



UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

INDEX

INTRODUCTION	3
COMMITTEE'S HISTORY	5
LONG TERM	7
SHORT TERM	9
TOPIC AND THE UNITED NATIONS	11
CONTROVERSY POINTS	13
OBJECTIVES	16
CONCLUSION	18
COUNTRIES	19
RECOMMENDED SOURCES	22
REFERENCES	23

UNEP



Introduction

“The inappropriate use of animals in entertainment and experiments”

Welcome, delegates to the The United Nations Environment Programme in the 15th edition of the Model United Nations Instituto Oriente 2024. As a Chair, on behalf of the Instituto Oriente, the academy of English and the Secretariat, we, as Chair, are glad to have you on this committee and cherish your decision to take part on this committee. This Chair aspires that each delegate has an unbelievable time and experience. Remember that your ideas and your proposals matter, these could be an aid to make a change and inform people about the inappropriate use of animals in actuality.

To understand the prevention and viable solutions to the inappropriate use of animals, first, the delegates will have to understand the causes, consequences and which countries are the most affected by this problem. The inappropriate use of animals in areas of entertainment, beauty products, clothing, traditions and food, has been part of the world since the beginning of humanity, most of these industries do not consider the welfare of animals or even their lives, which is really worrying, the fact that it has consequences not only in a long term but also in a short term.

The inappropriate use of animals is considered dangerous because regardless of the consequences, the human being takes the life of the animals knowing that it can cause damage to our planet, taking into account that they are essential in different ecosystems. This topic was chosen considering the importance of animal rights to protect them from the precarious and dangerous conditions that they are exposed to during the experiments and the human entertainment. Since the animals can not defend themselves we as a society need to find solutions for this situation without neglecting the human needs.

Deeply concerned about the possible dangers this could cause in the future we, as a Chair, believe that this topic is more than necessary to be discussed and have the expectation that delegates will look for viable and creative solutions to protect the animals and avoid the non-compliance of their rights.

The most important thing in this committee is the planet and its protection.

In this document you will find crucial information on the topic, so it helps you to perform the best way during this model, including data,

controversial points, which can be really helpful while delegates prepare their posture.

We president, secretary and moderator are convinced that this document is a great tool if used right, and can really make a difference in the participation of each one of the delegates during the model. Delegates, we, as mentors expect a total disposition on your part to be able to realize viable solutions to this problem.

Committee's History

The first step towards recognizing the importance of a healthy environment takes place in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972, when a historical conference places the environment on the global agenda and leads to the formation of The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), being its first treaty The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) when in the 1970s, the world was going through a pollution crisis caused by careless actions from the past; UNEP motivated the world to start taking action preventing oil spills and toxic discharge by ships, joining 143 coastal states to limit ocean pollution.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment, its mission being to inform and motivate nations to improve their quality of life while being friendly to the environment and without compromising future generations.

For the past 50 years, UNEP has been dedicated to work with governments, the private sector, civil society and United Nations (UN) entities to discuss the earth's most critical environmental challenges, from restoring the ozone layer to protecting biodiversity and promoting a green and inclusive economy. Most recently in 2021, UNEP finished a two decade long campaign to rid the world of highly toxic leaded petrol, saving millions of lives each year.

One of UNEP's most important jobs focuses on helping countries become low-carbon, resource-efficient economies, strengthening environmental laws, protecting ecosystems, and providing data-driven evidence to inform policy decisions.

UNEP works in different sectors hand in hand with science to take care and preserve the environment. Some of the sectors that UNEP works on are: pollution, global warming, climate change, preservation of biodiversity and preservation of endangered animals.

According to the official UNEP website, The United Nations Environment Programme will be working this year on three interconnected crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, all of which are

obstacles to improve life quality, adding to the recent COVID-19 pandemic ; UNEP will also be working on medium-term goals such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the final document of Rio+20, "The future we want", which promotes effective international environmental governance, which has been discussed by Member States since the creation of UNEP in 1972.

