



# THE VICTORIA SCHOOL

## MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS XIV

### The United Nations General Assembly (U.N.G.A)

#### **Presidents:**

Samuel Idarraga- The Victoria School  
sidarragac@tvs.edu.co  
+57 322 8101348

María José Gil- Colegio Gran Bretaña  
margil@cgb.edu.co  
+57 318 3354960

Emilio Castillo- Colegio Tilatá  
ecastilloa@colegiotilata.edu.co  
+57 317 2145236



**Level of the committee:** Medium

**Language:** English

#### **Opening Speech:**

- 1:00 min
- One opening speech for each topic

#### **Topic:**

Topic A: Agenda for democratization

- Case study: Belarus

Topic B: Strengthen the laws for wildlife to increase protection of endangered species

- Approach: Trafficking

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY- TVSMUN XIV

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## **Welcome letter GA:**

First of all, we want to welcome you to the 14th model of the united nations of the Victoria school. We are glad to see you all joining the general assembly. I believe more than anything, the model is an opportunity for learning, but most importantly being able to understand the world we live in and perhaps, make new friends. More than anything, we want you to have fun exploring different points of views and opinions from some of the most important and influential people in the world. We hope you exceed in the debate, make the best speeches you have ever done, take a perspective different from your own and finally, have fun. If you need anything at all, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Samuel, María José and Emilio.

## **Introduction to the committee:**

The general assembly is a core and fundamental committee of the United nations. Its main goal and function is to discuss important questions which threaten peace and security, also discussing matters such as the admission of new members and budget.

The sole objective of the UN is to maintain international peace and security. This is done mostly by preventing conflict rather than stopping it. The General Assembly follows the same objective which takes as well a broad approach to topics, given of course by the name of the committee.

The general assembly's jurisdiction goes as the following: "The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters."

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Visit UN charter:<https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-iv/index.html><sup>1</sup>

Some of the most important moments of the general assembly are conformed by: the declaration of human rights(1948), the general assembly's first ever emergency special meeting concerning the suez crisis(1956), the unicef program became permanent in 1953. In 1959 the General Assembly adopted the declaration of rights of the children. In 1961 the general assembly approved the establishment of the World Food Program (WFP) on a three-year experimental basis. The general assembly designated 1975 as the international women's year. In 2001 the general assembly adopted this Declaration of Commitment, which laid out specific national targets and global actions aimed at reversing an epidemic that had caused boundless suffering and death worldwide. (2020). Retrieved 17 October 2020, from <https://www.history.com/news/10-memorable-moments-in-united-nations-history>

## **Topic A: Agenda for democratization**

### **Introduction to the topic:**

“The following text was presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General on 20 December 1996 as a supplement to two previous reports on democratization, and has been circulated as an official document (A/51/761) of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 41, "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies”<sup>2</sup>.

A text written in the 51st session of the General Assembly provided information on how the UN looks forward to promoting democracy as the righteous system of governance. Yet, nowadays there are still various countries which even though are members of the UN, are not promoters of democracy. Today, 96 out of 167 countries are democratic. There has always been a clash between autocratic and democratic governments, but the UN supports democracy as it gives more “freedom” to the people. Nowadays some of the most outstanding autocracies are China, North Korea, Cuba and Belarus, and many of these have a fundamental role in the economy and politics of today's world. Belarus will be the case study. This country gained its independence just a few decades ago (1991) and has one if not the most unstable democracy in all Europe. Even Though it is considered democratic, it is also called a non-free country (according to “The Freedom House”(NGO)). Is it fundamental to have the people choose a leader? Perhaps you should be making this question.

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<sup>2</sup> (n.d.). AnAgenda for Democratization - the United Nations. Retrieved November 28, 2020, from [https://www.un.org/fr/events/democracyday/assets/pdf/An\\_agenda\\_for\\_democratization.pdf](https://www.un.org/fr/events/democracyday/assets/pdf/An_agenda_for_democratization.pdf)

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In the topic, there is a wide range of topics and discussions that can be addressed, and the topic brings various perspectives into collision to see whether it is necessary to apply the agenda for democratization as a worldwide law or requirement, or on the other hand, to get rid of it and make an entirely new document, or even more, to rewrite the agenda to make it more accessible on a worldwide level.

## **Historical Background:**

Democracy is “government of, by and for the people”. -Abraham Lincoln (1863).

