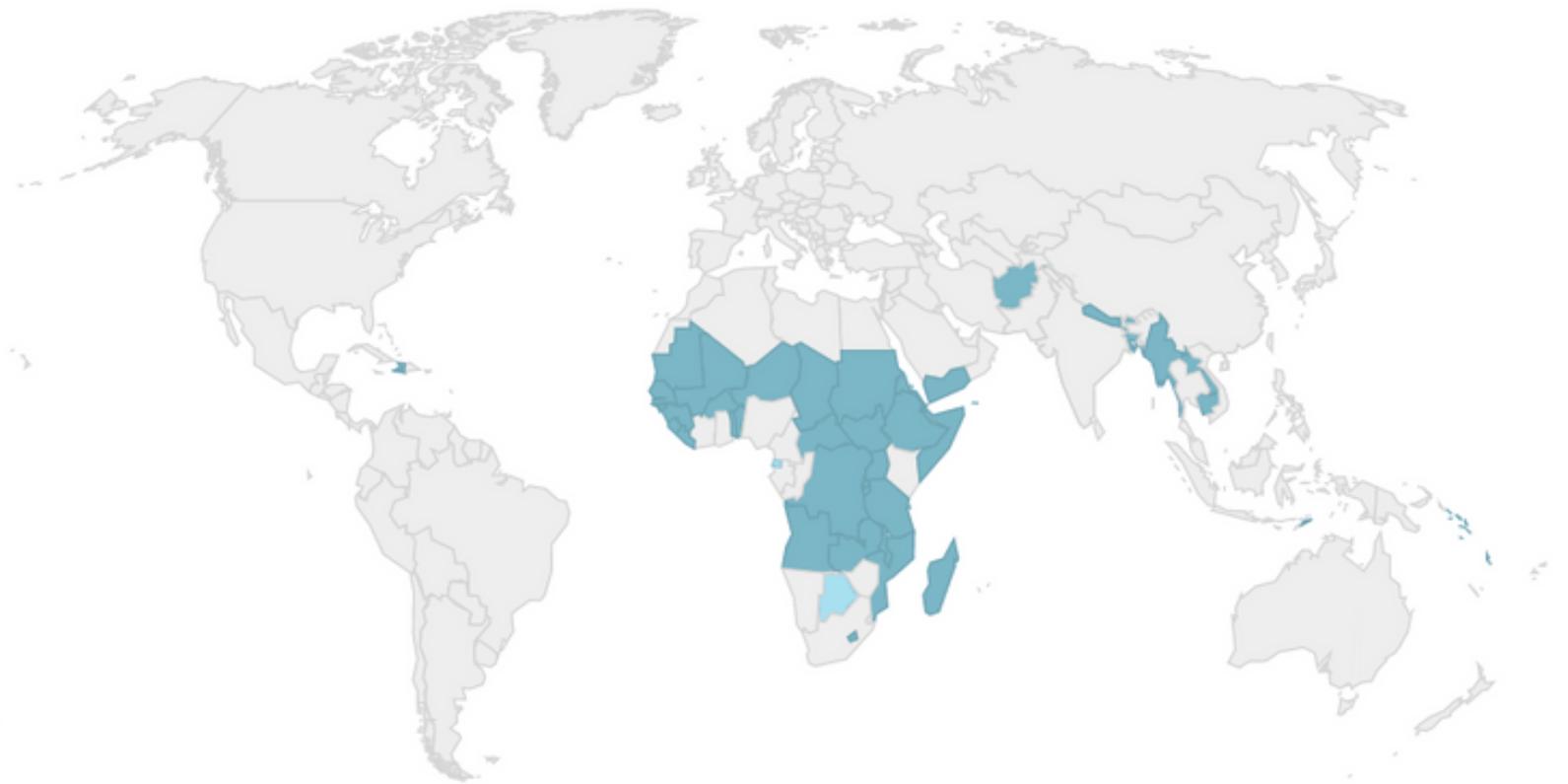




NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



“ There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

- Former UN Deputy
Secretary-General
Jan Eliasson

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AN OVERVIEW.

BY SIDDIQA SINGH

The International Organisation for the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) is a non-profit, non-governmental and independent organization based in Geneva with ECOSOC status and was established in 1994. It bridges the gap between the LDC-based local organizations and the international community. Its mandate is to combat counterterrorism, prevent the recruitment of children into armed groups, ensure a conducive environment to promote sustainable growth and development, and cooperate with the international communities to provide a more peaceful, greener, and safer environment in the LDCs.

Least Developed Countries (LDC's) can be considered as those low-income countries facing acute structural barriers to sustainable development. They are also incredibly susceptible to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human resource development. As of today, the international community recognizes 48 countries around the world as LDCs.

The IOLDC was presented with the opportunity to present at the Human Rights Council Session 47 via written and oral statements. The HRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations. It consists of 47 States which are responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights across the world. It is endowed with the capacity to discuss all relevant human rights problems and situations which need its aid and support year-round.



WORKING PAPER ON POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DISINFORMATION, FALSE AND FABRICATED ALLEGATIONS PERPETUATED BY THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

BY SIDDIQA SINGH

The International Organization for Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) has prepared this working paper as a contribution to facing the challenges and complexities caused by disinformation and in response to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression, which was discussed by the United Nations Human Rights Council during its forty-seventh session held from June 21 to July 14, 2021.

In recent years, we've seen the spread of false and misleading information like never before. In the case of COVID-19, information can literally be lifesaving - when it's true. Misinformation doesn't help followers; it can make matters worse. It can be fatal. Like viruses, false information on and human rights issues can spread, causing what is called a devastating and divisive information epidemic.