"UNEP aspires to make strategic contributions to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other relevant sustainable development governance processes." (UNEP, 2022, par. 2)

Long Term

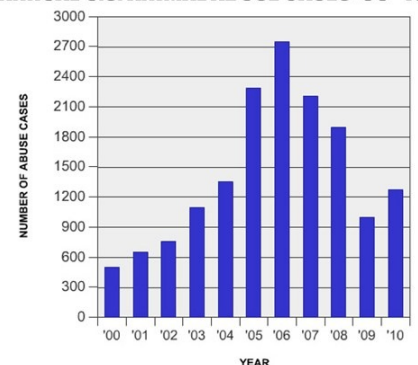
The animal abuse does not have a starting date but it is known that in Rome in the Colosseum the animals were used to entertain the habitants, animal hunts and the executions of those condemned to death were made by the animals.

There are countless animals senselessly murdered each year, some for their fur or meat, and many for no reason other than entertainment. Mental and physical abuse amounts to cruel treatment. All of this together have reflected alarming consequences for both animals and humanity. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, 50 million animals have died due to animal cruel treatment since 1990.

In the last ten years there has been a notable increase of 55% in complaints for animal abuse according to The National Audubon Society, however, a substantial part of animal cruelty continues to go unreported. All this probably due to the lack of information as well as awareness about the subject.

Different types of animal cruelty such as the legal and illegal hunting of different species, the use of animals for entertainment and the deliberate destruction of their natural habitats have resulted in the extinction of more than 200 species since 1700's. Another example worth mentioning is the trade in exotic birds that has caused 1/3 of the parrot species to be on the brink of extinction, this due to the desire of people to have a wild pet, even without having the necessary conditions for it. Talking about animal experimentation Cruelty Free informs that at least 192.1 million animals were used for scientific purposes worldwide in 2015.

ANNUAL U.S. ANIMAL ABUSE CASES '00-'10



The animals have the worst part in this problem, their psychological sequels can be reversible and irreversible change in behavior,

depressive symptoms such as sadness, fear and inactivity and even the development of aggression.



The physical sequels that have been observed are fractures in the thoracic and pelvic limbs, hip and spine, skin burns, sores, scars,

mutilation of limbs, ears, tail or eyes and in the worst cases a painful death.

The consequences of animal abuse also affect humans since these acts are almost always precursors to violent crime directed at humans. Researchers have connected children's abuse of animals to bullying, aggression, school shootings, and sexual abuse. FBI research indicates that most serial murderers, school shooters, and mass murderers cruelly treat animals as children.

Another example of its repercussions is Dogfighting. The harm to the animals is also tied with illegal gambling, illegal drugs and weapons, assaults, and even homicides, often involving gang members.

Short Term

Society, for the past 5 years has witnessed a great concern for our responsibilities that humanity uses as pets, in laboratories, entertainment, farms, zoos, among others.

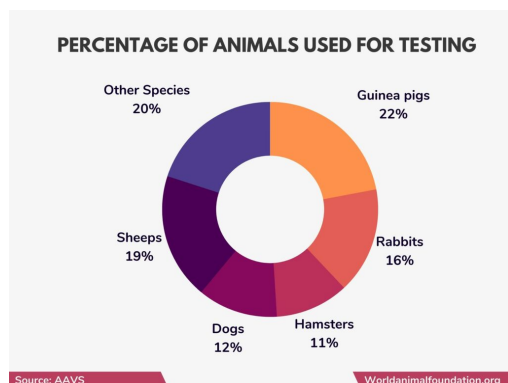
Each year, more than 110 million animals including mice, frogs, rats, cats, dogs, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, monkeys, fish, and birds are murdered in laboratories for biology lessons, medical training, curiosity experimentation, and chemical, drug, food, and cosmetics testing.

The method that they use to murder them, some are forced to inhale toxic fumes, some have holes drilled into their skulls, and others have their skin burned off or their spinal cords crushed. These are only some things that millions of animals suffer every day around the world.

On the other hand, when animals are subjected to experimentation, they try to adapt to the stress that intensive production can give. Give way to several measurable effects, such as increased receptivity to disease, decreased reproduction, increased behavioral deviations, and decreased growth rate.

Animal welfare and human health may be related.

The worst thing about intensive systems is not only that they are bad for animal welfare, but that they are often linked to the administration of drugs. Drugs, prophylactics, antibiotics or growth promoters, some of which lead to the emergence of resistant pathogens.



In an article published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, researchers found that medical treatments developed in animals need to take care because it is probably to have a reaction or another result when

they use it in humans.

