

HISAR SCHOOL JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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I. Background Information on Brazil

Brazil is the largest and most populous country in South America, and it comprises half the continent's landmass. Its total area encompasses a wide range of wetlands, savannas, plateaus, and most notable of all, the largest portion of the Amazon Rainforest. Having a long inland border, Brazil is a neighbor to every South American country except Chile and Ecuador. Brazil was initially settled by the Portuguese in the early 16th century, and after being administrated by the Portuguese as a colony for more than three centuries, it gained independence in 1822. Brazil followed a constitutional monarchial system in the aftermath of its independence until the declaration of a republic by the military in 1889. Since then, Brazil has been a federal republic divided into states. Deemed as one of the world's emerging markets, Brazil is the eighth-largest economy in the world and is a prominent nation in mining, agriculture, and manufacturing. To add up, Brazil has been a net recipient of immigrants, especially within its southeastern regions, and it is a nation home to numerous cultures ranging from Brazilians of European descent to Amerindians. Regardless, Brazil faces certain hindrances such as social inequalities among majority and minority groups, an occasionally impotent political system, and environmental degradation.

II. Previous Attempts of Brazil at Resolving the Issues

A. The question of illicit drug trafficking among Latin American cartels:

- Currently, Brazilian drug gangs play an integral role in supplying Europe's drug market in terms of drug exports, and the Brazilian cocaine trade spans grand distances across the country. Brazil's location between the Atlantic Ocean and drug-producer countries highly contributes to Brazil's position as a major cocaine exporter to the European Union by the criminal organization First Capital Command (FCC).
- President Jair Bolsonaro's government has been accelerating anti-narcotics efforts together with the other Andean States through targeting the gangs by focusing on their finances and transferring jailed individuals pertaining to these gangs to maximum-security federal lockups.
- Brazil has also been displaying cooperation with other countries profoundly affected by drug trafficking. To illustrate, Brazilian and Belgian authorities reached a mutual agreement of

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collaboration in 2019 by means of comprehensive information sharing, fostered port security, and prevention of money laundering.

- Lastly, the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), launched a project to set up the Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction (CoE Brazil) in order to help strengthen the information on drug supply throughout the country and to improve the technical infrastructure of facilities generating data on illicit drug supply.

B. The question of legislations for protecting the Amazon Forests in all borders/countries:

- Brazil is perhaps the most substantial country in the issue, as approximately 60% of the entire Amazon Rainforest is located within Brazil's borders and it accounts for about 40 percent of Brazil's total area. In Brazil alone, Amazon serves as a home to more than 24 million people, including hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Peoples from 180 different communities.
- Beginning from the 1990s, the Brazilian government commenced efforts to preserve the Amazon from overexploitation and deforestation such as adopting the Forest Code that reduced deforestation by setting boundaries on cultivating the land (solely 20% of the purchased land allowed for agricultural purposes).
- In 2021, Brazil saw the worst level of deforestation since 2006, and deforestation has been skyrocketing since the inauguration of President Jair Bolsonaro who has endorsed mining and agriculture activities, which is perturbing bearing in mind that Amazon was significantly damaged during the 2019 conflagration and mass fires.
- Brazil, alongside a number of nations, pledged to end deforestation and its socioeconomic impacts by 2030 during the COP26 climate summit held in Glasgow. The said pledge comprises roughly 19 billion dollars of public and private funds.
- To reduce emissions yielded by the Amazonian degradation, Brazil created the Amazon Fund in 2009, which focuses on the preservation and suitable management of forests in the Amazon Basin. The Amazon Fund mandates combatting deforestation, enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+), Ecological and Economic Zoning (ZEE), land-use planning, recovery of deforested areas, and landholding regularization.

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- Brazil ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of the International Labour Organization, which enables tribal communities to possess rights on lands and resources. Brazil is also a signatory of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Brazil took a major step in halting deforestation once and for all when it proposed and adopted the Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM). The project aims at eradicating and/or significantly reducing deforestation by prohibiting traders and dealers from purchasing soy grown on deforested land. The ASM, proven by the conspicuous results, has reduced deforestation in soy-suitable locations in the Amazon Basin.

C. The question of the territorial conflict between Guatemala and Belize:

- Brazil does not have a direct connection to the issue.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Brazil On the Issues

A. The question of illicit drug trafficking among Latin American cartels:

- Member States may adopt inclusive policies and legislations, like the Cato Accord, to regulate raw material production which is exploited by cartels frequently to illegally produce drugs in underground centers. A fine source of inspiration could be the Cato Accord, which aims to protect the coca grower communities within optimum boundaries while addressing the issue of drug trafficking.
- Educating and rehabilitating the target consumers of drug cartels is also crucial. Countries should consider cooperating with the UNODC, as their agenda proposes a comprehensive way to approach populations affected by illicit drug trade through implementing projects in the areas of health, education, and public safety.
- Member States must introduce measures to prevent illicit drug trafficking from reaching the government ranks through analyzing the backgrounds of officials pertaining to the government in a detailed way, to ensure that governments have the capacity to intercept drug trafficking and money laundering.

B. The question of legislations for protecting the Amazon Forests in all borders/countries:

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- Primarily, adopting zero-deforestation policies is necessary regarding the requirements of the agenda item. The notion of “zero-deforestation” must be rendered more widespread. Deforestation mainly occurs due to countries’ neglect, and ending it is up to countries’ own initiative. Both the public and private sectors must be encouraged to cooperate when addressing deforestation, and enterprises must not encourage crops production and harness from deforested areas.
- Recognizing and improving upon the rights of indigenous peoples is absolutely necessary. Most of the indigenous peoples have been living in the Amazon Rainforest for years, and deforestation infringes upon their stability and cultural values nearly as much as it jeopardizes the region’s biodiversity. Indigenous peoples must bear the right of sovereignty over their lands and the right of self-governance, and improvements could be made upon legislations upon the aforesaid topic.
- Last but not least, Member States may adopt an initiative similar to that of Brazil’s Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM), to forestall the en masse production of crops in agricultural land generated through deforestation. Such a policy should especially be embraced by companies operating in the relevant Member States.

C. The question of the territorial conflict between Guatemala and Belize:

- An environment where the two bodies could renew upon their claims could be managed. Since the case is now ongoing in the International Court of Justice (ICJ), whether the tribunal will be deemed just by both sides can be best ensured when valid claims are entertained. Third parties must act as mediators between the sides since the claim asserted by Guatemala is too major to be neglected.
- To forestall any armed conflicts from escalating, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) could supervise negotiations upon the dispute, and a relevant commission may be established.

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