

United Nations Development Programme

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2010 and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I hope you are ready to tackle one of the most complicated and challenging subjects of our time: economic development.

My name is Samantha Powell and I will be your chair this November. I am currently a sophomore and an intended development studies and economics concentrator. This is my sixth year of model UN and my second BUSUN. I'm really excited to work with all of you!

Please take the time to read this guide and do your own research as these topics are fairly technical and cover issues you are probably unfamiliar with. Our rules of debate will follow normal parliamentary procedure. Also note that our first topic, re-evaluation of the millennium development goals, will be addressed at a summit a month before we meet. Do look at, and critically analyze, what was brought up at the summit, as it will be helpful to our debate. However, we will operate as if that summit has yet to happen so we can propose our own solutions. In general, keep track of new developments in all our topics in the coming months.

Please e-mail your position papers and any questions you might have to UNDP@busun.net.

Best,
Samantha Powell
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Committee History

The United Nations Development Programme was established in 1965 by the General Assembly as a merger of the UN

Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the UN Special Fund. It is the UN's global development network. It advocates for change, and connects countries with knowledge, experience, and other resources to help encourage economic development.

It coordinates the UN's development efforts to ensure aid is used effectively. It has staff on the ground in 166 countries, working with them to develop the local capacity to address their development challenges and meet the millennium development goals.

The main focus of the UNDP is in five areas. These focus areas are democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and the environment, and HIV/AIDS.

The UNDP also commissions the annual Human Development Report which provides new measurement tools, innovative analysis, and policy proposals.

Topic 1: Re-Evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals

The deadline for the Millennium Development Goals, 2015, is fast approaching and many countries are still far from reaching them. Further hindering progress is the economic global recession which has slowed growth in many countries and even reversed it in others. It will be our task to evaluate the progress that has been made, in light of current conditions, and determine what steps to take next.

The Millennium Development Goals are the most broadly supported goals for global development. They were laid out in 2000 at the Millennium Summit with a time goal of 2015. They take a multi-dimensional approach to development and look not only at income but also about health, education, and gender equality.

They are centered on eight goals including: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, universal primary education, promoting

gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease, reduce child mortality, promote maternal health, ensuring environmental sustainability and build a global partnership for development. Important for our purposes in evaluating these goals, is that these goals are broken down into 21 quantifiable targets with 60 indicators to measure each country's progress towards them.

An example of how this works is: Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty is broken down into two measurable targets. The first target is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day. This target is measured by three indicators, such as the World Bank's measurement of the proportion of the population below \$1 (in 1993 dollars PPP) per day, the poverty gap ratio which is incidence times the depth of poverty, and the what percentage of national consumption is from the poorest section of the population. For each of the eight overarching goals there are quantifiable targets that represent progress towards those goals and specific indicators that will be used to measure those targets.

Key Terms

- Purchasing power parity (PPP)- this looks not only at the official exchange rates of currencies but the relative prices in that country and how much the equivalent of a dollar can actually buy
- Incidence- the frequency of something
- Depth of poverty- accounts for how bad a person's poverty is, such as whether they live on \$0.50 per day or \$0.90 per day

Questions to Consider:

1. Are the current goals still achievable by 2015 given the current economic conditions? If not, how should they be modified?
2. What can/should be done for the countries that are not making significant

progress on these goals which is particularly a problem in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia?

3. Are these the goals we should be pursuing?
4. Does anything needed to be added to the goals, targets, or indicators?
5. Are the targets and indicators good measurements of these goals?

Topic 2: The Mauritius Strategy: Sustainable Development of Small Island Countries

In 2005 there was an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing nations. It was a five day conference attended by nearly 2000 delegates from 114 countries. It was held in the Republic of Mauritius so the strategy they unanimously adopted with was called the Mauritius Strategy as made in the political declaration the Mauritius Declaration.

Small island developing countries are particularly vulnerable on many fronts. They are more vulnerable to environmental disasters as shown, suffer economically from their small economies and remoteness from the world markets, and have high energy costs and waste management problems.

The Mauritius Strategy was the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. It supports the creation of global early warning system for natural disasters that covers not only tsunamis but also other threats such as storm surges and cyclones. It emphasizes the importance of increasing efforts to facilitate the full participation of small island developing countries in the decision-making process of the World Trade Organization.

It also acknowledges that small island developing countries are already suffering from the adverse effects of climate change and rising sea-levels remains a major concern for them. The Mauritius Strategy promotes

increased energy efficiency and the development and use of renewable energy as a top priority and encourages countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol if they have not already.

Waste management is a significant problem for small island developing nations as well. Marine debris, ballast water, and shipwrecks which can cause leaks and other forms of waste are harmful to their ecological integrity. The Mauritius Strategy addresses this by calling for regional partnerships and the end of the transportation of radioactive material through the territory of small island developing countries.

Five years has passed since the Mauritius Declaration. We are now in a good position to follow up on whether the strategy has been fully implemented and what its impact on small island developing countries has been.

Questions to Consider

1. Have the goals and concerns of the Mauritius Strategy been adequately addressed in the past five years?
2. What can be done to further implement the Mauritius Strategy?
3. What should be added to the Mauritius Strategy to help small island developing countries?

Topic 3: India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

The National Rural Employment guarantee Act (NREGA) passed the Indian parliament in September 2005. It was an expansion of the Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, an initiative that had already been done at the state level. It guarantees that each household in specified rural districts will have up to 100 days of employment per year at the prevailing minimum wage. The government offers a member of the household jobs on public works. Its purpose is to strengthen the rural economy which has been lagging behind the other sectors in the Indian economy

especially after the Green Revolution peaked.

India's economy in recent years has been the second fastest growing major economy in the world, after China. Even the global recession only slowed the growth rate to about 6.5% from about 7-8%. However, not all industries have been growing at that rate. India's economic growth has mostly been led by the service industry which accounts for over 60% of their GDP. This is greatly disproportionate though to the composition of the labor force. Over 50% of Indians are still in the agricultural sector even though it only makes up about 18% of the GDP. This means that the rural population which represents over 70% of India's population and is primarily still involved in agriculture, has not been benefitting as much from this economic growth.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is one attempt to resolve that problem. It guarantees rural households at least some income by ensuring collectively each household gets 100 days of employment at the minimum wage.

This has been hailed as a great effort by the U.S. and the Obama administration. It is similar to efforts going on in other countries like the U.S. to expand unemployment benefits as unemployment has become an increasingly common hardship in this recession.

It has been five years since the initial passage of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It was first applied to a limited number of districts but since then has been expanded to cover two thirds of India's districts as of 2008. So far it does seem to be driving up wages to the legal minimum but has been more successful in certain regions than others.

Questions to Consider:

1. Should the UNDP encourage policies like NREGA elsewhere? Why or why not? And if so where?
2. Is guaranteed employment the best solution as compared to other possible

programs like guaranteeing skills training rather than just work, childcare so mothers can work more, jobs other than manual labor, other efforts to stimulate the agricultural sector, or any other programs?

3. Is NREGA financially sustainable? In advising India other countries how should the UNDP propose they finance such programs?

4. How can NREGA be better implemented? How can the UNDP in particular help better implement NREGA?

Resources

Information on the UNDP:

- www.undp.org
- www.sas.undp.org/documents/UNDP_for_beginners.pdf

Millennium Development Goals

- <http://www.undp.org/mdg/index.shtml>
- www.unmilleniumproject.org
- www.un.org/milleniumgoals/

Development for Small Island Countries

- http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/pdf/sids_strategy.pdf
- <http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/>
- http://www.unescap.org/62/PIDC9/English/PIDC9_3E.pdf

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- <http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/440.pdf>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications//the-world-factbook/geos/in.html> (India's economy)
- <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/poverty/kanbur/egaoxfordcompanion.pdf>