

Baylor University High School Model United Nations
Fall 2010 Conference



United Nations General Assembly
Background & Preparation Guide

Dear General Assembly Plenary Delegates,

Welcome to Baylor University and the General Assembly Plenary Committee. The Baylor Model United Nations team is looking forward to seeing you this upcoming fall for what we anticipate to be a passionate and engaging conference. Organizing and moderating this conference will be The Baylor Model United Nations. As the primary organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly Plenary functions as a crucial and key player within the international agenda. The General Assembly Plenary (GAP) is a field where all UN participants, from both large and small countries, have opportunities to voice opinions and influence policy.

The topics that are going to be discussed at the 2010 Baylor University's Model United Nations competition are as follow:

1. Decreasing Tensions in the Taiwan Strait
2. Promoting literacy programs in developing countries as a means to improve public health

The provided background guide will serve as an outline and basis of research for these topics. However, you are expected to compile your own research from outside sources. This guide does not provide enough information for you to be able to discuss the issue at hand, yet alone write conceivable resolutions. Your outside research will help you fully understand the position of your country. Be sure to use reliable, scholarly sources (no Wikipedia) to ensure the best information possible. The United Nations Website is your best source for reliable information. This means that any resolutions that your delegation would think are important to the topic at hand should be researched and preferably in your binder when you walk in the door. Having extensive information on the topics of debate will give you confidence and will reflect on your preparation, so please come prepared.

Diplomatic behavior and cooperation between delegations are the main objectives of the conference. The delegations must act with the outmost respect towards other delegations and avoid questionable strategies since this is a learning experience and not a competition.

This is a great opportunity to showcase and develop your knowledge in international affairs, in addition to learning how to work with others to create and agree on feasible solutions to the topics presented.

Good Luck on your research and preparation for the conference

Sincerely,

2010 Chair and Rapporteurs

History of the General Assembly Plenary Committee

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.”

- Kofi Annan

Introduction

The destruction of World War II prompted a group of 51 states to reinforce the values of peace and security through the concerted efforts of an international organization known as the United Nations (UN). The General Assembly Plenary (GAP) was first established in 1945 under Article 7 of the Charter of the United Nations. The founding nations intended the Assembly to occupy the chief deliberative and policy-making position of the entire organization. They derived the mission statement from the former League of Nations charter. The first session commenced in London on 10 January 1946 at the Westminster Central Hall.

The GAP is considered by many to be the most representative and democratic organ within the United Nations. Every Member of the United Nations is represented in the General Assembly, in essence making the General Assembly Plenary the “World’s Parliament” or “town meeting of the world.” UN scholar Leon Gordenker describes the General Assembly as a body that “represents the organized views of more governments on more subjects than any periodic gathering in the world.” The General Assembly was designed to be a general debate arena where all Member States would be equally represented according to a one state/one vote formula. Therefore, all Members of the United Nations have a seat in the General Assembly. The Assembly stands out as the most versatile and pivotal organization within the United Nations. Throughout its history, the GAP has met in regular session to resolve a variety of political, social, legal, humanitarian, and economic global issues. The participation of all 192 Member States insures a full spectrum of opinion, influence, and agenda. It follows that the resolutions of the GAP reflect a unique global point of view that may not be as equally represented in all UN committees.

Functions

According to the United Nations Charter, the General Assembly must function as the unifying organ of the system. The Assembly monitors and directs other UN bodies, committees, and subcommittees. Powers of the GAP may include making security recommendations, discussing the UN budget, settling state-to-state disputes, or working to promote the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Assembly’s most powerful function may be its ability to override the Security Council in times of crisis or war.

Generally, the GAP’s powers are limited to those of its resolutions: strong recommendations or suggestions. The body lacks enforcement mechanisms, and thus relies on moral pressure and international support. It has, nonetheless, initiated actions that have affected numerous international communities. Several notable actions include

the landmark Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. Successful resolutions reflect Member States' commitment to cooperation and progress. Over the years, this commitment has rendered the Assembly as both effective and prestigious, despite its non-binding policy.

The General Assembly Plenary may: 1) Deliberate and make recommendations on the main beliefs of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament; 2) Debate any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it; 3) Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations; 4) Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields; 5) Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations; 6) Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs; 7) Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States; and 8) Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General.

Topic I: Decreasing Tensions in the Strait of Taiwan

There is only one China. Taiwan is not independent. It does not enjoy sovereignty as a nation, and that remains our policy, our firm policy.

-Colin Powell

Introduction

Across the globe there are certain flashpoints for international intrigue, tensions, and in times of disastrous diplomatic failures, war. These areas receive what would be an inordinate amount of attention if they were not the source of such contention and strife. If the international community fails to appropriately respond to crises in these areas the results can be far-reaching, devastating and above all else deadly. One only need look at the results of one assassination in the Balkan flashpoint to understand the consequences of mishandled regions of stress. In modern East Asia there are three such flashpoints, the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, and Taiwan.

Although the major media outlets of the United States tend to focus on the situation on the Korean Peninsula, it is the situation concerning Taiwan that is most likely to result in conflict between the United States and another great power, in this case the People's Republic of China (PRC). Both sides of the Taiwan Strait are heavily armed and willing to defend themselves at all costs. Furthermore, the future of the island is intrinsically connected with the geopolitics of East Asia and thus the world. Decreasing tension in this region is imperative to continuing peace and prosperity on the Pacific coast of Asia.

Background: The Chinese Civil War (1911-1949)

In 1911, the Qing Dynasty of China finally and completely collapsed. The Qing had been in decline throughout the 19th and early 20th century's as a result of domestic stagnation and external intervention. The immediate "successor" to the Qing Dynasty was the Republic of China (ROC). Despite the cleanliness of the above statement, the reality of post-Qing China was far from orderly. The centrifugal forces that had been brewing under the Qing exploded and China quickly descended into a state of warlordism and civil war. Individuals who had been regional leaders under the Qing surrounded themselves with soldiers, solidified their power, and began fighting one another for dominance of China. In addition to these regional players, the ROC remained arguable the strongest force within civil war China. Additionally, in the midst of the Civil War a communist faction appeared and joined the competition for power.

The ROC was in the process of finally consolidating under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek its power when Imperial Japan invaded China in 1936. Although the Japanese were eventually expelled from China with the end of World War II, the Chinese Civil War continued. Eventually resurgent Communist forces under the banner of Mao Zedong bested ROC forces and drove them from Mainland China in 1949. The ROC then made its home on the island of Taiwan and the PRC was declared into existence on the mainland.

Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek (1950s-early 1970s)

The situation concerning Taiwan quickly became a fixture of the Cold War world as tensions across the strait became part of a larger system of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. During the period immediately following the "conclusion" of the Civil War, it seemed as if the United States would let Taiwan fall as it had let the mainland fall. This trajectory, however, changed drastically when Chinese forces became involved in the Korean conflict. At this moment, the United States registered the PRC as a threat to international stability and as such increased its support of the ROC significantly.

At this point in time, both the ROC and PRC pursued absolutist "one China" policies. In essence, both governments claimed that there was only one China and that they were sole representatives of that China. Both sides claimed the other was an illegal rebel government. The PRC obsessed with taking Taiwan and politicians in the ROC focused primarily on campaign slogans concerning re-conquest of the mainland. The ROC was assisted in its self-defense efforts by the United States, which saw containment of the PRC to be pivotal to its larger goal of containing the USSR.

Richard Nixon and Deng Xiaoping (late 1970s-1980s)

The system of affairs that had been established following the Korean War began to break down during the tenure of the American President Richard Nixon. A particular focus of the Nixon administration was to "out-flank" the USSR by opening relations with China. To this end Nixon visited the PRC and began engaging in a diplomatic tactic called

engagement with the PRC. This of course, meant a certain amount of distance from the ROC. The United States official recognized the PRC in 1978.

While normalization with the United States was occurring in the late 1970s, Deng Xiaoping came to power in the PRC, and began to loosen controls on the economy of the Communist state. This loosening of control meant foreign companies could more easily access cheap Chinese labor on the mainland. Throughout the 1980s investment flooded into the PRC. This economic involvement of the PRC also served to isolate the ROC as foreign nations found more wealth in favoring the PRC over the ROC.

Despite growing isolation, reforms were also taking place in the ROC. Following the death of Chiang Kia-shek in 1975 the central control of the ROC under the nationalist party began to erode. Throughout the 1980s, the island nation democratized which allowed for more moderate opinions concerning a united China to arise. Deng Xiaoping's reforms on the mainland and the democratization of Taiwan assisted in the lessening of tensions at this time. Though both governments continued to pursue "one China" policies, they do so significantly less fervently than their 1960s counterparts.

Tension and Engagement (1990s-2000s)

The last two decades of intra-Sino relations has been marked by significant oscillations between calm and tension. For their part the PRC has maintained a relatively standard intra-China policy. The PRC maintains that there is one China, that the one China includes Taiwan, and that if diplomatic means fail to achieve the goal of a unified China military intervention is a legitimate recourse. ROC policy, however, has been somewhat unstable. At times the ROC has advocated a moderated one China policy, wherein the one China will be neither the ROC nor the PRC, but rather an amalgamation of the two. Whereas, at other times, the ROC has advocated a two China policy, which amounts to Taiwanese independence. The change in position is due to the ROC's democratic nature. Intra-China relations amounts to the single most important political issue in the ROC and the difference between a one or two China policy is often determined by votes.

The PRC views a one China policy, even a moderated one, with significantly more favor, than a two China policy. As such, oscillations in ROC leadership cause oscillations in the tension or non-tension across the strait. In 1992, tensions hit an all time low with the 1992 consensus. In this agreement leaders of the PRC and ROC affirmed their commitment to a one China policy, and denied the option of Taiwanese independence. Only four years later, cross-strait tension hit an all time high when the PRC conducted missile tests off the coast of Taiwan on the eve of a ROC presidential election. The United States responded by dispatching a carrier group to the region to remind the PRC that despite officially recognizing the PRC and supporting a one China policy, the United States will not abide by intimidation of the use of force in intra-China matters.

