

GAIC-MUN

2016

GAIC MUN

**United Nations
Development Programme
Chair report**

Committee: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Agenda 1: Developing sustainable cities to deal with urbanization

Agenda 2: Eradicating poverty and securing access to food and clean water

Student Officers: Gayeong Kim, Julian

Contents.

Agenda 1: Developing sustainable cities to deal with urbanization

Agenda 2: Eradicating poverty and securing access to food and clean water

I. Committee Introduction

I. Committee Introduction

II. Agenda Introduction

II. Agenda Introduction

III. Status Quo

III. Status Quo

IV. History

IV. History

V. Stance of involved nations

V. Stance of involved nations

VI. Future Outlook

VI. Future Outlook

VII. Possible Solutions

VII. Possible Solutions

VIII. Conclusion

VIII. Conclusion

IX. Questions to consider

IX. Questions to consider

X. Bibliography

X. Bibliography

Agenda 1: Developing sustainable cities to deal with urbanization

1. Committee Introduction

United Nations Development Programme, also known as UNDP, is one of UN's major establishments that supports and promotes UN's Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the Millennium Development Goals. The goals include a large variety of ideas that can potentially benefit the global nations and set up the grounds for further development for the long run. UNDP is now in affiliation with over 170 countries and territories. UNDP acts as the beacon of light to the nations in order for the countries to implement policies, build strong bonds, maintain strong leadership, and to downsize the rate of poverty and inequality across nations, as well as steering away from any type of exclusion. At an institutional level, UNDP has grown to copious lengths and has contributed to wide swaths of the global nations.



The United Nations Development Programme seeks at an institutional level to be resilient and capable of finding proper solutions to sustain development results. As for the Millennium Development Goals, eight goals are considered the most representative of the MDGs and they are so



as follows: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and strengthen global partnership for development.

2. Agenda Introduction

i) General Overview

The first agenda on the table for GAIC MUN 2016 is “developing sustainable cities to deal with urbanization.” In order to gain a firm understanding of this

agenda item, one must look at the two major factors that are played into this agenda. The first major factor is “urbanization.” Urbanization is a term that indicates the growing number of population



in so-called urban areas. Urban areas are areas that are typically referred to as “cities” by the common populace. Within urban areas, the commonwealth sight is major signs of industrialization, development of modern day media, reliable infrastructure, et cetera. Seeing that these qualities generally make a place extremely habitable for citizens of our times, urbanization is a very common phenomenon worldwide.

However, urbanization does not only come with its advantages but it has brought on some rather off-putting results to our world. Due to heavy population condensed into one particular area, many social, economic, as well as environmental issues have emerged, breaking the once steady grounds for

sustainable development and demolishing the potential growth.

ii) Definition of Key Terms

● Urbanization

: *The process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more and more people begin living and working in central areas* [Merriam Webster]

In this context, understanding urbanization as the term for the population becoming heavily condensed in an urban area will be sufficient for further debate.

● Sustainable Cities

: *Sustainable (adj.) - able to last or continue for a long time* [Merriam Webster]

In this context, understanding sustainable cities as the cities in which citizens may and are able to make progress with development for both the immediate and the long term will be sufficient for further debate.

● Sustainable Growth

In this context, understanding sustainable growth as the progress of development that ensures maximum growth for the long term while not causing major damage to the surrounding environment will be sufficient for further debate.

iii) Urgency & The Importance of This Agenda

The urgency and the importance of this agenda cannot be stressed further as the problem that lies within the issue of urbanization can be defined as one of the fundamental factors of sustainable growth.

Due to urbanization, many people have struggled with problems such as poverty

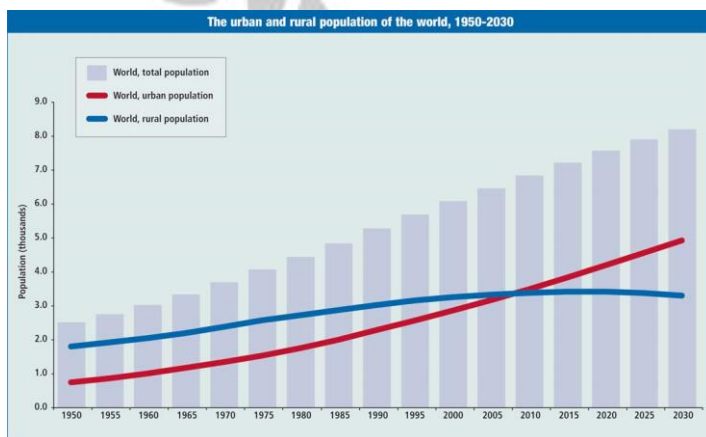
and exclusion, which are the sort of problems that have deep roots in our society and we have yet to fix. In order to ensure maximum sustainable growth, we need to rid of these problems immediately.

