Model United Nations Government Research Project

Throughout the conference experience, you will be representing a country. The Government Research Project is a tool to help you make arguments, write resolutions, determine other countries you should collaborate with, and suggest amendments that your country's national government would support. You can add any other information to your GRP that you feel is pertinent to accurately represent your country's position. The assignment is split between Key Information, your government's Position on Topics, and a Draft Resolution for Mock Session.

Part I: Key Information

Name of Country	Cyprus
Location of Country (Continent/Region, Bordering neighbors)	Europe, Middle East, South of Turkey, West of Syria and Lebanon, North of Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinian region of the Gaza Strip, and Southeast of Greece.
Population	1,207,359 as of 2020
Main Language(s)	The main languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish
Religion(s)	Chrisitanity, Greek Othodox, Sunni Muslim
Literacy Rate (%)	98.7%

Political and Governmental Information

Type of Government	The Republic of Cyprus is a unitary presidential representative republic, whereby the President of Cyprus is both head of state and head of government.
Current Head(s) of State	Nicos Anastasiades
How long has the current form of government been in place?	The 1960 Cypriot Constitution provided for a presidential system of government with independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as a complex system of checks and balances including a weighted power-sharing ratio designed to protect the interests of the Turkish Cypriots.
Who are your government's main allies?	European Union, Israel, Greece
Are there other governments with which your government does not have diplomatic relations?	Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Benin, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti, South Sudan, Bhutan

	Kiribati, Palau, Tuvalu, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Cook Islands, Niue Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Somaliland, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Artsakh, Republic of China (Taiwan), and Transnistria
What are the military capabilities of your government?	Military is called the Cypriot National Guard. Service is required for men, who have to serve for 14 months. There are different sectors: land, naval, and air. 20,000 active members with 100,000 reserves. As far as we know, they have no nuclear weapons, and have not signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
Does your government have current and/or recent rivalry	Greece and Turkey fought for Cyprus in WWI, and as a result there is tension between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, referred to as the "Cyprus dispute". Now, there are two parts of Cyprus: a Turkish section and a Greek section, and the UN maintains a "buffer zone" between the two.

Economic Information

GDP	24.96 billion USD (2018), 28,159.30 USD per capita, ~3% growth rate
Major Industries	The service industry comprised about 85.5% of its GDP in 2017 and 81% of Cypriot jobs in 2014. Business services are considered the fastest-growing and most important. Major industries include tourism, food and beverage processing, cement and gypsum, ship repair and refurbishment, textiles, light chemicals, metal products, wood, paper, stone and clay products.
Economic with other countries economically (Example: Major exporter? Producer of oil? Member of a common monetary union like the Euro Zone?)	Is a member of the EU and uses the Euro. Classified by the World Bank as a High-Income economy. Is not self-sufficient in terms of consumer goods, capital goods, or petrol and must import them, but is very agricultural. Its reliance on tourism causes irregular growth rates, especially if political instability is rising. The European debt crisis in the 2010's severely impacted the country in a financial crisis. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union it became a popular link for investment from the West into Eastern Europe and later Asia, becoming the most common tax haven for companies from such investments. Its position between three continents and its proximity to the Suez Canal make it one of the largest merchant shipping hubs in the world.

