

## **OFFICIAL WELCOME**

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Directors, Senior Staff and the Osgood Center for International Studies, we would like to take this time to officially welcome you to the 2010 Invitational Model United Nations (IMUN) conference. Our staff has worked most diligently throughout the year to provide you with what we believe are outstanding preparation materials for your participation this coming August. It is our sincere hope that these materials serve you well in your preparation.

This Research Guide has been provided as a resource for your preparation for IMUN '10. In it you will find helpful links and questions which will help guide you during your delegate preparation. Our number one objective for this conference is to continue furthering the educational aspect of Model United Nations and to facilitate your learning experience in an engaging arena. As your committee director, my main objective is to facilitate a committee session in which you will learn the intricacies of parliamentary procedure and in doing so hone your public speaking and debate skills. I hope that as you learn the importance of tolerance and compromise throughout our committee sessions, that you can look back and appreciate the patience of resolving differences through dialogue and problem-solving in an outstanding educational experience. As director, I am pleased to play a part in your educational experience and hope that I can act as a resource for you throughout this process and thereafter.

## **HISTORY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY**

The General Assembly was established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter. It is the most inclusive, with all 192 Member States being represented and having one vote respectively, and, as a result, occupies a very central position in the realm of policymaking and multilateral deliberations in an attempt to achieve consensus. This organ occupies a key position for setting international standards and norms and encouraging the codification of international law. The General Assembly convenes annually from September until December, and whenever deemed necessary.

The power of the General Assembly lies in its ability to discuss matters of international peace and security, save when the issue is already being addressed by the Security Council, and make relevant recommendation to the other of the United Nations. Furthermore, the General Assembly discusses issues ranging from economic, social matters to educational, health and cultural issues. Moreover, the General Assembly also has the function of approving the budget of the United Nations and establishing the financial contribution each Member State is obliged to make to the organization as such. In addition, the General Assembly is responsible for electing the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as well appoint the Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

## **TOPIC #1: Development and Nuclear Energy**

- How can the international community monitor and differentiate between the use of nuclear technology for benign or malignant purposes? What safeguards are needed to prevent the misuse of civilian nuclear technology?

Nuclear technology has been used to produce energy for over half a century. Currently, there are approximately 440 nuclear power plants in 31 different countries. Half of the countries possessing nuclear power plants rely on nuclear power for a least 25% of their nation's total energy. Nuclear technology represents a clean, sustainable, and renewable source of energy. Unlike the production of energy through coal, oil, and natural gas, nuclear technology does not release nitrogen oxides or sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, the use of nuclear technology as a source of energy is not without caveats. Civilian nuclear technology developed for peaceful economic implementation, such as the production of energy, possesses the potential for misuse. Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) allows Member States the right to the research, production, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, given that the steps taken towards the development of nuclear technology for peaceful uses are fundamentally the same as those taken towards the development of nuclear weapons, the challenge of enforcing disarmament and non-proliferation while promoting the peaceful development of nuclear technology arises. For example, in recent decades, several Member States have developed civilian nuclear programs under peaceful auspices only to use their programs for the development of nuclear weapons.

Enriching uranium is a central component to nuclear weapons but also required for fuel production. There must be a means of preventing Member States from using civilian nuclear programs to develop a nuclear weapon. In the past, dialogue pertaining to the development of safeguards against the misuse of nuclear technology has occurred with little consideration for the development of nuclear technology itself. As a result, there is no concrete international consensus on which forms of nuclear technology are considered peaceful. In addition, there have been no collaborative efforts to identify which nuclear technologies are more or less prone to proliferation. Credible options for enforcing non-proliferation and compliance must be developed. Expanding inspections, enabling whistle-blowers, and encouraging multinational collaboration on nuclear technology development and maintenance will only be first steps in the process.

Dialogue pertaining to nonproliferation and curtailing the use of nuclear technology for malicious purposes has been sustained through the last several decades. In addition to proposals designed to specifically address nonproliferation, new proposals have been set forth to address nuclear technology and its potential for peaceful development. A substantial number of proposals for international collaboration on peaceful nuclear activities have been made. Unfortunately, many remain under discussion and few have been executed.

## **TOPIC #2: Strengthening Emergency Humanitarian Assistance**

- What lessons learned can the international community take from the Haiti earthquake relief efforts? How can the United Nations better prepare themselves for an increase in humanitarian emergencies? How can the United Nations implement disaster risk reduction mechanisms in vulnerable regions?