The notion of building sustainable cities to deal with urbanization is much easier said than done, that is, a lot of institutions and organizations have tried to take action on this cause but they have not achieved results thus far. In order to tackle this issue, we have to firstly look into what the fundamental causes are. Or rather, in this case, since we already know what the culprit of the issue is – urbanization – we need to assert ourselves with what urbanization has brought upon us. There are major problems that urbanization has brought upon our citizens and those are the issues we should tackle one by one.

Delegates are encouraged to view this situation as a step-by-step process and try to attain sustainable resolutions that will have a further impact on the global society.

3. Status Quo

Urbanization, while closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization, is not just a modern phenomenon but it is deeply rooted in human culture. We can see that in history as the settlement



patterns shift from hunter-gatherers into village cultures centuries ago. It is human nature to want a secure location to settle down and urbanization can be called the very picture of our human nature for security.

Urbanization often refers to the vast movement and concentration of the population in urban areas in contrast to the rural areas. Thus, it creates a wide imbalance between the two ends and thus some needs and requirements are not fulfilled. For the urban end, the demand outpaces the supply and many people suffer from poverty and lack of adequate resources for proper human welfare. As for the rural end of the spectrum, the situation is quite similar to that of the urban area however the type of demand is contrary. Whereas the urban areas need resources that have to do with materials such as food and space, the rural areas lack human resources that are needed to utilize the material resources at hand and generate a sort of revenue.

Although urban cities usually show a lot of promises of jobs and prosperity, we fail to take into account that almost half of the global population already lives in cities and by 2050 it is expected that two-thirds of the global citizens will have inhabited the urban areas.

The potential threats of such overpopulation include intensive urban growth that

can result in large-scale poverty with the local authorities unable to aid all the citizens due to less means. Furthermore, the concentrated energy use can



follow up with an unfathomable amount of air pollution that can and will impact the well-being of the citizens in the long run. Also, regarding the health issues of people, automobile exhaust elevates the level of lead in the air, which can

lead to numerous respiratory diseases. Due to the crowded living conditions, large volumes of uncollected waste accumulate in multiple areas thus creating multiple health hazards. Urbanization also triggers the risk of environmental hazards like flash flooding. With that in mind, the pollution and the growth of physical barriers hinders the volume of urban tree cover, putting a hiatus in the generation of clean and breathable air for the citizens. In addition, wildlife and various ecosystems are endangered by the continuous production and accumulation of toxic substances as well as due to the loss of their originals habitats due to urban development.

Not only does urbanization have direct impacts like diseases and the erosion of the environment, it has roundabout results like crime. Rapid urbanization is known to result in higher rates of crime. Residents of different beliefs and ideals are found stuck together in a limited amount of space and it creates an ignition for violence. The most recent instances of such crimes are found in most of the cities but it is most common in countries like the U.S. or even some nations in Europe where the cities are the mecca of multiple cultures and diversity.

Recently, urbanization in Asia has been the rising star of this issue. Especially countries like India and China where technology is developing at light's speed, the citizens are more favorable to moving to the cities since times have shifted. It also happens to be that India and China are the most densely populated countries in the world and concentrated population occurring in those countries provides us with an aura of impeccable doom.

4. History

The original movement towards the sustainable development began in the late 20th century. The publication of "Limits to Growth" by The Club of Rome in

1972, which claimed that the current rate of economic and population growth created drastic damage to the environment as well as excess food demand, and could not be maintained for much longer, questioned the world community, which was increasingly alarmed by the idea that the livelihood of people was being threatened by this rapid growth of urban areas. This increasing sentiment accumulated to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment ratified in Stockholm, Sweden the same year. As a result of this, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was set up in Nairobi, Kenya to ensure that the policy for sustainable development were carried out.