Today, the three theories concerning the future of China (ROC one China, PRC one China, and two Chinas) continue to be debated within the halls of power in Taipei, Beijing, and Washington. As the PRC continues to grow wealthier they can pursue one of two strategies. It can either continue international integration, or pursue a more

aggressive stance than it has in recent history. Influencing how the PRC proceeds, is the way in which the international community handles the tumultuous and contentious issue of Taiwan.

Relevant International Agreements and Resolutions

International documents of relevance in this case can be grouped into three categories; the conclusion of World War II, documents on what constitutes a state, and UN resolutions.

The Conclusion of World War II: The Cairo Conference amongst the Allies (the United States, Great Britain, and USSR) explicitly returned “Formosa” (Taiwan) to China from Japan upon the conclusion of the World War II. It is believed that the Instrument of Japanese Surrender put the agreements of this Conference into effect. Also of importance in this matter (and debated rigorously in their meaning and implications) are the Treaty of San Francisco and the Treaty of Taipei. It is important also to note that there is no treaty associated with the end of the Chinese civil war.

Documents Concerning What Constitutes a State: The Montevideo Convention laid out clearly what does and does not constitute a state.

UN Resolutions: The central UN resolution to this debate center on who is to represent China at the UN. The UN charter left Chinese representation ambiguous. Both states claimed to be the legitimate and thus representative government and until 1971 the ROC was recognized. This policy was switched, however, with the passing of UN Resolution 2758. This Resolution granted the PRC the right to represent China and expelled the ROC from UN buildings and locations. The ROC has since requested to join the UN and so far has been denied.

Conclusion

This committee is charged with formulating not only a coherent China policy given the evolving situation around the strait, but also a means for implementing said policy. Which China policy should and will prevail? How should the PRC’s growing relative power and the ROC’s declining relative power be dealt with? How can the international institution accommodate both the interests of the PRC and the ROC?

Topic II: Promoting literacy programs in developing countries as a means to improve public health

“When you sell a man a book you don’t sell him just 12 ounces of paper and ink and glue – you sell him a whole new life” – Christopher Morley

Introduction

The relationship between literacy and public health is an intricate one; economic theorists propose that increasing literacy directly increases public health. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are most affected by low literacy rates and the effects it can have on public health concerns. In LDCs, nations with the lowest literacy rates often have the poorest health. In developed nations, if the general populous of a country can read, informing the population about health crises or measures that can be taken to increase public health is infinitely easier. Without literacy, administrations in developing countries and the United Nations must use other approaches to reach the public. This can be both problematic and complex, as each nation varies in language, culture, health problems, and thus requires a different approach in each circumstance. This is expensive and drains resources.

Background: Social Returns of Literacy

Increasing education, specifically literacy, has been shown to have many social returns. When governments invest in developing education, the return to society is enormous. Studies show that prenatal care among women is easier, if they are literate and can read information on nutrition, health, and avoiding possible dangers. Measures taken to combat infectious disease, pandemics, and epidemics are also more effective; pamphlets can be distributed and signs can be posted, warning of the dangers of sickness and disease. If the majority of the population can read, these measures are more effective. Child health benefits spring from educating women. Mothers who receive an education are more aware of child health issues, and are more prepared to raise children.

Increasing literacy rates can lead to a decrease in child mortality and an increased life expectancy. Life expectancy is directly correlated to advances in medicine and health. Education provides the skills necessary for individuals to further invest in education, which may lead to innovation and research. If we can increase literacy—and education in general—we can promote higher education, which will lead to investment in human capital and innovation.

Background: Public Health Issues facing LDCs

Public health issues facing LDCs include malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. 2,000 children a day are affected with malaria, while tuberculosis causes 2 million deaths a year in the 400 million who are infected with the disease. Ninety percent of tuberculosis cases are found in LDCs. It is estimated that two-thirds of Sub-Saharan Africa (which is made up of LDCs) are infected with HIV/AIDS. Treatment and disease prevention is necessary,

and by increasing literacy in these areas, we can take huge strides towards addressing the problem. Drugs are not the only way to combat these diseases.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, “low literacy may impair functioning in the health care environment, affect patient-physician communication dynamics, and inadvertently lead to substandard medical care. It is associated with poor understanding of written or spoken medical advice, adverse health outcomes, and negative effects on the health of the population.” Studies show that there is a positive relationship that connects literacy level and a person’s knowledge of health issues.

In regards to promoting child health, “found a positive, significant relationship between higher literacy” is proven to be beneficial for both mothers and babies (womenshealth.gov). It leads to better health as a young child, and helps lower infant mortality rates. Thus, reduction of child mortality—which is a Millennium Development Goal (MDG)—can be addressed by increasing literacy so that health issues are addressed.

Literacy and Health Programs

“Health literacy is the ability to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions and follow instructions for treatment,” according to the American Medical Association. Programs are put in place, across America, to increase literacy, specifically relating to health. A Scandinavian study found that,

The relative importance of major health determinants varies between income levels, thus extrapolating health policies from high- to low-income countries is problematic. Since the size, per se, of public health spending does not independently predict health outcomes, functioning health systems are necessary to make health investments efficient. Potential health gains from improved education and economic growth should be considered in low- and middle-income countries

The same study also found that “The World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Macroeconomics and Health concluded that health gains in low- and middle-income countries will result from increased spending within the health sector.” A positive solution to these issues can be found by promoting literacy programs and increasing overall literacy within developing countries. This is a necessary step for increasing public health in these developing nations.

Relevant UN Resolution

The 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 19 December 2001 Resolution 56/116 *United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all* in which it proclaimed the United Nations Literacy Decade for the period 2003-2012 towards the goal of Education for All. In this Resolution, the General Assembly took note of the *Draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade (A/56/114-E/2001/93)* which it requested in Resolution 54/122, and it further decided that UNESCO “should

take a coordinating role in stimulating and catalyzing the activities at the international level within the framework of the Decade.”

The resolution draft states that, “Literacy for All focuses on a range of priority groups...non-literate youth and adults, especially women, who have not been able to acquire adequate skills to use literacy for their personal development and for improving their quality of life; out-of-school children and youth, especially girls, adolescent girls and young women; children in school without access to quality learning so that they do not add to the pool of adult non-literates.”

Projected outcomes of this resolution include improved health and a higher standard of living. Resolutions such as this one are a feasible solution to promoting literacy and public health. This is just one example of how the United Nations, and the international community, is working to address the issue of increasing literacy within LDCs to promote better public health.

Conclusion

This committee is charged with formulating an active policy to promote public health literacy, but also a means for implementing said policy. What is the connection between literacy and public health? How do we increase literacy in LDCs? How should the UN address the issues of literacy and public health? How can the international institution address these needs?

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Baylor University High School Model United Nations

Fall 2010 Conference



General Assembly First Committee

Background and Committee Guide

Esteemed delegates,

Allow me to warmly welcome you to Baylor University's High School Model United Nations conference. Our conference has always aspired to help equip self-motivated, talented high school students who want to use their leadership abilities to help serve their schools, states, countries, and the world. To this end, your research, analytical, speaking, and leadership abilities will be developed and tested. In the upcoming days, you will be asked to address the following topics:

1. Modern Use of Private Militaries
2. Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Americas

The importance of these issues cannot be overstated; they affect nations the world over. To succeed here, you must be well-versed in current events. Start by reading the news regularly, daily if possible. Utilize sources with good, independent journalistic credentials, but don't be afraid to also engage with other perspectives—from Al Jazeera to the Vatican Information Service, from The New Republic to The Weekly Standard. The goal is to build a wealth of knowledge for you to draw upon at a moment's notice.

Unfortunately, the debate at Model UN conferences is too broad and too short to truly go in-depth on most topics. There simply isn't time to waste on every little thing you might come across. As you think about all your news and research however, you should start to develop a certain sense of judgment as to what is important and what needs to be left out. You will have to narrow all that research into concise, persuasive country positions. This is the kind of analytical thinking that position papers are designed to stimulate.

Of course, if you are to impact other people, you need to be able to express all these things in the spoken word. The most important thing here is to practice. No one is born a good speaker. Of course, the first rule of public speaking is to consider your audience. Unlike most speech events, in Model UN your fellow delegates are also your audience. The goal is not to destroy the competition, but to make friends and influence people. This political element is one of the most rewarding aspects of Model UN. Like in the real UN, no one can succeed without the help of other delegates. You might win an argument by backstabbing someone, but then lose the vote because you're untrustworthy. This is a crucial element of leadership.

Naturally, you have to be loyal to your country's interests. Nevertheless, catering to your own country's position, while ignoring the perspectives of others is not a winning strategy. In the process of working with other delegates, you will be forced to confront the perspectives of other countries. Sometimes you will have to disagree. But if you can respect and appreciate their point of view, it is possible that you can compromise and find common ground. There are significant problems in the world that can only be solved by mutual understanding, negotiation, and cooperation. Still, there are significant obstacles which threaten the cooperative goals of the UN—and your goals as a delegate. Creatively overcoming these obstacles is what separates the truly great leaders from the simply good leaders.

Sincerely,

2010 Chair and Rapporteurs

History of First Committee

The General Assembly (GA) is one of the main organs of the UN system, established under Article 3 and governed by Article 4 of the UN Charter. It is the premiere forum today for issues that transcend traditional national politics. 192 states are represented in the Assembly today, and under Article 18 each state has one vote. This means that resolutions from this body represent the will of the majority of the world's states. Therefore, although its resolutions are not binding (except those dealing with budgetary matters), its resolutions carry significant moral authority.

Under Article 22 of the UN Charter, the GA "may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions." Given the broad scope of the work of the GA, it often utilizes these various "subsidiary organs." These organs can be compared to the various sub-committees in the U.S. Congress such as the Senate Finance Committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, etc. In fact, most of the actual work done in the GA is performed in the context of these bodies. Each committee then submits proposals and recommendations for final approval by the main, plenary session of the GA. Today there are 6 main committees and many other more specialized committees.

