

Welcome to



On Behalf of the chair, Receive a warm welcome to MMUN XII, and the committee of ASEAN. As you might know, this commission has a high level expectation to deal with the southeast's most important issues. For this committee to have the best resolutions, you must come prepared to face the world's atrocities, in a manner that diplomacy, negotiations and peace, can prevail. The chair highly recommended to all delegates, to carry out a strong research process. And always to remember that collaboration, leadership and commitment are attitudes that will be needed during the debate.

Given that, ASEAN's commission is a high level expected committee, so all nations lead an important role in the present conflicts. Above all, we hope that all delegates develop a space of happiness and joy, in which they can learn attitudes and abilities that will help them in future events or careers. Feel free to contact us via mail.

Looking forwards to meet you all,
Nicolás Gaitán and Nicolás Estévez

ASEAN was created on August 8 of 1967, by the 5 starting original member states, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Philippines. Those Countries developed the (TAC) Treaty of Amity and Cooperation at Southeast Asia, They declared that at their mutual relations that the must contracting Nations shall be guided by the 6 principles that are the following

1. Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial
2. integrity, and national identity of all nations
3. The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion, or coercion
4. Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another
5. Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner
6. Renunciation of the threat or use of force
7. Effective cooperation among themselves

Then ASEAN welcomed 5 new members : Laos, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar and Cambodia. At the moment, those are the only member states of ASEAN, nevertheless. There are other nations wheeling to enter the organization due to geographical reasons.



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TOPIC A

Creation of strategies for the establishment of a free trade zone between Russia and countries belonging to ASEAN

Free trade zone: A FTZ is a specific area in countries' jurisdiction where the customs duties don't apply to any product.

LDC: The Least Developed Countries are those that haven't reached a maximum advanced or mature political, social and economic system.

Diplomatic Relations: Relationship between nations that endorses and ensures diplomacy.

Exported Products: they are goods and services that are produced in your own country, but are sold to buyers in other countries.

SEZ: An area in which business and trade laws apply differently.

GDP: GDP or Gross Domestic Product is the total amount of the market value of the goods and services produced in one nation.

MDC: The More Developed Countries are those that have accomplished to reach their maximum potential of economic, political and social growth.

Imported Products: is the introduction of goods from another country into your own.

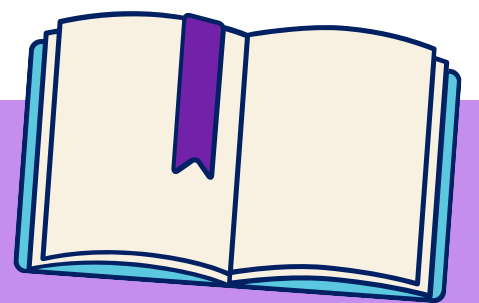
FTZ: Area in which goods may be stored, handled, imported and manufactured, under a different customs regulation

Introduction

Russia has been a constant dialogue partner to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Their diplomatic relations remain intact, hence, they have never reached an agreement or an action plan for the development of a free trade zone. According to the ASEAN Briefing, ASEAN could become the world's 4th largest and stronger economy by the year 2030. This could be achieved by the management of 4 major forces: The increment of foreign investments, growth of income levels and the digital approach, and Forceful demographic trends. This means that of the 600 million people of ASEAN's population, 65% would become middle class. At the present date, there are only 5 free trade agreements between dialogue partners and ASEAN. Those agreements are with the following Nations: Australia, New Zealand, Republic of India, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Japan.

Most of ASEAN's member states are LDC (The Least Developed Countries) and some of them have passed through terrible economical and societal harassment. The creation of a free trade zone with Russia would allow the increase of the economy and the development of new trade and economic strategies in order to achieve the goal of becoming the world's 4th biggest economy. As Russia is the 11th largest economy, with a total amount of \$1.70 trillion of GDP, They have the capacity of having 23 SEZ (Special Economic Zones) and FTZ (Free Trade Zone), Nevertheless, it's necessary for Russia and ASEAN to reach an agreement in order to successfully establish a free trade zone, so that products that are transported will not have customs duties.

Historic Context



ASEAN was created on August 8 of 1967, by the 5 starting original member states, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Philippines. Those Countries developed the (TAC) Treaty of Amity and Cooperation at Southeast Asia, They declared that at their mutual relations that the must contracting Nations shall be guided by the 6 principles that are the following

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ASEAN's TAC declared that cooperation and dialogue shall aim to promote peace and stability by developing regional resilience. The partnership of ASEAN and Russia began in July 1991, when Russian

member representatives were invited to assist the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Subsequently, Russia decided to promote itself as a full dialogue partner in July 1996; in November 2004, Russia accession to TAC was admitted, which was a huge milestone in ASEAN history. Later on, in 2004 declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism (DCC IT) was as developed and adopted. Hence, a work and action plan for Transitional crime, and Counterterrorism was drafted. In 2005 an agreement called “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the Russian Federation on Economic and Development Cooperation” was signed, the agreement ensures favourable economic cooperation and trade.