The theory brought forth two years later, in 1974, regarding the Ozone layer being damaged by Freon gas, which is contained the car emission gas, further challenged the belief of international society that a rapid economic development and transformation into urban areas had only positive impacts. This created the new understanding that a slower and more structured pace of development was necessary in order to maintain a developing society. The discovery of the Ozone hole that in 1985 served as a clear indication for many that the world community was bound by the responsibility to protect Earth's environment.

Numerous progressive developments succeeded these events, marked by the Washington Convention and Ramsar Convention, which were both enacted in 1975. The Kyoto Protocol, ratified in 2005, included terms that tackled the sustainability of urban development by requiring all signatory nations to decrease its CO₂ emissions, through the planting of trees, the building up of lower emission technology.

In spite of the efforts made over the years, there are still major issues, exemplified by those of populous developing countries such as China and India. In fact, as one of the still continuously developing countries, China is expected

to become the top CO2 emitter by 2050, exceeding the US.

5. Stance of Involved Nations

- **China**

China's environmental crisis is one of the most pressing challenges to emerge from the country's rapid industrialization. Its economic rise, in which GDP grew on average 10 percent each year for more than a decade, has come at the expense of its environment and public health. China is the world's largest source of carbon emissions, and the air quality of many of its major cities fails to meet international health standards. Severe water contamination and scarcity have compounded land deterioration. Environmental degradation threatens to undermine the country's growth and exhausts public patience with the pace of reform. It has also bruised China's international standing and endangered domestic stability as the ruling party faces increasing scrutiny and public discontent.

- **Brazil**

Brazil's rainforest areas are famous for its size and diversity, but unfortunately deforestation of these regions was rampant over previous decades as a result of expanding agriculture. In the 1990s, Brazil was cutting down large tracts of trees, but fortunately, public sentiment has shifted significantly more toward conservation. The government has been trying to balance the needs of its agricultural sector with limiting deforestation and a series of incentives, but Brazil has come under significant criticism for its Forest Code, the law giving amnesty to landowners who illegally cleared lands before 2008 and reduced the area to be reforested from 500,000 to 210,000 square kilometers.

- **Germany**

Germany has the most leading sustainable urban cities, thus they are also called upon as Europe's green leader. Munich has presented its initiative to power the city completely using renewable sources by 2025, and so far, the city is 37% of the way there. Freiburg is also well known by its eco-friendly traits. Freiburg was one of the first cities in Germany to adopt local energy production. By creating a situation in which citizens are committed stakeholders the green movement is a natural part of daily life.

- Australia

Australia is owning one of the most incredible ecosystems, and is currently making moves to an eco-friendly country. Melbourne won in the Energy Efficient Built Environment category for sustainable buildings program that gives building managers and owners financing for energy and water retrofits, and the country is taking further measures in decreasing impact to the environment.

- Denmark, Finland and other Scandinavian nations

The Scandinavian countries are known internationally for their concerted efforts to preserve their environments. They typically rank among the top five with some variation by country and year and are often referred to as "green states" by reputation. Policy makers, and citizens increasingly recognized the growing constraints on common resources, the effects of climate on human welfare, and the need to develop collective solutions. These issues are have been gaining ideological prominence and political salience in northern Europe lately, and the government of these nations have succeeded in reflecting this into the management of the state.

6. Future Outlook

Since, the sustainable development of urban areas is a quality not clearly visible, it is hard to accurately measure the extent of the sustainability of urban development worldwide. The world is in the midst of a massive, unprecedented shift in population distribution towards urban centers. With more than half of the world's population already living in cities and further growth expected, it is necessary to protect the health of urban dwellers is crucial to global well-being. African cities are well-suited sites that can be used to test the application of sustainable urbanization principles because of the challenges of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.

7. Possible Solutions

Although there have been efforts made over the years to ensure the development of sustainable cities, one of the reasons why this issue remains prevalent is the cost of creating the necessary infrastructure, and the lack of funds of UNDP. In consideration of this situation, the delegate nations should envisage reducing the cost and personnel of the headquarters through the restructuring of the system, and distributing more of these resources to programs carried out for different areas and nations.

Moreover, the plans of action made to alleviate these circumstances created by the rapid development of urban areas have been unclear, and therefore was difficult to analyze the results and outcomes based on them. Unlike the previous unclear and unreliable programs, all nations should coordinating strategic planning and UNDP affairs in all nations and areas, as well as closely and critically analyzing activity results through a new annual report with emphasis on the resulting developments.