One of these main committees is the First Committee, which is concerned with matters of disarmament and international security (DISEC). This is a central tenet of the overall UN mission. Indeed, the very first GA resolution (in 1946) dealt with nuclear disarmament. The UN and the First Committee still grapple with these important, complex issues today.

It is important to realize that the First Committee is not the Security Council. They are very different in their make-up and their goals. The Security Council has only 15 members, including some of the most powerful states, and may take binding, decisive action relating to peacekeeping, international sanctions, and military action. The First Committee is much more egalitarian, with all 192 member states eligible to attend, and is concerned with broader matters of deliberation, consensus building, and policy. The Security Council is frequently the scene of national power politics, with so few states represented and especially with some states possessing veto power. Although the GA naturally has its fair share of political gamesmanship with so many diverse views represented, this diversity actually forces the body to search for areas of common ground. More than 75% of GA resolutions since 1991 have been passed by consensus, i.e. without any states voting "no".

One would think that First Committee would have difficulty reaching consensus on such contentious and divisive topics as disarmament and international security. But it actually makes quite a bit of sense, given the nature of the First Committee. Unlike the Security Council, whose resolutions are binding and sometimes backed by military power, the General Assembly resolutions are only as strong as the international support behind them. The First Committee seeks to build peace and security not primarily through force, but by agreements among states for cooperative security, deescalating conflict through disarmament, etc. Its goals are therefore often ambitious and long-term (and easily criticized by some as "ineffective" or "wishy-washy"!). Resolutions sometimes develop or utilize new "language" which can help set international law and guide policy making in member states. It can also "shame" other states whose aggression

and lack of cooperation is more transparent in light of the “moral consensus” of the international community.

Obviously there are challenges in First Committee as well. Sometimes states simply do not actually carry out what they resolve to do. Sometimes delegates have no real freedom to negotiate, and are instructed to merely restate national policies without engaging in any substantive debate. Sometimes differences between states emerge along large “fault lines” over areas of significant disagreement, where consensus cannot be easily reached. Sometimes the body can rush to a premature “consensus” which does not adequately deal with hard facts on the ground. And sometimes the problems of disarmament and international security are just so old, entrenched, and complex that solutions are extremely difficult to implement. All of these are significant challenges which threaten the work of the First Committee to build a more peaceful world.

The First Committee meets every October and concludes its work by early November. In the 64th Session of the GA in 2009, the First Committee passed draft resolutions on topics ranging from Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, an arms trade treaty, nuclear disarmament, regional security and disarmament issues, “dual-use” technology, transparency and confidence-building measures, land mines, military spending, the role of information and telecommunications, science and technology in international security, outer space peace, cluster munitions, acquisition of WMDs by terrorists, disarmament and development, and other issues. All of the previous work of the First Committee, especially the 64th Session, will help guide the continuing work of future sessions in both the actual First Committee and Baylor University High School Model UN First Committee.

Topic I. Modern Use of Private Militaries

*"Give a man fire, and he'll be warm for a day, light a man on fire,
and he'll be warm the rest of his life"
-Staff Sgt. Timothy A. Breen*

Introduction

Mercenaries have been around since large-scale war began. In fact, civilizations as far back as the ancient Chinese, Greeks, and Romans all utilized mercenaries as a means of insuring their victory over their enemies. The United States had to face the German mercenaries fighting for the British Empire during the American Revolution. In order to prevent the need to conscript citizens, the United Kingdom hired over 30,000 German soldiers.¹

Over the years, the use of mercenaries by civilized countries has somewhat diminished. However in recent years, there has been a sudden increase in the utilization of private military forces, mostly in Africa. This sudden rise was brought about by the continued strife in the area

¹ Shearer, *Outsourcing War*, 1998, p. 13.

that often overwhelmed the governments to the point that they needed to supplement² their local military to maintain control. Since there has not been a significant effort to step in and take over the operation by other members of the United Nations, the continued use of private military forces continues to concern other members of the international arena, since they are not bound by the same international codes that bound the state militaries.³

Why the Increase?

Studies done on the somewhat sudden increase in the utilization of private militaries have listed three main reasons for said increase. The first is most obviously the end of the Cold War and the disruption of the delicate balance of power that existed during it. This disruption caused several areas around the world to become somewhat chaotic. The second most prevalent reason for the increase in private military use is the transformation of warfare that made it difficult to perceive the difference between civilian and combatant. In order to avoid having these difficult decisions on the record of the state militaries, the government outsourced the dirty jobs to private militaries.⁴ The final reason for the sudden increase in private military use is the lack of support from intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations Member States. However the convenience allowed by these private militaries does not come cheap and often states incur drastic increases in spending in order to hire them.

Somehow, even with the steep cost of employment, these private militaries continue to exist as a legitimate business. There are many who would put this on the lack of support shown for weaker states by the rest of the international community. This disregard for those less powerful has forced the hand of the weaker states to utilize the private militaries as a means to control their respective countries.⁵ Even when states had their own military, they were not equipped well enough to endure the vacuum of aid created by the end of the Cold War.

But it goes a step further. The fact of the matter is that private militaries have the ability and the motivation to act much more swiftly than the Intergovernmental Organizations. So, even when there is the possibility of receiving aid from these organizations, governments find themselves choosing to hire a private military instead of waiting for the bureaucratic process to conclude.⁶ This further perpetuates the use of private militaries and causes worry among the other states in the international community.

UN Response

In order to really take steps against the use of mercenaries, but United Nations first needed to decide what a mercenary actually was. In 1989 the United Nations in a resolution, defined a mercenary as anyone who is specially recruited (from home or abroad) to fight in an armed

² Singer, *Corporate Warriors*, 2003, p. 37.

³ United Nations Working Group on Mercenaries, *Private security lack oversight and regulation*, 2007.

⁴ Singer, *Outsourcing War*, 2005, p. 2.

⁵ Alabarda, *The private Military Firms-Historical Evolution and Industry Analysis*, 2007, p. 20

⁶ Singer, *Coprorate Warriors*, 2003, p. 63

conflict; not a citizen of the state involved in the armed conflict, but partaking in the combat; an is motivated, in full or in part, by private gain due to the conflict.⁷ According to this definition of mercenary, private militaries seem to be included in the category of mercenary. Since private militaries fall into the category of mercenary, they are then in violation of the resolution. However, even after the ratification of the resolution in 2001, the world has continued to see a rise in the use of private militaries.⁸

In order to initiate discussion about the continued use of mercenaries or private militaries, the Human Rights Council passed HRC resolution 7/21 in 2005. This resolution created a group to cooperate with other states and intergovernmental organizations to discuss the mercenary involvement in human rights violations.⁹ This was a key concern for the international community, because, as stated above, the same laws that bound the state governments did not bind the mercenary forces. This group continued to encourage the states that were currently using private militaries to abide by the 1989 resolution, but the mere words of a group did not go very far. The group's investigation found that even though the United States was a large client of private militaries, they still wanted to see more regulation on private militaries and private security. This is key in describing the international perspective on the issue. While the United States saw the usefulness of the private militaries, and thus utilized them, they felt that it would be better to regulate them rather than outlaw them. However, upon further investigation, the group found that the United States was not nearly as transparent as first thought.

Blackwater Case Study

Blackwater USA is a private military company based in the United States and founded by Erik Prince. In 2003 Prince received a contract from the US State Department to utilize Blackwater USA's services in Iraq, and Blackwater USA started its work in Iraq in 2004.¹⁰ In September of 2007, there was a shooting in Nisour Square, Baghdad. While there are some who say that the Blackwater guards were provoked, there are others who say the shooting was not justified or provoked. Regardless of the reasoning, the problem lies with the aftermath. The first problem with this situation is that under the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, the guards are immune from prosecution under Iraqi law. There is another problem in that since event took place overseas, it is very difficult to prosecute the guards under United States law as well.¹¹ This is an example of why the United States wants to see more regulation on private militaries and private security.

⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *International Convention against the Recruitment, Use Financing and Training of Mercenaries*, 1989.

⁸ Nikitin, *Oral statement by Mr. Alexander Ivanovich Nikitin*, 2009.

⁹ Human Rights Council, *Mandate of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*, 2008.

¹⁰ Scahill, *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*, 2007, p. 101

¹¹ Risen, *5 Guards Face U.S. Charges in Iraq Deaths*, 2008

Conclusion

As stated earlier, the use of mercenaries has predated many of today's societies. The sudden recurrence of the private military has led to some concern in the international community. Steps have been taken on both a state level and an international level in order to further regulate the use of private militaries.

The sudden increases are results of several different circumstances, most of which have roots in the end of the Cold War. Weaker countries found it difficult to adapt to the power vacuum left by the Soviet Union and fell into a state of chaos that could not be controlled by the states military. The turn to private militaries was out of necessity on the part of the weaker countries that were not receiving support from stronger states or intergovernmental organizations.

While there are some states and organizations that would like to see the complete outlaw of private militaries, there are other states and organizations that realize the usefulness of private militaries and would simply like to see further regulation on the use of these tools.

Topic II. Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Americas

“After 40 years of war against terrorism and drug-trafficking Colombia is clearly winning.”
- *Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy, Karen Hughes*

Overview

In the last half decade North, Central, and South America have played equal parts in an explosion of illicit drug trafficking. Though the illicit drug trade is certainly a global issue, the two continents and land bridge of the Americas serve as a perfect storm of drug trafficking with the largest consumers and largest producers doing business via the most convenient and thus most prolific traffickers.

The illicit drug trade consists of every facet of the industry including cultivation, production, transportation, distribution, and financial systems. Like any other black market sector, the majority of drug trade is executed through a series of organized and specialized links of the supply chain, each controlled by individual cartels or drug lords. In general, this breaking up of the supply chain results in several challenges for law enforcement. First, it increases the efficiency of production as individual cartels can specialize on one portion of the supply chain, increasing production and potency of the product. Second, it helps to contain the damages of police intervention and thus adds a significant challenge to any efforts against the drug trade. The organization and relationship between the various links of the supply chain range from dealers on street corners, to mid-level transnational transporters, to multinational drug organizations employing thousands of people and earning billions in profits annually.

