

Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

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Hello Delegates!

My name is Sara Boyd, and I am absolutely thrilled to be this year's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural committee chair. The build up to this conference has been so fun, with long meetings, writing topic guides, and working with the incredible staff. I hope that you're ready for the best conference of all time! This year's SOCHUM topics are some that I am especially excited to see debated. It was my goal to pick those that would be contentious, urgent for the international community to address, and frankly, interesting. In case you weren't already aware, this is the year of the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals, a set of time-bound projects to be completed by 2015, which were the result of the 2010 Millennium Summit. As you can see, time's basically up! I felt it necessary for each topic to at least briefly touch on their impacts, since they are so intricately based in SOCHUM's jurisdiction and responsibilities. Non-Refoulement in Refugee Law, Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and Youth Bulge Theory are all topics that are in desperate need of being addressed by the Third Committee of the United Nations, and it is my goal (and hopefully yours as well!) that our committee room be filled with passionate, substantive, and altogether productive debate.

All that said, here's a little bit about me: This is my third SHSMUN conference, and I've served in SOCHUM in both of the ones I've previously attended. However, I broke my streak and was in UNESCO (which is quite similar to the committee I so dearly love) at NHSMUN 2015. SOCHUM has always held a special place in my heart, so I am determined to prove to all of you just how much this is *not* simply the "save-the-babies" committee. On a random night, you might find me playing guitar, reading physics books, watching Daredevil or Friends, or ordering (mass quantities of) stickers from Redbubble.

Here's the deal, guys: SOCHUM is the BEST committee, and I expect to see that its debate is of the same caliber. Now, for any of you brave first-years or relatively-shy people, my advice is simple—be present in committee. Get together with the groups writing super resolutions and contribute a clause (or two) (or three). Be signatories, or even better, be sponsors! Get on the speaker's list, even if it's just to make something clear about your country's position. And, lastly, ASK QUESTIONS! Questions are (in my opinion) the best way of creating conversation in committee, and quality questions that lead to productive debate really make SHSMUN unique. I look forward to seeing you all in November, and if you have any questions, need advice, or help with position papers/resolutions, I beg of you: do not hesitate to contact me!

"Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind."

- Leonardo Da Vinci

Sincerely,

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History of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM) Committee is the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Established in 1946, this committee addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control. This committee also discusses the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, and the treatment of refugees. SOCHUM works alongside the Human Rights Council (HRC), which, in 2006, established a partnership of routinely submitted reports regarding various human rights events. These reports are used for evaluation and debate by the Third Committee. In addition to the HRC, the Third Committee also collaborates with special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of working groups. The Third Committee, although it faces questions that are seemingly unanswerable, remains a strong presence in the United Nations General Assembly, and the international community.



Topic A: Non-Refoulement in Refugee Law

“Freedom is a timeless value. The United Nations Charter calls for encouraging respect for fundamental freedoms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights mentions freedom more than twenty times. All countries have committed to protecting individual freedoms on paper - but in practice, too many break their pledge.”

– Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

Introduction

The concept of Non-Refoulement was officially recognized by the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees, drafted on July 28, 1951.¹ Article 33 (1) designates:

“No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”²

The Convention on the Status of Refugees provides that states may not expel a refugee from their borders if there is reasonable fear of oppression or persecution in the refugee’s country of origin. Extradition, a similar practice, is the “removal of a person from a requested state to a requesting state for criminal prosecution or punishment.”³ In the Convention, the right to extradition is defended under Article 33 (2), in which the Non-Refoulement obligations “may not, however, be claimed by a refugee for whom there are reasonable grounds for regarding as a danger to the security of the country in which he is, or who, upon being convicted by a final judgement of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of that country.”⁴

The world as of today has seen a massive rise in conflicted states. These conflicts force thousands of citizens into becoming refugees and asylum seekers, which numerous countries are incapable of handling properly due to a lack of resources. The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee will convene to discuss humanitarian measures to safeguard refugees affected by lack of adherence to Non-Refoulement in states around the world, restructuring of judicial systems, legislation to ensure national capacity to handle an influx of refugees, and action that specifically must be taken in regard to conflicted states and their rising numbers of refugees.

¹ Guy Goodwin-Gill “United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law,” *United Nations Office of Legal Affairs*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/prsr/prsr.html>.

² “Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.pdf>.

³ “Extradition,” *Cornell University Law School*, accessed March 15, 2015, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/extradition>.

⁴ “Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.pdf>.



Background

The principle of Non-Refoulement was a direct result of the recognition of states' failure during World War II to provide aid to refugees fleeing from the Nazi inflicted genocides.⁵ Non-Refoulement serves to protect refugees and asylum seekers against extradition from countries that are signatories to the Convention. Even so, throughout history, signatory countries have breached the principle by either forcing repatriation to the refugee's nation of origin or outright denying access to the member state.

A key facet of Non-Refoulement is forced repatriation. This occurs when a state not only denies access across its borders, but subsequently extradites a refugee back to his/her original country, often under threat of prosecution. In 2013 for example, nine North Korean refugees were forcibly repatriated by Laos and China.⁶ Upon repatriation to North Korea, these refugees faced imprisonment and even capital punishment as ramifications for their actions. This is in direct violation of the Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which were both ratified by China in 1982.⁷ Alternatively, neither of which were ratified nor signed by Laos.⁸ Unfortunately in China, some refugees are taken advantage of economically, sexually, and legally because of their North Korean nationality. It is used against them as a form of blackmail as their illegal refugee status prevents recourse to any authorities. Eduardo Del Buey, a UN spokesperson, addressed the North Korean repatriation in a statement noting, "The high commissioner's office is dismayed that the governments of Laos and China appear to have abrogated their Non-Refoulement obligations, especially given the vulnerability of that group, all of whom are reported to be orphans."⁹

Non-Refoulement has seen an increased relevance in the international community following severe incidences of its violation in the past. In June of 1979, a group of roughly 40,000 Cambodian refugees sought safety in Preah Vihear, Thailand, which had come under military rule by General Kriangsak Chomanan.¹⁰ The thousands of refugees were pushed back from the border, over the two thousand foot high cliff on which the town of Preah Vihear was located. Those who refused to go back were gunned down by armed forces, and those who obeyed were forced to cross a minefield stretching three miles. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that as many as 3,000 Cambodians had died,

⁵ Jessica Rodger, "Defining the Parameters of the Non-Refoulement Principle," *Victoria University of Wellington*, 2001, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.refugee.org.nz/JessicaR.htm>.