Employment Rate	Mean 67.25 (2000-2020), record low of 60.90 percent in the first quarter of 2014. Third-highest unemployment rate of all EU states. Total labor force of about 426,600 (2017).
Major Exports	Citrus, potatoes, pharmaceuticals, cement, clothing.
Natural Resources	Has a mining community, with stones such as gypsum, marble, clay, and copper. Cyprus is known for its copper. Also, some surveys speculate that between Cyprus and Israel lies over 2.831 trillion cubic metres of untapped oil and gas reserves, attracting many petrol companies as production partners. Several pipelines have opened as a result.
Trading partners	Exports to Libya (9.4%), Greece (7.7%), Norway (6.7%), UK (5.3%), Germany (4.1%) (2017) and imports from Greece (19%), Italy (7.5%), China (7.4%), South Korea (7.3%), Germany (7%), Netherlands (5.1%), UK (5%), Israel (4.1%) (2017).
National Debt	A little under 28 billion dollars. (USD) Percentage to its GDP stays around 100%.
Food Security (does your country import most of its food and agriculture products)	Has a large agricultural sector that specializes in crops over livestock. Produces wheat, barley, almonds, grapes, lemons, and potatoes to name a few. In the past the country exported up to 80% of these resources, but now that number has since fallen. Overall the country imports more goods than it exports.
Environmental risks and assets	Has rich land for agriculture, and temperatures are moderate, never really falling below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius). The biggest environmental threat Cyprus faces is water pollution. Doesn't have any running rivers so must turn to groundwater, but that has been pretty much depleted. The little bit it has left is being polluted not only from industrial sectors, but also pesticides used by farmers themselves. Frequently suffers from droughts. Cyprus also has to face erosion and damage of wildlife.

Part II: Positions on Topics
This section challenges you to think about your country's position on the topics you will be debating at conference. The topics for your assigned committee can be found online at:
https://www.ymcace.org/mun-committees

Look to the news to see how your country has responded to these topics in recent years. BBC, Al Jazeera, the Guardian, Reuters, All Africa, the United Nations are all great places to start. You are required to cite a minimum of 10 veritable sources.

Topic 1: Disaster Relief
What is your government's position on this topic throughout history? *What are the domestic and political factors that influenced your government's position? What are the international factors that influenced your government's position?*
Your Answers: Cyprus is an island and is therefore extremely susceptible to flooding and coastline-related natural disasters such as storms. It is also near many of the Mediterranean's largest fault lines and so is in the center of Europe's highest-concentration-area of earthquakes. Temperatures in the summer can exceed 40C and thus wildfires often break out, and winds carry them far and wide to inaccessible areas. Droughts are also a problem. Between 1990-2005, Cyprus suffered from two meteorological drought events that were followed by acute water shortage that impacted the entirety of the country. This makes Cyprus particularly susceptible to environmental threats and thus its historical position has emphasis on minimizing risk factors and training the civilian population to respond accordingly. To this degree, Cyprus has a well-established Civil Defense force that is responsible for prevention, preparation, response, design, education and mitigation of disasters.
What is your government's position on this topic currently? *If your government has recently changed its position on this topic, what has influenced the change in position ?*
Your Answers: Cyprus' disaster coping capacity and structural efficiency has been consistently above average compared to its EU peers, and so its position remains that competent intranational systems are the best solution. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has further shown a prioritization of public health over the economy. Cyprus has restricted travel from some of the most infected countries in the world such as Russia and the UK because mass testing has been deemed infeasible, despite its tourism industry heavily relying on visitors. Small businesses have suffered immensely due to this. Even visitors from countries in the Schengen area are screened and quarantined. Because of these efforts, Cyprus enjoys an extremely low death rate and few cases, meaning a well-contained pandemic.

What is your government's recommended course of action regarding the topic?
What does your government hope to accomplish? What needs to change to achieve this goal? How might this be accomplished? What other countries could you cooperate with to achieve this goal? What other governments might support this course of action? What other governments might oppose this course of action?

Your answers:
Cyprus is a leader in the handling of natural disasters and works closely with the European Union. To this degree it will seek to cooperate with nearby countries in efforts towards regional security for the continent and especially the Mediterranean Sea area. It emphasizes civil defense and public health as a priority before the economy. Despite its success, it also struggles to handle certain disasters such as wildfires and extreme temperatures due to a lack of certain resources like means of transport. As such, it would pursue internal improvements as the primary solution for most countries but also be in favor of the international donation or sharing of disaster relief capabilities.

Topic 2: Nuclear Energy and Disarmament

What is your government's position on this topic throughout history?
What are the domestic and political factors that influenced your government's position? What are the international factors that influenced your government's position?