In addition, the measures brought about by the committee are not always

successful due to the lack of cooperation and support. Hence, nations must contemplate the building up of new development partnerships of the program from the collaboration with civilian society and the civil sector, as well as between organizations and developing nations across borders.

8. Conclusion

When tackling a major issue, one of the key factors that one must consider is the sustainability and the efficacy of the solutions. The agenda of developing sustainable cities to deal with urbanization is a specific issue yet it deals with a broad spectrum, thus delegates are reminded to keep an open eye for the cause and effect of the issues and also determine the dependency of the triggers and results.

Firstly, when solving an issue, we have to look at the causes. What are the problems of urbanization? The most representative problem caused by urbanization is overpopulation. It is not an exaggeration to say that urbanization is the synonym of overpopulation. The population becomes too condensed in one area, thus leaving the area malfunctioning in various social and economic aspects.

In addition, the situation must be analyzed with both quantitative and qualitative data. It is not fair for nations to just look at the quantitative data – numbers, graphs, statistics – and make major decisions as if they were solving a math equation. The delegates are reminded to look at the reasons behind why wide swaths of the population are moving towards the urban areas and determine how to utilize those reasons to make up a solution.

Last but not least, it should be noted that when solving issues that has a lot to deal with society and people in general, it's not easy to say for sure about

anything. Delegates are to be reminded that it is much better to try to solve this problem in a broad spectrum and multiple opinions should be valued.

9. Questions to Consider

- What are the problems caused by urbanization?
- Why do people prefer urban areas over rural areas?
- What kind of improvements and adjustments can we make to both urban and rural areas in order to maintain an equal distribution of population?
- What makes an area “sustainable”?
- What kind of factors should a sustainable city include?

10. Bibliography

- "UNDP - United Nations Development Programme." *UNDP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- *ScienceDaily*. ScienceDaily – “Urbanization.”, n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- Reese, Jasmine. "5 Major Problems of Urbanization." *EHow*. Demand Media, n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- "Urbanization, Overpopulation - National Geographic." *National Geographic*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- "Urbanization: An Environmental Force to Be Reckoned With." *Urbanization: An Environmental Force to Be Reckoned With*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.

Agenda 2: Eradicating poverty and securing access to food and clean water

1. Committee Introduction

United Nations Development Programme, also known as UNDP, is one of UN's major establishments that supports and promotes UN's Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the Millennium Development Goals. The goals include a large variety of ideas that can potentially benefit the global nations and set up the grounds for further development for the long run. UNDP is now in affiliation with over 170 countries and territories. UNDP acts as the beacon of light to the nations in order for the countries to implement policies, build strong bonds, maintain strong leadership, and to downsize the rate of poverty and inequality across nations, as well as steering away from any type of exclusion. At an institutional level, UNDP has grown to copious lengths and has contributed to wide swaths of the global nations.



The United Nations Development Programme seeks at an institutional level to be resilient and capable of finding proper solutions to sustain development results. As for the Millennium Development Goals, eight goals are considered the most representative of the MDGs and they are so as follows: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal



primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and strengthen global partnership for development.

2. Agenda Introduction

i) General Overview

The second agenda on the table of GAIC MUN 2016 is eradicating poverty and securing access to food and clean water. This agenda's essence has to do with the sustainable growth goals laid out by the United Nations.



In essence, sustainable growth has to do with the development of human welfare conditions and ensuring proper living conditions. Poverty is one of the main reasons that people struggle with

when it comes to welfare. In the 21st century, it is almost downright impossible to get on without monetary means and poverty has a long history of tormenting those of less means, even before the age of industrialization began.

Securing access to food and clean water has much to do with the concept of poverty but it is slightly different. There are innumerable variables in the case of poverty; you could be poverty-stricken but still have a shelter and a secure access to food and water, even if it means you have a little less than others. But there are the absolute extreme cases where you do not even have the means to gain access to water and food, even in the most basic sense.

It is imprudent of the global nations to do justice to all global citizens by ensuring their basic rights of commodities such as water and food while also evening out the distribution of wealth to create equality amongst the citizens.

ii) Definition of Key Terms

● Poverty

: The state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions [Merriam-Webster]

In this context, consider both the absolute and the relative concept of poverty. Poverty can be defined by a global standard, which can be referred to as an “absolute” state of poverty whereas it can also be defined in comparison to one another, which is the “relative” state of poverty.

● Secure Access

: In this context, understand secure access as the ability to gain access to resources freely and without the inhibition of external factors and it has to be a sustainable source that gives the access for the long term.

● Eradication

: To remove (something) completely; to eliminate or destroy (something harmful) [Merriam-Webster]

In this context, it is easier to define eradication as the action of decreasing and downsizing the amount or the capacity of something rather than the absolute elimination of it.

iii) Urgency & Importance of The Agenda

The importance of securing access to food and water as well as eradicating poverty should not be up for grabs since it is supposed to be a constituted human right, according to the United Nations Charter.

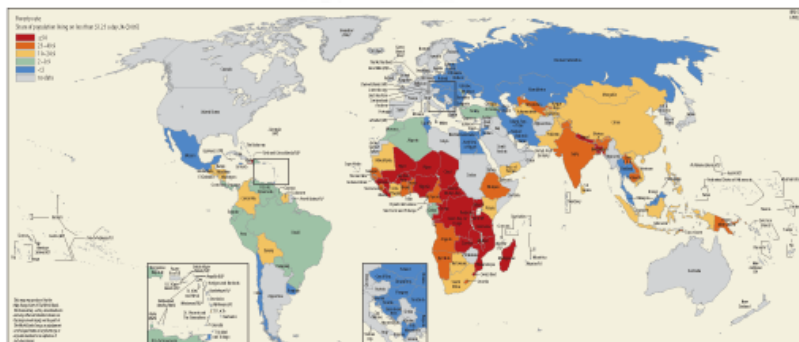
However, the United Nations has no binding power over the nations in fear of

infringing national sovereignty thus it is encouraged that nations learn to cooperate and build stronger bonds with one another and reach a mutual consensus that by all means is collective and altruistic towards the global community, ensuring the sustainability of the progresses.

There are two major factors in this agenda: securing safe sources of water and food and poverty. To say which takes precedence over which is impossible as they are both imprudent tasks for the global nations. However, delegates are encouraged to view both problems as a whole and endeavor to determine the correlation between the issues and come up with resolutions that can tackle not just one side of the argument, but also both for the long run.

3. Status Quo

Poverty, as well as food and water security, is one of the biggest issues that the



worldwide nations face at a global scale. According to the definition coined by the World Food Summit, food security is

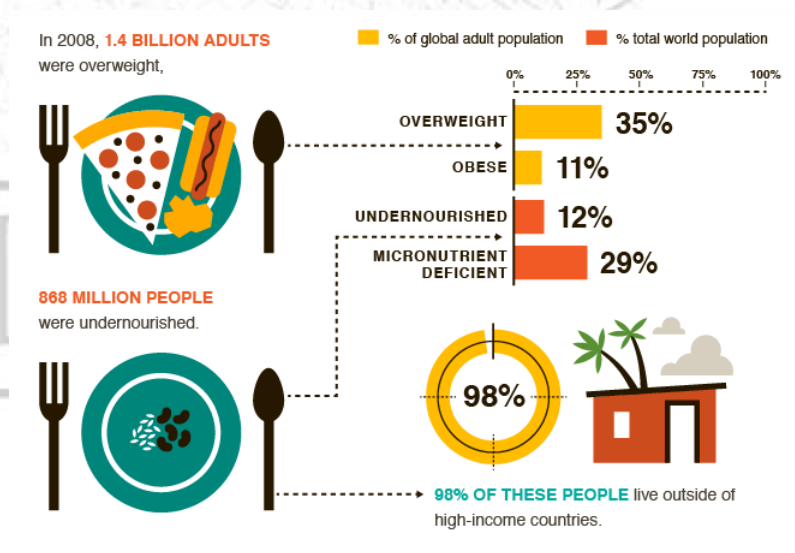
established *when all people at all time have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.* [World Food Summit, 2008] They have laid out the standards for the “healthy balance.” A country is considered “food secure” when the minimum daily intake level is up to 2,100 calories. (Variations for genders and ages exist) According to the World Food Summit, a country is considered water secure *when there is continuous, secure access to portable water.* [World Food Summit, 2008] However, many nations do not have the access to such commodities. For instance, many communities in

Southern Africa do not meet the requirements above and the suffering of national development as well as individual wellbeing is the consequence of such deprivations.

Poverty is also closely related to the deprivation of water and food. Most nations that do not have the secure access to such means have the lowest GDP (Gross Domestic Product) rates within the global nations. Due to this lack of monetary means, the irreversible cycle of deprivation never ends.

Taking Southern Africa as an example, we can see that poverty and security of food and water are closely related. Recognizing that food access is primarily a function of total household income, present and future income levels, as well as food prices, will be

significant in determining levels of food security to the region. For instance, the average per capita incomes in Southern Africa range from \$467 in U.S. Dollars in Madagascar to \$8,070 in

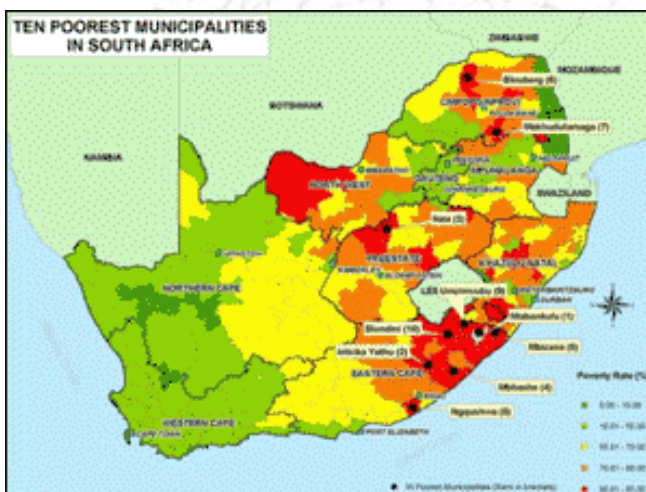


U.S. Dollars in South Africa. The average unemployment rate in the region is 32.5%, whereas the average poverty rate is up to 53%. Poverty is definitely a significant barrier when it comes to achieving universal food and water security, with the poor caught in the cycle of poverty and thus unable to escape the circumstances that led to their poverty. This cycle reinforces difficulty in making the living conditions better and improving the life of citizens.

Poverty in itself is not the only issue. There are various surrounding factors that

contribute to poverty or contribute to the insecure access of basic means directly.

Agriculture is one of the major factors of such contributors. Despite abundant land that could potentially be cultivated for harvest, the Southern African agricultural region remains underdeveloped. That is in lieu of an historical lack of rural investment, much of the region being characterized as a lower-than-average productive region. This contributes to the currently existing food insecurity as well as poverty. Not only so, some nations in Southern Africa are under threat of lower productivity regarding agriculture due to severe soil erosion. This is primarily the result of poor farming practices such as over-grazing and over-cropping, as well as over-exploitation of the environment.



Poverty and insecurity of access does not only derive from the innate environmental factors but the socioeconomic factors also play into account. When income plays an important role in food security nation-wide, additional factors come into play in an urban setting, making

the situation worse than it was. They primarily relate to the design of residential districts and the location of food retailers, especially when it comes to the low-income areas. Access to the food markets and regulations on informal food vending not only limits the purchase and sale opportunities but also the variety of food available to urban inhabitants.

We can clearly observe how poverty as well as various other factors play into account when it comes to the welfare of citizens and more so, how it

undermines it.

4. History

Securing clean water has an obvious linkage to eradicating poverty, since no agricultural productions can be made without water. In fact, nearly 70% of water resources withdrawals are for agricultural usage. Crops and livestock all require clean water, whether through direct rainfall or indirect irrigation. However, nearly one-third of the world's populations are living in water shortage, resulting in poverty and low standards of living. There are many causes that have led up to this crisis right now, and that are still threatening our future generation.

First is the environmental cause. Surprisingly, our world, Earth, does have enough water to sustain everyone and is far from running out. Yet the problem is that water is not distributed equally among all areas. Regions like the Sahel, sub-Saharan Africa, India, and other dry regions suffer from extreme droughts and agriculture failures, while food and water flourish in developed countries. This results in economic unbalance as well. Also, many river basins in the world have already been "closed", meaning that people have used up all their water. Examples include the Colorado River in the United States, the Indus River in southern Asia, the Yellow River in China, the Jordan River in the Middle East, and the Murray Darling River in Australia.

Second, the bigger problem is the lack of management systems and policies. This is exactly why millions of people are living in water scarcity, even when there is enough water available for the entire world population. Especially in underdeveloped and rural areas that suffer most from insufficient water and food, pipes and canals that can transfer water are often weak or do not exist at

all. Plus, many institutions and governments often neglect the needs of certain groups of people, such as women or poor village locals. Strong infrastructures and well-functioning institutions that can provide water to all groups of people are critical.

These problems are yet to be solved, and humans are facing a future global crisis, in which more food will have to be produced with less water in order to feed growing populations. International organizations have carried out some actions and legal declarations in order to deal with the status quo. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirmed access to adequate food as a human right, and on 28 July, 2010, the UN General Assembly declared “access to clean drinking water and sanitation” as a human right. In early 2007, the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture was released, which researched various ways of water development and management.

5. Stance of Involved Nations

- **WHO / UNICEF**

WHO and UNICEF cooperates in order to achieve water and sanitation target deals with diverse interventions such as promotion and advocacy of all levels. Their works include monitoring of water supply at a global scale through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

- **WBCSD**

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a group of 180 international companies that share a common commitment to the principles of sustainable development in three aspects; economic growth, ecological balance and social progress.

- **World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group also aims to eradicate global poverty. It offers technical assistance and supports programs to secure food security, as well as serving as a major donor for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

South-Eastern Asian countries

While over 300 million people in East Asia lack improved drinking water sources, rural poverty is a serious issue for south-eastern Asian countries.

- ROK, Japan, China

ROK and China consumes a great amount of water, which is eventually leading the countries into a serious problem of water shortage. While all countries are suffering from water pollution due to agricultural and industrial causes, Japan is especially suffering from the impact of Fukushima. Overall percentage of those suffering from extreme poverty are not relatively high, but the countries suffer from inequality problems.

- South Asian countries

The number of people in extreme poverty in the South Asia Region has fallen to 13.5 percent, which is a great improvement compared to 18.8 percent in 2012. However, there still is a great deal of inequality problems, and water crisis still exists due to cross border problems.

- US / Canada

As the world's most water consuming country, the US consumes over 1583 cubic meters of water per year, while Canada records 1,025.

- Europe countries

Most European countries show the lowest rate of those experiencing extreme poverty. Rather than extreme poverty, many European countries experience social exclusion problems. Many Europe countries such as France and Germany record about 500 cubic meters of water per year, but they are aiming to save

water consumption through Impact Assessment of the July 2007 Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts through technical or economic methods.

- Russia

Russia has not been one of the major countries experiencing extreme poverty, but recently it has been suffering from a sharp rise in the percentage of those experiencing poverty.

- Middle East Countries

Middle East countries face a serious water crisis and expects an even more serious water crisis for the next 25 years. Water resources are continuing to become increasingly scarce, and the problem is especially serious for the millions who are already lacking access to water. Middle East countries boast a great deal of oil trade, but still the poverty rate is increasing at an unexpected rate.

6. Future Outlook

Globally we have decreased the number of people living in poverty. Approximately 43% of the population of developing countries are living in extreme poverty (living with less than \$1.00 a day) in 1990. By 2000 the number decreased by a third. By 2010 it was down to only 21% and the poverty line increased to \$1.25 a day. The global rate has been cut in half within 20 years (Not Always with U.S.). The number is still high and needs to keep decreasing but for it to decrease at that rate, a lot needs to be done. In another study by the bank in 1990's, the number of people surviving on less than \$1.00 a day has stayed relatively the same since 1987(Elliott). The problem with poverty is they need help to get out, they can't do it alone, and as one of the

wealthiest nations in the world we need to help them. Most poor in developing countries are trapped because of their lack of education, nutrition, and the environment they are raised. Because of the economy, it is hard for those in developing countries to find jobs to support themselves and their families. But also, their immediate needs also have to be satisfied, and among them food and clean water are the most urgent. Their main focus is on finding the resources they need to survive, school is an afterthought, which results in no progress. The world provides enough resources for everyone to live comfortably, so why are so many living like this? While they struggle, people with an abundance of money and resources ignore them. There are many organizations and foundations to help, but that is not enough. People need to learn more about this issue and be aware of what is going on in the world around them and how they can help each day. The way we can help is not just giving money and food and clothes, we need to help them get an education so they can get a good job so they can raise themselves out of poverty. By doing this and spreading our wealth we could potentially rid away with poverty around the world. We as a world need to come together and realize before we come out with the new iPhone or a robot who can talk back to you and inventions of 'the future' we first need to look at the major problems in the world like people dying every day of malnourishment and hunger and things that can be prevented so easily and stop that. That should be our main focus before anything else. By spreading the word to everyone and educating them on how severe this issue is, the more we can accomplish. In conclusion, the satisfaction of immediate needs and education for future resolutions need to go together in order to solve this problem in both long term and short term.

7. Possible Solutions

The life-and-death challenge of food shortage is becoming more and more daunting by a number of constraints, including climate change with increasing temperatures, droughts and floods that displace farmers and destroy livelihoods. Delegates must keep in mind that while focusing on long-term solutions is crucial for achieving food security, providing aid during emergency food shortages is critical as well.

Regional approach to development can enhance African countries' competitiveness for economic growth and can be a solution to human security issues in Africa. Around the world, regional approach has successfully improved human security. A regional approach to ecosystem-based adaptation can serve as a flexible and cost-effective solution for addressing food security problems as it strengthens ecological foundation of food systems. It also increases the resilience of the systems to adverse impacts, protects and restores critical natural resources that communities depend on, especially for the poor.

Ensuring the safety of food as it is produced and transported also is critical to achieving greater food security. To move food efficiently from where it is produced to where it is needed, predictable, science-based global food safety standards are necessary to manage risk, provide transparency and ensure accountability. Harmonizing standards can help address the problem of food waste and correct the lapses, failures and gaps in food safety systems that prevent food from being safely consumed.

Ecosystem monitoring and assessment programmes can also be conducted jointly to provide integrated, high-quality information for decision-making across countries. Best practices can be shared and implemented across countries to accelerate capacity building. This approach provides an effective tool for

countries to work together in safeguarding common trans-boundary ecosystems, improving climate change resilience and building sustainable food systems. Stronger political and financial support should be invested in wider implementation of such projects around the world.

8. Conclusion

Regarding the issue of poverty as well as security in resources such as food and water, one cannot disregard the economic and monetary aspects of the situation. Thus, delegates are reminded to look into the basics of the global food market as well the circulation within the global economy.

First of all, in order to decrease the social and economic impacts of international food price volatility at the most for the poor as well as other vulnerable food groups, we need to be able to supply food where it is required the most. Food crisis is a form of paradox in which the rich and affluent nations are struggling with problems like obesity while other poorer nations struggle to get by every day.

Whereas the rise of global food supply chains decreased the commitment to nations securing a readily available food source, poor countries need to focus on maintaining their own food production and not become overly dependent on developed countries as well as the international food market for aid. Throughout the years, numerous nations in need have trusted the global food market to solve their issues for them, trusting that the market cannot thrive without their input. However, nations need to acknowledge the fact that not only does this endanger the global food market but impacts their own nations severely in the long run, allowing nations to contribute to the cause.

Efforts have already been conducted to guarantee that food security remains an international priority. In June 2000, the largest number of world leaders in history gathered to coin “The Millennium Development Goals,” one of the

major targets being food security and since then the world has witnessed a great improvement in the area. In order to secure maximum food security for the long term, the nations will need to develop a mix of agricultural and rural development policies. For example, increasing investments in agricultural research and development, irrigation, roads and markets, and looking into some inward-looking protectionist policies will aid them further.

Whereas each individual nation holds the responsibility to guarantee the availability of food for their own citizens, most poor countries cannot fulfill this objective on their own. Hence, the international community should assist poor countries in developing their agricultural sectors to prevent scarcity in food and nutrition amongst the plenty. It is crucial that the billions of dollars that were to be given to the poor nations by the international donors and organizations actually be delivered to the following nations in need.

The aforementioned passages describe the issue mainly focused on food, but delegates are reminded that the logistics that played into the above applies to not only food but also water and money. Poverty, water, food – all of these things are underpinned by a single concept and delegates are encouraged to determine that particular aspect of the situation and prevent it from undermining the sustainability of each nation.

9. Questions to Consider

- What causes poverty and/or lack of food and water?
- What is the role of the affluent nations in this situation and what is the role of the developing nations?
- In an economic sense, how does poverty work and how can it be diminished?
- What are the nations' priorities when it comes to security and sustainability amongst nations?

- What are some ways in which all nations can gain mutual benefit from aiding one another?

-

10. Bibliography

- *An Impending Challenge: Food and Water Security in Southern Africa: Australia's Response.* Dalkieth, W.A.: FDI, 2012. Web.
- "Causes of Poverty." - Global Issues. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- "Poverty." WHO. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.
- "World Food Programme." Food Security Analysis. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 July 2016.