⁶ Justin McCurry, "UN 'Extremely Concerned' for Repatriated North Korean Defectors," *The Guardian*, June 3, 2013, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/03/un-repatriated-north-korean-defectors>.

⁷ Phil Robertson, "The Problem of North Korean Refugees in China and Possible Solutions," *Human Rights Watch*, June 14, 2012, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/07/19/problem-north-korean-refugees-china-and-possible-solutions>.

⁸ "Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties - Laos," *University of Minnesota*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/ratification-laos.html>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Prasat Preah Vihear," *The Lonely Planet*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/cambodia/northwestern-cambodia/prasat-preah-vihear/sights/religious/prasat-preah-vihear>.



and 7,000 were unaccounted for.¹¹ In the 2015 UNHCR Country Operations Profile of Thailand, it was noted that “Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a formal national asylum framework.”¹² Because of Thailand’s lack of ratification, it is under no legal obligations to adhere to the Refugee Convention. This inhibits any chance of refugee protection, which in effect puts any refugees seeking safety within its borders at risk.

One of the primary reasons Non-Refoulement is so often breached is the lack of a universally recognized refugee status and refugee treatment policy. The confusion is detrimental to refugee safety and security, which is not only a violation of internationally recognized law, but by extension a violation of fundamental human rights. In Japan for example, increasing social and economic factors are pushing the country towards a more open immigration policy, while concerns about public security and possible terrorism are prompting stricter policies.¹³ In 2013, Japan's Ministry of Justice (MOJ) approved only six asylum seekers' applications for refugee status out of the 3,777 cases.¹⁴ This is no surprise given that the state only signed the Refugee Convention in 1981¹⁵, arguably just as a means to silence international scrutiny at its low rate of refugee acceptance.¹⁶

After extensive debate and a run of six years, the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee decided to replace the former International Refugee Organization (IRO) with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).¹⁷ The goals of this new body were formed under Article 14 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”¹⁸ The UDHR served as the underlying principle for the 1951 Convention to the Status of Refugees. However, despite the Convention’s call for an end to Refoulement, China and North Korea manufactured a policy ensuring that “economic migrants” who are North Korean defectors are repatriated back to the country once identified by police. In Article 4 of the 1986 Mutual Cooperation Protocol for the Work of Maintaining National Security and Social Order in the Border Areas between China and North Korea, the countries agreed to a “[mutual cooperation]

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “2015 UNHCR Country Operations Profile - Thailand,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e489646.html>.

¹³ Chikako Kashiwazaki, “Japanese Immigration Policy: Responding to Conflicting Pressures,” *Migration Policy Institute*, November 1, 2006, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/japanese-immigration-policy-responding-conflicting-pressures>.

¹⁴ Gabriel Domínguez, “No Country for Refugees? Japan and South Korea's Tough Asylum Policies,” *Deutsche Welle*, April 14, 2014, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.dw.de/no-country-for-refugees-japan-and-south-koreas-tough-asylum-policies/a-18037765>.

¹⁵ Peter Lee, “Defying Convention: Japan, National Identity and the Illegalisation of Asylum,” *Waseda University*, July 23, 2009, accessed March 15, 2015, <https://sites.google.com/site/petelee23/articles/migration/japan---refugee-policy>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ “International Refugee Organization,” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/291218/International-Refugee-Organization>.

¹⁸ “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” *United Nations*, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>.



on the work of preventing illegal border crossing of residents," which primarily consists of repatriation.¹⁹

Current Situation

According to the UNHCR, "Non-Refoulement is the cornerstone of asylum and of international refugee law."²⁰ With that said, there is reasonable concern for Non-Refoulement's efficiency in light of major breaches in the recent past. In late June 2014, Australian authorities intercepted a boat from India carrying 157 Sri Lankan asylum-seekers, and detained them on an Australian customs vessel for twenty-nine days. The detention was carried out while the Australian government negotiated with India to receive the asylum seekers. The negotiations culminated in the transfer of the asylum seekers to Nauru. In February of 2015, the High Court of Australia ruled by a 4:3 majority that the detaining of these asylum-seekers was not only legal, but deserving of no paid damages to the refugees.²¹ Australia came under scrutiny for its abuse of Non-Refoulement prior to the court ruling; the UNHCR "following with deep concern," and consequently "urging renewed efforts towards the development of viable regional alternatives to potentially dangerous journeys by sea for asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons."²² Amnesty International also condemned the detentions in its State of the World's Human Rights Report, identifying the treatment of asylum-seekers as "regressive."²³

Due to increasing interstate conflicts on a global scale, the number of refugees and displaced persons internationally has risen exponentially. For the first time since World War II, there have been over 50 million refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced persons across the globe.²⁴ One of the main catalysts of these high numbers is the current ongoing conflict in Syria, where spillover violence has forced almost 2.5 million people to become refugees.²⁵ UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres affirms "We are seeing here the immense costs of not ending wars, of failing to resolve or prevent conflict. Peace is today dangerously in deficit. Humanitarians can help as a palliative, but political solutions are vitally needed. Without this, the alarming levels of conflict and the mass suffering that is reflected in these figures will

¹⁹ "Mutual Cooperation Protocol for the Work of Maintaining National Security and Social Order in the Border Areas," *North Korea Freedom Coalition*, accessed March 15, 2015,

http://www.nkfreedom.org/UploadedDocuments/NK-China-bilateral_treaty.pdf.

