



# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



Committee: General Assembly

Topic: Dealing with statelessness and establishing regulations to prevent its development

Country: France

School: American School Foundation of Monterrey

Delegate: [REDACTED]



Statelessness is a pressing issue that leaves millions without access to basic human rights. A stateless individual is defined as “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law,” which is to say, a person who does not have a nationality (UNHCR, n.d.). Statelessness has several causes, the main ones being gaps in nationality laws, immigration, children being born in foreign countries, the creation or abolishment of States, changes in borders, and deprivation of nationality, among others. Within the United Nations, the UNHCR is assigned to aid stateless people. It has worked to identify stateless people, provide governments with legal advice to prevent statelessness, help governments provide nationalities, and protect stateless people until they can be granted a nationality. However, the UNHCR has faced several challenges, including difficulties identifying undocumented stateless people and countries having little information on statelessness.

France has been involved in ensuring stateless people are given access to basic human rights and helps many gain a nationality; regardless, there are also several negatives. Among the positives, France grants stateless people access to education, healthcare, and even social assistance, depending on their income rate. Additionally, France grants stateless people a four-year resident permit as a “beneficiary of statelessness statute,” and after four years of legal stay, a 10-year permit. To combat statelessness, France has also worked to make naturalization processes easier. Stateless people can naturalize after five years of legal stay, which is shortened to two years if the person obtains a master’s degree in France. My delegation has also implemented safeguards to prevent children from being born stateless, given that “otherwise stateless children born on the territory of France are French by law” (Statelessness Index, 2021). However, although France signed all four key statelessness conventions, it has reservations about three of these and has not fully acceded to them. There is little to no data on stateless people in the country, and there have been difficulties registering births in French territories such as French Guyana and Mayotte. This lack of data has presented a challenge to the UN, especially the UNHCR, which has worked in France since 1952 and has focused on aiding refugees and stateless people.

Therefore, to address statelessness worldwide, my delegation proposes the following solutions. First, it is essential to ensure that stateless people are granted access to basic human rights under the United Nations Human Rights Declaration. Stateless people should have access to equal labor opportunities, healthcare, education, and identification, which can be achieved



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through a stateless passport. Another possible solution would be to make the naturalization process easier so that people who are currently stateless will have an opportunity to obtain nationality and the benefits it entails. My delegation offers naturalization after 5 years of legal residency and believes this solution should be prioritized. Although some countries might believe the benefits are one-sided, this solution would benefit both parties, given that once stateless people obtain a nationality, they will be able to formally contribute to the development of the country's economy. It is also necessary to take action to prevent children from being born stateless. This can be achieved by setting up a standard set of safeguards in each country, thus removing the possibility of countries' laws having gaps. A possible safeguard could include registering all births, which could be achieved by making birth certificates more accessible. Although this might be difficult in developing countries, this could be achieved by focusing on making them readily available, especially in rural areas. These birth certificates can help ensure that every baby is given a nationality, whether through the country where they were born, ancestry, or the country where the parents were born. Conclusively, my delegation believes that it is essential to prevent children from being born stateless and ensure that all stateless people are granted human rights and have the opportunity to obtain a nationality.



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