In the field of human rights, online disinformation can have devastating consequences for human rights especially as digital technology has enabled various actors to create, disseminate and amplify avenues of false or manipulated information with political, ideological or commercial motives on an unprecedented scale. Non-state actors, including extremist or terrorist groups, often engage in spreading false news and

narratives as part of their propaganda to deepen extremism.

Paragraph 19 in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression presented during the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council by stating "Ideologically driven non-State actors, including extremist or terrorist groups, also frequently engage in the dissemination of false news and narratives as part of their propaganda to radicalize and recruit members. The security dimensions and the excessive responses by States to them add to human rights concerns."

The working paper addressed the danger of disinformation, which has become an integral part of the Muslim Brotherhood's campaigns and declared war in the MENA region, and review some facts and arguments that prove the close relationship between political Islam and terrorist groups.

As you are aware that, the IOLDCs pays its attention to the least developed countries, especially those that suffer from conflicts, as is the case in Yemen, and found that, there is a fierce attack directed primarily against the UAE and STC through the media machine of the Muslim Brotherhood, and through their NGOs established for this purpose.

Moreover, this disinformation and the false and fabricated and politically motivated allegations which launched by the Muslim Brotherhood against the UAE has found its way to the most important international NGOs and other UN human rights system, who adopted it.

This working paper focuses on addressing examples of some allegations and disinformation with the adoption of such disinformation and false allegations under the umbrella of defending human rights with the aim to discredit individuals, institutions, countries, or specific laws constitutes a flagrant violation of the rights of the slandered institutions, laws and states, and affects the professionalism and credibility of these

international human rights organizations or bodies.

This paper also recommended the Human Rights Council to appoint a working a special rapporteur to follow up on allegations, reports and misinformation, and the consultative Committee to set standards defining the relationship between political Islam and the human rights NGOs.

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[English] <https://ioldc.org/api/static/publications/c98e4bb30d548f63ae03ac1faa451a63.pdf>

<https://ioldc.org/api/static/publications/c94e2f7d58d2f3c45cc061219e1bee14.pdf> [عربي]

THE IMPACT OF EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM ON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN YEMEN

BY SAEED MOKBIL

Since 2006, Yemen has ranked last in the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index and in 2017 the country was listed as the worst place in the world to be a woman. The deeply ingrained patriarchy acts as a barrier for many women and girls to access their family's finances, make decisions for the household, or even move about freely. They have limited access to education, livelihoods, and women's health services.

With the escalation of the armed conflict and humanitarian crisis, the situation has worsened for women. While the entire population of the Republic of Yemen is affected, the conditions for Yemeni women and girls are particularly deteriorating as the conflict drags on, in a climate of intolerance, extremism, and terrorism. Especially, a general pattern of the marginalization of women from political participation and leadership in decision-making forums and regression for women's rights appears. There are complex and various actors in the North and the South, urban and rural between different tribes and generations.

In the North:

The Houthi militia in the north adopts a strict interpretation of Islam, which impacts women's rights, and the Houthi has intensified violence against women in the North. The conflict worsened the situation—with assaults and abuses targeting women

increasing 63 percent, according to the United Nations.

Some three million women and girls in Yemen are at risk of gender-based violence. There is, however, no legislation that specifically protects them. Women in Yemen are facing an unprecedented pattern of abuse in Houthi-held areas, the severity of the five-year conflict has increased gender-based violence as women and girls become the most vulnerable to exploitation. Perpetrators are allowed to act with impunity, and survivors of sexual violence and abuse have limited access to specialized health care and counseling. Because humanitarian organizations responding to the crisis are focusing on providing lifesaving aid, many are not prioritizing survivors' needs.

Besides, 1.1 million pregnant women and new mothers are acutely malnourished. Approximately six million women of childbearing age lack access to basic reproductive health care. Even giving birth puts a woman at "extreme risk," according to the United Nations.

The conflict also has reversed two decades of progress on increasing girls' access to education. More than 36 percent of girls are missing out on school. A proposed law setting 18 as the minimum age for marriage and for girls to remain in school has been abandoned.

During the last six years, there are hundreds of cases of arrests and detentions by the Houthis against Yemeni women, as well as foreign women working in the humanitarian, media, and human rights fields and an investigation. The detained women were subjected to all kinds of physical torture, including beatings with sticks and electric wires, slapping, suffocating and waterboarding, in addition to verbal insults and demeaning and psychological torture to confess to things they did not do.” Hundreds of women are abducted by Houthi’s militias and held in secret prisons. Several human rights report shed light on the Houthi militias’ violations against women in Yemen in the six years, including arrest and enforced disappearance of more than 1180 women during the mentioned period and their exposure to killing, torture and rape. Reports also revealed suicide attempts by the detained girls in the central prison in Sanaa, stressing that Houthis did not allow medical examinations and the launch of probes into causes of deaths inside the detention centres.

In the South:

Previously, southern women were involved in decision-making. As example, in the beginning of the 1970s, the a woman became the first deputy minister. We also witness the A/HRC/47/NGO/2023 first women as television presenter, radio presenter, dean of a university, editor-in-chief of a newspaper, judge, or the first woman to become a captain of a civil plane. However, since 1994 women’s right women’s right have been reversed.

During the past thirty years, women have been subjected to restrictions on their rights and freedoms as a result of extremism and terrorism, with an unprecedented expansion of jihadist ideologies, and the armed conflict,

especially with the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Yemeni Government.

Since 2017, the international anti-terrorism coalition, carried out by the Southern Transitional Council, the United Arab Emirate and the United States of America, within the framework of the United Nations (UN) counter-terrorism’ strategy, pathed the way for the empowerment of women’s right in the South.