²⁰ "UNHCR Note on the Principle of Non-Refoulement," *Refworld-The UN Refugee Agency*, November, 1997, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/438c6d972.html>.

²¹ Maria O'Sullivan "Australia Can Detain Asylum Seekers on the High Seas, the High Court Decides," *The Conversation*, January 28, 2015, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://theconversation.com/australia-can-detain-asylum-seekers-on-the-high-seas-the-high-court-decides-32968>.

²² "UN Refugee Agency Shows 'Deep Concern' Over Australia Migrant Policy," *Vatican Radio*, February 4, 2015, accessed March 15, 2015, http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/02/04/un_refugee_agency_has_concern_over_australia_migrant_policy/1121443.

²³ "Amnesty International Condemns Australia's Asylum Seeker Policies," *ABC News*, February 24, 2015, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-25/amnesty-condemns-australias-asylum-seeker-policies/6261348>.

²⁴ "World Refugee Day: Global Forced Displacement Tops 50 million for First Time in Post-World War II Era," *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, June 20, 2014, accessed March 15, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/53a155bc6.html>.

²⁵ *Ibid.*



continue."²⁶ The new, incredibly high rates of refugees calls upon immediate humanitarian intervention.

Refugees from Colombia, Haiti, and Central America fleeing conflict and generalized violence are arbitrarily refused entry at borders in Latin America, and at times are sent back to places where their livelihoods and freedoms are threatened. Several countries in Latin America, such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, México, Panamá, Uruguay, and numerous others, explicitly included the prohibition of refoulement at the border in national legislation. Nonetheless, violating their own legislation, refoulement has been used as migration control in many of these countries.²⁷ In 2012, Brazil explicitly denied a group of 350 Haitian refugees access across its borders without sufficient reasoning. It necessitated extensive lobbying by local mayors in Brazil and Peru, as well as churches, human rights NGOs, and migrant associations in various countries throughout the continent to finally convince the Brazilian administration to allow the refugees into the country.²⁸ There were obvious human rights violations in Haiti, such as continued or worsened deportation and discrimination, among others. Migration flow has increased since many Caribbean islands, including Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago, continue to refuse access to those Haitians who are fortunate enough to survive the perilous journey to their borders.²⁹

Committee Directive

The Third Committee of the General Assembly is entrusted to intervene when human rights problems arise across the world. In this case, the widespread breaching of Non-Refoulement and perpetually forced-repatriation by nations must be addressed by the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. Refugees fleeing from varying crises are denied access to signatory states, eliminating any possibility for their safety. This committee's prerogative will be to address the human rights violations in nations with an output of refugees, measures to safeguard refugees from repatriation and encourage states to abide by international law, humanitarian aid involvement, and the competency of existing legislation for refugees. It is imperative to realize the fundamental link between Non-Refoulement and forced repatriation in addressing the topic. Delegates should be prepared to defend the possible violations of their country's Non-Refoulement legislation, or the lack thereof. As the number of refugees rise throughout the world, the pressure for immediate intervention grows. The committee's meeting to discuss the various facets of Non-Refoulement will be critical in ensuring refugee safety for future generations.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Wooldy Edson Louidor, "Latin America: Non-Refoulement at the Borders, an Essential Principle," *Jesuit Refugee Service*, November 5, 2013, accessed March 15, 2015, http://jrsusa.org/campaign_detail?TN=PROJECT-20131105095509.

²⁸ "Brazil: Haitian Migrants in Amazonia," *Jesuit Refugee Service*, May 17, 2012, accessed March 15, 2015, http://jrsusa.org/news_detail?TN=NEWS-20120511113432.

²⁹ Ibid.



Questions to Consider

1. Has your country adhered to Non-Refoulement? If so, how successful has your country been? If your country has not adhered, why not and what are the justifications?
2. How many refugees typically does your country encounter at its borders? Does this influence adherence to Non-Refoulement?
3. Does your country have the capability to grant refugees temporary citizenship, work visas, etc.?
4. What resources (humanitarian, economic, etc.) are offered to refugees in your country?
5. Has your country had a past of human rights violations that could inhibit adherence to Non-Refoulement?
6. What is your country's legislation/policy regarding refugees, asylum-seekers, and extradition?
 - a. Has your country breached any of this existing legislation/policy?

Suggested Sources

1. Up-to-Date Reports and Documents Relating to Refugees
<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/rwmain>
2. Past UN Resolutions (C3 is SOCHUM)
<http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm>
3. Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
<http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>
4. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/home>
5. The Scope of Non-Refoulement
<http://www.unhcr.org/419c75ce4.html>



Topic B: Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

“Driven by conscience, let’s muster the courage and conviction to act in solidarity and ensure every child’s right to his or her childhood. It brings rewards for all.”

-Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labor Organization

Introduction

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) encompasses the issues of child trafficking, prostitution, sex tourism, pornography, paedophilia, and child marriage in some cases. For the purposes of this committee, only the first four listed will be addressed. Although each is a separate issue, they are intrinsically linked as they all require a “commercial transaction.”³⁰ In other words, one party receives monetary gain from the actions of a second. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a binding legal document ratified by 191 member states, requires that all parties:

“...Undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- a. The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- b. The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- c. The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.”³¹

The problem in this legislation, also seen in the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, is that many countries either lack political or legal will to see their regulations through. Consequently, the children that are victims to the practices of sexual exploitation do not receive the proper aid, treatment, and immediate intervention that they require. These children around the world suffer the abuses of hard labor, poor working conditions, and possible mistreatment from their employers.³² They are also prone to developing post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociation, and are at greater risk of contracting sexually-transmitted diseases.³³

Background

Trafficking

Defined by the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion...to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation,” trafficking in persons is a multi-national crime

³⁰ “CSEC Terminology,” *ECPAT International*, May 3, 2009, accessed May 26, 2015, http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Csec_definition.asp.

