committee will be addressing the issue of floods in Nigeria. The reason for the choice of this topic is the sheer scale of this “mundane” flood, and the rising need to create framework for humanitarian aid as the climate crisis keeps developing. 34 of Nigeria 36 federal states have been affected and more than 3.6 million people have been displaced. There have been disease outbreaks in areas ravaged by the floods and there are already 10,000 cases of cholera as of October 15. This issue has been underreported in western media, overshadowed by political events such as the US election. Action is needed in the area to prevent a worsening humanitarian crisis. As Model United Nations delegates, we hope that your resolutions will bring about possible courses of action and solutions.

We thank you for attending our conference and choosing to be a part of this committee. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy your time with us, and that the work we do will be successful.

If you have any questions, you can always contact us via our email addresses:

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Best wishes,

Mikkel Eng Mathiassen, UNSC Chair

Arve Reier Tømmerstigen, UNSC Chair

**About the Economic and Social Council**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with coordinating the 14 UN specialized agencies, ten functional groups and five regional commissions, whilst also being a forum for international economic and social issues. Among the organs established under the Charter of the United Nations (ECOSOC) is unique it is not a universal body, like the General Assembly, it has no binding powers like the Security Council (SC) and has no authoritative legal voice like the International Court of Justice. The mandate of ECOSOC is to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation

ECOSOC is composed of 54 member states elected by the general assembly for 3-year overlapping terms. To achieve equitable geographical representation the seats on the council are split between the five regional groups within the UN. The split is as follows:

• African States: 14 seats

• Asia-Pacific States: 11 seats

• Eastern European States: 6 seats

• Latin American and Caribbean States: 10 seats

• Western European and other States: 13 seats

In addition to these members states over 3200 NGOS have consultative status and participate in the council for ECOSOC and by extension the UN as a whole.

The council has the power to establish subsidiary bodies, including functional commissions and funds. It can also recommend non-binding policy on social, cultural and health issues

**Delegations**

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| **Federal Republic of Nigeria** | **United States of America** | **The People's Republic of China** | **Republic of India** |
| **Republic of the Niger** | **The Kingdom of Norway** | **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** | The Commonwealth of Australia |
| **The Russian Federation** | People's Republic of Bangladesh | **The Republic of Ghana,** | **French Republic** |

**Key terms**

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causes of disasters.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) refers to the management of disasters, rather than preparedness and response activities. Today, Disaster Risk Reduction tends to be used interchangeably with Disaster Risk Management, to refer to the anticipation, reduction and implementation of necessary resilience arrangements.

Prevention: Activities and measures aimed at avoiding disaster risks. This cluster of activities includes for example relocating exposed people and assets away from high-risk areas.

Mitigation: Reduction or limitation on the impacts of hazards and related disasters are covered in Mitigation activities. This includes constructing flood defences, planting trees to stabilize slopes and implementing strict land use.

Preparedness: Increased knowledge and capacities of governments, professional response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals in order to anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions are part of Preparedness activities.

Disasters A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts

Flood: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from overflow of inland or tidal waters from the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source

Nigeria National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA): The national agency in Nigeria responsible to manage and prevent disasters.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

**Background Information**

Due to excessive rainfall over a longer period of time the collapse of Alau Dam in the state of Borno acted as a catalyst for a wider failure of infrastructure. This further exacerbated the issue of heavy rainfall where local infrastructure such as sewers and dams could not cope with the inundation of water. As of the first of November, the flooding has lasted over 50 days, with more than 3.6 million people displaced, hundreds dead and even more missing. In addition, destruction of farmland has lead to crop losses amounting to enough food to feed approximately 10 million people for six months.

The flooding is suspected to have in part been caused both by climate change and fragile unmanaged infrastructure. The flooding also take place in already vulnerable areas of Nigeria, such as the 15-year-old armed rebellion by Boko Haram that has ravaged the infrastructure in the Borno state.

Any potential solution should address both the humanitarian crisis unfolding, but also the cause of the flooding. That being climate change and insufficient infrastructure.

**Current UN response:**

Current UN response include 5 million US$ to ramp up flood response. This money is meant to bolster health care systems in the area to tackle the risk of virus and bacteria outbreaks in addition to ensuring basic necessities such as food, clean water and shelter for some of the more inaccessible population.

Moreover, many UN subsidiaries, such as the world food programme (WFP), and other humanitarian agencies is already on the ground providing support. The response by these organizations mainly targets the northeastern region of the country, cantered around the town of Maiduguri as that is the epicentre of the flooding.

A request by the UNHCR for additional funding of 107$ million in the region has only partially been approved, resulting to funding of 28% of the desired amount.

**Further reading:**

<https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/news/norcap-supports-localised-flood-response-in-north-east-nigeria/>

<https://www.dw.com/en/are-nigerias-floods-caused-by-humans-or-climate-change/a-70265152>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/nigeria/nigeria-floods-situation-report-no-3-15-october-2024>

<https://reliefweb.int/disaster/fl-2024-000159-nga>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/nigeria/un-releases-additional-us-5-million-ramp-flood-response-nigerias-bauchi-borno-and-sokoto-states>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154441>

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-scrambles-aid-devastating-floods-sweep-nigeria>