While we noticed some efforts regarding women empowerment and the involvement of women in decision making, the restrictions against women are still reflected in laws and legislation related to criminal justice, economics, education, as well as health and professional care, based on extremist religious beliefs. The situation of women remains closely related to the armed conflict situation and the spread of extremist ideologies.

Besides, women vulnerability includes the lack of medical care and the consequences of economic crisis, which has particularly been exacerbated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendations:

1. IOLDCs urges the Human Rights Council to take measure to address the issue of the spread of extremism, terrorism, and the armed conflict in Yemen, as a mean of protecting and promoting of women’s rights in Yemen. It includes putting pressure on the Yemeni government to exclude Al-Qaeda militants from their national army.
2. IOLDCs affirms the need to put pressure on the Houthis and the Islah Party (Muslim Brotherhood) to stop gross violations against women and girls, including the recruitment of children in the armed conflict.

3. IOLDCs stresses the importance of resolving the armed conflict in Yemen in order to empower women and path the way for the promotion and protection of women rights, including the inclusion of women in political affairs and decision-making.

4. IOLDCs requests the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies to monitor and promote the inclusion of women in peace

negotiations and the implementation of the peace agreements.

5. IOLDCs recommends the Human Rights mechanisms to foster tolerance in every sphere of society and especially to advocate for the elimination of intolerance and to foster gender equality in the school curriculum.



THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ELIMINATING THE CONSTRAINTS AND OBSTACLES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

BY EMILIE GUIGNON

The urgent need to foster international cooperation to address the spread of terrorism and the use of mercenaries in the African LDCs:

In recent years, some countries on the African continent have found themselves as victims of terrorist groups, particularly in the Sahel-Sahara region, where a large number of extremist influx and jihadist groups has doubled. Al-Qaeda has more fighters than ever before in Africa, and new jihadist groups have emerged in Mauritania, Burkina Faso, and the Niger. Da'esh and other extremists organizations in the region have expanded their operations into the heart of Africa, to include six countries in the Sahel region, including Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria, as well as in northern Mali and Burkina Faso. In the broader Sahel region, terrorist groups have expanded their operations in north and central Mali and the Tri-Border Region of Burkina Faso, Mali, and the Niger. These include affiliates of Al-Qaeda and Da'esh as well as non-aligned groups. As a result, the number of violent attacks in the Western Sahel region increased by 250 percent since 2018. These groups are expanding their movement to include east-west corridors of mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters through Libya.

Early observers predicted that Daesh would operate a new stage of its operations in th

Lake Chad region because of its proximity to Libya, where funds flow from Tripoli's militias, and mercenaries. Furthermore, some of the arms sent into Libya during the uprising in 2011 were later used by militants with ties to Al-Qaeda in Mali.

In this context, the International Organization for the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) expresses its continuing concern over the increasing flow of foreign terrorist fighters and at the threat it poses to States, especially the LDCs. IOLDCs encourages all States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to prevent this phenomenon.

The spread of terrorism and the transfer of mercenaries and terrorists fighters represent indeed a particular threat for the LDCs, which requires an urgent and strong collective action from the international community. Currently, the presence of ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram has expanded significantly in many of African Least Developed Countries (LDCs), namely Chad, the Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso. IOLDCs points out the threat of a new force of foreign mercenaries containing extremist elements, like those that previously destabilized Afghanistan and Iraq, which rises a long-term issue for the region and the world.

As acknowledged by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, the lack of support of the international

community is clear today in the Sahel and Lake Chad. “In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, the increasing number and complexity of terrorist attacks on both civilian and military targets demonstrate the need for a more robust and integrated response with a focus on cross-border issues.”

In this context, IOLDCs recalls the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, as recognized in Resolution 2368 of the Security Council.

IOLDCs also supports the call of the Sahel Countries to intensify the fight against terrorist groups on all fronts, calling for continued implementation of the Road Map and the Joint Force Action Plan in the Sahel.

In particular, the IOLDCs reaffirms the increasing need peace enforcement and counter-terrorism operation implemented by the African Union and supported by the United Nations.

The consequences of the spread of terrorism for human rights and development in the LDCs:

Furthermore, according to the United Nations’ declaration on the right of people to peace, life without war serves as the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, A/HRC/47/NGO/1933 development and progress of countries, and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations.

On the one hand, as recognized by the Human Rights Council, terrorism has a very real and direct impact on human rights. In particular, it has devastating consequences for the enjoyment of the right to life, liberty,

and physical integrity of the affected population. In addition, terrorism can destabilize Governments, undermine civil society, jeopardize peace and security, and threaten social and economic development. All of these also have a grave impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Terrorism has also links with transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering, as well as illegal transfers and trafficking of weapons, including nuclear, chemical and biological materials. Consequently, it is linked the commission of serious crimes such as murder, extortion, kidnapping, assault, hostage-taking and robbery.

As a result, IOLDCs affirms the urgent need to address terrorism in the LDCs in order to protect human rights, improve security and stability, and reduce violence in the Least Developed Countries that are affected by it. IOLDCs further affirms the need to foster international cooperation in the field of human rights, in particular the right to life, the right to physical integrity, and economical and social rights, to address the devastating consequences of terrorism in the LDCs, particularly in the Sahel Region.

On the other hand, terrorism has adverse consequences for the economic and social development of States, including a pernicious impact on relations of cooperation among States, and cooperation for development. It affects the implementation of the sustainable development goals and the right to development of the LDCs.