³¹ June Kane, “UNICEF Calls for Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,” *UNICEF*, December 12, 2001, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.unicef.org/newsline/01pr97.htm>.

³² “Global Sex Trafficking Fact Sheet,” *Equality Now*, October 10, 2012, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.equalitynow.org/node/1010>.

³³ *Ibid.*



that has existed since recorded history.³⁴ However, the illegal trafficking of children has only recently come into light and international scrutiny. The ways in which a child can be recruited are not limited to kidnapping: instead, some of the factors that coerce a child's trafficking are extreme poverty, being sold to traders by parents, or manipulative techniques that promise the child education or food.³⁵ According to the Freedom Project, "Every country in the world is either an origin country (i.e source), a transit country, or a destination country for human trafficking."³⁶ Often, less developed countries have higher rates of trafficking as they are "rendered vulnerable to trafficking by virtue of poverty, conflict, or other conditions."³⁷ These destination countries often have "inadequate laws, weak enforcement mechanisms, vulnerable women and children, and a highly commercialized sex industry."³⁸ Little is known about the magnitude of child trafficking; however, the best reference figure to date is the International Labor Organization's 2002 estimate that 1.2 million children are trafficked annually.³⁹

Prostitution

According to the Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, which has been enforced since January of 2002, child prostitution is "the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration."⁴⁰ Similar to the illegal trafficking of children, prostitution is often an organized crime. Recurrently, prostitution occurs in "red-light districts," a "neighbourhood or part of a neighbourhood where businesses connected to the sex industry are located."⁴¹ Red-light areas tend to operate in countries where prostitution is illegal, but the legality of activities within these districts highly varies on a country-by-country basis. However, these areas are not simply designated prostitution zones, but "also a place where generations live and where children are born..."⁴² According to an ECPAT study in Kolkata, India, these children are often faced with hindrances based on stigma of both their family and place of living, which limit their acceptance into "mainstream education [and] health and protection services."⁴³ It is common for young girls growing up in these red-light areas to be "pressure[d] to enter prostitution by madams and

³⁴ "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed May 26, 2015,

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>.

³⁵ "Human Trafficking," *The Freedom Project*, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.thefreedomproject.org/human-trafficking/>.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ "Human Trafficking FAQs," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#How_widespread_is_human_trafficking.

³⁸ Naomi L. Svensson, "Extraterritorial Accountability: An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Child Sex Tourism Laws," *Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School*, June 1, 2006, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1611&context=ilr>.

³⁹ "Child Trafficking," *UNICEF*, last modified March 22, 2011, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html.

⁴⁰ "Optional Protocol to the Convention On the Rights of the Child On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography," *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>.

⁴¹ "Vulnerability of Children Living in the Red Light Areas of Kolkata, India," *ECPAT International*, July, 2010, accessed May 27, 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/YPP_Research_indial.pdf

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*



pimps,” which not only makes them more vulnerable to exploitation, but affirms that with red-light districts running as they currently do, CSEC cannot be eliminated.⁴⁴ There are numerous cases of children resorting to prostitution to provide themselves with basic needs such as food, clothing, and accommodation.⁴⁵ It can be on smaller scales, such as through individual panderers, or on a global scale via extensive criminal networks.⁴⁶

Sex Tourism

These criminal networks often branch out and encourage what is known as sex tourism, a crime that was in theory eradicated in the aforementioned protocol, but persists despite efforts to address root causes such as poverty and underdevelopment.⁴⁷ Sex tourism occurs around the world, even in places without a formal tourism infrastructure.⁴⁸ There are two types of recognized sex tourism: domestic and international. Domestic tourism is defined as a resident of a country remaining in that same country while participating in various exploitative acts. By definition, international sex tourism is a resident of a country traveling across another country’s borders to engage in exploitative acts. Equality Now, an international NGO, has referred to human trafficking as “a natural outgrowth of sex tourism.”⁴⁹ This crime has been identified as a “recurrent problem” in several destinations for the past 15 years, but has only just begun emerging in others.⁵⁰ Although an uncommon phenomenon, organized “tours” have been documented. They have usually entailed, rather than a group of “tourists” travelling together, an underlying framework that was organized by criminal groups to allow for the mass traveling of these “tourists” with ease.⁵¹

Pornography

This online commercial exploitation of children is a transnational organized crime, with an estimated annual revenue of \$3 billion accrued from the access and downloading of the illegal material.⁵² Child pornography is defined by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography as “...any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ “CSEC Terminology.”

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ “Optional Protocol to the Convention On the Rights of the Child On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography,” 252.

⁴⁸ Jennifer M. Ward-Pelar, “Rationalizing Sexual Tourism: How Some Countries Benefit from Selling Sex,” *Student Pulse*, 2010, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.studentpulse.com/articles/235/rationalizing-sexual-tourism-how-some-countries-benefit-from-selling-sex>.

⁴⁹ Deena Guzder, “The Economics of Commercial Sexual Exploitation,” *Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*, August 25, 2009, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://pulitzercenter.org/blog/untold-stories/economics-commercial-sexual-exploitation>.

