Inspiring youth
—to—
create a better world

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Montessori Model United Nations Conference.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at MMUN 2016 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA} format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MMUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.
We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UN refugee agency emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict. Optimistically, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly with a three-year mandate to complete its work and then disband. The following year, on July 28, the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees - the legal foundation of helping refugees and the basic statute guiding UNHCR's work - was adopted.

The UN refugee agency is governed by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The UNHCR Executive Committee approves the agency's biennial programmes and the corresponding budget. These are presented by the High Commissioner (currently António Guterres), who is appointed by the UN General Assembly.

The UN refugee agency's mandate is defined by the 1950 UNHCR Statute. In 2003, the General Assembly extended the organization's mandate "until the refugee problem is solved." The High Commissioner reports annually to ECOSOC and the General Assembly on the work of UNHCR.

As head of the organization, the High Commissioner is responsible for the direction and control of UNHCR. He/she directs the work of UNHCR with the assistance of a Deputy High Commissioner and Assistant High Commissioners for Protection and Operations.

The agency has a national and international staff of more than 9,300 working in 123 countries.

Source: http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c80.html

Migration and the Right to Mobility

Topic Background

Human migration and mobility rights, both within national borders and across international borders, are of critical importance to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN's post-2015 Development Agenda due to the enormous and often complex effects of human migration on global development.

The importance of human migration on development is clear when one considers the number of people worldwide actively participating in international migration: according to a recent UN report,[1] a total of about 1 billion people (1 in 7 of the world's total population) currently reside outside of their country or region of origin. Of this 1 billion, around 214 million reside outside of their *country* of origin (*international* migration), and 740 million reside outside of their *region* of origin but remain within their country of origin (*internal* migration).

The different types of migration that comprise the above figure of 1 billion total migrants is further analyzed in the 2010 UN Guidance Note for Human Development Report Teams[2]: in addition to *regular* (i.e. legal, documented) migration within and across countries, there exists a large degree of *irregular* (i.e. undocumented, illegal, and sometimes involuntary) migration - a phenomenon that has been exacerbated in recent years due to ongoing warfare, instability, and poverty in much of the world.

Migration is highly relevant to work on the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda due to a variety of reasons, the first-most being that the causes of migration are closely related to differences in countries' relative development levels. War and conflict, social and economic instability, and severe income-inequalities and poverty - factors that can be both the result of under-development or the root causes thereof - are amongst the most common push-factors driving people to migrate across regions and national borders. Secondly, international migration can itself have profound impacts on countries' development, and thus must be considered a key part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

It is important to note that the impacts of migration on countries' development can be both negative and positive. Among the most pressing negative effects of migration on countries' development is the phenomenon of "brain drain," whereby developing countries can lose many of their highly-skilled and highly-educated citizens to migration-destination countries, producing

an acute shortage of skilled and educated workers in the home country. On the other hand, migration can also have substantial positive effects on countries' development: for instance, migration can enable citizens of developing countries to seek out superior educational opportunities abroad, generating a skilled supply of workers to the migrant's home countries - provided they can induce these migrants to return to their home countries. Remittances (money sent home) from citizens working abroad can also provide developing countries with an important source of capital, some of which can then be utilized for development programs. Migration can also have positive impacts on the countries receiving net inflows of migrants, as these countries can often benefit from the increased labor supply - especially if these countries are undergoing shrinking or ageing populations.

The effects of migration are felt very differently by countries with different development levels and in various regions of the world. One country that highlights the possible problems caused by excess emigration - end especially "brain drain" - is Mexico. Although it is difficult to locate exact estimates on the number of citizens lost by Mexico to "brain drain," a report from Mexico's National Autonomous University estimated the number of Mexican professionals working in the United States at about 830,000.[3] These professionals represent a relative loss to the Mexican economy in terms of lost human capital and labor resources. However, Mexico also benefits from remittances from its citizens abroad, as it receives approximately 2% of its GDP from foreign remittances. The Mexican government has implemented a variety of programs to help reinvest these remittances into development funds, such as the Tres-por-Uno program.[2]

On the other hand, the European Union's member states are typically net receivers of migrants from across the globe. Although they receive and benefit from highly-skilled immigrants, they have recently faced an enormous flow of destitute refugees fleeing the conflicts and poverty in Syria and Northern Africa. Germany is expected to take on over 1 million refugees this year alone - well over 1% of its total population[4]. The effects of these migrants on Germany's economy and social benefit nets will be profound, and the EU will have to work together to find a humanitarian and sustainable solution to this crisis. The EU is also in a unique position with regard to migration, as its member states are bound by the EU treaties to guarantee full freedom of cross-border movement to its Member States' citizens, and thus cannot legally prevent the movement of EU nationals provided that they are job-seekers or family members of job-seekers[5].

China, a rapidly developing country, showcases another important consideration in migration and mobility rights: in addition to facing international migration, China has historically enforced a system intended to limit *internal* mobility: the *Hukou* system. Although this system has undergone substantial changes in the past, it has been used to help curb runaway urbanization and social-benefit net over-load, but has also deepened inequality between rural and urban

Chinese[6]. Systems designed to limit freedom of internal movement are furthermore possibly contrary to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 13 that citizens of a state have the right to freedom of movement and residence within said state[7].

Although the effects of migration on the world's countries vary widely from region to region and across various development levels, migration in all its forms - internal and international, regular and irregular - remains a rapidly growing phenomenon with far-reaching consequences. Failure to consider the effects of migration on countries' development could derail or limit progress on the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda; therefore, it must remain at the forefront of discussions on the SDGs and the future of development agendas across the globe.

Past Actions

The magnitude of migration as a phenomenon affecting progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has been noted by the UN and its partners working on these goals. Far from solely affecting one or a few of the goals, the effects of migration sharply influenced work on all 8 MDGs. Migration offers a valuable avenue for escaping poverty and hunger - two factors that drive a substantial part of all migration (MDG1). Migration also places unique stress on migrant children, but allows for educational opportunities potentially unavailable in their home countries or regions (MDG2). Migration also has a far-ranging effects on gender equality, as it often affects women differently from men and can similarly offer new avenues for women's' empowerment (MDG3). Migration can have a substantial impact on the spread of epidemic diseases and on the health and well-being of individuals fleeing poverty-stricken areas (MDGs 4-6). Finally, migration can be both caused by and can worsen environmental degradation (MDG7), and the economic effects of migration can have substantial effects on countries' private sectors (MDG8). A very detailed breakdown of the effects of migration on all 8 MDGs can be found in the Guidance Note for Human Development Report Teams.

The primary UN body working on matters of migration and human mobility is the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - UN DESA. The DESA works closely with the UN's major Summits and Conferences, as well as with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the 2nd and 3rd committees of the UN General Assembly. One of the most comprehensive texts detailing UN work on international migrations is Chapter X of the 1994 Conference on Population and Development's Program of Action[1]. Additionally, migration and its links to development are discussed biennially by the UN GA, with additional discussions focused on the protection of migrants and and on the prevention of trafficking[1]. Though these

efforts have helped to establish the linkage between migration and development agendas, a 2008 UN report found that no country's MDG strategy documents fully acknowledged the role of migration in development agendas. To remedy this perceived failure, the UN has adopted a couple of recent initiatives on migration and development: the Global Forum on Migration and Development - an important forum for NGOs and civil society to participate in the migration-development discussion, and the Global Migration Group - a collaboration between 15 different UN entities and relevant organizations[1].

Additionally, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an international organization independent of the UN which has facilitated cooperation on matters of migration between countries since 1951[8]. The IOM focuses heavily on ensuring manageable and humanitarian policies towards migration, and also works to help countries manage the links between migration and their development agendas[8].

Possible Solutions

Delegates in this committee must carefully consider the often complex linkages between migration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the different perspectives held by countries experiencing net inflow or net outflow of regular and irregular migrants.

One key question delegates must answer is: how can developing countries and developed countries partner to ensure that emigrants from developing countries can benefit from educational opportunities abroad? Further, what policies can be implemented to reduce "brain-drain" without impeding on or limiting individuals' rights of freedom of movement?

Another important question for delegates to consider is: how can countries work to ensure that the economic benefits of migration, such as remittances from abroad, contribute to development programs in the home countries receiving these remittances? And what policies can countries implement to ensure that migration - whether internal or international - assists with economic development while not harming progress towards health and environmental SDGs?

A particularly timely question that delegates should also focus on is: how can countries work together to ensure that migrants fleeing conflict and poverty, such as those fleeing from Syria and Northern Africa into Europe, are treated humanely in the recipient countries? And how can countries work together to fairly distribute the economic and social costs of taking upon large numbers of foreign refugees?

In considering the above questions, delegates should consider the different views and perspectives held by countries on different sides of migration patterns. For instance, Western European countries, the United States of America, and other highly-developed countries tend to be net recipients of migrants, who may "benefit" from other countries' "brain-drain," but who also face special challenges with meeting the humanitarian needs of refugees seeking protection within their borders. On the other hand, many Latin American and South- and South-East Asian countries are sources of migrants, and may face significant losses to their economies and societies from the loss of skilled and educated workers to other regions of the world. Many of these however are recipients of remittances, which may form a substantial portion of the total GDP of some of these countries.

Further Research

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - DESA
- International Organization for Migrations - IOM
- Global Forum on Migration and Development - GFMD
- UN Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda Migration Think Piece
- UN Development Programme Guidance Note for Human Development Report Teams

Endnotes

[1] "Migration and Human Mobility: Thematic Think Piece." UN Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/13_migration.pdf
[2] "Mobility and Migration: A Guidance Note for Human Development Report Teams." UNDP.
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/nhdr_migration_gn.pdf
[3] "Mexican Brain Drain To the U.S. and Canada." Camelia Tigau - UNAM.
http://www.revistascisan.unam.mx/Voices/pdfs/9210.pdf
[4] "Migrant crisis: What next for Germany's asylum seekers?" BBC.
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34175795
[5] "Free Movement - EU nationals." The European Commission.
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=457
[6] "State Council Releases Hukou Reform Proposal." Zhou Tian.
http://english.caixin.com/2014-12-05/100759833.html
[7] "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." The United Nations.
http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/
[8] "About IOM." International Organization for Migration. http://www.iom.int/about-iom

Worksheet Questions

1. What UN Document proclaims the right to freedom of movement and residence throughout a citizen's own state - i.e. internal mobility?
2. What international organization independent of the UN works on matters of international migration and mobility?
3. Which of the 8 MDGs are affected by matters of migration and human mobility?
4. What civil society forum was formed by the UN to deal with discussions on topics of migration and mobility?
5. Which current conflict is producing a wave of migration into the European Union?

Answer Key

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2. The International Organization for Migration
3. All 8 MDGs are affected by migration
4. The Global Forum on Migration and Development
5. The Syrian Civil War