Technically, the illicit drug trade includes every form of narcotics including methamphetamines, hallucinogens, steroids, and even alcohol/tobacco products. However, the overwhelming focus of the international war on drugs is on marijuana, cocaine, heroine, and opium. With the exception of opium (more concentrated in Central Asia), the top producers and consumers of these drugs are in South America and North America, respectively.

To examine the nature of the problem in an effort to entertain potential solutions, it is necessary to focus on the three links of the supply chain: production, transportation, and consumption. Although in the Americas, every nation engages in each facet of the drug trade to varying degrees, this examination of the three links can best be achieved by examining the three countries that best represent these links: the United States of America (consumer), Mexico (transporter), and Columbia (producer). In each of these countries the economic, political, and geographic circumstances initiate and reinforce their respective roles in the illicit drug trade. Any proposed solutions or efforts to combat the drug trade should take into account these factors that have made the drug traffic a systemic problem.

Producers: Columbia

South American countries dominate the list of world's largest producers of coca based illicit drugs, among these include Peru (2nd largest producer), Bolivia (3rd largest producer), Venezuela, Brazil (2nd largest consumer), Ecuador, and Chile all playing major roles in the international illicit drug trade. However, each of these nations pale in comparison to the production rate of Columbia who supplies nearly all of the cocaine and heroine demands for the United States as well as being a heavy supplier to many western European nations. What is more astonishing is that Columbia maintains this large production rate despite the marginal success of law enforcement agencies which claim to have cut the production by half over the past few years. According to the 2009 United Nations World Drug Report, Columbia shipped out roughly \$2 billion worth of cocaine/heroine products through Mexico to the United States.

The strength of Columbian production is systemic. The capacity for drug lords to facilitate the cultivation, production, and exportation of coca products is reinforced by cultural norms, political corruption, and geographic/infrastructural elements. Open fighting between paramilitary groups and the government has plagued Columbia for decades, reaching a highpoint of conflict in the 1990s. These conflicts have all been funded by drug trade. A weak central government unable to assert control over particular areas allows for rival bands to exert their own dominance over particular regions, providing excellent opportunities to set up drug organizations. Within these regions, drug lords use the geography of Columbia to their advantage, dense forests sprawling across mountainous regions provide perfect places to grow and process coca based products. Furthermore, within these regions, the drug cartels are able to garner some support of locals by employing them as well as providing many of the services the government fails to provide. In some instances, entire villages will be funded and governed by cartels. Transportation out of the country presumably employees governmental corruption to some extent because the drug cartels are some how able to transport thousands of metric tons of cocaine annually from the densely forested inland to the borders with relative ease. This trifecta of political corruption,

geographic orientation, and cultural acceptance has made Colombia the largest producer of coca based products in the world.

Transporters: Mexico

All of Central America serves as a giant shipping lane for drugs northbound from South America. But no country plays a larger role than Mexico. Sharing a nearly 2,000 mile long border with the United States, Mexico transports 90% of South American cocaine to the United States and is also the largest foreign supplier of marijuana for the US. The hotspots of transportation are the various US/Mexico twin border towns including El Paso/Juarez, Laredo/Nuevo Laredo, and Brownsville/Matamoros. These cities have experienced an explosion in unprecedented corruption, disorder, and violence in recent years and have garnered international attention as some of the most dangerous places in the world. The murder rate in Mexico is nearly triple that of the United States and these murders are highly concentrated along the border.

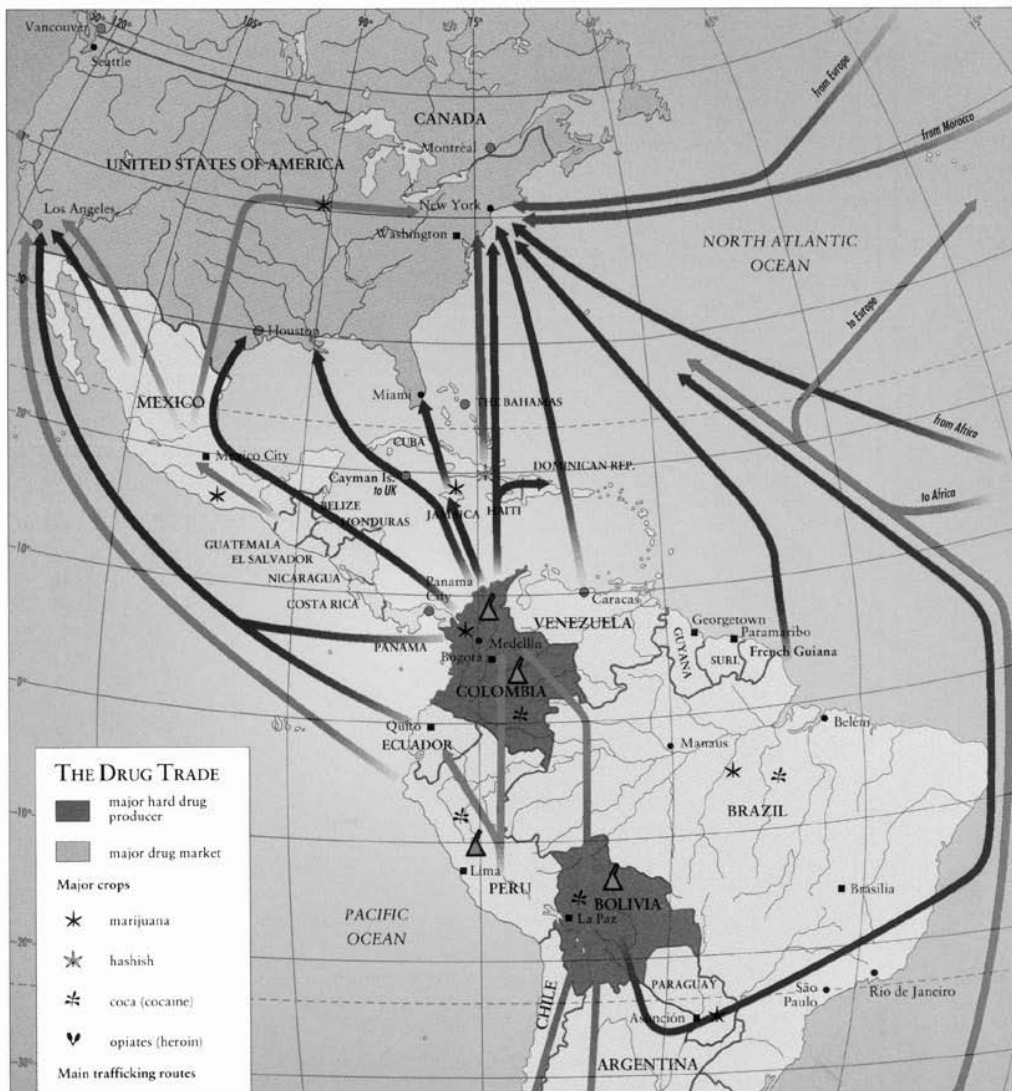
Like Colombia, Mexico's role in the drug trafficking world is largely determined by its geographic orientation, governmental incapacities, economic deficiencies, political corruption, and cultural reinforcement. In regards to geography, Mexico is strategically positioned as the largest and most dominate country in Central America, allowing it to assert control over the international highway linking the world's largest consumers and producers of illicit drugs. However, it's not that Mexico has the only route into the United States. With effort, drug transporters could smuggle drugs through international shipping lanes or through the air. But these options pose greater challenges to smugglers as security is tighter in seaports and airports. Mexico's advantage is that it has sole access to the most permeable and vulnerable portion of the United States' Homeland Security system. Despite the joint effort of the governments of the US and Mexico to control their shared border, the 2000 mile line seems too much for effective regulation heretofore. Aside from merely controlling the border, the Mexican government seems unable to exert control over the border towns and surrounding regions. Crimes rates in these cities are at all time highs and have forced Mexico to deploy military units to several towns in order to regain control. Also like Colombia, various strategic regions in Mexico are heavily dominated, if not outright controlled, by drug cartels that set up corporatist systems in which the cartels provide protection and some services; while in turn the community harbors "los narcos" from authorities. Meanwhile, on local and regional levels, political corruption continues to plague Mexico as authorities are often bribed or intimidated into cooperation or feigned ignorance of the illicit activities occurring within their jurisdiction. To add to the mix of problems, many of the regions most vulnerable to cartel control are also some of the poorest and most dilapidated regions in Mexico. Therefore, in some instances, the drug trade presents itself as the only viable economic opportunity for poor communities. This conglomeration of factors continues to reinforce and expand the drug trade's place in Mexico and pose significant challenges to law enforcement agencies in Mexico and the United States alike.

Consumers: The United States of America

Despite notable drops in consumption in recent years, the United States still stands as the single largest consumer of illicit narcotics (as well as prescription and over-the-counter drugs) in the

world; this enormous market of consumers is the fuel to the spreading fire of the illicit drug trade. Unlike Mexico and Colombia, the United States does not face the same geographic and economic factors that so strongly reinforce the drug trade. However, the US does face similar problems of cultural reinforcement, political corruption, and government capacity deficiencies. Millions of Americans use various narcotics addictively and recreationally, including an estimated 9.5 million cocaine users and 31 million marijuana users in 2007. The US's demand is not the only factor at play here; with \$46,000 GDP per capita US consumers can afford the drugs at an on-going and ever-increasing rate. Furthermore, some drugs are becoming increasingly socially acceptable, notably marijuana. Grassroots campaigns to decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana are steadily increasing in popularity in various states including California, Oregon, Arizona, and New Mexico. Although, the same cultural trend cannot be associated with *harder* narcotics such as heroine, cocaine, or methamphetamines which are all still vastly considered harmful to health and a detriment to society. In regards to political corruption, at local and regional levels the United States is at times also found to have varying degrees of ranging from simple bribery to the outright use of the drug trade to fund and support various rebel leaders in Central Asia and South America. The United States' role as the primary consumer of illicit drugs is paramount when considering potential comprehensive solutions, especially those that would focus on decreasing the demand of the United States, thus eliminating the need for production in source regions.