⁵⁰ Luc Ferran et al., “Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions,” *ECPAT International*, 2008, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² “Stolen Innocence: The Online Exploitation of Children,” *The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime*, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.globalinitiative.net/stolen-innocence-the-online-exploitation-of-children/>.



activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.”⁵³ Trafficked children can be used in the production of illegal pornography, and frequently, acts of child prostitution are filmed and distributed without consent by either party.⁵⁴ It is difficult to precisely measure the amount of illegal pornographic material on the internet at any given time, but it is estimated that there are one million pornographic images of children on the internet with an additional two hundred posted daily.⁵⁵ Child pornography is perpetuated through various anonymous internet providers which undermine the ability of law enforcement to trace and hold criminals liable. Specifically, Tor, a “worldwide network of servers designed to help users browse the web anonymously,” serves as one of the main means of the illegal child pornography trade.⁵⁶

Current Situation

Numerous countries, most often in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe, “rely heavily on...revenues from sex tourism [that] form a significant portion of many national economies.”⁵⁷ This economic aspect takes away incentive to tackle the issue of child exploitation, because doing so would risk destroying a booming economic industry that has legitimate economic benefits.⁵⁸ For example, in Thailand, where emphasis has been placed on the tourism industry to promote economic development and improve foreign relations, an adverse effect correlating to the rise of international tourists has been observed. Thailand saw that as the number of international tourists rose, so did the amount of sex tourists. In 2002 alone, estimates conclude that as many as 4,560,000 men traveled to Thailand for the purposes of exploiting underage children.⁵⁹ Nonetheless, the tourist industry in Thailand surpassed \$55 billion US dollars in 2014.⁶⁰ Thailand’s reliance on this industry is not unique: the Philippines, Cambodia, and India all distinctly elect tourism revenues to the underlying problem of child sex tourism.⁶¹ Najat Maalla M’jid, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, said “the destinations for child sex tourism are continually changing, as perpetrators tend to choose countries with weak legislation and controls.”⁶² The variability of

⁵³ “Optional Protocol to the Convention On the Rights of the Child On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography,” 248.

⁵⁴ Ana Stutler, “The Connections Between Pornography and Sex Trafficking,” *Richmond Justice Initiative*, September 7, 2011, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://richmondjusticeinitiative.com/the-connections-between-pornography-and-sex-trafficking/>.

⁵⁵ Richard Wortley and Stephen Smallbone, “The Problem of Internet Child Pornography,” *Center for Problem-Oriented Policing*, 2006, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.popcenter.org/problems/child_pornography/1.

⁵⁶ Timothy B. Lee, “Everything You Need to Know About the NSA and Tor in One Faq,” *The Washington Post*, October 4, 2013, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-switch/wp/2013/10/04/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-nsa-and-tor-in-one-faq/>.

⁵⁷ Svensson, 645.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ “Sex Tourism in Thailand,” *World Outreach International*, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.wouk.org/rahab_international/pdf_files/Sex%20Tourism%20in%20Thailand.pdf.

⁶⁰ “Thailand’s Tourism Revenues Projected at Bt1.85t in 2014,” *The Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies*, October 13, 2014, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.oannews.org/content/news/general/thailands-tourism-revenues-projected-bt185t-2014>.

⁶¹ Svensson, 643.

⁶² “Child Trafficking, Exploitation On the Rise, Warns UN Expert,” *United Nations News Centre*, March 13, 2014, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47346#.VWSb4s_BzGd.



these destinations makes it especially hard to pinpoint the problems and effectively tackle them. M'jid also noted “the ongoing development of new technologies has made access to children in all parts of the world easier and increased exploitation.”⁶³

Article 9 of the Stockholm Declaration states “the commercial sexual exploitation of children can result in serious...consequences for the physical, psychological, spiritual, moral and social development of children, including the threat of early pregnancy, maternal mortality, injury, retarded development, physical disabilities and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.”⁶⁴ The various effects and problems associated with the sexual exploitation of children have made it extremely difficult for global measures such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to succeed, and will continue to limit the effectiveness of the Sustainable Development Goals in the future. The Millennium Development Goals are set to expire at the end of 2015, and therefore fulfilling the mandates for the post-2015 agenda is an urgent issue on the international front. Therefore, the Sustainable Development Goals require new approaches for both successful implementation and continuation. The continued sexual exploitation of children makes it impossible for the UN to completely eradicate HIV/AIDS, the 6th Millennium Development Goal. At the end of 2013, 3.2 million children were living with HIV and 240,000 more were infected with it.⁶⁵ The 1st Millennium Development Goal, pertaining to ending extreme poverty and hunger, also cannot be successfully achieved when the problems of CSEC persist. Poverty itself is a “major contributing factor to the occurrence of sexual abuse and exploitation,” but when coupled with minimal educational opportunities that would theoretically secure an alternative livelihood to resorting to prostitution, the problem is exacerbated.⁶⁶

Committee Directive

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee will convene to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children, debating measures that will combat the root factors of this violation of human rights. The committee will attempt to resolve illicit exchanges of underage pornography on the Deep Web, notably, Tor. While CSEC is a violation of fundamental human rights, it should be noted that CSEC in the forms of sex tourism and trafficking is a lucrative sector for certain national economies, as is the case for Thailand, India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Consequently, many countries lose incentive to properly address it. Delegates should be prepared to present and defend their country’s position, even more so in the event that said country is breaching its legal and humanitarian obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the International Organization for Migration, “Within the next decade, human trafficking is predicted to surpass the illegal arms

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ “Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific: A Regional Report,” *UNICEF*, 2006, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Pacific_CSEC_report.pdf.

⁶⁵ “Children, HIV, and AIDS,” *AVERT*, last modified July 30, 2014, accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.avert.org/children-and-hiv-aids.htm>.

