

Cohort 2022: Regional Themes and Target Countries

Western Hemisphere

(LAC, United States, Canada)

Migration: Approaches to Root Causes, Instability and Support to Displaced Populations

The Western Hemisphere faces one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world brought by the displacement and forced migration of millions of people throughout the continent. Caused by factors such as human trafficking, gang violence, economic crisis and political instability, thousands of migrants forced to leave the Northern Triangle and migrate to Mexico and the United States. Over one million people have fled the authoritarian Maduro regime in Venezuela and have flooded countries such as Ecuador, Peru and Colombia which has provided destabilizing conditions to those countries as they struggle to balance the needs of their own citizens with the influx of the refugees. This regional theme will focus on how various sectors can work independently and together to manage the humanitarian crisis prevalent throughout the Western Hemisphere by sharing best practices, networking with regional and global practitioners and gaining a real-world toolkit that will help them tack on the challenge in their respective area of work. An emphasis will be placed on the push and pull factors of migration within the region, the instability that is caused in host countries and efforts that can be made to support displaced populations.

Target Countries:

U.S.A	Mexico	Guatemala	Colombia	El Salvador
Honduras	Peru	Brazil	Haiti	Ecuador

Europe/Eurasia

(Western/Eastern Europe, Caucasus)

Defending Democracy by Preventing Disinformation and Extremism

A dangerous tide of conspiracy theories, hyper-polarization in politics, disinformation and far-right extremism is growing throughout Europe and Eurasia. This trend threatens the foundations of countries throughout Europe and has fueled race-based violence, unrest throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and instability within political systems. The theme for this region will confront these issues head on by providing education and understanding into both disinformation and extremism,

how they are tied together, development of regional and global contacts with experts on the issues, and a focus on solutions for defending democracy against these threats.

Target Countries:

United Kingdom	Armenia	France	Germany	Bosnia and Herzegovina
North Macedonia	Italy	Ukraine	Georgia	Kosovo
Greece	Poland	Hungary	Spain	Serbia

Africa/MENA

(Includes Turkey, Israel and Palestine)

Providing Peace and Security through Understanding and Reconciliation

Religious and ethnic tension has provided economic, security and political instability for decades throughout Africa, North Africa and the Middle East. While many countries are successfully working towards reconciliation and equality, divides centered around ethnicity and religion continue to plague these regions and cause destabilization in countries and regionally. This theme will focus on the root causes that drive ethnic and religious tensions, analysis of successful reconciliation models and how governments can incorporate such reconciliation and understanding in their policies and lawmaking.

Target Countries:

Nigeria	Senegal	Zimbabwe	Benin	Kenya
Ethiopia	Mali	Somalia	Mozambique	The Gambia
Tunisia	Libya	Egypt	Lebanon	Iraq

Asia/Oceania

(Includes Afghanistan and Pacific Islands)

Promoting Sustainability and Environmentalism through Direct Action and Viable Strategies

Population growth and economic development in Asia contribute to a vast amount of environmental issues. Failing to address habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, climate change, and pollution will threaten future growth, food security, and regional stability in Asian countries. While many countries are working towards a solution, it will not come quickly. Not addressing these issues will cause a growing number of national security concerns, human rights issues, and gender-based violence against women and girls. Climate change could directly impact national security because of damage to critical infrastructures such as military bases, training grounds and threatening national defense resources. Failing infrastructure has the power to threaten U.S. security and undermine foreign regional stability. The rise of greenhouse gases, due to anthropogenic sources, into the atmosphere will not only disrupt tons of ecosystems but will indirectly violate human rights as extreme weather events lead to death, limited access to food, water, shelter, education, and healthcare. The growing environmental problems do not affect everyone fairly, as low-income communities, people of color, and women will be affected disproportionately as temperatures rise. Environmental degradation is a significant cause of gender-based violence since it generates water and food scarcity, conflicts, and displacement, deepening inequalities. These concerns contribute heavily to child marriage, intimate partner violence, an increasing amount of gender-based violence in shelters and refugee camps, and a limited number of medical services. This theme will focus on the challenges and complexities of finding a lasting solution to environmental problems and the best practices governments can use to combat climate issues and reduce ecological footprints.

Target Countries:

Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bangladesh	Taiwan	Myanmar*
Timor-Leste	Indonesia	Mongolia	Australia	Nepal
Philippines	Hong Kong*	Malaysia	Thailand	Fiji