Your Answers:
Cyprus has no domestic nuclear activities. Some radioactive sources are used for medical, industrial, and research purposes, all of which are imported. While Cyprus is able to afford nuclear energy, there are many strict laws in place regarding nuclear and radiological safety in terms of importation.
Additionally, in recent years, while Cyprus citizens have been very divided politically, all have come together to protest the creation of a nuclear power plant in Turkey.
Internationally, Cyprus has attended a number of conventions and supported a number of treaties to take steps toward the elimination of nuclear weapons globally.

What is your government's position on this topic currently?
If your government has recently changed its position on this topic, what has influenced the change in the government's position ?

Your Answers:
Cyprus has been consistently anti-nuclear. Instances such as Chernobyl have affirmed this position and often been used as justification for strict safety laws and preventing the creation of new nuclear power plants.

What is your government's recommended course of action regarding the topic?
What does the government hope to accomplish? What needs to change to achieve this goal? How might this be accomplished? What other countries could you cooperate with to achieve this goal? What other governments might support this course of action? What other governments might oppose this course of action?

Your answers:
The government intends to approach nuclear energy as safely as possible. To achieve this goal, the stigma that all nuclear energy is dangerous must change. Cyprus has poor air quality and being able to use nuclear energy could largely decrease their carbon emissions and increase the citizens' quality of life. Countries that can assist Cyprus in achieving this are Spain, Sweden, and Finland. They have a few nuclear plants and are not yet in the phase-out stage, so their assistance could do great work to destigmatize nuclear energy. Russia and Turkey may be problematic at first seeing as they have attempted to implement nuclear plants in ways that have conflicted with Cyprus in the past. If these countries can come to an agreement nuclear power plants can go a long way in Cyprus. To further achieve nuclear safety, Cyprus can also continue to cooperate with the 127 other countries that signed the "humanitarian pledge" in 2015-16 to eliminate nuclear weapons. Countries that would oppose this course of action are China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran, among others.

Topic 3: Rights of the Underprivileged

What is your government's position on this topic throughout history?
What are the domestic and political factors that influenced your government's position? What are the international factors that influenced your government's position?

Your Answers:
Cyprus, primarily an urban setting, has developed strong kinship bonds among the citizens. Due to this, poverty, while still renaming a major problem in the government's eyes, is not well documented and only affects those outside of these networks. Due to this, in Cyprus, poverty targets the elderly, immigrants, divorcees and singles from small families. Domestically, with a boost in the economy after the 2003 Cyprus recession, the government is devoting time to lower the public's debt, from 70.3% in 2004 to under 60% in 2007.
Internationally, ever since joining the European Union in 2004, poverty and social exclusion in Cyprus has changed drastically. With this, a guaranteed minimum income was passed on July 10th, 2014, based on the examination of the families resources of beneficiaries.

What is your government's position on this topic currently?
If your government has recently changed its position on this topic, what has influenced the change in the government's position ?What has influenced any change in the government's position?

Your Answers:
At first taking a minimalist approach to the problem at hand, the government of Cyprus only recognized the underprivileged. However, after being given the opportunity and the research necessary to understand why poverty rates in the country were high, the government was able to step in and take action. For example, after joining the EU, Cyprus is able to take an education approach to reducing the rates of poverty, now even surpassing the EU average. Additionally, learning that there were inadequate pensions for private sector retirees, the government was able to apply a pension in 1980, expecting to generate high pension payments. Finally, the economic boost as stated before drastically affected the government's position on the issue of the underprivileged.

What is your government's recommended course of action regarding the topic?
What does your government hope to accomplish? What needs to change to achieve this goal? How might this be accomplished? What other countries could you cooperate with to achieve this goal? What other governments might support this course of action? What other governments might oppose this course of action?What does the government hope to accomplish? What needs to change to achieve this goal? How might this be accomplished? What other countries could you cooperate with to achieve this goal? What other governments might support this course of action? What other governments might oppose this course of action?