⁶⁶ “Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific: A Regional Report,” *UNICEF*, 2006, accessed May 26, 2015, http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Pacific_CSEC_report.pdf.



and drugs trade in its incidence, cost to human wellbeing, and profitability to criminals.”⁶⁷ This rapidly escalating crisis requires intervention by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, whose conclusions will represent the first step in a long battle towards effectively combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, which is critical in achieving the MDGs and the UN’s long-term objectives in the post-2015 agenda.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the United Nations justify combating CSEC when specific regions depend on its economic benefits?
 - a. Does your state profit economically from the CSEC industry?
 - b. If so, what is your position on the tourism and sex tourism correlation?
2. What immediate detrimental effects of child pornography, trafficking, sex tourism, and prostitution can be documented in your country? Are there any quantifiable benefits?
 - a. Is your state a source, destination, transit point, or one or more of the aforementioned in regards to CSEC?
3. Even in locales afflicted with poverty and underdevelopment, what actions can be taken to prevent economically disenfranchised youth from resorting to the sex industry?
4. What NGOs are currently tackling this issue in your nation?
 - a. Have their methods been successful?
 - b. If so, how can these actions be implemented on a global scale?
5. Have legal restrictions on CSEC benefited your country, and if so, by what means?
 - a. Do these legal restrictions correlate to a reduced amount of CSEC?
6. What should be done with victims who have managed to leave the industry?
 - a. If there are recovery programs available, do they have access to them?
 - b. What should be the baseline treatments provided by these recovery centers?
 - c. If not available to specific victims, how can accessibility be increased?

Suggested Sources

1. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>
2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Specifically Women and Children
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

⁶⁷ Elizabeth M. Wheaton, Edward J. Schauer, and Thomas V. Galli, “Economics of Human Trafficking,” *International Organization for Migration*, 2010, accessed May 26, 2015, <https://www.amherst.edu/media/view/247221/original/Economics+of+Human+Trafficking.pdf>.



3. ECPAT is a Global Network of Organizations Dedicated to Ending Child Prostitution, Pornography, and Trafficking with Country Specific Reports
<http://www.ecpat.net/resources>
4. Defines All Major Terms and Controversy in Depth
http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Csec_definition.asp
5. Handbook to the Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography
http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/optional_protocol_eng.pdf



Topic C: Youth Bulge Theory

“Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence increases only in an arithmetical ratio. A slight acquaintance with numbers will show the immensity of the first power in comparison of the second.”

-Thomas Malthus, Principle of Population

Introduction

A term advanced by the German sociologist Gunnar Heinsohn, Youth Bulge is the phenomenon of “youths in large numbers—particularly second or third sons—being prone to violence because they are driven by social advancement, ambition, and a yearning for respectability.”^{68,69} This concept “identifies young men as a historically volatile population,” and relies on the theory that when population bulges occur, political and social violence are inevitable.^{70,71} A study conducted by Population Action International found between “1970 and 1999, 80% of all new civil conflict outbreaks occurred in countries in which 60% or more of the population was under age 30.”⁷² This theory has been used to explain increased organized crime, terrorist organization recruitment, and revolutions such as the Arab Spring.⁷³ Youth Bulge Theory even goes so far as to help explain “Taliban recruitment in South Asia, the presence of militant groups like MEND in the Niger Delta, and the ongoing tensions in the Palestinian territories.”⁷⁴

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural committee will attempt to address not only the causes of this phenomenon, but ways in which its effects can be mitigated. While keeping in its jurisdictional mandates, this committee will also debate overpopulation vs. Youth Bulge, ways to accommodate the youth population (especially in developing countries where it has been linked to higher levels of political unrest and lower levels of accessible education and resources), measures to reduce terrorist organizations’ sway on susceptible youth, and potential global initiatives to combat rapidly rising youth populations.

Background

Youth Bulge itself is not the sole cause of political and social violence. However, more often than not, the overpopulation of youth causes some level of strife, especially in regards to unemployment. However, before overpopulation escalates into violence, it requires an “external

⁶⁸ Lionel Beehner, “The Effects of ‘Youth Bulge’ On Civil Conflicts,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, April 27, 2007, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://www.cfr.org/world/effects-youth-bulge-civil-conflicts/p13093#p1>.

⁶⁹ Lionel Beehner, “The Battle of the ‘Youth Bulge,’” *Council on Foreign Relations*, April 27, 2007, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://www.cfr.org/population/battle-youth-bulge/p13094>.

⁷⁰ Anne Hendrixson, “The ‘Youth Bulge’: Defining the Next Generation of Young Men as a Threat to the Future,” *Differenttakes*, 2003, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://popdev.hampshire.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/u4763/DT%2019%20-%20Hendrixson.pdf>.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Elizabeth Leahy, “The Shape of Things to Come: Why Age Structure Matters to a Safer, More Equitable World,” *Population Action International*, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/SOTC.pdf>.

⁷³ Beehner.

⁷⁴ Ibid.



shock.”⁷⁵ External shocks can “[come] in the form of war, significant economic crises, or major diplomatic policy shifts that have a major effect upon a given country or region.”⁷⁶ Other drivers/external shocks of Youth Bulge related violence include “rapid urbanization, heightened expectations among job seekers, environmental stresses, and lack of accessible education.”⁷⁷ Youth bulges can cause degradation of forests, clean water, and arable land, which can then create tensions over resource scarcities and anti-government sympathies.⁷⁸ In areas affected by large youth cohorts, the demand for jobs is at a higher risk of being more than what is presently available. Consequently, “[the] government may struggle to properly address its obligations and may fail to meet citizens’ expectations,”⁷⁹ further contributing to civil unrest. Particularly in the Middle East, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa, Youth Bulge has shown to be a significant challenge.⁸⁰ Ragui Assaad, Professor of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, specifically described the Youth Bulge in the Middle East as a challenge “because of governments’ inability to put together economic policies that make use of these human resources.”⁸¹ Alternatively, in areas such as Eastern Asia and Europe, small youth bulges have helped strengthen economic output.⁸² These regions made sure to provide both education and jobs for the burgeoning youth population. Any substantial negative effects, such as those seen in the Middle East, were therefore prevented.

