

## **OFFICIAL WELCOME**

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Directors, Assistant Directors, Senior and Executive Staffs, and the National Collegiate Conference Association, I would like to take this time to officially welcome you to the 2007 National Model United Nations – DC Conference. The following guide is a culmination of the efforts of NMUN-DC staff in order to provide our delegates with the proper foundation to prepare for our conference.

The following guide should be used as a template for your own preparation. This guide provides starting points on where to begin research on the three topics for this committee. The objective of this conference is to provide an educational atmosphere necessary to succeed in Model United Nations. I want our delegates appreciate the unique opportunity to discuss pressing world issues in a structured manner as per the rules of NMUN. I also want delegates to examine the issue in a manner which reveals the true problems underlying the individual topics and develop solutions for those as well. I am sure that NMUN-DC will be a great experience for all the delegates.

## **HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON WORLD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

The United Nations Conference on World Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 in order to promote actions beneficial to the development of the economies of all states. There are three main components to the mission of UNCTAD. The first is to provide a medium by which various states may discuss issues pertinent to global development by use of experts and individual experience in order to build a global consensus. The second component is to provide adequate research and policy analysis in order to ensure decisions in the best interests of all parties. Finally, UNCTAD can provide technical assistance to states which require it. UNCTAD specifically provides help to governments, to provide assistance to businesses. UNCTAD works with various international bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and International Money Fund), regional UN bodies, and 111 intergovernmental organizations. All of these components provide the means by which the ultimate goal of sustainable development for all states in achieved.

### **TOPIC #1: Third World Debt Crisis**

- What is the best method to solve the debt crisis and provide an avenue to change the current system? What are the “selling points” for developed nations who might lose in many scenarios?

The Third World Debt Crisis is a primary reason many developing nations are unable to grow. These countries are forced to devote most of their current resources to pay off debt to developed nations and commercial banks. This leads to poor standards of living for the people and a critical loss of capital on which sustainable growth can be achieved. There

are many proposed solutions to this issue, but they must be weighed carefully. Many take out of consideration what ultimately caused the debt to begin with. One of the primary goals of this committee is to allow for sustainable growth; hence this issue is very important. The delegates should carefully consider all of the options available and how each will affect the global community, and eventually come up with the best method to correct this crisis.

### **TOPIC #2: Globalization and Free Trade: The Challenges for Development**

- The increase of globalization and free trade throughout the world should be benefiting all nations involved. Yet there is still the obvious gap between the rich and developing nations. In order for steady development this gap must be eliminated. What is causing this imbalance? How can this gap be closed without causing unrest and economic problems?

Free trade and globalization has led to many benefits worldwide. Many nations especially in Europe and North America are prospering. However, behind the success there is also a growing problem of rising gaps between developed and developing nations, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Although Asian nations have been growing at a tremendous rate, their growth can be largely attributed to a high savings rate rather than a sustainable growth factor such as productivity. Many LDCs have failed to grow at all leading to stagnant standards of living. As a delegate in UNCTAD your job is to find out what is causing this problem and what the committee can do to alleviate this problem.

### **TOPIC #3: The Case of Africa**

- The world has seen a great change for prosperity; most regions of the world have grown better over time through effective development. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the antithesis of the world in this regard. Despite efforts through the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) and other aid programs, there is little change. What is causing this lack of growth? What can the global community do to make sub-Saharan Africa grow? Why have previous attempts to aid Africa failed?

The case of Africa is a very broad topic, however the most dire situation is that of Sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa has not prospered in the same way as Western and Asian states have, despite having many resources at its disposal. Large amounts of aid through programs aimed at achieving the MDGs have been “thrown” at this problem, yet still stagnation and poor standards of living prevail. There are many causes to this lack of progress including the political instability and corruption apparent in many governments. Also a lack of steady foreign investment is also an issue to discuss. Your job as a delegate is to find your states relationship to Africa and use your expertise to determine the future of international assistance to Africa.

### **ANNOTATED BIBOLIGRAPHY**

### **Third World Debt Crisis**

Anoruo, E., Dimkpah, Y., & Ahmad, Y. (2006). Dynamics of External Debts among Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs): A Panel Data Approach. *Journal of International Business Research*, 5(1), 41-53.

A detailed report of the economic situation arising from external debt in Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). The authors examine large amounts of data over a period of 20 years including interest rates, exchange rates, and governance indicators to come to a conclusion as to why there is a problem in Debt of developing states. Delegates should read this source to better understand the economics behind the debt crisis.

Bulow, J. (2002, March 22). First World Governments and Third World Debt. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2002(1), 229-255. Retrieved July 10, 2007, from [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0007-2303\(2002\)2002%3A1%3C229%3AFWGATW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-D](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0007-2303(2002)2002%3A1%3C229%3AFWGATW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-D)

This article is an introduction to the strained relationship between third world debt and first world governments. There is an introduction to the different types of debt obligations and what the differences between them are. This source is useful to understand the role of different countries in the debt crisis.

Peters, B. (2000, April). The third world debt crisis--why a radical approach is essential. *Round Table*, 1(354), 195-205.

This article provides a different perspective than the mainstream to handling the third world debt crisis. Peters examines the failures within existing bodies such as the IMF which have not succeeded in alleviating this problem. Delegates should look to this article as a starting point to examine the reasons why the third world debt crisis has yet subsided.

### **Globalization and Free Trade: The Challenges for Development**

Bardouille, N. C. (2005, March). Globalisation and the WTO: Reconciling 'Development' in Global Trade Talks. *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies*, 30(1), 108-121.

An analysis of the reasons why development and trade have been at odds over the past few decades. Delegates should use this article as a basis on which to research possible solutions where free trade and development can coexist.

UNCTAD: Globalization and Development. (2002). *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*. Retrieved June 25, 2007, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intItemID=2874&lang=1>

The website for UNCTAD provides a large wealth of information regarding development. This specific section is from the committee's Globalization and Development Strategies program. Delegates can use the series of Trade and Development Reports to gain a better understanding of the trends of Globalization.

### **The Case for Africa**

Bond, P. (2006). *Looting Africa: The Economics of Exploitation*. London, UK: Zed Books.

This insightful book provides an analysis of the causes of the African economic situation and possible solutions. Bond utilizes his expertise to explain how the wealth of Africa is drained into the pockets of richer nations. The solutions that are proposed in the book are non-traditional and focuses on grassroots methods rather than structured programs.

Mistry, P. S. (2005, October). Reasons for Sub-Saharan Africa's Development Deficit that the Commission for Africa did not consider. *African Affairs*, 104(417), 665, from <http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/104/417/665.pdf>

This article provides a unique perspective on how Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa has not necessarily led to a better situation. This report examines problems which are greater than that money can solve. Delegates should use this source to expand their horizons to the issue at hand.

Van der Veen, R. (2004). *What Went Wrong with Africa? A Contemporary History*. Amsterdam: KIT Publishers/Stylus Publishing.

A complete introduction to the recent history and problems of Africa. This book provides a detailed account as to the reason why Africa has not benefited from the success of other parts of the world over the past few decades. The key to understanding the case of Africa is to understand its history.