Therefore, IOLDCs calls the Human Rights Council to further investigate and document how terrorism affects the right to development and economical and social rights in the LDCs, and invites all treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders within their respective mandates, to pay due attention to the enjoyment of all human rights and

fundamental freedoms in the LDCs, including their right to peace, right to development, and the enjoyment of social economic, and cultural rights.

IOLDCs also recommends the Human Rights Council to recognize that the effect of conflict, violence, and terrorism represents a major constraint against the protection of Human Rights the LDCs, and their right to development.

The need to intensify international cooperation in the field of human rights and development in the LDCs to prevent terrorism:

While fostering international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential to address the threat posed by terrorism, mercenaries, and foreign terrorist fighters, it is also key to tackled the underlying conditions that leads to the spread of terrorism.

As recognized by the Human Rights Council, counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and must be pursued together.

IOLDCs also strongly believes that only a comprehensive approach can address the root causes of conflict and terrorism in the LDCs, which includes promoting political and religious tolerance, achieving economic development and social harmony, and resolving and preventing armed conflicts.

As a result, IOLDCs affirms the need to foster international cooperation in the field of human rights to reduce inequality, foster sustainable development and promote economic, social and cultural rights in the LDCs as a mean of preventing the spread of terrorism and establishing peace and



stability in the LDCs.

In this regards, IOLDCs reminds that the Human Rights Council recognized unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the principles of international law, including through technical cooperation and capacity building.

Finally, the LDCs have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated their economic and social vulnerability, as well as inequalities. In this context, IOLDCs raises the attention of the Human Rights Council about the urgent need to provide support to the LDCs in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic as a mean of preventing the spread of extremism and terrorism in these countries.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

BY CYNTHIA LOURENÇO TACH

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to immeasurable losses of human lives worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, the trade sector and labour market. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic has been devastating, particularly to countries more vulnerable to external economic shocks, natural and man-made disasters and communicable diseases, such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The Economic and Social Council in its Resolution 2020/10 (E/RES/2020/10) has recognized that COVID-19 severely affected the LDCs, including those graduating from that category, and was likely to have an impact on their sustainable development trajectories. Given their greater exposure to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Organization for the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) therefore draws the attention of the international community to the needs of the LCDs during the COVID-19 crisis.

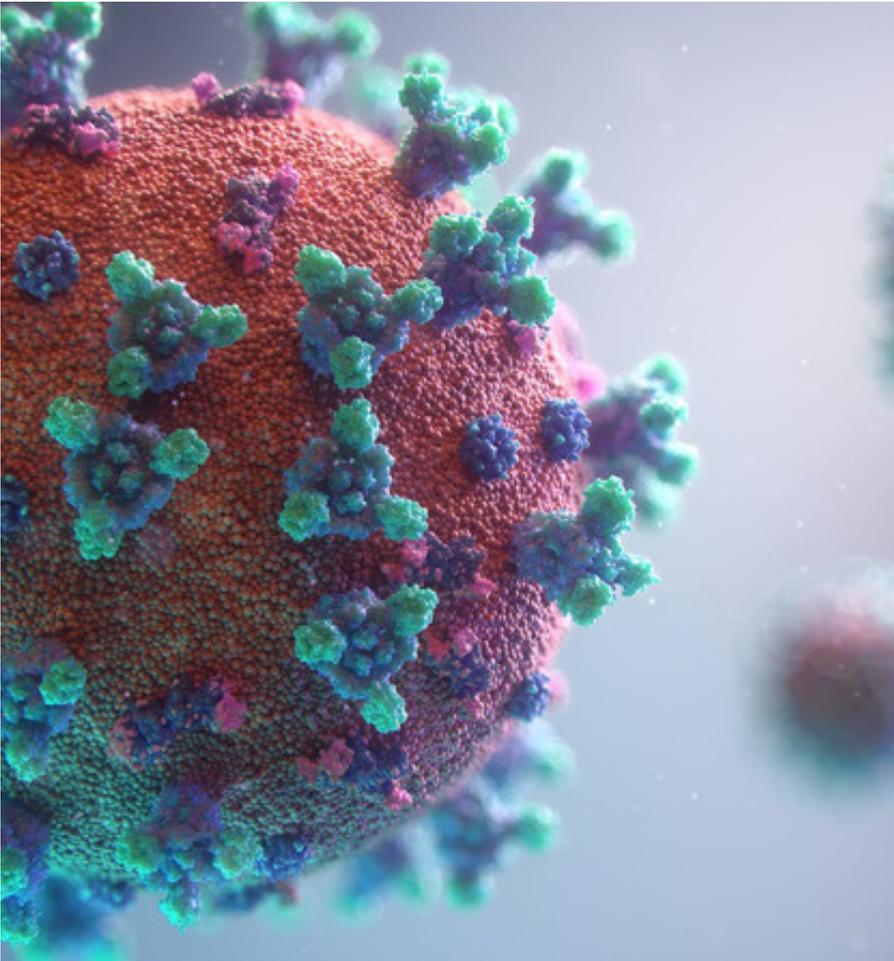
According to The Least Developed Countries Report 2020 (UNCTAD/LDC/2020), the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in LDCs have not been as serious as initially feared. Overall, the virus has spread less rapidly and less severely in these countries than in the rest of the world. The health outcomes of the pandemic in LDCs in 2020 contrasted with that of other developing and developed countries, with the latter showing a higher

COVID-19 mortality rate than the LDCs average. As illustrated by the Report, in August 2020, the COVID-19 mortality rate of LDCs corresponded to 13% of the rate of other developing countries and 3% of that of developed countries.