Some studies have shown that the number of “large-scale, high-casualty conflicts” have decreased dramatically since the end of the Cold War.⁸³ Henrik Urdal, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Peace Research* at the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway, noted that although these high-casualty conflicts have declined, “youth bulges tend[ed] to increase the risk of low-intensity armed conflict outbreak very significantly.”⁸⁴ There are two dominant theories that help explain the causes of Youth Bulge: *opportunity perspective* and *motive perspective*.⁸⁵ The former has often been affectionately coined as “*greed perspective*” in most literature, and has roots in microeconomic theory.⁸⁶ According to *greed perspective*, when the profit made from joining a rebel group or terrorist organization is greater than that of “alternative income-earning opportunities,” rebellion rates are higher.⁸⁷ On the other hand is *motive*

⁷⁵ D. Van Der Heijden, “The Implications of Youth Bulge and the External Shocks in the ‘Arab Spring,’” *academia.edu*, accessed June 1, 2015, http://www.academia.edu/5386991/The_Implications_of_Youth_Bulge_and_the_External_Shocks_in_the_Arabs_Spring.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Beehner, 1.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Leahy, 25.

⁸⁰ Jayshree Bajoria “Demographics of Arab Protests,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, February 14, 2011, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://www.cfr.org/egypt/demographics-arab-protests/p24096>.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Beehner, 1.

⁸³ Eric Zuehlke, “Youth Bulges, Urbanization, and Conflict,” *Population Reference Bureau*, August 1, 2009, accessed June 1, 2015, <http://www.prb.org/Multimedia/Audio/2009/youthurbanizationconflict.aspx>.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

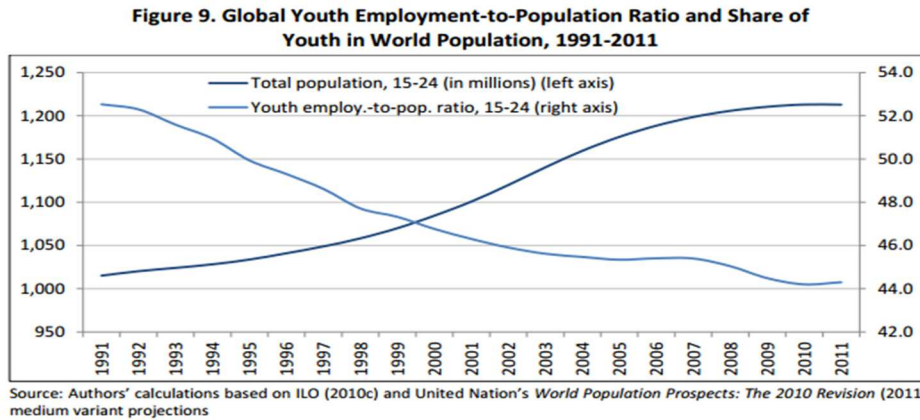
⁸⁵ Henrik Urdal, “A Clash of Generations? Youth Bulge and Political Violence.,” *United Nations*, January 1, 2012, accessed June 1, 2015, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/expertpapers/Urdal_Expert%20Paper.pdf.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

perspective, or “*grievance perspective*.” This theory suggests that eruptions of political violence are “a rational means to redress economic or political grievances.”⁸⁸ The theory is exactly as the names states; drivers such as poverty, lack of education, minority representation, and inequality evoke frustration that can then be quickly converted to violence. Civil conflicts are not limited to only one of the two existing theories: a mixture of the two is common.

Current Situation



(Image source: http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Global_Crisis_and_Youth_Bulge_-_FINAL.pdf)

On December 17, 2011, Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor, set himself on fire to protest local authorities closing his fruit stand, which he was operating without a valid work permit.⁸⁹ His act of desperation sparked revolutions all across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), known now as the Arab Spring. It was illustrated as “[a] youth rebellion driven by grievances about unemployment and dissatisfaction with existing regimes.”⁹⁰ In the MENA region, the rate of unemployment for young people is four times higher than that of any other demographic.⁹¹ Over 30% of the population is between the ages of 15-29, which roughly translates to 100 million people.⁹² This youth population, already suffering economic hardships, has become even more frustrated by the political presence in the region. This, coupled with the “lack of freedoms and abundance of political oppression,” has left this large youth cohort feeling helpless.⁹³

During the Arab Spring, a series of violent and nonviolent protests eventually overthrew rulers of these existing regimes, namely in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya. Interestingly, social media

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ “The ‘Spark’ That Started it All,” *Cornell University*, May 17, 2015, accessed June 26, 2015, <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=31688&p=200750>

⁹⁰ Michael Hoffman and Amaney Jamal, “The Youth and the Arab Spring: Cohort Differences and Similarities,” *Middle East Law and Governance* 4 (2012): 168-88, accessed June 26, 2015, http://mthoffma.mycpanel.princeton.edu/Hoffman_Jamal_MELG.pdf.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² “Middle East Youth,” *Brookings Institute*, June, 19, 2015, accessed June 26, 2016, <http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/middle-east-youth>

⁹³ Hoffman, 171.



played a crucial role in the dismantling of the regimes. In this Arab region, openly expressing sociopolitical views is not only difficult, but sometimes frowned upon by existing laws. However, the widespread use of Twitter and blog posts made the protests a worldwide phenomenon, providing international sympathies to the youths and their struggle in the region.⁹⁴ Social media has since become the voice for the MENA region's youth, as roughly 77% of the social media users as of 2013 were on some sort of social media platform, the most popular of which were Facebook and Twitter.⁹⁵