Diseases that are artificially induced in animals in a laboratory, either they be monkeys or mice, are never identical to those that come about naturally in human beings. And because animals are different from one another biologically in many noteworthy ways, it is even more unlikely that animal experiments will submit results that will be correctly interpreted.

For example, according to former National Cancer Institute Director Dr. Richard Klausner, “We have cured mice of cancer for decades, and it simply didn’t work in humans.”

In 2021, the number of animal abuse offenses shot up to 1,492 and it increased again in 2022 (1,517).

In the world there are statistics given by the United Nations that speak of 68 billion terrestrial animals murdered each year (cows, pigs, chickens, goats, buffaloes, rabbits, etc.), together with the more than 2 billion fish that are consumed in the world. All of them individuals. All of them beings with their own emotions and interests.

The countries that have high inappropriate use of animals are Greece, Spain, Mexico and Venezuela.

There is currently little legislation on animal protection and safety except some standards of associations in defense of animals whose legal capacity can point out is minimal.

Topic and The United Nations

The United Nations still does not have such a long journey in the protection of animal rights associated with the environment and the well-being of humanity, but it is also true that there are already actions and plans in the 2030 agenda to improve animal rights.

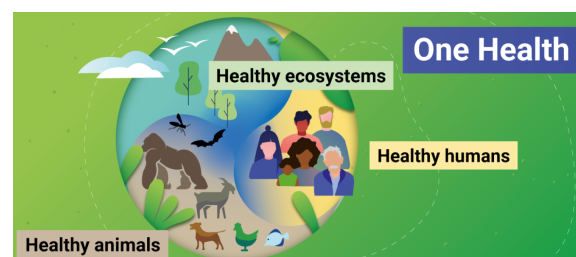
Furthermore the Convention on Biological Diversity is a multilateral treaty that was brought into being at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. There are 194 countries at the convention. It was established to protect the world's biodiversity, and covers all species, ecosystems and genetic resources.

World Organization for Animal Health defines Animal Welfare as “the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and Dies.”

For a long while, animal welfare has become a topic of both social and political interest, thus promoting initiatives such as the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW), or the welfare strategy for Africa and the African Platform on Animal Welfare (APAW).

In March 2022 the resolution called 'Nexus between animal welfare, environment and sustainable development' was adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2). This describes how the inappropriate use of animals is a really important key point that is connected to the triple environmental crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and even the recent global pandemic of COVID-19. This is considered a historical fact since it was the first time in history, the UN adopted a Nexus for Sustainable Development resolution, in which it recognized the link of well-being with the planet and people, and the urgency of investigating the links between animal welfare, environmental protection and sustainable development. Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Pakistan were the sponsors of this resolution. This was the first time that a major UN body had adopted a resolution focused on animal welfare.

The United Nations Environment Programme has taken action in favor of animal welfare through the Animal Welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where it



proposes solutions to human problems hand in hand with the protection and welfare of animals and their natural habitats, and consequently obtaining benefits for both parties.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 15 pursues the protection of life in terrestrial ecosystems. Among its objectives is to end poaching and trafficking of protected species by 2030. According to the international organization, of the 8,300 known animal breeds, 8% are extinct and 22% are in danger of extinction.

There is also the Contribution of the United Nations Assembly for the Environment to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020, where different proposals are presented by the NGO Cruelty Free International, which is the world's leading organization in animal protection that seeks end animal experiments accredited by ECOSOC and UNEP.

Speaking of more general terms, there is the Proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights proclaimed on October 15, 1978. It is made up of 14 articles focused on protecting the dignified life and integrity of all animals and establishes that all Animals have rights and deserve respect comparable to that between people.

In the next two decades, World Animal Net will persist in advocating for increased animal welfare in the context of sustainable development.

The United Nations Environment Programme has been working hard in various areas together with NGOs to encourage more countries to promote the protection of animals and their rights, including their natural habitats, it being a big step that solutions related to animal protection are included in their 2030 agenda and not only in their natural habitats but also in captivity and laboratories.



Controversy points

Why is it a controversial topic?

In the last decade, especially in the last 5 years, animal cruelty and its different variants have been increasingly visible and debated by society, this being a controversial issue both in visions and in ideals, considering animals as a way of life less than or equal to the human being, despite the fact that animals have already been recognized as forms of life deserving of rights, unfortunately some countries still do not consider it that way.

Animal cruelty is a subject with positions that are considerably separated from each other in the different countries, taking into account that some have laws that protect animal cruelty and mistreatment, calling them cultural heritage.

It is true that there are already those who have shown their disagreement by putting the debate on the table but a conclusion or solution has not yet been able to reach, the same situation occurs with many other branches of animal cruelty such as the use of animals for entertainment, the use of animals in laboratories for the benefit of humans where some think that the use of animals for tests is really necessary even with the technology we, as a society, have today to avoid this type of procedure, the black market trafficking exotic species for people who believe that luxury is equal to have exotic species in their homes as pets without having the specific needs for this type of animals and the consumption of animal meat, the latter being one of the most represented at present, which makes the question whether consumption is really necessary of meat?, taking into consideration the environmental impact of livestock production in the face of global warming.

Speciesism is the human-held belief that all other animal species are inferior:

Experimentation: Animal experimentation is used, carrying out different experiments on animals such as rodents, rabbits, guinea pigs, among others, they are subjected to extremely painful, stressful and invasive tests, totally unnecessary, causing the vast majority of animals to die. Some countries that have already banned animal testing are Colombia, South Korea, Guatemala, India, England and Mexico.

Entertainment: Animals are exploited and murdered for entertainment in numerous ways. The most important forms are hunting, circuses and bullfights among other shows. In countries like Spain, Portugal and France on the European side; in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela on the other shore of the ocean, bullfighting is 100% legal while in the other countries of the world they are considered a crime. At the moment of consuming both the statistics of the inappropriate use of animals increase in a remarkable way.

Food: Another factor that has created a lot of controversy is in terms of food, when animals are used in our way of eating, this is when vegetarians and vegans arise who are in favor of animal rights and the humans are not superior to animals for use in this area. It is speciesist to believe that farmed and captive animals do not suffer or feel emotions to the same range as the animals with whom humanity lovingly split their homes.

Black Market of animals: It is controversial in economic resources that the black market has about 350 million plants and animals on the black market, annually generating an estimated \$7 billion to \$23 billion USD. The majority of cases the government is involved because it makes a lot of economic resources.

Every region of the world is experiencing negative impacts as poachers and traffickers pilfer more and more natural resources. Most of the animals that are used in the black market are in danger of extinction such as turtles, jaguars, toucans, macaws, pangolins, among others.

Lack of treaties or solutions implemented by the UN: Although the issue of animal rights has been a very popular topic in recent years, for the UN, the formal recognition of the link between animal welfare and sustainable development was recently in 2022. This makes it difficult to create stronger solutions by many countries.

Why is there a debate?:

In recent years the use of animals has been increasing because we as a society normalize this problem.

Certain statistics indicate that only in cases of domestic animals such as cats, dogs, among others, 7 out of 10 suffer some type of abuse such as abandonment, health conditions, malnourishment, housing.

According to a survey of the world's 50 largest cosmetic brands, 88% of them are not cruelty-free. This means that 44 of the 50 largest cosmetic brands test on animals themselves or have them tested by third parties.

The different positions and opinions that exist on the subject as well as the different countries and cultures that differ in the protection of animals in different aspects, as well as the ignorance and lack of awareness from part of the society in different sectors that contribute to animal abuse , like the use of animals for experimentation makes it difficult to reduce and create stronger solutions to animal abuse in the world, unitedly this makes it difficult to reach an agreement in which the rights and integrity of animals are cared for in an equitable way.

Objectives

In this edition, The United Nations Environment Programme look forward to the participation of the delegates to propose viable ideas that will change the direction of this controversial problem and have a diplomatic posture is necessary at the moment of debating ,all this taking the consideration that one of the principal objectives of The United Nations Environment Programme is promote and improve the quality of life of the Earth to avoid damage in the future generations.

The Chair hopes that every delegate will do a research; nevertheless, the members of the Chair bring some crucial aspects that will be held upon in the sessions to get to a resolution paper that must complace all the nations requisites.