Nevertheless, the fact that the direct health impacts of the pandemic on LDCs were less severe than initially expected does not mean that it has not seriously affected and weakened indirectly the LDCs' health systems. Disruptions in health services due to COVID-19 have already been observed in several LDCs, particularly in the provision and use of reproductive, maternal, and child health services. Consequently, the pandemic is expected to reverse decades of improvement in health outcomes, throws progress in reaching SDG 3 and in achieving progressive realization of the right to the highest attainable standards of health in LDCs.

Economic impacts:

Conversely, the pandemic economic consequences have been a lot more devastating for LDCs than the health impacts. According to UNCTAD, "in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to LDCs experiencing their strongest economic shock in several decades, resulting in a sharp economic downturn, due to the combined effects of a deep world economic recession, and the consequences of the domestic containment measures adopted by LDCs governments."



Prospects, as of mid-2021), LDCs had experienced economic contractions in 2020, with GDP growth forecasted as -0.3 percent for the same year. This is the worst economic outcome in 30 years, and, as stated by UNCTAD, represents a significant reversal of the economic and social progress achieved by them in recent years. With the risks of a prolonged pandemic and insufficient financial opportunities to stimulate demand, the projections suggest that LCDs are facing the prospect of a lost decade, with economic outcomes only expected to return in 2022 or 2023.

Development impacts

The impact of the recession on the global trade translated into a strong decline in the external demand for LDCs' goods and services, such as fuels, minerals and metals, as well as garments. The world economic recession also depreciated the prices of their main exports and caused a fall in inflows of external resources. LDCs also faced a decrease in tourism activity - a key sector of the economy in 42 of the 46 countries -, severely impacting the employment rate. Moreover, LCDs' financial situation has become more challenging, with a higher risk of debt distress and a drop in foreign direct investment and remittances, which is a major source of foreign funding and support for household incomes in many LDCs.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected economic growth in LDCs. According to the latest projections of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (World Economic Situation and

The IOLDCs is also deeply concerned about the severe negative impacts of the pandemic on LDCs in terms of poverty and development outcomes. According to the Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the LDC Category from the Committee for Development Policy (Comprehensive Study Report, April 2021), "in LDCs, the aggregate poverty incidence is expected to have increased by 2.4 percentage points, to almost 39 percent, in 2020." This is equivalent to a rise of over 32 million people living in extreme poverty in the LDCs.

The pandemic's economic impact has also worsened inequalities by disrupting the employment of low-skilled labour more severely, and limiting employment prospects for less-educated workers for several years to come. This crisis has affected women and girls have even worse, as they suffered significant job and income losses and rely more on the informal sector.

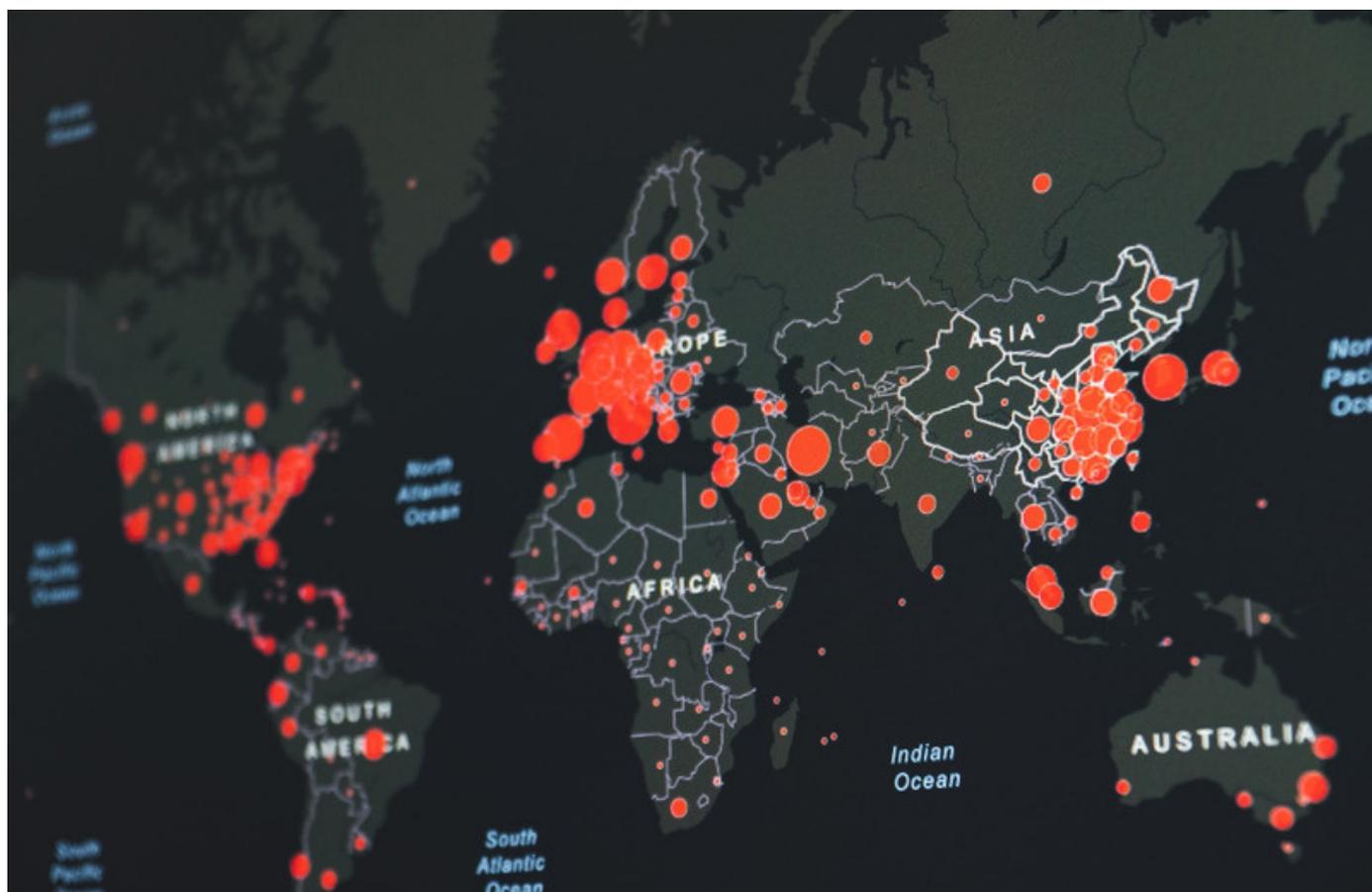
Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to retard progress towards the realization of the SDGs and hamper the progressively achievement of the economic, social and cultural rights for LDCs. It not only threatens to retrogress many years of LDCs' achievement in SDGs on poverty, hunger, health and education, but it has also exacerbated inequalities, compromising the achievement of SDG on gender equality and SDG10 on reducing inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic may also affect graduation from the LDC category. However, according to the Committee for Development Policy, the negative impacts are likely to be more severe for those countries that are below the graduation thresholds.