In 2007, the ASEAN- Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund was created. 2014 the ASEAN- Russian trade turnover was \$22.5 Billion, meanwhile Russia's foreign investment in the region turned 698 million in 2012-2014. In 2016 the Sochi Declaration was submitted, moving towards a strategic partnership for mutual benefit.

Current Situation



ASEAN and Russia remain as allies and partners. Russian president Vladimir Putin has stated and reiterated his nation's desire of cooperation with Southeast Asian Nations. The Russian Federation has Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) with Nations such as Vietnam and Singapore, but some ASEAN nations such as Thailand or Indonesia had expressed their hope and desire to develop new bilateral free trade agreements, in fact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia donated 19 vaccine doses to the Philippines, Vietnam and Laos, linking that the relation between them is stronger than before.

At the Southeast Asian Nations there is a clear desire for the development of FTAs and the inclusion of a trade partner such as EAEU, it seems that such inclusion would come into practice, if so, The ASEAN-EAEU free trade agreement would have a developing potential \$100 billion US by 2030 that would be connecting with the goal of been the world's 4th largest economy.

At the present date, President Vladimir Putin is promoting the expansion of influences in Southeast Asia through action plans and meetings with ASEAN. The actions may include the endorsement of a 5-year roadmap that is mainly focused on trade and the cooperation at investments. At the other hand at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) that was held at the month of August 2021, Vietnam offered itself as a passage and a bridge in order to establish a connection between ASEAN and EAEU,

Relevant actors

Due to the fact that the purpose of the committee is achieving strategies for the establishment of a free trade zone, the use of nations such as : China, Australia, Japan, India, Korea and New Zealand will be critical for the commission, since they are the nations that already have FTZ with ASEAN, so its agreements could be taken a model to follow.



AANZFTA

The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was assembled in January 2010, it eliminates 90% of the goods that are being traded between the 3 parties involved in the agreement, this Agreement covers up a population of 653 million and an amount of \$4.3 Trillion US. This FTZ will be fully established at its 100% by 2025.



ACFTA

ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) was established in January 2010, and it is one of the world's largest FT Markets, creating a better lifestyle for about 1.9 billion people at ASEAN and India, combined with a \$4.8 trillion US GDP.



AIFTA

On the other hand, the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) was assembled in July 2005. This FTA has reduced the tariffs of more than 7000 products, or 90% of the imports. Throughout this FTA China has become ASEAN's largest investor through the last decade. With an impressive amount of trade of \$731 Billion US in 2020.



AKFTA

ASEAN-Republic of Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) was developed in 2007, and has a tariff eradication of 90% on products that are distributed between Korea and all ASEAN Nations. All exports have reached about \$80 Billion US.



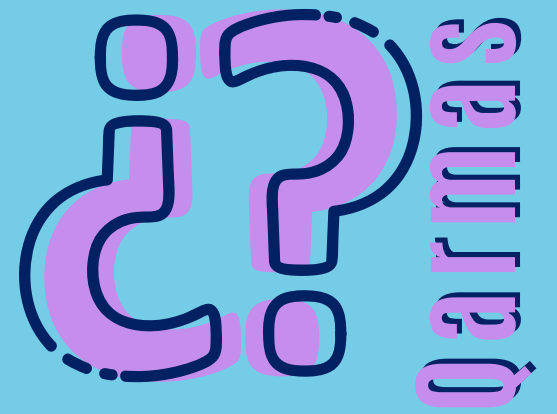
AANZFTA

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) was assembled in December 2008, and it has eliminated 87% of all duties' tariffs.



As a matter of fact, the commission has high capacities in order to carry out several strategies in order to accomplish a free trade zone between ASEAN and The Russian Federation. Thus, we require an economic and political action plan to adjust and regulate the system of free trade between nations. Consequently, The fact that most of ASEAN member states are LDCs, Delegations during the committee shall seek solutions that would feed the FTZ and at the same time the GDP of the present nations. We want the commission to discuss whether forming an economic alliance between ASEAN and EAEU is a good idea or not; and what back up plans there should be if another economic downfall strikes on free trade zones. On behalf of the chair, we express hope that ASEAN will seek viable and trustworthy solutions, hence we encourage the comity to do the best they can in order that a superb resolution is accomplished

- How is your nation's relationship with Russia?
- What Effects can a FTZ cause in your Country?
- What economic implications does it require having a FTZ?
- How can a FTZ be established without submitting ASEAN nations as dependant countries?
- When can the FTZ be established?
- Why does your Nation have a need for the establishment of a FTZ with Russia?