--This map illustrates the supply line of the illicit drugs trade in the America:beginning in production countries such as Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, then flowing through Central America and Mexico into the primary consumer, the United States--



Recent Successes

Demand for narcotics in the US has decreased considerably in recent years. In the past decade, the percentage of the American workforce that tested positive for marijuana use has decreased by 31% while the positive tests for cocaine use has decreased by 50%. Furthermore, international cooperation between the United States, Mexico, Colombia and other Central and South American countries to locate and eradicate coca and cannabis farms has resulted in considerable decreases in yearly yields with Colombia's production decreasing 20% between 2007 and 2008. On the same note, international cooperation between law enforcement agencies has resulted in the doubling of narcotic seizure rates between 2000 and 2007. These trends at least imply that the \$50 billion spent annually between federal and state programs for the war on drugs in the United States is working in some capacities. The problem is in identifying which efforts are effective and which are futile. Is the decrease in demand a result of the various social programs discouraging the use of drugs? Or can it be credited to an increase in drug prices coinciding with a decrease in drug purity, as a result of the increase in Homeland Security measures? It is important to understand which measures are working and which are not so governments can appropriately alter their anti-drug programs.

Conclusions

The international community has, at least publicly, maintained a rather consistent commitment to thwarting the illicit drug trade as made clear by the series of resolutions and declarations adopted by the body of nations. These agreements helped to facilitate international cooperation and implementation of a unified plan of action to address the increase in drug demands in developed nations, capacity building measures to better regulate trade and increase border control for all nations, the cooperation between law enforcement agencies domestically and internationally to seek out and eradicate drug sources, and to address the financial laundering schemes born out of the drug trade. Among these resolutions and declarations is the "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction", as well as resolutions 2001/16 of 24 July 2001, 2002/21 of 24 July 2002 and 2003/34 of 22 July 2003.

Despite the marginal and varying success of these efforts, the international community is still in dire need of an effective plan of action that addresses these particular points (among various others):

1. Cultural norms that reinforce the presence of drug cartels in regional hotspots
2. Political and governmental corruption at local, regional, national, and international levels
3. The ever-present and sizable demand from developed nations (The United States)
4. The porous nature of key land borders, notably the US/Mexican border
5. Cooperation domestically and internationally between law enforcement agencies
6. International money laundering schemes
7. Capacity building measures for production and transportation countries to better assert control over cartel dominated arenas

Moreover, how will the international community implement these measures while not hindering legitimate trade between these countries, as well as not infringing on the national sovereignty of participating countries? Lastly, how will participating nations gauge the success of their efforts in the future and then alter their tactics to perpetuate any successes while altering any failures?

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Baylor University High School Model United Nations
Fall 2010 Conference



General Assembly Second Committee
Background and Committee Guide

Dear Delegates,

Thank you for choosing to attend this conference, and welcome to Baylor University! We all hope that you will enjoy your experience competing here and we wish you the best of luck in the upcoming conference. The experience of representing totally new set of beliefs and interests is a valuable one; in an increasingly globalized world it is imperative that we develop the ability to look at a host of situations from a multifaceted point of view. It is with this at the forefront of our minds that we embark on yet another Model UN conference, and we are confident that this experience will be a valuable one.

In the upcoming days, you will be asked to address the following topics:

1. Micro-Finance Assistance to Developing Countries
2. Legal Empowerment of the Poor and the Eradication of Poverty

The importance of these issues cannot be overstated; they affect nations the world over, from the P5 to the most desperate of the LDCs. When conducting your research familiarize yourself with all points of view, for when the time comes to formulate your resolutions the gravity and scope of these challenges demand a comprehensive solution. When engaging these topics, look first to the position and interests of your state and your neighbors; however, as is always the case you must be prepared to account for the concerns of other states as you debate.

One must keep in mind that we are not tied to the “traditional” answers; the failed policies of the past or the stagnant refrains of times gone by are neither our concern nor the impetus of our action. In the end what we need to do within this committee is make an honest analysis of the situation and develop a solution that, first and foremost, works. The process of writing and perfecting resolutions not always easy, but we am confident that you will all answer the challenge set before you and present groundbreaking work as a result.

We wish you the best of luck as you research and look forward to your participation as a delegate in the Economic and Financial Committee.

Sincerely,

2010 Chair and Rapporteurs

History of the General Assembly Economic and Financial Committee

Background

The General Assembly Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN) is second of the six standing committees under the General Assembly within the United Nations (UN). Its primary purpose is to analyze economic and financial problems and data on a worldwide scale, and formulate global solutions. The resolutions passed by the body are then forwarded to the General Assembly Plenary for continued debate and vote for approval. As one of the permanent committees under the direction of the General Assembly, ECOFIN plays a critical role in the formation of UN policy and its response to any crisis arising within these areas. ECOFIN works off of a preset agenda for the year, focusing on pertinent problems within its sphere of influence.

The Second Committee is currently chaired by H. E. Mr. Park In-Kook of the Republic of Korea. Throughout the sixty-third session, the committee acted upon forty draft proposals with relevance to issues such as sustainable development, human settlements, and poverty eradication, to name a few. Furthermore, the most recent ECOFIN agenda focused mostly on economic development and looked at how such a goal would be best achieved on a global scale; however the second committee does not always analyze problems from a global perspective; also on the docket are provisions to deal with LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and LLDCs (Landlocked Developing Countries). Necessarily, these solutions will be primarily regional in scope, though their effects will be felt globally.

Another key aspect of the second committee is its role in the ongoing efforts to revitalize the General Assembly, which focuses on updating its methods and practices of work and debate in order to streamline the work of the committee. ECOFIN tackles problems with global implications. Though the ins and outs of financial and economic wheeling and dealing may strike some as mundane or redundant, the decisions reached in ECOFIN carry powerful implications for all of us, as they play a major role in the development of our increasingly global economy. As the world becomes more intertwined, the work of ECOFIN will become increasingly critical.

Topic I. Micro-financial Assistance to Developing Countries.

Introduction

"Where once the poor were commonly seen as passive victims, microfinance recognizes that poor people are remarkable reservoirs of energy and knowledge. And while the lack of financial services is a sign of poverty, today it is also understood as an untapped opportunity to create markets, bring people in from the margins and give them the tools with which to help themselves."- Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General

“Microfinancing” is making available loans (specifically known as microcredit), savings and other financial services to the poor in least developed countries (LDCs), and those who would otherwise not have access to traditional banking opportunities. These services are largely targeted toward women. Usually referring to loans that help people make payments or start small businesses, the term “micro” is used because often the loans are for very small amounts. Through these, people are given a way to become entrepreneurs and increase their income; they may even have a chance to change their entire lives and those of their families. Microfinance offers people a loophole in the system and they are given a chance to escape the cycle of unemployment and poverty. Having a way to earn income is important, but it is equally important to have protection should the economy take a negative turn or something go wrong. This is where the other services microfinance offers, savings and insurance, come into play. With access to microfinancial assistance, the poor are able to stand on their own and become self-reliant. They actively participate in bringing themselves out of poverty.

Microloans often have very high interest rates. This is alarming and may seem as though it is quite unfair; however it is simply indicative of transaction costs involved in loaning the money. The loans, usually for relatively small amounts such as \$100, are not impossible to pay back even with interest. Statistics differ, but most hover around a ninety percent repayment rate which shows either that these institutions are very good at finding those who will be conscientious to repay, that the poor are not bad investments or possibly both.

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) are organizations, ranging from small non-profit to large banks, which provide these financial services. Largely banks are not poverty friendly, as it takes money to open an account, credit or collateral to obtain a loan or at the very least literacy to fill out the paperwork. Many people living in poverty do not have any of these qualifications. MFIs offer these opportunities, but the term has been expanded to include any financial institution which offers financial aid to the poor. MFIs also, as previously noted, target women specifically to be recipients of the financial assistance. It is a way of killing two birds with one stone. By doing all of these transactions with women, they bring together individual families and the communities at large. Also, when women are empowered financially they are more assertive and confident both in the private and public spheres. There are trends of lowered violence towards women in areas where microfinancing has been made available.

Case Studies and Regional Emphasis

Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)-India

Founded by Elaben Bhatt, SEWA helps women who work in the informal sector. In 1973, to rid themselves of their eternal debt, 4,000 women came together and contributed ten rupees each; this was the beginning of SEWA. In 1974, the bank was registered as a co-op under the Reserve Bank of India and the State Government. Since then it has helped millions of women. For instance, this is Rajiben, a vegetable seller's story, "SEWA Bank gave me my first loan of Rs.2000 for buying vegetables. They gave me 3 years to repay it, at an interest rate of 17% per year. I repaid in six months and have taken many more loans from SEWA Bank since then." SEWA has a 98% repayment rate.

The process of censuring a loan with SEWA is not a difficult one, but it is thorough. The bank investigates her "income-generating ability, financial status, soundness of working conditions and ability to repay." Sometimes, if the woman has jewelry or a mortgage that can be used for security and the loan will go through in the same day. Most loans are granted, and most are done in a week or less. The SEWA Bank frees women from indebtedness to and dependence on middlemen. They can handle their own affairs and hold power when bargaining. They also will develop the skills to deal with formal financial institutions in the future. And changing these women's lives will lead to changes in their family's lives and much further down the road.

Grameen Bank-Bangladesh

The Grameen Bank, founded by Professor Muhammad Yunus, gives tiny loans to the poorest people in the country. It helps them to improve their employment situation, to pay off their debts to suppliers, and to start earning a proper profit. Yunus was recently honored by President Barak Obama as an "agent of change," and presented a Medal of Freedom for the work he has done in Bangladesh. Grameen Bank has showed the world that lending to the poor, those with no credit or collateral, is not a silly proposition. It is quite possible, and it can have life changing impact.

One of the things that Grameen Bank does well is that it encourages community. It organizes borrowers into small groups, usually about five, of similar people who then meet and learn together each week. They learn how to make smart business decisions from bank staff who meet with the small groups of people. Once these people get on their feet, other programs for development are introduced such as, the building of latrines, installing household water lines and irrigation and loans for getting equipment such as cell phones etc. The lending gets more extravagant as the borrowers become more

comfortable and familiar with the system, and hence the impact of their work can reach farther and be more lasting.

United Nations Action

The General Assembly 2nd Committee has had much to discuss concerning the United Nations Development Goals (UNDP), and the topic of microfinance is often raised. The first Microcredit Summit took place in Washington D.C. in February 1997. This led to General Assembly resolution 52/194 in December 1997. It was called, Role of Microcredit in the Eradication of Poverty, and recognized that people living in poverty are not innately unable to bring themselves out of poverty, but that they simply needed help. Microcredit was introduced as a viable way to offer them that help; it was also noted that microfinance especially benefits women. 2005 was declared the International Year of Microcredit.

In March 2007, General Assembly 61/214 was adopted. It called for more relevant statistical data on the effect that microfinance is having where it is implemented. It also called for member states to more strongly support those nations implementing microcredit institutions and to meet standards for these institutions. In July of 2008, the Secretary-General of the UN released a statement on microfinance in response to General Assembly resolution 61/214. He stressed that microfinance can make a difference; indeed it is already making a difference to those in poverty. He also stressed that it cannot be the sole tool in the eradication of poverty.

Conclusion

Micro financing is not the solution to poverty, but it is a move in the right direction. As we have seen in the case studies of India and Bangladesh, the impact that microfinance has reaches not only the individuals but those in their immediate and extended communities. It is also important to note that these are only two case studies; there are many more examples of this same thing happening all over the world in LDCs. In their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations has designated eight areas of need to target in the world. The first of these is to end poverty and hunger. In a fact sheet for this goal, the question "What has worked?" is answered with "Microfinance." It continues to say that "...many of the world's poor [have] increase[d] their incomes through self-employment and empowerment. With access to small loans and other financial services such as savings and micro-insurance, microfinance clients, mostly women, have formed micro-enterprises that generate income. Through microfinance, the poor are able to establish support networks for improving health and education in their communities. Microfinance also helps them meet unexpected needs arising from medical emergencies or a death in the family." Largely Microfinance has helped those in need in

LDCs. Other possible solutions are grants, investments in infrastructure, employment programs, non-financial services and legal/institutional reforms. Grants can be used to prepare people for eventual use of microcredit. Investments in infrastructure plant a solid foundation for economic activities. Employment programs prepare the poor for self-employment, though they may not be in reach of the extremely poor. Non-financial services ranging from classes in literacy to market-based business-development services will complement the addition of microcredit. And last but not least, the vague but incredibly necessary legal and institutional reform as poverty has always been very much a result of institutional unfairness.

Questions to Consider

When is Microfinance not a good idea? Is microfinance a good idea, that is to say is it an investment that will make a great deal of difference, when conditions are not right? In conditions where it may be extremely difficult for borrowers to repay loans, such as in populations that are widely dispersed, or have high incidence of disease, is it still a good idea to offer these opportunities? Is microfinance truly able to help the destitute, or only those who already have some means of making a living? If microfinance cannot help those in dire poverty, what are some other possible solutions?

Topic II. Legal Empowerment of the Poor and the Eradication of Poverty

“Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives” - World Bank

Introduction

Poverty is defined as the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. According to the World Bank, the goal of reducing poverty cannot be achieved unless there is a comprehensive understanding of methods to reduce poverty, what works and what does not, and how poverty changes over time by examining its different dimensions and its indicators. This comprehensive understanding of poverty may be achieved by defining, measuring, studying, and even experiencing poverty. With over 3 billion people living on less than \$2.50 a day, almost half of the world is poor. Because high poverty rates often slow down the growth and development process, it is of utmost importance to ensure poverty reduction. Discussions were first made to significantly relieve people of absolute poverty in the 1970s by reducing the gap between rich and poor countries. Since then, world poverty has been an issue discussed among the international communities. In the 1980s, market incentives were discussed. This led to adjustments to prices globally and the general aspects of an economy dealing broadly with the income and investments of a country. By 1988, gender and environmental issues were recognized and included in the World Bank’s research agenda,

and the 1990s saw the emergence of both poverty and inequality of the poor as pressing global issues. Today, it is important to look at the present economic and financial crisis because poverty considerations during the crisis are usually set aside and the progress impeded.

Impact on growth and external stability in Developing Countries

“The economic crisis is projected to increase poverty by around 46 million people in 2009” (World Bank, *Swimming against the tide*, 9). Following the economic and financial crisis from 2008 to 2009, there is a precipitous decline in the prices of a large number of basic commodities, and the weakness in global demand is expected to keep commodity prices low for a prolonged period. According to the World Bank, in 2009, the global economic growth has entered the negative territory. Credit flows have dried up and major investment firms and lending institutions have been wiped off the map. Jobs are disappearing by more than a million a month, according to the International Labor Organization, and trade has dropped at the steepest rate since the Great Depression. The developing countries are affected severely by the economic and financial crisis. The gap between the richest people and the poorest people has achieved its record high. The richest 1% of the world’s population (around 60 million) now receives as much income as the poorest 57%, while the income of the richest 25 million Americans is the equivalent of that of almost 2 billion of the world’s poorest people. In 1820, Western Europe’s per capita income was three times that of Africa’s; by the 90s it was more than 13 times as high.

Although the situation of the developing countries is threatening the progress to meet the Millennium Development Goals, the official development assistance (ODA) to these countries is “even more volatile in the wake of a widespread global financial crisis and recession” (World Bank, *Swimming against the tide*, 8). Some developed countries are falling short of the aid they promised at the world summit in Gleneagles to the developing world. More than 50 poor countries have a total debt of \$520 billion owed to the rich countries. Interest payments on this debt far surpass any allocation of fund to healthcare or education. Furthermore, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations predicts that the crisis will create over one billion hungry and undernourished people worldwide, which will become the highest number in history. Even more states have reported that the crises has led to “deceleration of growth economic contraction, increased volatility and falling prices for primary commodities, massive reversal of private capital inflows, reduced access to credit and trade financing, and reduced ability to maintain social safety nets and provide adequate basic social services such as health and education” (A/RES/63/303).

Case Study: Chile

Since the 1990s, the Chilean government has been shifting their focus from simple economic growth to improving the quality of life for all its citizens. In 2002, Chile made a major step in its social policies. It adopted the *Sistema Chile Solidario*. This system aims toward certain priority groups in three fundamental components: receiving personalized psychological and social services; guaranteed subsidies, and preferential access to public social programs. The priority groups include the handicapped, women, elderly, children and indigenous groups. Its goal is to reach out to the poorest families who most need help. By enhancing its social policies, the Chilean government has achieved its goal of ensuring stability and democratic governance. Social policy has been reoriented from a welfare approach to a stronger approach in which it is focusing on social investment policies and programs aimed at increasing human capital and guaranteeing equal opportunities. In face of the present economic crisis, the Chile has not fallen back and instead continues in its aim to construct a democratic, open and egalitarian society in which all its citizens are able to realize their rights. The poverty rate in Chile since the 1980s has been reduced by almost 60%. Chile has also enjoyed a substantial economic growth. As a result, the Chile Solidario greatly improved the conditions of the poor families in Chile.

UN Actions & Other Responses

In response to the financial and economic crisis, world leaders joined together in the conference held in New York and adopted the resolution RES/63/303 on July 13, 2009. In this resolution named *The Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development*, the leaders recognized the need for prompt and decisive actions. The leaders also emphasized, “an effective response to the current economic crisis requires timely implementation of existing aid commitments” (28). The donors are strongly urged to fulfill their commitments and targets made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, at the G8 summit in Gleneagles, in the Doha Declaration and at the G20 London summit and to deliver and maintain their bilateral and multilateral official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), they have made some changes in assisting developing countries as they face financial, economic and development challenges. The IMF created more flexible instruments such as the flexible credit line. World Bank over the recent years has also been seeking new policies and actions for developments and changes in organization. They have adopted new economic views that both growth and distribution of income may exist simultaneously. This means that social benefits such as access to education and health care are encouraged to improve the productivity of the poor and their quality of life. In doing so, the poor are more likely to be granted economic power and,

subsequently, obtain political power in which gives them equal opportunities in society to improve their lives.

Although efforts have been made to improve the standard of living for millions and encouraging economic developments globally, poverty still persists. Finally, in September 2009, 189 countries came together and signed the Millennium Declaration, which led to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. Among its many targets, MDGs aim to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, and promote gender equality and empower women. The goal to eradicate poverty is largely successful in most of Asia. However, little progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2008, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus was held in Doha, Qatar. One of the main highlights in the document is the need for domestic resource mobilization, which calls for greater accountability and good governance in executing policies in developing countries. International trade is another message to developed countries so that the needs of the Least Developed countries may receive more attention. The declaration calls for stronger commitments by donors to maintain their ODA targets regardless of the current financial crisis.

Conclusion & Questions to Consider

Some questions to consider in discussing this topic would be: What methods are most effective in combating poverty? What are the pros and cons of your country's current antipoverty efforts? Also, consider the relationship your country has with the World Bank. What partnerships intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions, and governments can create with each other to ensure sustainability and security for the countries in poverty? Since poverty is multidimensional, poor people need to be given a range of capabilities and power. Their rights must be protected and their voices heard. Four key elements of empowerment are access to information, inclusion and participation, accountability, and local organizational capacity. How have your country created laws, rules, and procedures in a way that will empower the citizens and create a platform in which the citizens may effectively interact with their government? The United Nations are responsible in leading the discourse and establish multifarious relationships, mechanisms and processes to address the overwhelming concern of the impact of the financial crisis.

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Baylor University High School Model United Nations

Fall 2010 Conference



General Assembly Third Committee

Background & Preparation Guide

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2010 Baylor University United Nations High School Conference! We are thrilled at your interest in participating in Baylor's conference. This conference will be held in the fall of 2010 at Baylor and run by Baylor University Model UN team. This is an annual conference held in the fall at Baylor since 1994. Members of Baylor's Model UN team will be the coordinators, committee chairs, secretariat, expert witness, judges and faculty-student liaisons. The conference has over 300 students from different schools around representing different countries from around the world. We will be selecting a country and two topics of discussion.

The discussion topics are as follows for the General Assembly Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (SOCHUM) at the 2010 Baylor University Model United Nations High School Conference are:

1. Evaluating and Responding to Human Trafficking in Developing Countries
2. Mitigating the Orphan and Destitute crisis in Haiti

The conference will be here before you know it! Make research a priority because you want to be well informed. Most of all have fun, because this is going to be an awesome learning experience for you and your teammates as well as for the other schools participating. The purpose of Baylor Model UN is to "encourage leadership in committee and enhance one's understanding of the United Nations through participation."

Well, young colleagues go and be diligent!

Good Luck on your preparation for the Baylor University Model United Nations High School Conference.

Sincerely,

2010 Chair and Rapporteurs

Introduction

The information that you are going to receive in this study guide is invaluable. Please read carefully as you begin accumulating information. You will be working in the General Assembly Plenary which is the “most comprehensive body in the United Nations”, and means that you will need to keep in mind when writing your resolutions that the ideas you propose will have a huge impact on not only your country, but the international community in its entirety.

History of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is the third committee in the General Assembly. The General Assembly is made up of six committees because of the volume of issues that it's called on to resolve. The six main committees are the Disarmament and International Security Committee, Economic and Financial committee, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, Special Political and Decolonization committee, Administrative Budgetary committee, and Legal committee. The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee deals with the social and humanitarian aspects of different international issues. SOCHUM was founded as one of the original branches of the United Nations in 1945. “Social and humanitarian development, and the preservation of and respect for cultures are basic building blocks of the UN”.

Each year the General Assembly will assign to the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee topics ranging from social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues endured by people around the world. The committee focuses a lot on human rights and reports of the special procedures of the human rights council, established in 2009. The committee analyzes these reports and seeks to make strides in improving human rights around the world. Also important to this committee are the “advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the promotion of the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and drug control.”

There are several bodies with similar tasks as the third Committee (SOCHUM), however SOCHUM has the most authority. The third committee has several tasks. These tasks range from the recognition and preservation of different cultures, to the advancement of the rights and status of historically neglected groups of people. As a committee of the General Assembly, all of the countries that are members of the UN have access to the third committee. Likewise, every represented country will have a member on SOCHUM.

Now that you know about the Third Committee, you should be thinking about the topics and resolution writing. No matter what country you represent, there are many resources you can use for research. Don't forget about one of the most important: the model UN website. Also look at books, websites, journals, scholarly sources etc.

Functions and Powers

The UN charter states that the third committee is responsible for initiating studies and making recommendations to promote: “international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assist in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.” The United Nations issued eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2000. Which focused its goals on: “Combating AIDS, malaria and other diseases, eradication of extreme poverty hunger, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, ensuring primary education, promoting gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development are all the eight goals set by the United Nations.” The goals are targeted to be met by 2015.

The Committee votes are decided by a simple majority instead of a unanimous decision. SOCHUM cannot come between two or more countries to resolve confrontations. SOCHUM decides on non-pressing and non-military matters and can persuade matter to be resolved peacefully. We suggest over-viewing past charters by United Nations voting, subsidiary organs, and by considering the latest developments for better understanding of the breakdown of the functions and powers. Article 11, Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter deals with the matter of voting where “Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote” which is in turn translated into the functioning of the Third Committee as well.

The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions, it says in article 22 chapter four, but right now, “the SOCHUM Executive Board at LIMUN, would make an earnest appeal to you to weigh out the consequences of establishing another such body” that will be „just another addition” to the already clogged organization structure of the United Nations. Only if the agenda genuinely needs such an organization should you venture into even considering the inception of one.” SOCHUM and its functions play an essential role in the world today especially in terms of Social, Humanitarian and Cultural issues that establish the very basis of humanity.

Conclusion

The General Assembly’s third committee, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural plays a very important role in the United Nations and thus should be given especially great attention when considering issues of evaluating and Responding to Human Trafficking in central Asia and mitigating the Orphan and Destitute crisis in Haiti.

The topics chosen for you are two very important and somewhat recent news items. Everywhere in the world people got together to help the victims of the disaster in Haiti immediately after the damage; looking at Haiti now there is still a lot that needs to be done especially with the kids who were left parentless. Empathize with the children and put yourself in their shoes when you are thinking about your resolution writing. Think

about practical solutions as far as your country and what your country would be able to contribute. Be Creative.

Human trafficking in Asia was chosen as a topic because during our research we realized that this is a bigger problem than most people know about. “Chinese women and children are trafficked for sexual and labor exploitation in Malaysia, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Europe, Canada, Japan, Italy, Burma, Singapore, South Africa, and Taiwan. Many Chinese are recruited by false promises of employment and are later coerced into prostitution or forced labor. Traffickers who promise their parents that their children can send remittances back home sometimes recruit children. In poorer areas, most trafficked women are sold as wives to old and disabled unmarried men and in richer areas, most trafficked women are sold to commercial sex businesses, hair salons, massage parlors and bathhouses Also, Chinese children were also kidnapped and sold for adoption.” Devastating things happen in our world every day.

Topic I. Mitigating the Orphan and Destitute crisis in Haiti

“Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.”
- Mother Teresa

Introduction

Haiti has always been one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. In recent years, the nation has struggled with problems ranging from near-constant political upheaval, health crises, severe environmental degradation and an annual stream of hurricanes. The economy of this State relies on its limited but varied agricultural crops, the extensive labor force, and tourism, which is expected in any of the Caribbean islands. Due to the limited infrastructure and natural resources, Haiti has remained an underdeveloped country that constantly struggles with unemployment and chronic food deficits. The geography of this nation is gravely problematic, because hurricanes tend to be a recurring threat, one that its citizens can barely withstand sometimes.



On January 12th, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the island, leaving its infrastructure and population in complete chaos. Since then, relief teams as well as support from all over the globe has been sent to the area of this tragedy. The body count keeps on rising, the needs pile up, and Haiti is desperately asking for more food, shelters,

and medical supplies. The country has never had a stable health care system, and due to the quake the few medical resources have been either destroyed or damaged. Haiti has a population of approximately nine million people, of which an average of two million have been left homeless and three million gravely injured by the disaster. On top of these numbers 220,000 is the estimate of deaths, which keep on rising as the debris is removed from the streets, and the country tries to get back in order. Evidently these are only numbers, but they represent human beings that have lost their homes, family and even their lives due to this unfortunate act of nature.

The orphan and destitute crisis is indeed a dire one, and one that greatly concerns the international community. These groups of people are completely dependant on the aid that may come from outside sources. Haiti is not only unable to tend to its citizens needing medical assistance and food, but it is also incapable of providing shelters or new homes for the children and the adults that have been left with nothing more than their lives.

UN Actions and Organizations

Previously, the United Nations has gone to great lengths to demonstrate their concern and support for refugees and orphans. Some of the organizations that branch from this great body are the following:

UNICEF is a group that focuses on the education and health of children all around the world. Any situation that requires the involvement of the UN and is related to kids goes through this body.

UNOCHA (U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) designed to respond to complex emergencies and natural disasters. This branch of the UN is in charge of coordinating the humanitarian response and the development of advocacy and policy making when extreme situations arise.

UN HABITAT is an agency established to promote and provide adequate shelter for people all around the globe. Its focus is also in creating and maintaining healthy environments in towns and cities.

Clearly, the UN has a wide range of branches that deal with specific needs and emergency responses. These organizations have been working closely with Haiti in trying to provide the most comprehensive aid to its citizens. Several other subdivisions of the UN are also giving their support, all these groups have been crucial in providing aid for countries recuperating from major disasters in the past, and are again playing a very important role in helping the people of Haiti.

Current Situation

There is currently an average of 380,000 orphans in Haiti. Though the number seems scandalous, it is important to consider that many of the children are just “temporarily”

orphaned. Due to the earthquake, families have been separated, either by the disaster itself or because they have been transported to certain areas to get medical help or basic necessities. Several of the children who are at the moment counted as orphaned, are actually just separated from their parents. Once the damage from the quake is mitigated, the body counts are more accurate, and parents begin to be reunited with their kids, then will international organizations have an accurate count of the children in need for a home. The predicament at the moment is that several NGO's, and even individuals from the global community, are rushing to adopt and transport children from Haiti that may be only separated from their families. Although the intentions of the people are noble, there are also children traffickers who can use the chaos and the desperate need of help to take some of the youth who has been left homeless. Due to this, Haiti is struggling with adoption rights and permits, in order to allow the children an opportunity to find a new home, but also carefully assessing their safety.

Besides the numbers of children currently and temporarily orphaned, there are approximately a million families that have been left homeless due to the disaster. The citizens of Haiti did not have a lot before the disaster. The island was in a state of "stable poverty" that was, even then, considered grave. After the quake the degree of poverty increased dramatically and the needs of the people that were barely met each day became impossible to fulfill. Currently the numbers of Haitians left homeless completely surpass the few shelters and homes that are available thanks to foreign aid. Haiti is not only struggling with picking up its infrastructure and functionality, but it is gravely underprepared to face the amount of investment and work needed to provide homes for all the people that are currently dispossessed. The most delicate aspect of a natural disaster is the unpredictability of the situation. Haiti went from struggling with poverty, to being devastated in a matter of a few hours. Presently the government, along with aid organizations, has come up with temporary housing plans. Fields are being cleared and tents collected with the hopes of providing shelter from the rain and temperatures that the island will be facing soon. It is distressing to think that at the moment, a tent is the best and only available shelter for the families that have been left homeless. Violence has occurred due to the lack of available tents, and organizations all over the globe are trying to provide enough equipment to help the approximately one million destitute citizens.

Efforts and Planning

Due to the great amount of aid that Haiti requires at the moment, several countries and international organizations have come up with relief plans. Each need is being carefully prioritized and specific groups are trying to specialize in covering the basic requirements of the people.

Clean water and provisions are a main issue on the island and several groups are working to provide the basic nutritional requirements to the people. UN World Health Organization, UNICEF, Save the Children, International Medical Corps and many other organizations are currently supporting Haiti and are trying to transport all the food and clean water available in order to meet as many needs as possible.

Shelter is the second priority of the aid teams. Soon the annual storm and hurricane season will be starting in Haiti, and people need to be able to protect themselves from the climate. Organizations such as American Refugee committee, Catholic Relief Services, Pan American Development Foundation, along with several others, are groups trying to mitigate the homeless crisis.

Dealing with the economy and market recovery are organizations such as Action Contre La Faim, from France; Adventist Development and Relief Agency, a global aid group; Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, a french based international establishment ; Cooperative Housing Foundation, an international relief group ; GOAL, also a global aid agency ; All of these groups, and many others from all over the globe are presently working in Haiti to improve their financial and market related conditions.

Conclusion

Haiti has always been a country in need. Poverty has been an ever present force that inevitably weighs the nation down. A natural disaster such as an earthquake with a magnitude of the one that struck the island, is not only an unexpected but also an undeserved blow to a society that has struggled to improve their living conditions since they gained their independence. The need for provisions, clean water, shelter and medical supplies are some of the more pressing issues that are being addressed by several NGO's and aid groups. However, the island has to look forward and not only down. There are issues that need to be dealt with presently but there is also a future to look up to. The infrastructure, government and market systems are parts of the country that will need concentrated work and investment, in order to bring the nation out of the chaos and stationary place where it is at the moment. Haiti has natural resources, tourism and hard working citizens that can definitely bring the island's economy and structure back to life.

Questions to consider

1. It is evident that Haiti is in dire need of aid from countries that can invest, and donate, in order to provide the means to reconstruct the city and its structure. Considering this, what countries and international organizations would be viable investors and creditors?
2. Given the Orphan crisis, what is the best way to handle adoptions? Should Haiti allow Global aid organizations and independent families adopt children from the island and with the hope that they will be getting better living conditions? Or should the safety of the children, and the hope of finding their parents, be a priority for the government?
3. What are some long term and short term goals that Haiti should have in order to deal with the homelessness and orphan crises?

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Topic II: Evaluating and Responding to Human Trafficking In Developing Countries

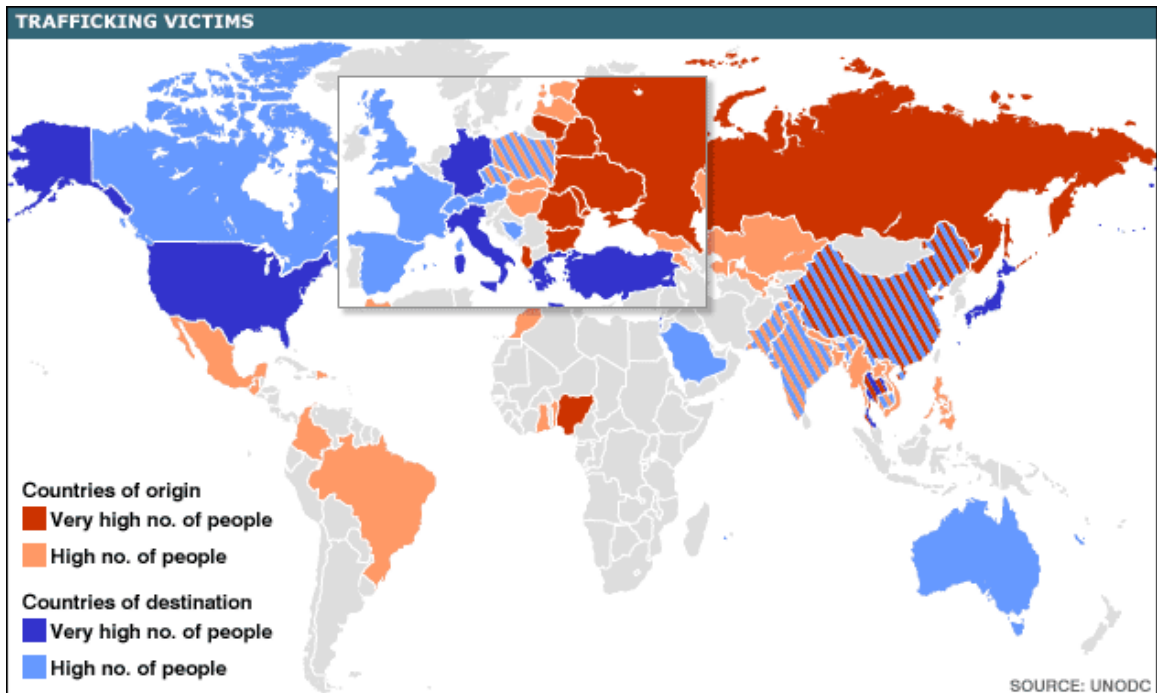
“Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,”

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Introduction

The dilemma presented by the presence of human trafficking has existed as a global problem throughout the history of human civilizations, primarily through the propagation of the institution of slavery. While the mitigation of many explicit practices of slavery—particularly within Western nations—indicated a significant step towards a more comprehensive confrontation of the problem, unfortunately, issues relating to slavery and human trafficking remain in the modern international arena. Though the accumulation of accurate statistics concerning trafficking is obscured by both the secrecy of the illicit activity and ambiguities within understandings of trafficking, modern numbers indicate “an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders (some international and non-governmental organizations place the number far higher)” annually.

While developed nations often exist as the eventual destination for the trafficked individuals, most victims of trafficking originate from developing nations, whose domestic conditions facilitate the practice. The economic and social environments of developing nations often preclude both opportunity and personal security, inhibiting the ability for individuals to maintain an enjoyable quality of life or even access basic necessities for living. As such, many individuals native to such countries seek to enhance their opportunities through refuge on foreign soil and employ trafficking techniques to gain entry to such states. Additionally, most definitions of human trafficking recognize the additional problem presented by compulsory human migration—through both coercion and even explicit abduction—occurrences which often result in the subjugation of the victim into a system of slavery or prostitution. Both of these emerging patterns remain exacerbated due to the infrastructural capabilities of many developing nations, who lack sufficient police forces and border patrol to regulate emigration from their country and so possess few mechanisms to combat trafficking. The following figure provides a visual representation of such a phenomenon, evaluating geographic regions based upon the number of trafficking victims originating from a region or destined for a particular locale.



Demographic Awareness

While the progression of technology over the 20th century facilitated the development of numerous positive global capabilities, the phenomenon additionally enabled both the identification and propagation of various issues which require international attention. One of the most prominent of such problems emerged as human trafficking, a topic which experienced a substantial expansion of awareness over the last several decades. While the issue itself is not necessarily unique to the current generation, as complications concerning migration exist as almost inherent to any immigration process, deficiencies in statistical information regarding the issue precluded the prominence of trafficking on the historical international agenda. Aside from the issue of slavery, both international and domestic efforts concerning population patterns emphasized more general immigration themes and failed to acknowledge many of the complexities currently relevant to modern discourse on trafficking.

However, the development of superior computational capacities and organizational methods enabled the accumulation of more precise demographical data, culminating in the availability of means of recognition of previously concealed and illicit human transfer patterns. Ultimately such enhanced identification resulted in the current international attention to human trafficking and ability to discern potential solutions to such previously inaccessible problems.

Despite such positive advances, the collection and interpretation of objective data on human trafficking remains one of the most immediate dilemmas regarding the issue and exists as a prerequisite to any comprehensive solution. Much of such difficulties emerge due to ambiguities concerning the actual definition of human trafficking. International

action during the last century substantially progressed in the elucidation of a more specific definition for human trafficking, efforts which culminated in an articulation of a comprehensive definition in 2000 by the United Nations.

“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs; The consent of the victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in paragraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used.

“Smuggling of migrants” shall mean the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.

This definition represented a significant step in the mitigation of trafficking, as previous inconsistencies in alternative interpretations resulted in differential data and allowed for the manipulation of statistics to promote specific domestic agendas. However, the provided definition remains very general and permits the inclusion of a diverse and rather subjective scope of trafficking related issues, rendering comparisons between independent studies on trafficking difficult. As such, any definitive reliance on specific statistics remains difficult and analysis of trafficking must consider both the subjectivity of collected data and the tendency for such information to utilize demographic estimates rather than accurate reflections of reality.

Unfortunately, such a situation is exacerbated in developing countries due to an inadequate infrastructure to collect comprehensive population records and then direct or enforce policy responsive to the issue. Typically, numerical data regarding human trafficking derives from either census efforts or reports from immigration authorities, both mechanisms not at the effective disposal of many impoverished states. Alternatively, even when census efforts occur in such environments, public distrust of governmental authorities result in the tendency for statistically significant percentages of the population to either misrepresent census reports or simply evade recording efforts. As such, the data collection process relies on more imprecise means and cannot function as information capable of effective identification of population anomalies. When such dilemmas emerge within the context of a state already suffering from an inability to consistently enforce order within domestic borders, the issue of human trafficking represents an especially urgent concern within developing nations.

Conclusion

While alternative international topics of concern, such as genocide or environmental degradation, exhibit public characteristics which may be easily observed, the inherently secretive nature of human trafficking consistently precludes much of the global efforts directed towards mitigation of the problem. Fortunately, the emergence of sophisticated technology and more efficient organizational techniques enabled an exposure to a greater degree of human trafficking than previously detectable. However, such progress remains obscured by both theoretical ambiguities and inconsistencies within trafficking definitions and more tangible infrastructural deficiencies within nations. As such, any comprehensive engagement of human trafficking must necessarily attempt to articulate the explicit categories entailed by the term and then subsequently deliberate on the appropriate responses to such relevant elements.

Discursive Questions

What recent actions, if any, has your country taken to mitigate human trafficking related issues? Does your country possess accurate population data and remain capable of collecting reliable demographic statistics relevant to the topic? Does your country suffer from any issue related to human trafficking, such as drug trafficking, slavery, or prostitution? Since trafficking requires a geographical entry point, what is the relationship of your country to its neighbors? Are interactions with them friendly enough to facilitate cooperation on border control issues? What global and domestic economic consequences emerge if trafficking is reduced and what implications will such an effect have on your country?

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