Recommendations:

The disparity in vaccination coverage between LDCs enhances the already fragile recovery of their economic recession. The COVAX initiative remains severely underfunded in most LCDs, contributing to the

high risk that LDCs will come last in global vaccination efforts. In Africa, for instance, the vaccination rate is only 1 in 100 per people. Moreover, a survey conducted by The Global Fund between April and September 2020 in 32 countries from Africa and Asia showed that, in 24 African countries, 11% of health facilities could conduct COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnosis tests, and only 8% could conduct PCR tests. As such, IOLCDs urges the international community to support LDCs' national efforts to strengthen their capacity in achieving access to COVID-19 vaccination and diagnostic tests, which are crucial for the recovery of the world economy.

Lastly, IOLDCs seeks to draw the attention of the Human Rights Council and, through it, all the concerned international bodies, to show its support to the LDCs during this COVID-19 crisis. IOLDCs also calls on the international community to build solidarity, cooperation and partnership with the LDCs to help them build national capacities, recover their fragile health systems and continue achieving the realization of the SDGs.



THE CENTRAL ROLE OF THE STATE IN RESPONDING TO PANDEMICS AND OTHER HEALTH EMERGENCIES, AND THE SOCIOECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES THEREOF IN ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

BY SIDDIQA SINGH

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the deep fissures within the healthcare and social systems across the world. The pandemic coupled with pre-existing issues such as climate change and systemic inequalities highlights the need for a more holistic approach towards the provision of emergency response. As states, regardless of economic wealth struggle to contain the pandemic, the lines between emergency response and the violation of human rights have sometimes been blurred.

The measures taken by some states, including restrictive fiscal and social policies such as increased taxation, the privatization of some healthcare services, and limitations on freedom of movement, threatens to destabilize economies, and increases deprivation suffered by persons and intensifies inequalities. The ramifications of such policies will be felt for years to come as the most vulnerable sectors of society will continue to deteriorate.

The OIPMA calls upon all States to assess and management and address corruption with a human rights and developmental perspective in order to

overcome this pandemic consider the long-term impact of the measures taken in response to the pandemic on the SDG's, human rights, and the measures to counter the negative impact of the pandemic. We also recommend adopting more inclusive decision-making processes, such as the development of action plans to address all found gaps and for the extension of new special drawing rights to those countries who are in definite need of liquidity. We recommend States to adopt more inclusive approaches to debt



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN AID OF THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DURING AND AFTER THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

BY JOANA CORREIA

The OIPMA draws your attention to COVID-19, conflicts, and terrorism affecting the LDCs.

The suffering of residents of the city of Aden in South Yemen is a notable example, as they are facing COVID-19 with weakening infrastructure and with the absence of state institutions, a services vacuum, including the health care system. In addition to the most cases due to COVID-19, most of the elderly people died last week due to the high temperature and the lack of electricity.

The Southern population is still facing terrible trinity; the Houthis attacks against southern areas, the state led by the Muslim Brotherhood that fostered the terrorist groups to target the south, where the camps of the national army became a safe haven for Al-Qaeda.

In line with the briefing to United Nations Security Council by the Special Envoy for Yemen - Martin Griffiths, 15th of June 2021, OIPMA recommends the Council and other Member States to express international solidarity with the southern population led by the STC in restoring their institutions, facing the spread of COVID-19 and eradicating terrorism.



RIGHT TO EDUCATION: THE CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

BY ANAIS PASCUAL

The recognition of the cultural dimensions of the right to education is essential in LDCs to ensure that education systems are not perpetuating discrimination, exclusion, or segregation processes.

Incorporating all forms of diversity at school, including those resulting from migration, displacement, flight from persecution, or from situations of poverty, extreme poverty, or violence should be a priority to leave no one behind.

Fostering the inclusion of girls and gender equality through education, to reduce the gender gap in education, is also needed. For instance, in the case of Somalia, where 90% of the teachers are men.

Fostering language rights to render each community visible is also needed in LDCs to

prevent discrimination through the prioritization of the languages.

The OIPMA also recalls the need to foster the rights to memory, and reiterates the role that education plays in post-conflict peace-building.

The OIPMA also recalls the need to foster the rights to memory, and reiterates the role that education plays in post-conflict peace-building.