Because youth bulges affect many different aspects of global policy, it comes as no surprise that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rely on the understanding and accommodation of youth bulge affected regions. Unlike their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs are composed of 17 goals to be implemented in January of 2016, and are set to be achieved by 2030.⁹⁶ These goals were drafted as a follow-up to the unfeasible objectives initially outlined by the MDGs.⁹⁷ Since some of these goals are more targeted, therefore they are theoretically more easily implemented.⁹⁸ However, in youth bulge affected regions, securing these goals would be considerably more difficult. All SDGs are either directly or indirectly linked to youth bulges, but a few in particular stand out as outliers.⁹⁹



8.6: By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training



8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services



4.3 By 2030 ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university



10.1: By 2030 progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average



15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation globally



15.3: By 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world

⁹⁴ Pierre Omidyar, "Social Media: Enemy of the State or Power to the People?" *Huffington Post*, February 27, 2014, accessed June 26, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pierre-omidyar/social-media-enemy-of-the_b_4867421.html

⁹⁵ "Social Media Usage in Middle East - Statistics and Trends," *GO-Gulf*, June 4, 2013, accessed June 26, 2015, <http://www.go-gulf.ae/blog/social-media-middle-east/>

⁹⁶ "Sustainable Development Goals: Changing the World in 17 Steps - Interactive," *The Guardian*, January 19, 2015, accessed June 26, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2015/jan/19/sustainable-development-goals-changing-world-17-steps-interactive>

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ "Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals," *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, accessed June 26, 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>



Worldwide, the number of unemployed young persons aged 15-24 has reached roughly 75 million.¹⁰⁰ Exacerbating this problem is the lack of substantial economic growth; the global unemployment rate is forecasted to remain relatively constant through 2016.¹⁰¹ The youth bulge, in high numbers, has been described as a “demographic bomb.”¹⁰² Without the means by which to ensure that these large youth cohorts are receiving the wages, employment, and general standard of living that they both deserve and need, this “bomb” is set to explode.¹⁰³ Nevertheless, providing the means to accommodate these youth, and subsequently completing many SDGs in the process, might alleviate civil unrest, and thereby “diffuse the bomb.”¹⁰⁴

Committee Directive

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural committee will convene to debate various methods by which to accommodate large youth cohorts that lack education, livable wages, and opportunities, who may consequently (according to the theory) put their communities at risk of social and political violence. In doing so, the committee will focus on how to dissuade youth from joining rebel and terrorist organizations through measures based on *opportunity* and *motive perspective*. Youth Bulge has often been portrayed negatively; however, delegates should be prepared to debate whether or not youth bulges could be beneficial for developing countries in terms of globalization and/or future development. If so, it is imperative to differentiate the factors that characterize beneficial youth bulges from harmful ones. Delegates should also decide if the United Nations is responsible for addressing youth bulges in particularly distressed regions, as some leading arguments suggest that it is better for those regions to be left alone until violence subsides than to intervene and risk aggravating the situation. Considering the alarming need for the Sustainable Development Goals not to fall victim to the same fate as the MDGs, the Third Committee of the United Nations will be taking the necessary steps to resolve Youth Bulge related conflict.

Questions to Consider

1. How much crime is prevalent in your country?
 - a. If a large percentage of crime related activity is committed by youth, are there any programs/efforts to combat and/or dissuade others from participating?
 - b. What is the demographic of youth in comparison to the rest of the population?
2. Does your country have a history of violence, civil war, or genocide?
 - a. How much of that, if present, has been at the hands of easily manipulated youth?

¹⁰⁰ Isabel Ortiz and Matthew Cummins, “When the Global Crisis and Youth Bulge Collide,” *United Nations Children’s Fund*, February 2012, accessed June 26, 2015, http://www.unicef.org/spanish/socialpolicy/files/Global_Crisis_and_Youth_Bulge_FINAL_web.pdf

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Justin Y. Lin, “Youth Bulge: A Demographic Dividend or a Demographic Bomb in Developing Countries?” *The World Bank*, January 5, 2012, accessed June 26, 2015, <http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/youth-bulge-a-demographic-dividend-or-a-demographic-bomb-in-developing-countries>

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.



- b. If there is not an extensive history of civil conflicts, why?
 - c. How has your country handled civil unrest?
3. According to *opportunity perspective*, youth resort to joining rebel or terrorist groups because economic benefits of joining are better than those of an alternative. With that in mind, what alternative employment opportunities can be offered to provide the more favorable option?
4. According to *motive perspective*, lack of education, extreme poverty, and unemployment may drive youth into violence and consequently cause civil conflicts. Has your country made any efforts to specifically target those drivers, and alleviate some of their negative effects?
5. Has your country had any past or current youth bulges?
 - a. If so, were there any benefits?
 - b. Were there problems created because of the large amount of youth?
6. Should youth bulges in developing areas be left alone by the international community, since eventually, they may work themselves out?
7. Does the UN have the moral obligation to intervene in areas where the youth bulge may be causing civil strife for the rest of the population?

Suggested Sources

1. Henrik Urdal's Extensive Discourse on Youth Bulge Theory
http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/expertpapers/Urdal_Expert%20Paper.pdf
2. Detailed Report on Youth and their Potential for Development
<http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/policy%20guide.pdf>
3. All About Age Structure and the Risks/Benefits of Youth Bulges, and General Information on Population
<http://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/SOTC.pdf>
4. External Shocks and the Arab Spring (the information presented in this paper can be applied to many civil conflicts)
http://www.academia.edu/5386991/The_Implications_of_Youth_Bulge_and_the_External_Shocks_in_the_Arabs_Spring