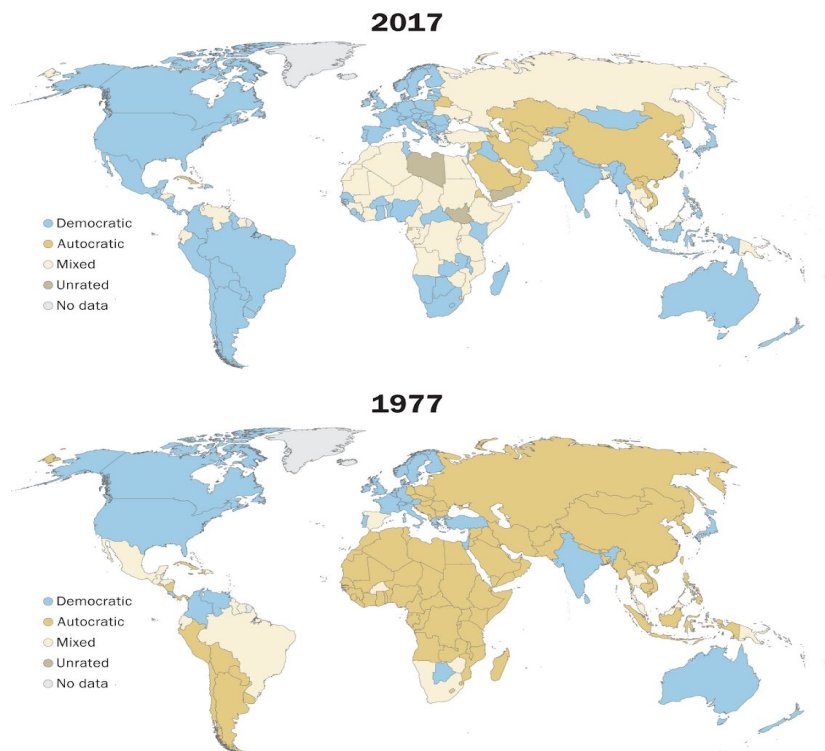
Democracy has been in the world since ancient Greece, perhaps even further. The origins of democracy are said to be from Athens (5th-4th century BCE). The idea of democracy back then was based on the concept of people, village, assembly and most importantly voting. It was a new way of organizing public relations and a system of social development. Although many civilizations seem to have advancements similar to democracy, Greece is the oldest of them all. This system is based on the idea of the people choosing their leader, their representation via a voting in which the majority wins. The idea comes far in history, but the importance of democracy in today's world comes mostly from what Samuel Huntington (1927-2008) classifies as the three stages of democracy. The first wave started in the 19th century (1828) to 1926 with countries such as the United States, France and the UK, accompanied by around 29 other countries. Most of these countries became democratic throughout and after the first world war. Many communist movements in mainly Europe caused newly formed democracies to return to autocratic systems. In 1922, only around 12 countries were still democratic. The second wave began after WWII, where there were more than 36 democratic countries. In the 60's, there was again a decrease in democratic countries going to 30 democratic countries mainly because of

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the influence of the cold war in the world. The third wave was not long after, beginning in the 74, where most latin american countries and pacific asian countries began a process of democratization. This is mostly associated with the fall of the Soviet Union, when most of the communist countries started a democratization process.

## Democracy has grown across the world over the past four decades

*Regime types in each country, 1977 and 2017*



Note: Map depicts data for the 167 countries included in the Polity IV database. Countries labeled "mixed" have a blend of democratic and autocratic regime characteristics. "Unrated" countries are those whose central government has or had completely collapsed, which are or were subject to foreign intervention or occupation, or which are or were in the midst of a regime transition. "No data" refers to states or entities that either have fewer than 500,000 people or are not internationally recognized as fully sovereign.

Source: Center for Systemic Peace's Polity IV Project.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Despite global concerns about democracy, more than half of countries are democratic. (2020). Retrieved 17 October 2020, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/14/more-than-half-of-countries-are-democratic/>

Democracy can only be given if these four conditions take place: the existence of a system which allows the choosing and replacement of government through free and fair elections, active participation of people, protection of human rights for all citizens and finally, a law in which

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procedure apply to all citizens.<sup>3</sup> This separates democracy from autocratic or mixed systems of governance. It's all about the freedom of choice and the opportunity to either seek representation or try and represent your people. The UN has always been in favour of democratic governments and their functionality in protecting the rights of citizens, therefore the general assembly created the document titled "An agenda for democratization" where it is stated how international democratization is an objective needed to be fulfilled. Probably the most harmful event involving an autocratic government at least in modern times is nazi germany. The sole ruler of an entire country caused the death of millions and the suffering of even more. But autocracies have been seen everywhere and throughout history. Since the roman empire there have been autocracies. The Aztecs as well presented signs of autocracies, where their sole ruler made the decisions of the civilizations and even demanded sacrifices (1300-1500 in Mexico), and philosophers such as Mancur Olson considered that the dawn of autocracy helped to end anarchy and initiate a state. Autocracies have a certain way of achieving actual positive goals, but are extremely hard to control and usually operate by the use of threats and fear. Autocracies are known for ignoring human rights and unfair treatment. In this type of government, there are no elections, no choice, no opinions, and yet they help to provide in some cases a great quality of life and surprisingly high GDP(gross domestic product). As the governance is based on fear, there is a growth in productivity and therefore, some autocratic countries have been on the top of the world concerning the economy. Some of the most relevant autocracies have been: the french empire(Napoleon Bonaparte), the Soviet Union, Facist Italy, the Japanise Empire, the Nazi Germany, the Spanish States, and basically every European, African, Asian and American dictatorship throughout history. Even Though autocratic governments are not necessarily dictatorships, dictatorships are a form of autocratic governments just as totalitarianism. While dictatorships are radical and are governance where a person or a small group rules the country and the people, totalitarianism is a lot more radical, where there is no authority nor choice in the people. Many empires and dictatorships have led to some of history's greatest wars and conflicts and have the blood of millions in their hands.