The OIPMA therefore recommends further promoting inclusivity and diversity through education and to review school curriculums in order to eliminate discrimination within them, educate to peace, as well as to prevent extremism.

The OIPMA urges the Council to promote the cultural dimension of the right to education through the promotion of the SDG 4 and the 2030 agenda.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO ADVANCE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND TO ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL

BY ILONA DORJI

Today we celebrate the 5th anniversary of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), while also addressing the challenges presented by COVID-19, the growing climate crisis, protracted conflict, rising hunger, and displacement which disproportionately affect the LDCs.

Extended armed conflicts result in constant forceful displacement of children and adolescents; 60% of which are girls. There is a dire need for the provision of stable and holistic education opportunities in the LDCs.

The aim is to reach the children and youth; of whom 50% are girls; in the most crisis-affected parts of the globe and provide them with an inclusive, consistent, and quality education.

This will therefore require making education in emergencies and protracted crises a top priority. An educated young generation will in turn empower key decision-making authorities, which can be a mitigating factor in solving these crises.

Therefore, the OIPMA recommends an initiative for establishing an open-ended working group composed of the ECW, the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, governments, and civil society organisations, to prepare and adopt a draft declaration or agreement on a unified Global Curriculum aligned with the SDGs.

The Global Curriculum would encourage the shaping of attitudes and behaviors and promote universal social inclusion, cohesion, skills and will promote the values of fraternity and tolerance, whilst also rejecting extremism and terrorism.



THE PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIME IN LIBERIA BEFORE SWISS COURTS

BY SARA MAGGIORE

L'OIPMA salue le jugement du Tribunal pénal fédéral à Bellinzone. Le tribunal a déclaré coupable Aleiu Kosiah, ancien chef de milice libérien, de meurtre, viol, utilisation d'enfants-soldats pendant la première guerre civile du Liberia et l'a condamné à la peine maximale de 20 ans de prison. Il a également ordonné qu'il soit expulsé du territoire helvétique pour une durée 15 ans. Ce verdict marque la première condamnation d'un Libérien pour des crimes de guerre commis pendant la guerre civile. Il montre le rôle fondamental de la coopération internationale en matière pénale pour amener devant la justice des personnes responsables de crimes de guerre.

Les deux guerres civiles qui se sont succédées au Libéria ont fait plus de 250'000

morts et ont été le théâtre de crimes de guerre pour lesquels la justice n'avait pas encore été rendue. Désormais, le Tribunal pénal fédéral a fait un premier pas pour rendre justice aux victimes de ces crimes, acquise grâce au principe de la compétence universelle prévue par les conventions de Genève. Cette compétence universelle permet aux tribunaux suisses d'ouvrir des poursuites contre les responsables de crimes graves au regard du droit international, sans tenir compte ni du lieu où les crimes ont été commis ni de la nationalité des suspects et des victimes.

L'OIPMA salue donc le rapport du Rapporteur spécial sur l'indépendance des juges et des avocats et soutient cette victoire historique de la justice suisse face aux criminels de guerre.



THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY OLDER PERSONS

BY FRANCIS WATKINS

The OIPMA believes that Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities, and Goal 13, Climate Action, are deeply interlinked.

The Climate crisis that we are facing affects disproportionately some demographics and regions. OIPMA raises the attention of the Human Rights Council on the particular vulnerability of older persons' well-being to the costs of climate change, further exacerbating inequalities in LDCs that are suffering the most from the impact of climate change such as the Sahel region.

The Paris Agreement, adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, affirms the impact that climate change is having on human rights. Because of the climate crisis, access to sanitation, food and drinkable water, security, and social protection are threatened.

The older population is disproportionately affected by the climate crisis due to their fragile mental and physical state, reduced mobility, and their pronounced requirement of health services. They are also more vulnerable to heat stress and diseases which is of particular concern for LDCs in the Sahel region as they are more disposed to frequent and extreme weather events, making access to health facilities and key resources more difficult. Furthermore, the destabilization of the climate, causing extreme heat waves, droughts, and erratic rainfalls, impacts the

internal security of states, further endangering the lives of the elderly.

OIPMA recalls the duty of Member States to protect and guarantee the human rights of all its citizens, regardless of gender or age. OIPMA therefore recommends further support to the LDCs in regions particularly affected by climate change so that they may strengthen and implement adapted policies for the protection of older persons in accordance with the SDGs 3, 10 and 13 of the United Nations.



HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

BY JULIE VAISIÈRE



Avoir un logement, une propriété ou des terres; un lieu qui offre un abri, la sécurité et la possibilité de s'assurer un moyen de subsistance est un droit fondamental. La perte de biens menace toute une série de droits de l'homme que les États ont l'obligation de respecter et de protéger. Or, les PMA font partie des pays qui comptent le plus grand nombre de personnes déplacées à l'intérieur de leur propre pays, fuyant des situations de violence, de conflits, ou de catastrophe naturelle. Fin 2018, les PMA comptèrent plus de 18 millions de déplacés internes dû à des conflits et violences, tandis que sur 46 PMA, 43 comptèrent des déplacés internes suite à des catastrophes naturelles. De plus, de nombreux déplacés internes ne sont pas comptabilisés, empêchant ainsi une évaluation précise de l'ampleur réelle des déplacements internes dans les pays.

L'OIPMA recommande aux États Membres d'adopter des mesures positives et une approche inclusive pour garantir les droits au logement, à la terre et à la propriété. L'OIPMA recommande également au Conseil des Droits de l'homme et aux mécanismes de droit de l'homme de documenter davantage l'étendu et l'impact des déplacements internes sur les PMA, notamment, en considérant l'impact de l'expulsion forcée, de la gestion de ressources, et des changements climatiques, ainsi que de la résolution et prévention des conflits armés sur la mise en oeuvre des droits de l'homme et des objectifs de développement durable dans les PMA. De plus, OIPMA attire l'attention du Conseil sur la nécessité urgente de traiter les causes des déplacements internes afin d'éviter d'aggraver la vulnérabilité des ressortissants des PMA.