The world watched with alarm as Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the Caribbean island on January 12, 2010. A little over a month later, Chile was struck by one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded – an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. Yet the difference in devastation and humanitarian response varied greatly. The Haiti earthquake took the lives of more than 230,000 lives while the Chilean earthquake took the lives of over 700 lives. Earthquake awareness was evident with the structural designing of buildings in Chile, while earthquake preparedness was absent in Haiti's government planning.

If the United Nations is to better respond to humanitarian crises, good data will be needed to respond to a changing humanitarian landscape, with global events such as population growth, food crises, and pandemic risks. As delegates, it will be your responsibility to consider creating better system-wide multi-hazard indicators and better monitoring systems, to ensure an understanding of how global trends are coming together. There needs to be better coordination with Governments, development partners, and civil society to ensure that the United Nations has the ability to identify trends and understand risks on diverse populations.

What role can information technology have in emergency humanitarian assistance? Post-disaster communication can be significant for disaster survivors to make the right choices for themselves and their families. Better communication can also be used to reach out to marginalized communities. The response to the earthquake in Haiti provided a glimpse of the future of disaster response and of communications environments, where even the poorest and most isolated people could connect to millions through their phones. Humanitarian efforts must aim to assess and invest in the future of communities beyond the first days of an emergency.

## **ANNOTATED BIBOLIGRAPHY**

### **Development and Nuclear Energy**

Evans, Gareth., Kawaguchi, Yoriko., & International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. (2009). *Eliminating nuclear threats: A practical agenda for global policymakers*. Retrieved from International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament website:

<http://www.icnnd.org/reference/reports/ent/part-ii-5.html>

*This document is comprehensive, timely, and an excellent resource for delegates in examining possible policy routes to prevent the usage of nuclear energy infrastructures for weapons production. The report was commissioned and initiated by the Australian and Japanese governments, and the Commission on Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament which compiled it*

was comprised by 27 experts in fields relevant to the report from a variety of backgrounds from governmental to academic, from a breadth of states. As the document is quite lengthy, delegates may want to concentrate specifically on parts 2.5 (The risks associated with peaceful uses of nuclear energy), 3.12 (Limiting the availability of fissile material), 3.14 (Responsible nuclear energy management), and 3.15 (Multilateralizing the nuclear fuel cycle).

Levi, M. A. & O'Hanlon, M. E. (2005). *The future of arms control*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution.

*Like the piece by Diehl and Moltz, the main focus of this work is on arms. However with strong chapters devoted to the prevention of nuclear proliferation, new nuclear technology, and compliance, this work is will be useful for examining the topic at hand. Students should consider the points and perspectives presented in this book to formulate their State's stance on nuclear technology and its future.*

United Nations. (1970, March 5). *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*. Retrieved July 7, 2009, from <http://www.fas.org/nuke/control/npt/text/npt2.htm>.

*The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is one of the core international agreements limiting armament and ensuring world peace. It prevents the proliferation of nuclear arms. All UN Member States, except India, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan are parties to the NPT.*

White, R. S. (2005). *Energy for the public: The case for increased nuclear fission energy*. Santa Barbara, CA: BookSurge LLC.

*While this book was written with the purpose of convincing the general public about the merits of nuclear energy, the scientific rhetoric may be difficult for many readers to absorb. White presents the main argument that nuclear energy provides a strong alternative to traditional sources of energy. He argues that nuclear is safe and feasible. This book provides a thorough examination of the arguments for nuclear energy.*

## **Strengthening Emergency Humanitarian Assistance**

United Nations General Assembly (2008). *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*. Retrieved July 28, 2010 from [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy\\_and\\_research/un/62/A\\_RES\\_62\\_94\\_EN.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/62/A_RES_62_94_EN.pdf)

*This General Assembly resolution emphasizes the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance based on and in proportion to assessed needs. Delegates will find this resolution useful in understanding how the United Nations continues to work with relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian development actors to enhance coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance.*

International Committee of the Red Cross (1994). *Strengthening the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance: Humanitarian Policy and Operational Activities*. Retrieved July 29, 2010 from

<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/57JMC3>

*The year 1994 has been remembered as one of unspeakable suffering where populations were threatened, starved, terrorized or even forced into exile. Events such as the genocide in Rwanda, conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Liberia, and others illustrate the aspects of emergency humanitarian protection and assistance. Delegates should examine the context of humanitarian assistance from the 1990s to today. What is the relationship between humanitarian and political action? What about humanitarian action and development?*