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<sup>3</sup> (n.d.). Democracy: Its Meaning and Dissenting Opinions of ... - ERIC. Retrieved November 28, 2020, from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1083739.pdf>



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This type of government uses military power to force citizens or companies to do things, they manipulate through fear. This leads to the people being scared of being either imprisoned or killed, so there is very little chance the conflict will be resolved internally, and usually there is a need for international intervention.

Belarus was for a long time a territory claimed by different groups surrounding the country and it has never been a politically stable country. During the events of the cold war, Belarus was a communist country backing up the USSR. Most of its territory was lost during the first world war to the hand of Poland. After its independence, Belarus has had various conflicts during elections caused by oppression and corruption which ended up getting sanctioned by the UN. WWII affected all countries, but Belarus is constantly referred as the most affected country by the second world war. During the events of the war, Belarus lost a quarter of its pre-war territory, more than 2 million people died which also meant a quarter of its population back in the 1940's, and of course it is important to mention the influence of communism in the country where even though it is democratic, it is ruled as autocratic.



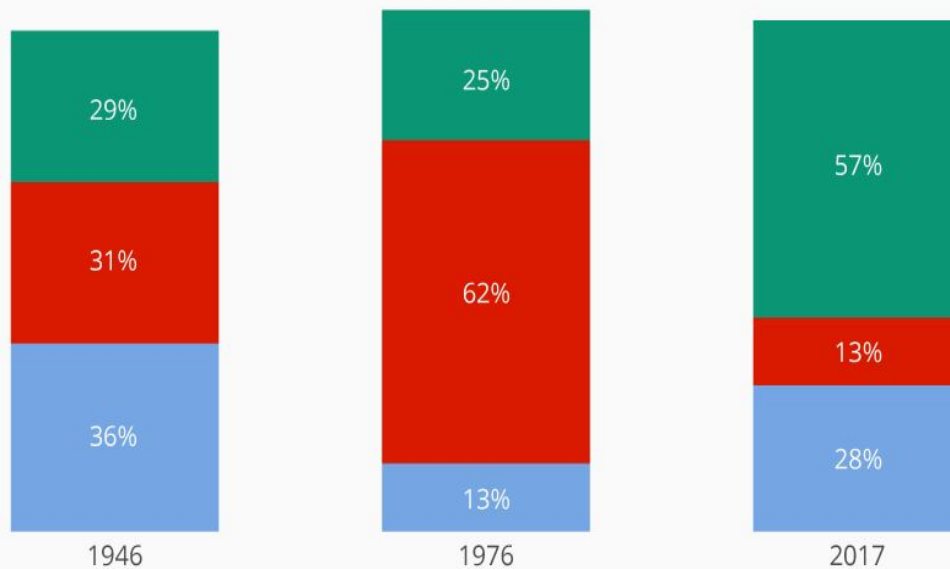
In pictures: Across Europe, t. (2020). Across Europe, rallies grow to support Belarus protests. Retrieved 16 October 2020, from <https://www.euronews.com/2020/08/13/in-pictures-across-europe-thousands-are-rallying-in-support-of-the-belarus-protests>

Belarus faces a situation in which even though the country is “democratic”, corruption has taken control as elections are no longer just and there is almost no chance of international intervention in the matter. and the citizens fear an upcoming dictatorship, and in the past 6 years, the number of migrants from Belarus has more than doubled.

## Over Half of Governments Are Democracies

Share of countries under each regime type, 1946-2017

Mixed Autocratic Democratic



Data only available for 167 countries

@StatistaCharts

Sources: Center for Systemic Peace, Pew Research Center

statista

<https://www.statista.com/chart/19709/democracies-around-the-world/>

The chart above shows not only the increase of democracy in the past years, but also how historic events such as the second world war or the cold war have changed the way people perceive the world and how people are now looking forward to choosing their own leader.

## Where Support For Autocracy Is Strongest

"Is a system where a strong leader can make decisions without interference good or bad?"



\* Selected countries

Original question: "Would a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts be a good or bad way of governing this country?"



