

## **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. Our staff has worked diligently to provide you with these materials which we believe provide you with considerable resources to help you prepare for the conference.

This Research Guide is a resource for your preparation for NMUN-DC '07. It contains a plethora of helpful information about the issues you will be preparing to discuss at the conference. I look forward to working with each of you to use NMUN-DC as preparation for NMUN-NY '08. The type of diplomatic dialogue you will engage in at the DC conference is a priceless skill that will carry you far throughout the rest of your NMUN experiences and professional lives. As your Director, I will keep your learning experience as a delegate as the most important aspect of participating in the UNFPA. I look forward to working with everyone in committee sessions in DC, and I am most certain that it will be a wonderful experience for everyone.

## **HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was started in 1969 as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Its original purpose was promoting population programs. Presently, the UNFPA is under the authority of the General Assembly. Equal opportunity for every man, woman, and child, particularly in regard to health, is the main concern of the UNFPA. Reproductive health, gender equality, and women's empowerment are also primary areas of focus for the UNFPA. Within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the UNFPA works with other agencies such as NGOs, private sector organizations, and UN agencies to reach its goals. The UNFPA has seven key roles within the MDGs. As a delegate, your research on the history of the UNFPA will help put the organization into context for you and you will begin to develop a broader sense of the organization's role and how it relates to your agenda topics.

### **TOPIC #1: Water Usage and Conflict**

- What is the scope of today's water conflict? How can the UNFPA work to overcome these issues and ensure that water can be accessed by everyone to promote sustainable development and gender equality?

Equitable access to safe drinking water is an essential human right. The importance of ensuring that every person has fair and equal access to water stretches beyond the concept of using water for survival. Access to water is a fundamental component for attaining gender equality, sustainable economic development, and fighting poverty. Water conflict occurs most frequently in politically unsettled regions, and can often result in local and regional conflict. An example of such is the Nile River Basin, which is used by ten

countries. However, only Egypt and Sudan hold rights to the basin. Conflict over the water's usage is the source of many regional tensions.

### **TOPIC #2: Making Motherhood Safer**

- What types of programs are preferable, and how can they be promoted?

“No woman should die giving life,”<sup>1</sup> is a powerful message conveyed on the UNFPA Web site. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability in women in developing countries. The vast majority of maternal deaths are due to direct obstetrical complications, including hemorrhage, infection, eclampsia, obstructed labor, and unsafe abortion. Therefore, ensuring that mothers have access to the proper care systems is vital to combating high levels of mortality and morbidity in mothers and children. The International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals calls for a 75 percent reduction in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015. As a delegate, you are encouraged to place emphasis on antenatal care, including screening for risk factors and on training traditional birth attendants to use safe, hygienic practices.

### **TOPIC #3: Strengthening the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)**

- What areas of the ICPD need to be strengthened the most? In what ways can international cooperation be used to strengthen the ICPD?

The ICPD expressed an important link between reproductive health, women's empowerment, gender equality, and development programs. According to the ICPD *Programme of Action*, “International cooperation has been proved to be essential for the implementation of population and development programmes during the past two decades.”<sup>2</sup> With this said, it is of the utmost importance for nations to find a way to work together to find a common ground in achieving the ICPD goals. One issue that is particularly challenging with this feat is how developed and developing countries will work together to achieve the goals expressed in the ICPD *Programme of Action*.

### **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **History**

UNFPA. *Questions and Answers About the MDGs*. Retrieved 16 July 2007 from UNFPA Web site: <http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/qanda.htm>

This resource outlines the UNFPA's role within the context of the Millennium Development Goals. It also includes a list of the seven focus areas for the UNFPA in regard to the MDGs. The Web site will also be able to direct you to other areas containing general UNFPA background and context information.

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<sup>1</sup> *Safe Motherhood: United Nations Population Fund*. <http://www.unfpa.org/mothers/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development*. (1994). Retrieved 2 July 2007 from UNFPA Web site: <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=275>.

## Water Usage and Conflict

Carius, Alexander, Geoffrey Dabelko, and Aaron T. Wolf. "Water, Conflict, and Cooperation." Retrieved 25 June 2007 from United Nations Global Security Initiative Web site: [http://www.un-globalsecurity.org/pdf/Carius\\_Dabelko\\_Wolf.pdf](http://www.un-globalsecurity.org/pdf/Carius_Dabelko_Wolf.pdf).

This paper outlines important issues about water conflict and how it relates to regional (and ultimately global) security. Issues discussed in depth include water-related violence, water as a pathway to peace, and gaps and options the UN's policies in regard to these issues.

Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender and Water (GWTF). (2006 June). *Gender, Water, and Sanitation: A Policy Brief*. Retrieved 25 June 2007 from UN Water Web site: <http://www.unwater.org/downloads/unwpolbrief230606.pdf>.

This report contains information about the role of water usage with gender equality, sustainable development, and alleviating poverty. This report was prepared by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender and Water, which is a sub-program of UN Water and the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The report supports the 2005-2015 Water for Life Program.

Kameri-Mbote, Patricia. (2007 January). "Water, Conflict, and Cooperation: Lessons from the Nile River Basin." *Navigating Peace*. Retrieved 16 July 2007 from Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Web site: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/NavigatingPeaceIssue4.pdf>.

This resource gives a good introduction to the conflict that has gone on in regard to the Nile River Basin. It also contains examples of cooperation in the area and policy recommendations for cooperative use of the Nile's water.

## Making Motherhood Safer

Rosenfield, Allan, M.D., Caroline J. Min, M.P.H., and Lynn P. Freedman, J.D., M.P.H. (5 April 2007). "Making Motherhood Safe in Developing Countries." *New England Journal of Medicine*. Volume 356.14:1395-1397. Retrieved 25 June from NEJM Web site: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/14/1395>.

This journal article highlights some of the challenges and obstacles to implementing programs that promote safe motherhood in developing countries. This source should serve as a check of sorts to help you look into the feasibility of suggested programs and what can be done to get around some of these roadblocks. Access to resources and the cost of antenatal care are two of the many obstacles that are highlighted in this journal.

UNFPA Kenya. *Support for Making Motherhood Safer*. Retrieved 25 June 2007 from UNFPA Kenya Web site: <http://kenya.unfpa.org/motherhood.htm>.

This resource serves as a good background piece for what the UNFPA is doing to make motherhood safer in Kenya. It not only outlines the ways in which motherhood can be made safer, but also lists steps that will be taken to help this process.

UNFPA: *Population Issues: Safe Motherhood Facts*. Retrieved 25 June 2007 from UNFPA Web Site: <http://www.unfpa.org/mothers/facts.htm>.

This web site serves as a background guide to the women's issues that surround safe motherhood. This resource should serve as a starting point for further research and analysis of these issues.

## Strengthening the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

*Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.*

(1994). Retrieved 2 July 2007 from UNFPA Web site:

<http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=275>.

This resource is the ICPD Programme of Action, also known as the Cairo Consensus. It contains the basis for your research about the work of the UNFPA in regard to ICPD progress.

Caldwell, John C. et al. (1996). "The International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994. Is its *Plan of Action* important, desirable and feasible?" *Forum: Health Transition Review*. Volume 6: 71-122. Retrieved 2 July 2007 from: [http://htc.anu.edu.au/pdfs/Forum6\\_1.pdf](http://htc.anu.edu.au/pdfs/Forum6_1.pdf).

This resource contains three different papers from a forum about the ICPD. Each paper contains a different perspective about the feasibility of the ICPD.