USEFUL SOURCES

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Overview-ASEAN-Russia-Dialogue-Relations2.pdf>

<https://asean.org/agreement-between-the-governments-of-the-member-countries-of-the-association-of-southeast-asian-nations-and-the-government-of-the-russian-federation-on-economic-and-development-cooperation-kuala-lumpu/>

<https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/asean-nations-want-free-trade-agreements-to-develop-russian-trade/>

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<https://www.inboundlogistics.com/cms/article/the-benefits-of-using-a-foreign-trade-zone/>

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TOPIC B

Study of the situation regarding the dispute of the South China Sea

International borders: Limits that should not be disrespected from a certain demarcated territory with others, established through a treaty, a law, or a war resolution.

Treaty: Formal and official document that involves resolutions and agreements regarding a certain conflict or a discussion that took place and worked taking into account international law.

South China sea: Disputed zone between six countries, China, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam. Zone named differently on some of them and that is located at the south of China that is part of the pacific ocean.

Hague: The administrative capital of Netherlands

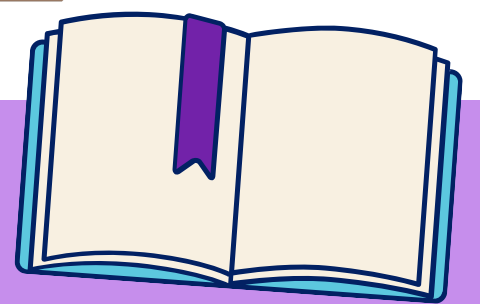
Military Activity: usual activities done by a state in order to keep control and defense regarding some issues (in some cases wrongly applied). Also armed activities for interventions and offensives outside their borders.

EEZ: Exclusive economic zone. Law that allows a country to regulate activities like fishing on one of their waters inside their frontiers.

Introduction

1. Since more than 50 years ago, countries have claimed sovereignty over some zones of the South China sea, specially the islands found there such as the Spratly Islands. This zone does not only produce some biggest movement of resources of all kinds, but it has large estimated amounts of oil and natural gas that could be exploitable and would benefit the country that has power over it. China is the country with more presence and military presence in the zone, and has been accused of not following the rules of EEZ, as supposedly all countries may transit the area with no military objection. Moreover, China has increased their efforts after the Hague gave reason to the Philippines on their claims over this territory, and China has refused to follow the sentence of this organism, claiming that they recognize but do not respect their decisions.
2. The tensions keep increasing as China implements more military activities and presence in the zone, with bases and ports constructed on some of the islands, and even constructing islands. The United States, although the country has no claim for the zone, is involved in the conflict as it helps and supports other southern countries in their search for this territory. Japan has also helped with naval equipment for the Philippines and Vietnam.

Historic Context



Before World War II, there were no claims over this territory, but by 1949 China started to claim it and settle in some of the islands. During the Second World War Japan had presence on the islands because of this process of expansionism, but as they had to reduce the expansion and concentrate to avoid losing the war, they retired from most of their taken territories as well as of their goods.

Current Situation



China has a strong military presence and structure in the zone, with all types of bases and ports constructed or under construction, as has been evidenced throughout international satellites that have captured images. The Philippines tried to use the Hague on the problem, but even though China does recognize this organism, it is most of the time refusing to follow their decisions.

Relevant actors



1. The relevant actors for this topic are the following countries:



China



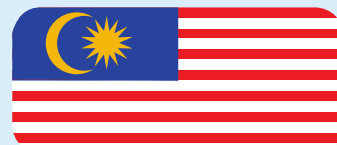
Philippines



Vietnam



Brunei

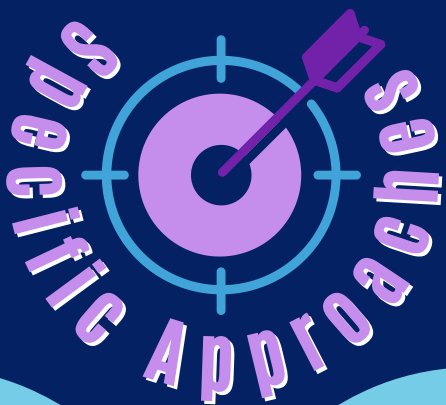


Malasia



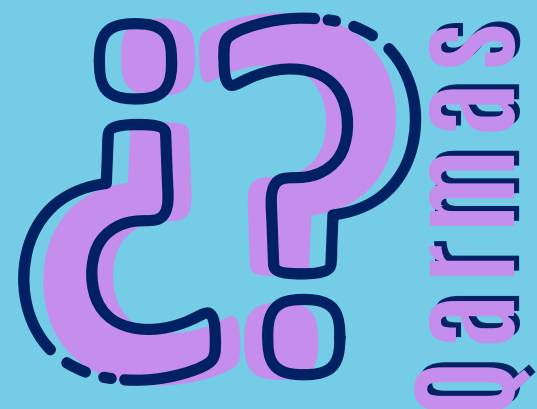
Taiwan

2. Despite this, other important and influential nations such as the United States and Japan have aided other countries against China and its appropriation of the sea.



For this committee, we want delegates to transcend from what is already known and has been done, to think from a new perspective inside their country's position about how this situation might come to an end. It is important to keep in mind that the committee must direct its attention to the situation with Philippines and Vietnam, as they are the countries with higher interest in this zone that is mostly occupied by China.

1. Which is the position of your country on the topic?
2. Has your country participated in any event regarding this dispute?
3. Does your country find an interest in this zone?
4. How is your country affected by the situation in the South China sea?
5. Is the EEZ well implemented by China?
6. What would be an effect on your country if a war took place there?

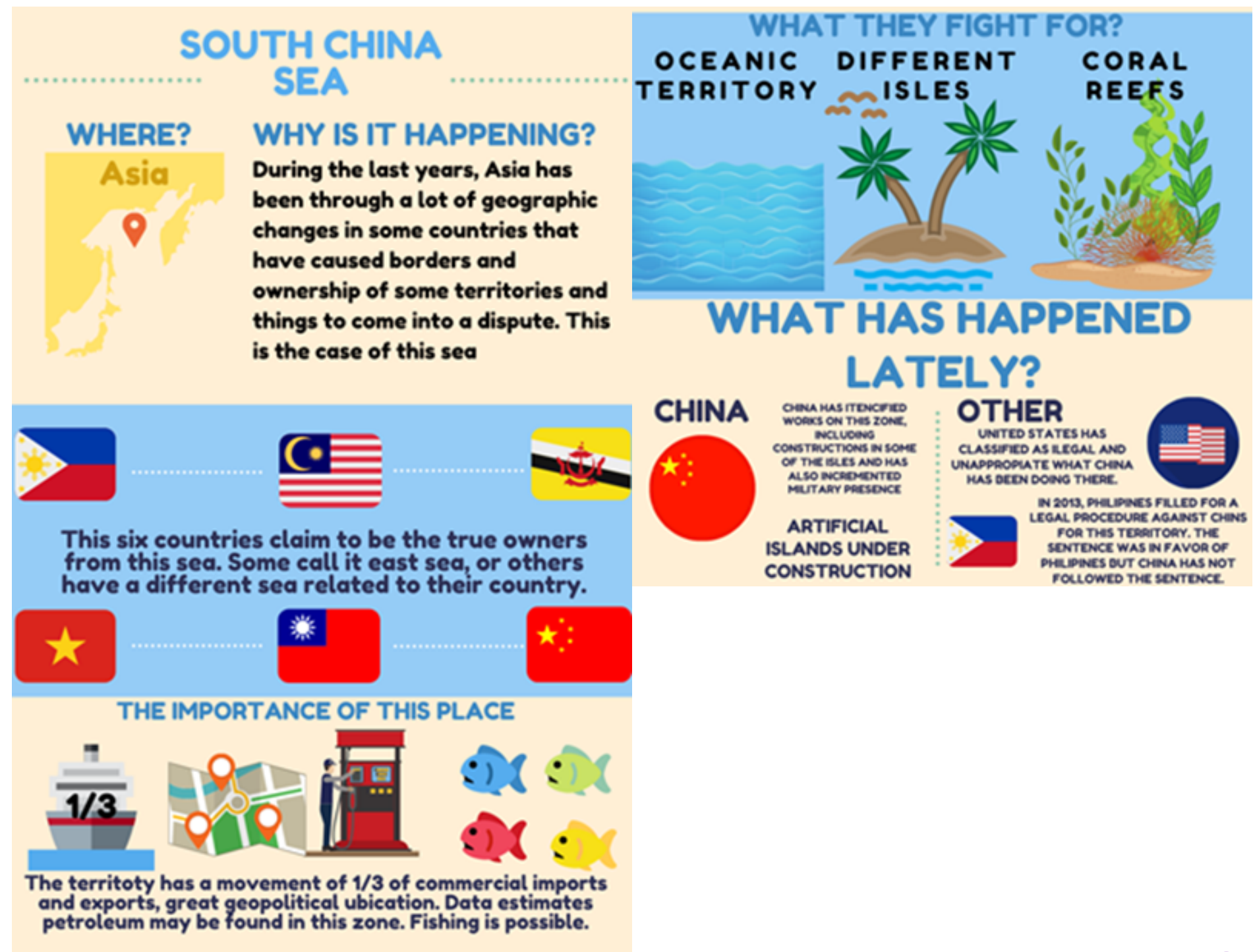


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Infographic material done and provided by chair:

(Done by the president for the delegates.)



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