Having explained this, some of the aspects encouraged by the United Nations Environment Programme are:

1. Develop outreach strategies to raise awareness and inform the population of the problem.
2. Invite nations provide capital non-profit associations related to the damage of the animals.
3. Monitor which solutions are having satisfactory results and which are not in order to focus on higher impact solutions.
4. In the social area, provide information on which companies do not comply with animal cruelty-free requirements so that people can make a conscious purchase as well as provide information on cruelty-free alternatives.
5. Encourage nations to create treaties or laws to decrease the statistics of the inappropriate use of animals.
6. Rely on laws already created by different countries to suggest the implementation in other nations.
7. Make awareness of the importance of the balance between animals and humans on the Earth.
8. Recognize all the deficiencies in the government and laws for the reason that still exist the black market.
9. Promote nations redline all the entertainment with animals.

10. Request the support of both national and international security networks, reinforcing points of illegal sale of animals.
11. Find out if the citizenry knows about the data and the consequences of the inappropriate use of animals.
12. Discover why society remains prone to the consumption of companies that violate the rights of animals despite the fact that some cases are aware of it.

Conclusion

Currently, the reality, statistics and consequences of the inappropriate use of animals has been presented and being conscious about the repercussions in the future that this problem can generate.

It is necessary to emphasize that as society it is time to stop and find convenient solutions to decrease these worried statistics, taking into account that it is necessary to make a balance between animals and humans for the welfare of The Earth.

Retaking the principles of The United Nations Environment Programme and its mission that is to provide leadership and encourage teamwork in caring for the environment, inspiring, informing and enabling nations to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The Model United Nations of the Instituto Oriente is one of the experiences that makes you as a person obtain many learnings that help as a personal growth applying them in a daily life. For that reason, delegates, we as a Chair hope your commitment with the model, following the protocol and maintaining the prestige and recognition of this model also create memories and enjoy this unforgettable experience.

The Chair believes that after reading this document you have the tools to make a dynamic debate, understand the problematic, give possible solutions for protecting the animals and achieve the objective of this committee. Delegates, the Chair appreciate the initiative of being part of the change and having chosen this committee.

“Act as if what you do makes a difference, it does”
-William James

Countries

Kingdom of Spain:

In the Kingdom of Spain exists a deeply rooted culture of animal abuse. Bullfights are defended by the argument of a tradition, legal and illegal hunting creates an imbalance in the ecological balance and the abandonment of domestic animals by their owners puts The Kingdom of Spain in a complicated position for the security of animals.

People's Republic of China:

For many years it was mandatory for imported cosmetics to be tested on animals to be sold in the People's Republic of China, until 2021 some general cosmetics started to be accepted without animal testing but products for children and specific cosmetics are still mandatory. It is also known that domestic animals are sent in some cases as a “surprise box” . The person does not know which dog or cat they will get. It can be funny for the person but for the animal it is not, some animals do not resist the shipment and die of suffocation or starvation.

Swiss Federation:

There are several laws in order to protect animal welfare, and their main focus is the dignity of the animals as they have inherent worth. No person may improperly subject an animal to pain, suffering, harm or fear. However animal testing is still legal but is only performed if no alternative methods are available for answering scientific questions.

Republic of Kenya:

The Republic of Kenya relies heavily on wildlife-based tourism, as wild animals are a main economic source, they have received considerably strong legal protections, animal fighting, public exhibitions, hawking and sport hunting are punished with strong penalties prescribed in wildlife legislation, although domestic animals have less protections.

United Mexican States:

The United Mexican States are in the first place in animal abuse in Latin America and the third one in the world, this being caused by the abuse in domestic animals and the abandonment of them, nevertheless there are plenty of laws protecting animal rights as an example the prohibition of animal testing in cosmetics or the prohibition of bullfights in five states.

Countries in G5:

1. French Republic
2. People's Republic of China
3. Russian Federation
4. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
5. United States of America

Members of the organization:

6. Japan (Asia and Pacific States Group)
7. Republic of Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)
8. Republic of Malta (Eastern European States Group)
9. Republic of Mozambique (African States Group)
10. Swiss Confederation (Western European and Other States Group)

Countries invited to the debate and listening countries:

11. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
12. Canada
13. Eastern Republic of Uruguay
14. Federal Republic of Germany
15. Islam-i Jamhuriya-e Pakistan
16. Kingdom of Spain
17. Nederlandse Antillen
18. Republic of Austria
19. Republic of India
20. Republic of Kenya
21. Socialist Republic of Vietnam
22. The Republic of Senegal
23. The Democratic Republic of the Congo
24. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
25. The Republic of South Sudan
26. The People's Republic of Burkina Faso

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