@StatistaCharts

Source: Pew Research Center

statista

<https://www.statista.com/chart/11566/where-support-for-autocracy-is-strongest/>

On the other hand, we can see how on the top of the chart (support towards autocracies) some non autocratic countries (republics) consider that having a strong leader without interference is good, which leads to thinking that maybe democracy is not necessary, that the agenda for democratization should perhaps not be taken into account.

**Relevant actors:**

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**Alexander Lukashenko:** president of the Republic of Belarus, leads the country in an autocratic way. Referred to as Europe's last dictator who has been sanctioned for crimes against human rights. In August 9 2020 Lukashenko won again the elections (6th period) with over 80% votes. This brought unconformities and doubts internationally causing protests of millions in the streets.

Lukashenko is open to the fact that he is autocratic, he even celebrates it. He rules one of the most controversial countries nowadays, and has been sanctioned by international law as a result of his management and the lack of freedom his country has. People fear a dictatorship, and seem to want a change even though the most recent elections were won by Lukashenko by % of the population

**Vladimir Putin:** Russia is a democratic republic. Still, it is considered to have some fragments of an autocratic rule. The neighbour country to Belarus has always helped economically and politically. Putin has been in office for two decades already, and some of his methods such as his unorthodox management of liberty and the use of fear to impose productivity are considered against democracy, and many countries have doubts about the legitimacy of his governance. In the past few years, Putin has been accused by Belarus leaders of several “crimes” against the country”, raising tension between these countries and leaders.

**Nicolás Maduro:** in the past years (since 2013) Nicolas Maduro assumed the power of leading Venezuela as its president. Venezuela has always had complex problems concerning its governance, but after he got into power (March the 5th, 2013), its economics, social and political references have gone down to levels never seen before. Poverty has led the Venezuelan people to run to the closest countries or if possible, leave the continent. All of this caused by the autocratic regime of Maduro, who is leading the country to collapse. Venezuela’s regime is being called illegitimate by the United States and almost every Latin American country. Belarus has always seen potential in Latin America. The country has embassies in various countries in the southern hemisphere and Lukashenko has a “friendly” relationship with the Venezuelan ruler who publicly celebrated Lukashenko’s victory in the last elections.

## **Current situation:**

Even Though in the past decades the number of democratic countries have increased, there is still a debate between both democratic and autocratic parties. The UN still recommends democracy. Most of the international conflict nowadays grows from the disagreement between autocrats and democrats. As an example is the US-North Korea conflict, the chinese-indian conflict (very recent) and the conflict in the Persian Gulf. Many of these conflicts present a threat to international security, but they can be considered by both point of view, that either the democratic parties cause these conflicts and so should be eradicated, or the autocratic countries have too much power and should be transformed into democracies. The elections past 9 of august(2020) lead the citizens of Belarus concerned about the legitimacy of the government. protests have been made and the people of belarus fera a dictatorship, even though their country is “democratic”. The situation has pushed Lukashenko to ask Putin for money as a result of the so called illegitimate elections and the protests inside the country. Belarus was lent 1.5 billion usd. It's been a long time since belarus has seen such conflict.

## **How the topics will be handled:**

For topic a we hope delegates find the most pertinent and in-depth information about their countries. Even Though Belarus is the main case study, delegates are not in the need of always focusing on this as the agenda for democratization takes a broad space of topics. The chair expects the delegates to use reliable sources to back up their arguments and find the most pertinent position of their chosen country.

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## Investigation questions:

- What is your country's perspective on the agenda for democratization?
- how has your country been affected by democratization or the lack of it?
- If your country is not democratic, find the specific reason for your country for staying autocratic.
- Find pros and cons of both autocratic and democratic governments. (if you can, also search for mixed governments which work both with autocratic and democratic characteristics).

## QARMA's:

- Should democracy still be the UN's "legitimate" and "best" governmental system?
- Is Belarus an autocratic or a democratic government?
- What changes should be made to democracy so that the agenda for democratization becomes more achievable?
- Is democracy actually protecting the citizens rights, peace and security?

## Supporting sources:

- (n.d.). AnAgenda for Democratization - the United Nations. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from [https://www.un.org/fr/events/democracyday/assets/pdf/An\\_agenda\\_for\\_democratization.pdf](https://www.un.org/fr/events/democracyday/assets/pdf/An_agenda_for_democratization.pdf)
- (2019, May 14). More than half of countries are democratic | Pew Research .... Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/14/more-than-half-of-countries-are-democratic/>
- (n.d.). Democracy's Third Wave - National Endowment for Democracy. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.ned.org/docs/Samuel-P-Huntington-Democracy-Third-Wave.pdf>
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- (2020, September 9). Belarus: The West can gnash its teeth. But there's little it can .... Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/09/europe/belarus-west-analysis-intl/index.html>

## **Topic B: Strengthen the laws for wildlife to increase protection of endangered species**

### **Introduction to the topic:**

Imagine 100 elephants. Each elephant weighs about 6 tons and can grow up to 3.2 meters (african elephants). Now imagine those 600 tons of nature, of life being taken away. An average of 100 elephants are killed a day worldwide<sup>4</sup>. Even Though the number of elephant kills have gone lower, these are massive numbers. Now, there are thousands of species being targeted just like the elephant for their tusks, skins, or as captive entertainment. The trafficking of species, the destruction of habitat and global warming are responsible for the extinction of various species. Among these, just in 2018 The Po'ouli from Hawaii, The Spix's Macaw, the Eastern Puma and the last male white rhino went extinct.

Taking an animal from its environment not only unethical, but it creates a chain effect which affects thousands of other species. Specially done in Africa and Asia, the hunting and killing of animals produces great wealth, and the wares are exported to places such as the United States or Europe. The problem not only comes from the illegal market or the hunting, but the demand. All around the world people are drawn towards the exotic, for example the expensive skin of a crocodile or wanting a ball python as a pet. A very common material seeked is ivory. It is

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<sup>4</sup> (n.d.). 100 African elephants - World Elephant Day. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://worldelephantday.org/about/elephants>

extracted mainly from the tusks of elephants (at least the best quality as it can also be extracted from walrus, hippopotamus, sperm whale, killer whale, narwhal and warthog). And even though the ball python is not endangered, various species of alligators, crocodiles and elephants are. This is a huge problem with animal trafficking as people want animal products and so demand grows higher and the death of the animals also grows higher, so before reading the whole guide, take into account the laws not only have to be applied onto the reduction of the killing of animals, but the demand of their products.

## Historical Background:

Millenia ago the human being faced the process of evolution and the transformation from nomadic to sedentary establishments. Back then they had to hunt whether it was to get food, to get warmth or just to protect their own lives, but today things have changed. The highest of charges such as the novels had the privilege of hunting as a sport. Events such as the french revolution modernized ideologies and hunting animals and laws began to surface to protect biodiversity and the planet<sup>5</sup>. The human being no longer requires to hunt or to fight for survival and yet we are still seeing the mass extinction of entire species. As a result of the killing and trafficking of animals, several NGOS have been working to avoid and reverse the death of this species. The first actual document including the laws of wildlife protection was the Lacey Act.(1900). In 2008, the protection of plants and vegetable bodies was also included in the act. The act includes normatives prohibiting the selling, possession or buying of such animal or plant products. Since its first version in the 1900, there have been different improvements and amendments to increase the penalty and explain further processes.

Many campaigns have lead to the creation of laws against animal cruelty and trafficking. And even though this has helped reduce the hunt of elephants for their ivory and the killing of rhinos

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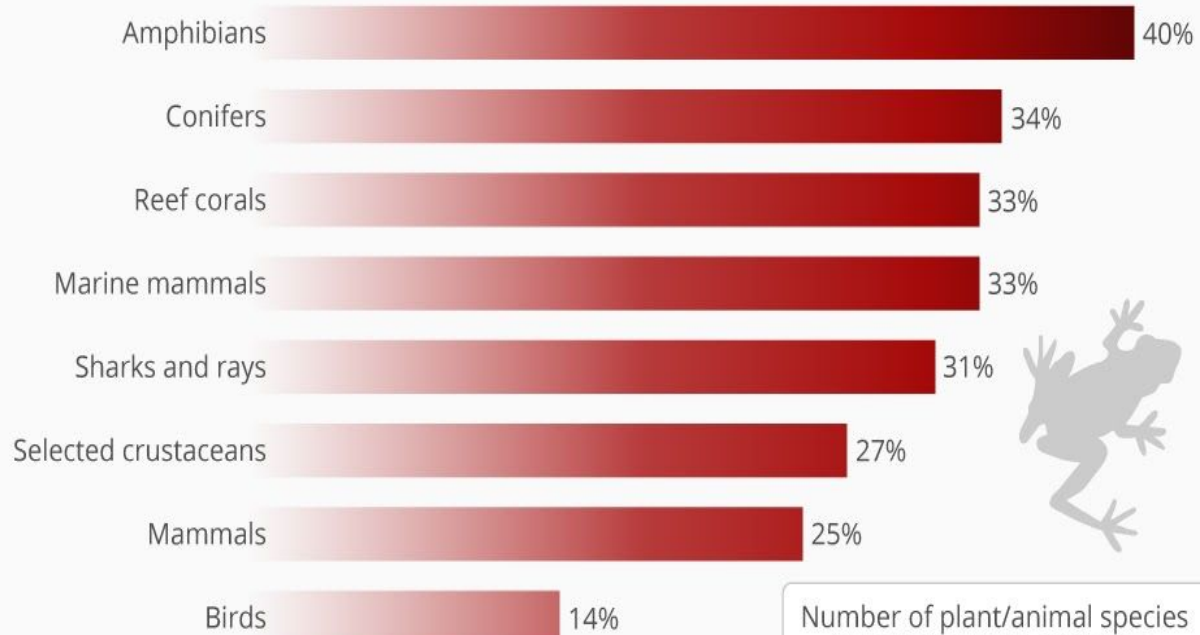
<sup>5</sup> (n.d.). The history of hunting | Alimentaryum. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.alimentaryum.org/en/knowledge/history-hunting>



for their horns, thousands of species are still being killed or sold either for medicine, fur, bones or even sport. The most trafficked and most affected animals are pangolins which are sought for their rare scales and the thought of their medical value, rhinoceros whose species(northern white rhinos) fell to the border of extinction when in 2018 the last male northern white rhino died. The demand for their horns is large enough to bring them second on the list.

## A Quarter Of All Species Are Threatened With Extinction

Share of plant/animal species at risk of extinction worldwide



Number of plant/animal species threatened with extinction  
**1,000,000**



Findings based on the systematic review of about 15,000 scientific and government sources

Source: The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

statista

<https://www.statista.com/chart/17914/the-share-of-plant-animal-species-at-risk-of-extinction-worldwide/>

Even Though animal trafficking is usually related to large mammals or reptiles, the amphibians are the most affected class of animals and the most endangered towards extinction as of right now, 40% of all species of amphibians are facing danger of extinction. Right now, a quarter of

all species in the world are endangered<sup>6</sup>. The number of animals which follow the same pattern are countless and yet it is still very common to find people trying to protect animals, so then why hasn't the hunting and killing stopped? Well, just as in most of the situations nowadays, there is a very high demand for these kinds of products (drugs, wildlife products, weapons, illicit materials) and the laws are not radical enough to reduce the numbers.

# \$23B

The global illegal wildlife trade generates between \$7 billion and \$23 billion in illicit revenue annually.\* The trade can involve a range of criminal activities, from trafficking and forgery to bribes and use of shell companies.<sup>1</sup>

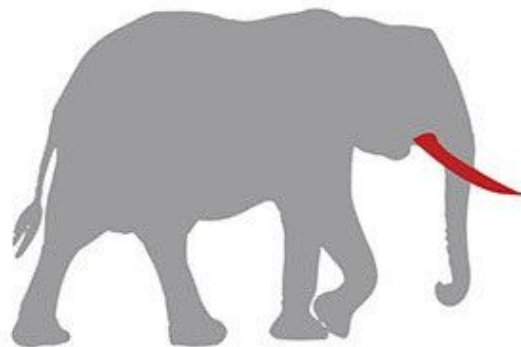
## 9,246%

In 2007, South Africa lost 13 rhinos. In 2014, it lost 1,215—an increase of more than 9,000%.<sup>2</sup>



## \$60,000

Increasing demand for rhino horn in Asia has fueled black market prices. Rhino horn is said to go for \$60,000 per kg (\$132,000/lb).<sup>3</sup>



## 100,000

As many as 100,000 African elephants—33,000 per year—were killed between the years 2010 and 2012. More than 65% of Central Africa's forest elephant population has been wiped out in the last decade.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>6</sup> (2019, May 8). • Chart: A Quarter Of All Species Are Threatened ... - Statista. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.statista.com/chart/17914/he-share-of-plant-animal-species-at-risk-of-extinction-worldwide/>

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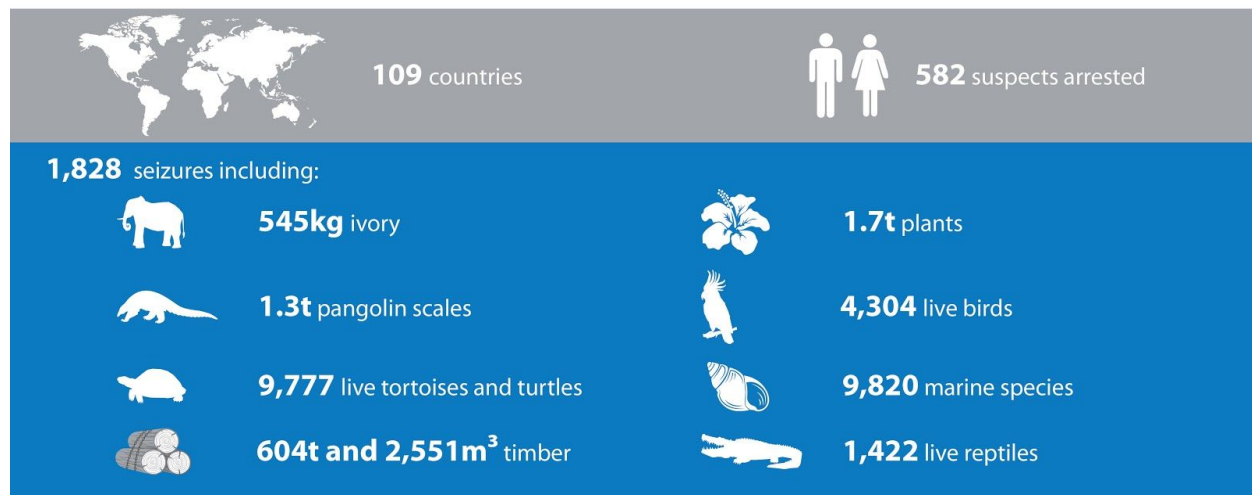
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/09/fighting-illegal-wildlife-and-forest-trade/>

The data shown in this image is alarming, not only seeing the profit gained by this illegal activity, but the increase in the death and demand of both rhinos and elephants. And it is not only these large mammals, but the reptiles, the amphibians, the birds and even plants.

In 2019 the Interpol and the WCO (the World Customs Organization) developed Operation Thunderball. The operation identified various trafficking routes which led to the arrest of more than 600 involved criminals and the recovery of more than 4,300 protected birds. The operation held the recovering of all types of animals from reptiles to mammals and amphibians.

## OPERATION THUNDERBALL 2019

Tackling illegal wildlife crime



[https://www.cites.org/eng/news/wildlife-trafficking-organized-crime-hit-hard-by-joint-interpol-wco-global-enforcement-operation\\_10072019](https://www.cites.org/eng/news/wildlife-trafficking-organized-crime-hit-hard-by-joint-interpol-wco-global-enforcement-operation_10072019)

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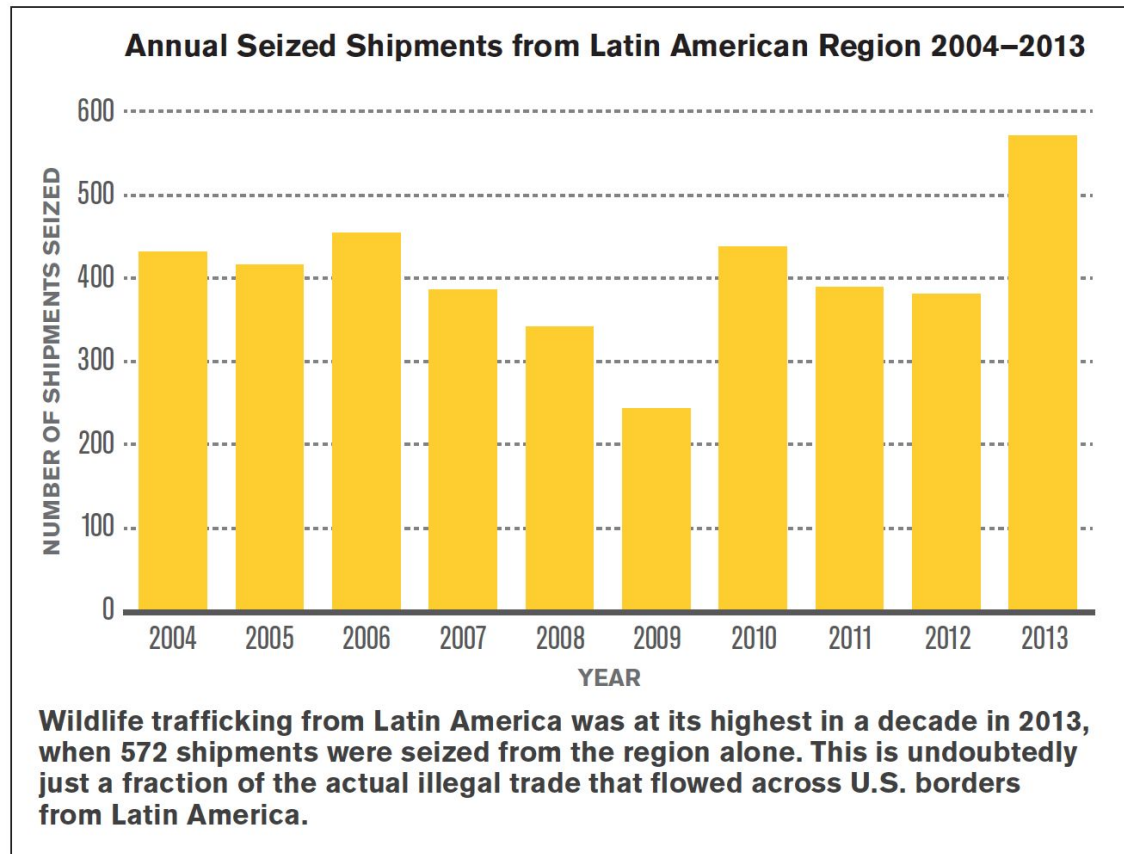
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The image shows the impact of operation thunderball including all animals and plants recovered. The success of operation Thunderball was large, and various poachers and criminals were arrested as a consequence. Even Though not all of the products recovered were living animals such as ½ a tonelate of ivory or the pangolin scales, at least the products will not be sold in the black market. And This of course gives hope of change but there is an imminent need for change, especially in strengthening the laws of protection towards wildlife.

In 1990 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITIES)<sup>7</sup> was an agreement between various governments to ban the trade of ivory. This of course helped reduce the international trade of ivory but it is still a large problem in Asia. Trafficking of animals and their exploitation is a lot of times related with Africa and Asia, the only place where you can find elephants, pangolins, rhinos, tigers or pandas, but America is one of the continents more targeted by poachers as they have great quantities of biodiversity. South america is lucky enough to have the so-called “Lungs of the Planet”, the Amazon forest. The forest goes through various countries (Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guayana Francesa, Guyana, Perú and Surinam). This ecosystem accounts 10% of the world's biodiversity and millions of species of both fauna and flora.

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<sup>7</sup> (n.d.). What is CITES? | CITES. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>



One of the reasons this criminal enterprise of selling and buying animal wares is so successful is because it can easily be disguised and shown as legal wildlife trade. In latin america as the chart above shows, the number of shipments seized have increased. Now we can see this in two ways, the first one is that maybe the regulations and staff controlling water bodies have gotten better and seized more shipments, but we can also see it as the most probable way, which is that demand has increased on the search of american species and so there is more hunting and killing of different species.

**Relevant actors:**

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**WWF (World Wildlife Fund):** the most influential and essential organization protecting wildlife. It is known for the protection of both fauna and flora of the planet. It leads campaigns and collects resources to help in the recreation and reforestation of the world. Just a while ago the organization created the coalition to end wildlife trafficking which has helped reduce the numbers of trafficking through the internet as well as the demand. As a result of the found, protection and awareness of the endangered species, global warming and deforestation has lead to the recent reduction in data concerning the topic

**The USA/China:** the United States has one of the largest illegal markets of animal wares in the world. China is the largest buyer of ivory in the world. Both of these countries have some of the largest influences in today's economy, politics and culture. The demand of animal wares is one of the most important problems which is leading to the extinction of various species. Having one of the largest markets also leads to a lot of resistance. In the US, there are some of the most important NGOS and movements which have great impact in the world. Documents such as the Lacey Act where redacted in the US.

**South Africa:** the country of South Africa holds the most number of rhinos as well as the highest number of poachers. Even Though most of the ivory comes from countries in Africa, South Africa kills the most rhinos in the world. Still, it is important to mention most of the tiger poachers are in Asia as well as rhinos and asian elephants. Even Though one of the most advanced and developed countries in Africa, South Africa requires a lot of improvement and help as it has resources and education

**Current situation:**

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Nowadays it is estimated that illegal wildlife trafficking is the world's fourth most lucrative industry after drugs. It produces billions of dollars a year. From 2002 to 2012, the west and central Africa has lost more than 60% of the elephant population<sup>8</sup>. It is estimated that the elephant death rate is higher than their birth rate. A century ago there were at least 100,000 tigers in the world. Now there are only 4000, a decline of 96%. This is only superficial data but mainly the current situation is the decay of each of these species which are either killed for product or kept alive to trade or sell. Not all wildlife trade is illegal, in fact most of it is legal. When wildlife trade follows legislations, provides stability and sustainable trade, it has potential in helping businesses grow. But the laws, the treaties and the bans are not enough to drastically reduce the numbers. There is a need to create even more programs to develop conscience in the public as if there is no demand, there is no need for a product.

## **How the topics will be handled:**

We think it is important to focus the debate especially on trafficking and stay in task. We hope delegates do not deviate from the main topic and most importantly find plausible solutions which will help reduce trafficking. It is important that delegates keep in mind that whatever solution they create must follow international boundaries as well as taking into account that there is legal wildlife trade.

## **Investigation questions:**

- Did your country approve or deny the CITIES's agreement?

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<sup>8</sup> (2016, September 23). Poaching behind worst African elephant losses in 25 ... - IUCN. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/201609/poaching-behind-worst-african-elephant-losses-25-years-%E2%80%93-iucn-report>



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- How has illegal wildlife trade affected your country?
- Find information about illegal and legal wildlife trade in your country
- Find campaigns or NGOS which have helped reduce illegal wildlife trade in your country

## **QARMA's:**

- How has illegal wildlife trafficking affected today's generation and how will it affect future generations?
- What can be done to reduce the number of deaths and captures?
- How can we make laws more functional and radical?
- How can we protect the rangers killed protecting wildlife?

## **Supporting sources:**

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### Topic B:

- Laws that Protect Animals. (2020). Retrieved 18 October 2020, from <https://aldf.org/article/laws-that-protect-animals/#:~:text=The%20Animal%20Welfare%20Act%3A%20Signed,like%20those%20in%20puppy%20mills.>
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