GLOBAL FUND FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN THE SERVICE OF POVERTY ERADICATION

BY CHIARA BRESSAN



OIPMA welcomes the Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and would like to draw the attention of the Council to the need to promote the right of everyone to social security.

In the face of the current covid-19 and economic crises, achieving meaningful outcomes in the realization of SDGs 1 and 3 is essential.

With their limited capacity to finance and deliver social protection, LDCs are, now more than ever, extremely vulnerable to economic shocks, especially in conflict and post-conflict areas.

An international financing system enabling countries to move away from dependency schemes is key. Adopting a more sustainable and inclusive growth model, with higher investments in education, would contribute in addressing the constraints and obstacles to sustainable development in LDCs, including through increased labour production, female labour market participation, reduced unemployment and inequalities, as consistent with SDGs 1, 4, 5, and 10.

OIPMA calls the Council to foster multilateral efforts in the establishment of a scalable system of international financing for a rights-based social protection scheme enabled to address social injustices and focused on capacity building.

RAPE AS A GRAVE, SYSTEMATIC, AND WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, A CRIME AND A MANIFESTATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND ITS PREVENTION

BY ANDREA BALDESSARI

The OIPMA welcomes the special rapporteur's report on rape as a flagrant, systematic, and widespread form of gender-based violence against women and girls.

The global lockdowns induced by COVID-19 in early 2020 have resulted in a significant increase in the cases of rape and violence against women across the world, especially in the LDCs.

22% of women living in the LDCs have been subjected to intimate partner violence in the past 12 months, which is substantially higher than the world average of 13%.

In many LDCs in conflict situations, women are also at risk of rape, killing, and torture, as in Yemen, where three million women and girls in Yemen are at the risk of gender-based violence.

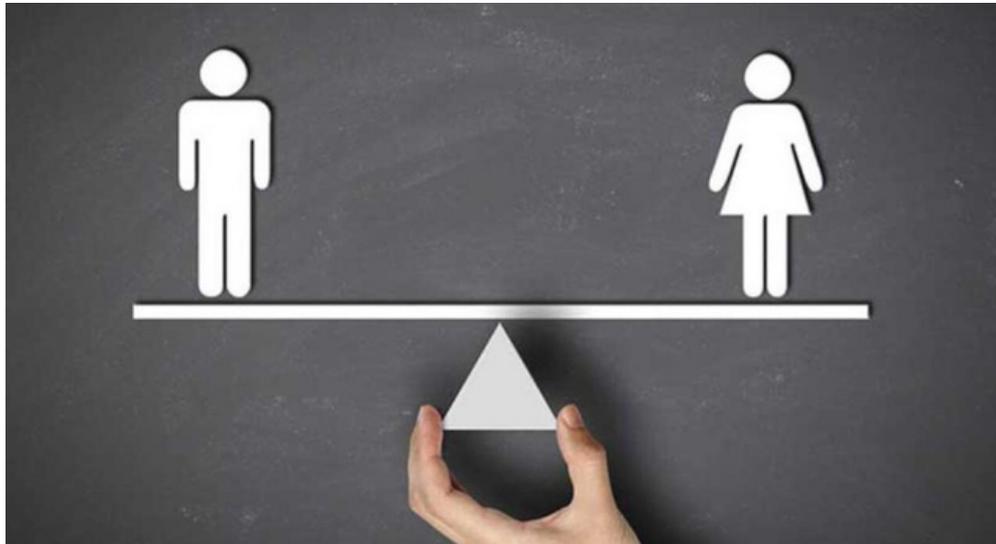
Several reports shed light on the Houthi militias' violations against women including enforced disappearance where more than 1180 women were held in secret prisons and their exposure to killing, torture, and rape.

OIPMA recommends adopting a multidisciplinary approach to conflict prevention, post conflict peacebuilding as the issue of violence against women in LDCs is closely related to terrorism and armed conflict.



THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER EQUAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BY NITANTH JAIN



It is no secret that COVID-19 has had devastating effects on the socioeconomic fabric of LDCs across the globe. The pandemic has indiscriminately undone the progress made regarding women's rights, liberties and their participation in the workforce, challenging the goal of creating sustainable livelihoods for all.

More women were forced out of schools and have lost jobs, seeing their earnings decline at a greater rate than men throughout the pandemic. Women tend to form a major part of the vulnerable informal economy, lacking regulation and protection, putting their economic autonomy at risk. According to UN Women's projections, 47 million more women will be pushed into extreme poverty by the end of 2021. These challenges stand directly in the way of the progress made to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 and 8. Focus should not only be on short term fixes, but long term solutions to ensure a well-rounded recovery.

OIPMA urges the international community to

join hands in the efforts to foster a culture of a gender-equal post COVID-19 reality, through institutional and legislative reform, education, and awareness-raising. We recommend increasing financial assistance for women in the LDCs to enable them to get back to school, access healthcare and protection services.

Governments should make legislative strides to help move women into the formal economy, facilitating financial assistance up-skill and bridge the technological divide between genders allowing for greater female contribution. Businesses should be encouraged to rethink the gender imbalance in the workplace by creating more opportunities for women, as we recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19.

Let this pandemic reshape the lens through which we view women in society and help us to inform our vision and commitment towards empowering women to reach their highest potential.

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt