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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General Assembly Second Committee - Economic and Finance (ECOFIN)

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), is chaired by His Excellency Mr. Andrej Logar of Slovenia. During the 70th session, it will deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, external debt sustainability and commodities), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development.

The Second Committee will also consider issues relating to Groups of Countries in special situations - such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). It will also consider the item on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

Source: http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/

Access to Technology for Communities in Poverty

Topic Background

Nearly 3 billion of the earth's population lives on less than $2.50 a day.[1] The problem is extreme poverty is one that pervades into every country in the world. Many of the world's impoverished, particularly those living in communities systematically ravaged by poverty, lack the proper technology to connect to and thrive in today's modern society. Globally, 60% do not have regular access to the internet, 18% of people live without electricity, 30% do not have reliable and adequate means of accessing clean drinking water.[2] Lack of technology for communities is a major problem in combating poverty on a global scale. Widely without water purification technology, millions of people die from preventable causes. Without internet, education and communications suffer greatly. Lack of electricity negatively impacts quality and access to healthcare in areas where it is most needed.

The majority of the world's poor live in developing countries. Least developed nations are typically those that have the least developed or least regular access to technology. This is mainly due to their government's' inability to provide the funding and training needed to adequately implement technologies that many developed nations take for granted, such as internet capabilities. War is often a hindrance in providing communities with necessary technology. During times of conflict, the world's poor are often neglected and development plans put on hold.

Access to technologies in communities suffering from poverty has been an issue throughout history. One of the key tools used to combat poverty, besides education, is introduction and use of new technology. With each new technological development, communities become more connected to the world and able to provide for themselves better. Traditionally, the economies of developed countries are based on agriculture or farming. One issue with access and use of agricultural technology is that cash crops are often grown by foreign companies.[3] These companies often dominate the best land and do not positively impact the local population as many workers are also foreign. Some countries with the least access to internet, electricity, and adequate means of water sanitation include Uganda in Africa, Yemen in the Middle East, and Haiti in the Caribbean. .

Without employing new technology to communities in poverty, the gap between rich and poor will widen. According to the United Nations, by 2050 demand for food will increase by 70% and need for renewable energy resources will increase by 60%.[4] Much of this demand will come

from those nations currently in the process of becoming developed. Without distribution of technology to the world's poor, there could be a rise in population, and its demands, without an adequate rise in technology that is needed to sustain this population.

Past Actions

All eight of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be related to the need for technology in communities affected by poverty. The first goal, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, particularly related to this topic. Access to new agricultural technology can help lift entire communities and cities out of poverty. According to the UN "85% of the world's population lives in the driest half of the planet". This means that innovative solutions and better farming technology is vital to feeding and sustaining a large portion of the global population, and meeting the first MDG.[5]

While the first MDG will not be met by the end of 2015, the United Nations is currently funding and implementing many programs to alleviate poverty and hunger by using new technology. Campaigns such as the Water for Life initiative have helped lift communities out of poverty through promotion of new agricultural and sanitation technologies. Additionally, the United Nations regards the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as an important tool for increasing access to health care. Finally, the United Nations has added science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development to their post 2015 development agenda, a clear sign of the growing urgency of this topic.[6] AED Satellife is one NGO that is working on distributing technology to areas in need. This organization operates in Uganda and aims to provide wireless internet access to health care workers in remote areas. This access is vital to monitor and combat disease as it allows both caretakers and patients to communicate and access care and information they need to treat illnesses such as malaria. Civil society, that is individuals and groups of individuals also involved in providing technology for impoverished communities.[7] One recently publicized example of this is Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, pledging internet access, which the UN declared a human right in 2011, to residents of refugee camps.

Possible Solutions

Access to technology is a huge part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deal heavily with technology and poverty. Most notably, goals six, seven, and nine. These goals illustrate the importance of the subtopics of energy, water, and innovation. These understanding and solving the problems that occur within these three subtopics is a vital part of dealing with lack of technology in areas of poverty.[8]

Importance of subtopics varies within region. For example, in Africa, need for technologies that help access clean water and even water in general is often considered the most pressing issue

facing poor communities. This is because of the nature of Africa's climate and weather. Alternatively, developing communities in South America often face issues with lack of innovation, especially in areas with farming based economies. This is because of the large agricultural output that is typical in South America, more specifically, the lack of local agriculture as opposed to large cash crop production.[9]

Without increased technology access, the world's most vulnerable have little chance of ending the cycle of poverty. As the United Nations progresses through its agenda, it must keep in mind the need for internet, electricity, and water in many of the world's communities. These needs are particularly pressing in the areas of agricultural development, education, and healthcare. This committee should work towards providing a sustainable plan to provide and empower communities in poverty to avert global food crisis, water shortages, and the growth of the world's poor without the promotion of social mobility. Without this solution the Sustainable Development Goals, and the eradication of the world's problems, will never be feasible.

Further Research

The following websites will help delegates start research on this topic:
- UNCTAD
- MDG 1- Eradicating Poverty
- United Nations- Science and Technology for Development
- Health Market Innovations

Works Cited

1. "Girls in ICT: Technology lifting thousands out of poverty". Jocelyne Sambira.
2. http://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/girls-ict-technology-lifting-thousands-out-poverty
3. "International Decade for Action "Water for Life' United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
   http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/who_has_joined_the_decade.shtml
4. "Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015" The United Nations.
   http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml
5. "Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
6. "Uganda Health Information Network (UHIN)". The Center for Health Market Innovations.
7. http://healthmarketinnovations.org/program/uganda-health-information-network-uhin

8. "UN System Task Team on Post 2015 UN Development Agenda" The United Nations.
   http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/thinkpieces/28_thinkpiece_science.pdf
9. "World Water Day 2013". United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization.
   http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/water-cooperation/facts-and-figures/en

Questions

1. About how many people live on less than $3.00 a day?
2. According to the UN, by 2050 how much will food demand increase?
3. What type of countries have the largest population of people living in poverty?
4. Who pledged internet action to refugees? How is this in line with the UN's goals and statements?
5. What is one of the SDGs that deals with technology in areas of poverty?

Answers
1. 3 billion.
2. 70%
3. Developing countries or the least developed countries.
4. Mark Zuckerberg. The United Nations considers access to the internet a human right.
5. Six, seven, or nine.