Your answers:
With the help of the EU, the government is able to take appropriate action to help reduce the rates of poverty and the underprivileged. Cooperating with the rest of the European Union, Cyprus is able to mimic their amendments and provisions set in place to reduce these rates as well as increase the human rights for these people. Already set in the right direction, with the help of these countries as well as an expansion and inclusion into the already built kinships, Cyprus, an already peaceful country, will be on its way to equality and low underprivileged rates, allowing them to have the proper human rights.

Works Cited:
Include at least 10 scholarly or news sources using MLA format (you can use easybib.com for formatting help)

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2. "Cyprus." Cyprus Economy: Population, GDP, Inflation, Business, Trade, FDI, Corruption, www.heritage.org/index/country/cyprus.
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6. Fm. "Cyprus Poverty Risk for 22.3% of Population." Financial Mirror, 25 Aug. 2020, www.financialmirror.com/2020/08/25/cyprus-poverty-risk-for-22-3-of-population/.
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Part III: Resolution

The final piece of this assignment is to write a Draft Resolution. A resolution is a written document that proposes a solution or action around the topic. A resolution in the United Nations is similar to a bill or proposed legislation in Congress. **For Mock Session, please write a draft resolution on one of the topics that is being discussed and debated in your committee**. A sample of a draft resolution is below for your reference.

Resolution

Committee: General Assembly

Topic: Trafficking

Sponsor: Cyprus

Acknowledging that humanitarian crises of the past decade have led to a drastic increase in forced migration,

Alarmed by the subsequent rise in human smuggling and trafficking across international borders,

Reaffirming member nations' obligations under international law to actively protect the human rights of not just their own citizens, but also of displaced persons,

Recognizing that combatting cross-border trafficking requires multiple national jurisdictions (countries of origin, destination, transit, etc.) and therefore demands international cooperation,

Deeply concerned by certain nations' disregard for the safety and well-being of potential victims within their jurisdictions as a result of tightening immigration policies and growing political animosity toward immigrants in these nations, ,

Aware that this disregard disproportionately places higher burdens on neighboring countries to receive, investigate, and combat potential instances of human trafficking,

Confident that efficient immigration & asylum systems remove the ability of human smugglers/traffickers to prey upon desperate refugees,

Therefore be it resolved by the UN General Assembly,

I. ***Establishes*** the position of UN Special Rapporteur on Cross-Border Trafficking, and directs the Special Rapporteur to:
   a. Evaluate global hotspots, successes, and failures in the current fight against trafficking
   b. Coordinate with national and regional law enforcement agencies to identify current needs and challenges
   c. Provide a report to the member nations based on these findings and make recommendations on how to more-effectively allocate resources to combat human trafficking
II. ***Creates*** the International Counter-Trafficking Database:
   a. Encourages member nations to collect and share intelligence with other countries regarding suspected and confirmed instances of human trafficking
   b. Provides an improved framework for international coordination and communication between law enforcement agencies combatting human trafficking
III. ***Authorizes*** the deployment of UN Peacekeeping forces, when requested by the host country, at ports-of-entry in order to support nations with limited investigatory/enforcement capabilities
   a. Authorizes the creation of the UN Task Force Against Trafficking (UNTFAT) for the purposes of counter-trafficking operations in host countries
   b. Develops a recruitment program to hire and train law enforcement officers from nations with proven success combating human traffickers
IV. ***Calls upon*** member nations to review their immigration policies and make legal migration and requests for asylum easy, safe, and efficient:
   a. Requires that all requests for asylum/refugee status be processed by the receiving nation within a maximum of 3 months
   b. Prohibits governments from placing undue burden upon immigration/asylum applicants except as required for the purposes of national security
   c. Designates countries with a less than 30% asylum acceptance rate, or annual immigration quotas under 5% of total population, as potential violators of this resolution
   d. Authorizes the Special Rapporteur to conduct a subsequent investigation and provide the General Assembly with a written report on the impact of the country's policies

Signatories:

Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Croatia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam