Message from the Executive Staff Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN•DC Conference

At the 2013 NMUN•DC Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers or NGOs. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation’s policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country’s position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation’s position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 centimeters for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers
To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 October 2013. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Secretary-General at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed below. Please note, the email addresses will be active on 1 August, 2013.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<td>General Assembly First Committee</td>
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<tr>
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Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee’s mandate

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff.

Sincerely,

Kristina Getty                                      Cara Wagner
Secretary-General, NMUN•DC 2013                    Director-General, NMUN•DC 2013
Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from Canada

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberley Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. Canada believes the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourages all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Canada further calls upon participating states to act in accordance with the KPCS’s comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. The delegation of Canada draws attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urges Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in General Assembly resolution 55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberley Process and encourages states to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in General Assembly resolution 58/290. Canada urges Member States to act in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberley Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon states and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing states.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through the Canadian Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. Canada views the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations under Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. Canada emphasizes the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy...
technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Declaration on Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. Canada calls upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to the Canadian $1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages states to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies and calls upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges states to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into state-specific strategies called for in the General Assembly Second Committee’s report to the General Assembly Plenary on Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/62/419/Add.9) will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African states to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. Canada recommends Member States to cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/228, Canada believes states must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. Canada urges Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medication by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada’s Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. Canada emphasizes the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency’s (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA’s contribution of $26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross’ Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.
Official Welcome

The 2013 National Model United Nations Washington D.C. (NMUN•DC) Conference team and your Director, Cyril Philip, and Assistant Director, Angela Shively, would like to welcome you to the General Assembly Second Committee. Cyril works in the finance industry and has been a staff member for seven years with National Model United Nations. Angela is involved with the National Model United Nations New York conference and is currently studying Political Science and Communications in Houston, Texas. Everyone at NMUN•DC has worked diligently to prepare for this conference, and we hope that you will conclude the weekend at the conference with a greater appreciation for the work of the General Assembly in development and economic growth.

We have a combined 12 years of experience in NMUN and we believe that this conference will serve to further your own knowledge and passion towards international affairs. We have worked over the last year on this background guide to provide insights on the three topics before this committee. The goal of this guide is to be a starting point for your own research. By preparing in advance of the topic, you will be able to provide a true representation of your respective Member State’s positions and policies.

The Second Committee is a key body which serves to bring issues regarding economic development to the forefront of international discussion. The Second Committee is considered one of the premier forums for topics related to global development and takes a lead on many such issues itself while also delegating many to smaller organizations. It is our privilege to be a part of your experience at NMUN•DC, and we look forward to working with all of you during the conference in October.

History of the General Assembly Second Committee

The Charter of the United Nations establishes the General Assembly (GA) as the main governing organ of the United Nations (UN). All 193 Member States of the UN address an expansive range of global concerns in the GA to agree upon policies and initiate or renovate programs in the most multilateral and comprehensive ways possible. In addition to the 193 Member States, there are non-member states and a large number of international organizations, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and specialized entities that have been granted “Observer” status but do not possess the right to substantively vote as Member States do. The GA convenes in September for its annual session and works through December, although under Article 20 of the UN Charter, special sessions and emergency sessions may convene when deemed necessary. According to Chapter IV of the UN Charter, which gives the GA its mandate, the GA reserves the power to discuss various topics and the works of other UN bodies as long as a topic is not currently being addressed in the Security Council (SC). The GA has the power to make recommendations to individual Member States or send an issue to the SC, receive reports and suggestions from the SC and other UN bodies, and to create resolutions within the parameters of the UN Charter. Chapter IV, Article 22 grants the GA the power to, “establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.” The entire GA department distributes its work amongst working groups, boards, panels, councils, commissions, and committees that have been created for the sake of efficiency and properly meeting the many demands of the organ as a whole. In accordance with Article 22, Rule 98 of the GA Rules of Procedure six committees were created within the GA department to more effectively address the number of issues under the GA’s scope of responsibility. The GA Second Committee, also known as the Economic and Financial Committee or ECOFIN, is one of these six principle committees of the GA system.

Given the above mandate, the Second Committee predominately considers major economic and financial issues. However, it is also responsible for topics outside of the traditional economic and financial disciplines that contribute to the economic and financial status of Member States, sub-regions, regions, and the world as a whole. For example, special consideration may be placed on how a particular development solution could affect least developed countries and landlocked least developing countries. Accordingly, The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly, characterizes the themes of the Second Committee’s work as: operational activities for development, groups of countries in special situations, eradication of poverty, agriculture and food security, macroeconomic policy, sustainable development, financing for development, information and communication technologies for development, sovereignty of the Palestinian people, and globalization and interdependence. It is important for GA agenda topics to be prioritized by urgency, by category, and by calculating the positive effects a solution or initiative may have. As such, it is not abnormal or uncommon for some issues to be considered across
multiple sessions. At the 67th annual session in 2012, the Second Committee was persistent in approaching topics from a developmental point of view, meaning it considered the relationship between many of its topics, like sustainability and globalization, with development. Development, and consideration for its absence, is the thematic key to improving the economic, financial, and humanitarian impediments that states are experiencing globally. More controversially, the Second Committee has addressed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territory, of other people in areas of Southwest Asia and Northern Africa, and of their sovereignty over natural resources.

To undertake its work, several UN bodies work in conjunction with, or answer to, the Second Committee – meaning they offer reports and information or submit their draft resolutions for review and consideration by the body. Just as they do for the GA Plenary Committee, NGOs, IGOs, specialized agencies, and regional commissions also contribute to the works of the Second Committee. The GA bodies then attempt to find consensus on the topics they discuss and the working papers created or draft resolutions reviewed from subsidiary committees. When the Second Committee reaches consensus and formally votes on a working paper, it becomes a draft resolution and is sent to the GA Plenary Committee. Each draft resolution must be voted on and approved by the Plenary Committee before it is formally recognized as a resolution. Ultimately, GA resolutions are nonbinding and will not be upheld in a court of law. This does not, however, undermine the significance of the issues or the content of the resolution nor the commitments made within them. Rather, the international relationships behind those agreements and solutions are valuable and carry the weights of reliability, respect, and reputations for adhering to the commitments that have been made. The GA will convene for its 68th annual session in September 2013. The range of topics that fall under the scope of the GA Second Committee and the Committee’s authority provide a platform for life-changing efforts and world-changing solutions. There is a profound necessity for growth and development, and an open platform for tactical remedies and their implementation, which the Second Committee can provide.

I. Supporting Entrepreneurship

- What strategies and development policies will be the most effective towards the creation of entrepreneurial activity?
- Are regional partnerships or intra-state policy changes the best options in order to drive entrepreneurship?
- How can the positive impact of entrepreneurship be maximized? What policies can promote women’s entrepreneurship? Is education a potential avenue for expansion of entrepreneurship? How can the committee build upon the goals stated in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/202?

Entrepreneurship is a critical issue in the current international development dialogue as entrepreneurship opportunities continue to grow in developing countries. With the advance of social networking and increases in technology, an entrepreneur can be anyone, in any location, and can have a large impact. Studies worldwide have revealed that entrepreneurship is critical to stable and sustainable employment and Gross Domestic Product growth. Another aspect is the creation of human capital through entrepreneurship and the overall social development that comes along with it.

Developing methods toward supporting entrepreneurship, thus, is a goal for the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Committee and is specifically stated as such in GA Resolution 67/202 (2012). Entrepreneurship drives growth through providing an outlet for small enterprises and individuals to gain wealth, benefiting economies of all sizes and development stages. Entrepreneurship can be defined in four ways: occupational, behavioral, outcomes-based, and social. These four methodologies are used to better understand the impact that entrepreneurs have on society and towards development. Occupational entrepreneurship involves individuals who are self-employed, either by necessity due to lack of employment opportunities or personal desire to increase wealth. Behavioral entrepreneurship is defined as individuals who promote change or drive production, these are the innovators, capital providers or individuals who are "in-charge" of a set of waged employees. Outcomes-based entrepreneurship is defining entrepreneurship based on its proposed effect, essentially entrepreneurship is considered the desire to find ways to beat the return from investing in the market overall. The fourth definition is social entrepreneurship, which is the creation of jobs, organizations, and ventures to catalyze social development by individuals, non-profits (NFPs) or NFPs aligned with profitable companies. Social entrepreneurship has the distinct goal to help the impoverished or society as a whole, while the other definitions are not specifically geared towards that goal. Although entrepreneurship is valuable across the development spectrum, there exist many problems for
individuals attempting entrepreneurial ventures. These can arise because of a variety of issues including lack of funding, regulatory hurdles or even social barriers. Utilizing these definitions, the Second Committee can develop best practices and ideas to help tackle any impediments towards entrepreneurship and simultaneously enhance development and growth.

Entrepreneurship was first cited in UN GA Resolution 67/202 as a driver of sustainable development through job creation and innovation, which together improve social conditions. The issues presented in the document include pressing for improvement of regulations and policies that promote entrepreneurship. The resolution focuses on how entrepreneurship is driven by policies that promote small and medium sized businesses, which are driven by individuals, the entrepreneurs. The resolution also stresses the role of public-private partnerships towards development of entrepreneurial activity by providing increased funding sources. In addition, the resolution suggests Member States should provide adequate finance for entrepreneurial development through banking regulation and micro-finance initiatives. Further on, the resolution stresses the importance of access to technology in societies as it relates to the expansion of entrepreneurs. Along with technology, education and training for both youth and women are considered essential towards future entrepreneurial growth. In addition, another focus is transparency in funding and regulation to ensure that any system in place to aid entrepreneurship not be corrupt. Furthermore, the resolution encouraged the establishment of "national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship" to provide dissemination of best practices as well as continued high-level dialogue and debate on the issue.

In June 2013, the Second Committee convened a high-level thematic debate per GA Resolution 67/202, which focused primarily on promoting entrepreneurship in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development. One of the key themes in the debate was how entrepreneurship goes beyond just economic development and provides an opportunity for many to come out of poverty. The drive to improve life through entrepreneurship leads to better living conditions and higher education levels for entrepreneurs and their families. The debate continued on themes mentioned in the resolution including finding a solution towards the multitude of problems that entrepreneurs face. The problems mentioned during the debate include difficult regulatory and administrative frameworks, lack of funding opportunities, and social barriers. The outcome was a continued drive towards sharing positive and effective methods for the promotion of entrepreneurship. Many Member States have developed pro-entrepreneurship policies that have driven growth and can be applicable beyond their own country.

One example of an effective pro-entrepreneurship policy organization is the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), which helps support agricultural and credit ventures for impoverished individuals through its own revenue-generating operations. BRAC has initiated various social enterprises which help at-risk populations by creating support services based on social and economic empowerment, education and health, disaster preparedness, livelihood training, and environmental sustainability. BRAC currently operates in eight countries worldwide and is an example of how entrepreneurship can be used to increase development in Least Developed Countries. The GA must evaluate these policies and determine whether it is a good fit for other areas as well.

Beyond BRAC, development agencies have devoted significant resources to grow entrepreneurship through their own policies. UN affiliated development agencies and the World Bank have been providing aid to entrepreneurship-centric programs. One example is the International Labor Organization’s Start-and-Improve Your Business Programme (SIYB), which started in the 1980s. The SIYB is one of the most common business training courses in the developing world today. The program provides management training to male and female entrepreneurs and business owners. The program has had over 4.5 million trainees worldwide since 2003 in over 100 countries. Its network of trainers is greater than 17,000 worldwide as well. One third of the trainees that participate in the program have no prior business training or experience. Studies have shown that one out of every three of the aforementioned non-business trainees end up starting a business after the program. Programs and policies such as the above have helped spur development, but as the high-level debate and resolutions have stated many times, the key is information sharing so that policies that have worked can be spread to new regions and areas.

Although policies play an important role, engagement of individuals, including women, is still important to ensure a steady supply of entrepreneurs. Women continue to play a growing role in development, and likewise are an important focus for entrepreneurship. In GA Resolution 67/202, women are mentioned as key targets for microfinance, education, and other entrepreneurship programs. Women overall tend to reinvest their income in ways that benefit the economy as a whole, making accessible entrepreneurship valuable not only to the individual but also the economy. For example, women are more likely to invest in education and nutrition in order to provide better
living conditions for their household. Also, women in developed countries are a growing portion of business owners and innovators. In order to create an environment that promotes women entrepreneurs, the processes for business registration, licenses, and landownership need to be streamlined and geared towards helping women. There are many traditional and legal restrictions in various countries on the wealth of independent women, including limitations on land ownership and access to capital. These obstacles tend to be the first hurdle to women's entry into entrepreneurship, and serve to push many women away from seeking entrepreneurial activity. Finally, there is a shortage of financing geared towards women in entrepreneurship. In order to provide an incentive for many women to become entrepreneurs there needs to be more of a concerted effort towards gender sensitive services, training, and incubators, which are what many entrepreneurship development programs are called that focus on incubating or helping to start specific businesses.

Despite the overall consensus of economic growth tied to entrepreneurship, there is sometimes a threat of exploitation. As defined earlier, outcomes-based entrepreneurship can be a dangerous line, as beating the market return can be done using ill practices. For example, opening a garment facility using designated entrepreneur funds should be beneficial to the local economy; the garment facility may use those funds as such, but do so using child labor. Despite its benefits, entrepreneurship is just as susceptible to abuse as any other development aid. Abuses include using entrepreneurship financing for illegal purposes, or using financing for personal expenses rather than business growth. The Second Committee recognizes this as an important consideration for any policy on entrepreneurship and seeks to ensure proper safeguards such as screening processes for funding and proper training before dispersing of financing.

Per Resolution 67/202, the Secretary-General will provide an update on its progress in implementing the GA's recommendations towards the use of entrepreneurship in development in September 2014 at the GA's 69th Session. Government, the private sector, educational institutions, and society overall have to unite to ensure that entrepreneurship can be a catalyst for development in the way it is intended rather than for negative or illegal purposes. By looking at entrepreneurship in the eyes of these stakeholders, the Second Committee can further design economic policies that help deliver on the goals presented in Resolution 67/202 and better grow prosperity through entrepreneurship.

II. Improving Information and Communication Technologies for Growth

- What can the General Assembly Second Committee do within its mandate to overcome the “digital divide” for various types of growth?
- What can be done politically to improve access to, and utilization of, Information and Communication Technologies, especially in developing and Least Developed Countries?
- Are there any new or improved innovations that can be implemented for economic growth and social development across regions that have the most need? In what ways can developed countries contribute?

In the 2002 publication, Information Communication Technologies - A World Bank Group Perspective, the Global ICT Department defined Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as “[consisting] of hardware, software, networks, and media for collection, storage, processing, transmission, and presentation of information [or data through means of voice, data, text, or images].” Telecommunication companies provide individuals, households, and businesses access to phone service, radio, Internet, and other types of data connectivity with which various devices may be used. Within some societies, people fail to realize the full extent of their dependence on ICTs and their use in every daily life. If access were to be hindered, or if the telecommunication networks were to cease operation, life and society, as people know it, would crumble. Yet, within other societies, large numbers of the population have never used a telephone, seen a camera, or heard any news from a radio. Because of the impact of this on development and economic growth, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Second Committee is committed to improving information and communication technologies to harness their potential for growth.

There is currently a profound international gap in socioeconomic development statuses between countries, and also a great concern for what is known as the “digital divide” in this growing age of technology. The digital divide was once considered to be an issue between the access, connectivity, and the utilization of ICTs across developed countries, developing countries, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The socioeconomic development status of a country, be it post-industrial and economically driven by knowledge-based services or predominately pastoral and
dependent on agriculture, typically corresponded to its levels of connectivity and ICT usage. It is simplistically believed that the most developed countries utilize technologies that make information and the communication of information accessible to mass populations. As an example, in 2011, Japan was ranked 7th globally for cellular telephone use with almost 133 million cellular telephones in use while Ethiopia, similar in population, ranked 56th and had only 14.1 million mobile telephones in use. Japan had over 100 million Internet users while Ethiopia had roughly 447,000 Internet users. This striking contrast does portray the necessity, dependence, and utilization of ICTs in flourishing economies, as well as the absence of these things in LDCs and developing countries.

While this may still be a somewhat acceptable, even if oversimplified, point of view, the digital divide now has a more specific focus and the discrepancy between ICT use in urban and rural areas within a country must be appraised. In order to navigate a solution for the disenfranchised populations regarding the digital divide, it is essential to understand the obstacles to ICT infrastructures and to ICT utilization so that communities and countries around the globe have a better opportunity to thrive socioeconomically, especially in joining existing Information Societies and transitioning to one Knowledge Society. An Information Society refers to a society in which information becomes the dominant form of currency. A Knowledge Society refers to the concept of a society developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for a society, which is based on universal access to information such that the society is open, pluralistic, and participatory. Since the conception of this term, focus on ICT for development has included a focus on achieving a global Knowledge Society because such a society would support overall human rights and development by breaking down barriers and allowing for freedom of expression and education for all, among other things.

The most significant hurdles being addressed are ICT infrastructure (more appropriately dubbed “infostructure”) access, affordability, connectivity and maintenance, and the availability of affordable devices. Improvements to infrastructure, access, and the availability of affordable devices can create exponential growth for developing countries and LDCs. Just less than two-thirds of the world lives without a constant source of Internet access due to the lack of telecommunication infostructure or constant connectivity. Countries like Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, which have predominately rural populations, economic dependence on agriculture, and extremely high illiteracy rates, need the creation of infostructure, improvements and maintenance of existing networks and access points, and availability of affordable ICT devices. It is also necessary to consider the widespread need for LDCs and rural citizens to receive instruction on the maintenance and use of networks and devices, as most people have no knowledge base for the utilization of ICTs.

Overcoming the obstacles to creating and maintaining information societies has an endless list of positive growth effects within communities, countries, regions, and globally. Technological access contributes to socioeconomic growth in several ways and the positive results continue to compound. Ultimately, the process of ending the digital divide assists in multi-level growth and reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the potential of which was reinforced by GA Resolution 64/41 (2010). ICTs can help rural populations maximize crops and harvests while minimizing the waste of natural resources just by monitoring weather reports on the Internet, or through smartphone applications, which would additionally eliminate local food scarcity, starvation, and dehydration. In that context, extreme poverty can be better combated on the micro-level from maximizing harvests combined with the ability to monitor market prices and receive fair value for products. LDCs, developing countries, urban populations, and rural populations need growth in business and macro and micro-economics that can be obtained by accessing information on competitors, tools and inventions, and through watching local, regional, and international markets via smartphones, tablets, or computer and network access. Political growth would manifest through the ability of citizens to monitor government Web sites, learn information on leaders and politicians, and receive real-time media reports through text messaging, e-mail, and mobile data connectivity with bandwidths strong enough to allow video transmission. Overall, the utilization of ICTs empowers people with educational information and the ability to share knowledge, thereby improving their daily lives, their contributions to economies and societies, and positively affecting their futures.

Several UN committees and international organizations have passed legislation, created programs, and continue to work multilaterally to strengthen ICT connectivity, access, and utilization for multi-level development. Through GA Resolution 56/183 (2001), the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and created the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action in 2003 and the Tunis Commitment in 2005. The Declaration of Principles established the consensus to securely establish and enhance information societies. The Tunis Commitment additionally emphasized the explicit role of ICTs in
perpetuating sustainable development to eliminate the digital divide. WSIS outlined ten targets for developing communities and countries socioeconomically through the use of ICTs and aimed to connect several types of public places in urban and rural communities with ICTs. The targets also aim to establish community access points, adapt school curricula to meet the challenges of the information society, ensure access to television and radio services, promote multilingualism on the Internet, and ensure that more than half the world’s population has access to ICTs. The ITU has been essential in ICT capacity building and monitoring creation, growth, and progress and regularly publishes reports in a series called the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report. Calculating infrastructure, access, education, and availability is essential to the agenda of meeting ICT development targets and goals. The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, established by the ITU, has published several reports that portray the evolution of ICT standards and indicators. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assists the Partnership on Measuring ICTs for Development, and publishes various reports for growth and economies while maintaining its own statistical database. Additionally, UNESCO has released several valuable documents emphasizing the necessity of access and implementation of ICTs. Education for All: Beyond 2015 Mapping Current International Actions to Define the Post-2015 Education and Development Agendas highlights UNESCO’s Education for All (EFA) program and stresses the importance for educational curriculums to focus on technological literacy and the value that ICTs bring to educating children and adults. Similarly, UNCTAD created the Train for Trade program, which focuses on advancing trade through education of ICTs and ICT’s impact on under-developed countries. UTI and UNESCO created the Broadband Commission and publishes reports from the Commission that explain the expected and unexpected benefits of ICT utilization in public and private sectors with enhancing networks for strong broadband connectivity. The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All very uniquely evaluates data country-by-country and also presents the benefits of ICTs in business’s efficiency and budgets. As an example, ICTs frequently alleviate the necessity for travel due to the access of conferencing provided through the Internet. Not only does this help the business, but it also helps markets and economies and takes away from negative environmental impacts from traveling.

Most of the previously mentioned organizations ultimately work under, or alongside of, and report to the GA Second Committee. Their contributions to ICTs for growth and development have been recognized and discussed through ECOSOC’s Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development, which provided information that was aggregated for the GA 67th session. Most recently, the Second Committee report Information and Communication Technologies for Development was considered at the 67th session in 2012. The body emphasized the need for maintaining unification and progress regarding ICTs, growth, and development. Furthermore, the body specifically declared support for “[b]uilding connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway.” But most importantly, GA Resolution 67/195 (2013) entitled Information and communication technologies for development was passed by acclamation. The Second Committee will revisit this topic at its 68th session in 2013. The GA, UN, and peripheral organizations and institutions remain vigilant in making access to, and use of ICTs a reality for people and countries around the world in hopes of enhancing communities and countries socioeconomically and reaching a global Knowledge Society.

III. Managing Migration for Economic Development

- Is immigration control best left to individual state policies or is an international viewpoint needed to ensure economic development?
- What are the main causes of brain drain and other problems associated with migration for development?
- What are the best ways to promote migration to ensure proper circulation of highly-skilled workers with the goal to limit brain drain?
- What protections are necessary to ensure that lower-skilled migrants are not exploited?

According to the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the total number of international migrants worldwide today is around 215 million, representing an increase of over 100 million since 2001. There is a large number of migrants split across so many geographies it is difficult to consider them all as a group, but they share many of the same problems regardless of location. Hence, it is essential for the global economic community to effectively manage this group. Migrants provide a significant benefit for both their host country and their home country. It is estimated that migrants remit, or send back, approximately $444 billion to their collective home countries, of which a majority are developing countries. However, even with such economic force,
many migrants are subject to abuse and exploitation. With respect to development, the sheer size of the migratory workforce reiterates the need to include managing migrants into an effective development framework. UN General Assembly (GA) Resolution 65/170 (2011) notes specifically the benefit that migration can have on development. One of the key themes of the resolution is ensuring a balanced approach towards development which aids both the host and home countries. Another key theme is the protection of the rights of migrants from human rights or labor abuses. Methods for implementing these themes include multilateral and bilateral agreements, increased involvement of international development organizations, and sharing of effective practices.

The UN and other international organizations regularly push countries for reform and protection of migrants because of the poor human rights conditions the organizations encounter as a result of many migrants working in low-skilled labor. Most recently in March 2013, the UN GA re-affirmed its commitment to the protection of migrant workers through Resolution 67/185. This resolution cited recent rises in racist and xenophobic attacks on migrants given the poor economic condition in many host countries. Many host countries in Europe have had increased violence against migrant workers connected to the continued economic recession. For example in Italy, there has been severe backlash and discrimination against immigrants of African descent due to the economic downturn. For women migrants, who represent approximately half of all migrants worldwide, sexual exploitation also continues to be a significant problem despite international and national action and legislation. Many migrants move with their families, including children, who are also at a higher risk of exploitation. Such violence and exploitation are a propelling force in the Second Committee's call for a framework to manage migration to ensure that the economic development that comes with migrants does not result in a cost to society or individuals.

Current international policies towards management of migrants include a variety of options, foremost being “exchanges” of visas to combat brain drain – a phenomenon whereby a home country loses large levels of highly-skilled human capital outward as well as a lack of evenly dispersed skilled workers inward (through rural-urban migration). According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Germany, and Australia are the most sought after destinations for highly-skilled migrants. One approach that has worked to combat brain drain for certain countries is educational visa exchanges. Education exchanges work by providing scholarships and visas for study abroad, in one of the sought after destinations, but with the caveat that the individual return to their home country for a set period of time upon completion of studies. The goal of educational exchange programs is to promote “circular migration” with the intent being that migrants learn more skills in developed countries that they can then bring home and help apply to capacity building projects in their home country.

Beyond exchanges, other options include visa limits as well as promotion of visas to highly-skilled workers abroad. Many countries have existing restrictions on visas from certain locations; for example, the United States limits opportunities for visas from countries that it deems at-risk for illegal migration. Even excluding restrictions to curb illegal migration, visa limits are used when countries feel as if there is an economic loss from migration. However, due primarily to remittances, migration promotes development through the reinvesting of income into the host economy. Although remittances sent home are substantial for migrant workers, the amount invested in the host country often exceeds that of remittances, especially when whole families migrate. This means, both host and home countries can benefit from migration. Many states have a different approach, via the use of promoting work visas for individuals from developed countries. For example, the United Arab Emirates provides many firms with the ability to fast-track highly-skilled individuals for work visas. The philosophy around visa promotion, thus, is to fill the gap of brain drain, by incentivizing individuals from developed countries to work abroad.

Migration of lower skilled workers is more prevalent than that of highly-skilled workers and also has a greater effect on the host economy. Low-skilled labor such as needed in the construction and domestic care sectors are a main driver for international migration away from Least Developed Countries, as foreign opportunities represent greater access to money. This is the main source of remittances sent by migrants. While remittances are helpful for a home country economically, it is important to consider the cost from the loss of a worker and the individual risk of his or her exploitation abroad. For example, Philippine migration to Hong Kong focuses primarily on young women in domestic service. Hong Kong, the host country, has instituted legal restrictions regarding the number of days that a migrant maid can work, which has helped limit their exploitation.

Yet migration abroad is not the only form of migration that is of great concern. Many individuals lack the ability to migrate abroad; hence there are large flows of internal migration. This form of migration is particularly a growing
concern for the youth population. In fact, the largest flows of migration overall within Asia are internal and include those in China, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam. In Asia, young men and women are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and many are unencumbered by family or children enabling easier migration. For example, China and India have both seen significant growth in internal migration towards cities, away from rural areas. Reasons for this internal migration include employment, education, and reasons including providing money for parents or their extended family. While this form of migration on the surface seems safer, it too has risks. Many young women end up in informal or undocumented work in domestic service within their own countries since there is a shortage of other opportunities. In order to combat this internal and external migration, many Asian countries have incorporated youth action plans to prevent mass migration. However, there has not been any integrated multilateral approach from the international community to target the issue despite the gains to an economy from migration.

An example of how development is aided directly by migration can be seen when looking at the global hotel industry. The hotel industry is a key gateway for many individuals seeking internal or external migration. It provides both long-term and short-term opportunities for individuals looking for employment. However, it has also been an area of concern, as many migrant workers in the hotel industry may not be properly documented. There is a clear divide in the types of jobs and the migrants who perform them within the hotel industry. Migrants from developing countries provide the majority of the most common, low-skilled work in the industry, while workers from developed countries that have relocated to developing countries dominate managerial and technical positions. Despite this, many migrant workers from poor countries are actually overqualified for their positions. Migrant workers are essential to this industry since they provide skills that are not readily available in the host country. Most large chain hotels have policies in place to ensure cultural diversity and protect migrants. Even smaller hotel chains provide benefits to migrants in a more personal manner than other industries. The hotel industry further helps drive language education, which is an essential tool for many migrants who wish to move beyond lower-skilled labor in the host country. Despite attempts, unionization and universal training for migrant hotel employees is rarely seen today. Still, the hotel industry may provide useful insight into how countries and other industries can help to create policies that manage migrants and help insure adequate resource and human capital allocation to increase economic growth and development.

Dialogue on international migration has improved over time. In the 1980s there was growing concern for the rising number of international migrants worldwide. This led to the creation of the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families in 1990 as well as Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs), which are state sponsored dialogues on migration. The initiation of this international action of the RCPs and the Convention helped alleviate many human rights abuses prevalent in low-skilled labor from migrants. Yet, a framework towards using migration as a tool for development was still lacking. This need led to the GA’s first High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration in 2006. The outcome of the first HLD was essentially the beginning of sharing of best practices across Member States towards the utilization of migrants in global development. In October 2013, there will be a new HLD on Migration; the theme of this HLD is “Enhancing benefits of international migration and links to development.” The agenda includes evaluating measures to protect women and youth migrants, assessing the labor market from the perspective of migrants, reducing the costs of migration, and promoting regular and safe migration. This will be a key step forward in the protection of migrants and the use of migration effectively for development. The GA can therefore build upon the HLD to find effective policy changes which can be implemented internationally with the goal of promoting migration and development.

Annotated Bibliography

*History of the General Assembly Second Committee*


This report, published by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United States, provides a comprehensive explanation of the GA as a whole. Many details about the elections, participation, different committees, the procedures, events, offices, and communication are available to be understood through this source. Thoroughly understanding the works of the GA within the UN system will afford delegates a better knowledge of their committee, the efforts of said committee, and the work of the UN.
The Charter of the United Nations is the treaty signed in San Francisco, California, on June 26, 1945, that established the UN. This document outlines the organizational framework, procedures, goals, rules, and responsibilities of the UN. Reading and thoroughly comprehending the Charter, especially Chapter IV, is crucial to understanding the functions of the organization, and the GA, and should be the primary contextual point of reference for further research.

I. Supporting Entrepreneurship


Krogh provides an in-depth analysis of women and the positive effect they have on development in the context of poverty reduction. The section on increasing entrepreneurship for women as a method towards easing poverty due to re-investment trends of women is a valuable insight into how gender sensitive policies can have a dual benefit of increasing employment as well as increasing the standard of living.


This book encompasses a significant amount of research on the correlation between entrepreneurship and development. It is regarded as one of the premier works in this space. Naudé expands beyond just statistics and delves into policies implemented by Member States and the effectiveness of such policies on development. Please refer to sections particularly focusing on the types of entrepreneurship that have had a positive impact and also those which have negative consequences.

This is a press release from the 66th session of the GA Second Committee that summarizes delegate debate on the validity of treating farmers as entrepreneurs in order to enable access to financial assistance, training, and building their own wealth. As the release explains, at the session representatives from various Member States outlined their specific strategies towards food security and providing incentives to farmers to grow their food supply. Also discussed in this press release is the effect on food price speculation on the agricultural industry and the need for financial training for farmers to understand the global marketplace.

This is a press release from the 67th Annual Session. Video archives are readily available from joint sessions and previous annual sessions also. It is important to review previous and ongoing issues that are addressed within these sessions. Reviewing these media archives and staying up to date with the proceedings of the 68th session will assist delegates by providing a point of reference for research and an impression of diplomacy on an international platform.

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Resolution 67/202 is the primary document when discussing this topic as it is the first document adopted by the committee, which specifically addresses entrepreneurship as a tool for development. Delegates should use this as a baseline when drafting any draft resolutions and refer to it as a key source. Also noted in the document are calls to action to certain UN organizations, which the delegates may reference. Delegates should be aware whether their specific Member State voted in favor or against this resolution.


This publication by the United Nations University outlines some key points of discussion on the role of the state and entrepreneurs. The University also did an analysis on "happiness" in states, which have high rates of entrepreneurship, showing that states with higher "self-owned enterprises" actually tended to have lower job satisfaction. The article highlights there is an appropriate level of support for entrepreneurship, which may spur development and not lower job satisfaction.

II. Improving Information and Communication Technologies for Growth


This invaluable report from the Broadband Commission created for the 67th session of the GA presents a plethora of information about Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and further advancing connectivity by upgrading networks to broadband. The document is especially notable because of the country-by-country information it contains, and it will assist in studying community, country, regional, and international information for conference purposes. Most importantly, the report addresses future policies and frameworks for broadband ICT development and growth, specifically in infrastructure, access, and connectivity.


The Web site for measuring Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for developmental purposes offers an expansive source of data. A variety of documents containing vital information can be found here for understanding the access, or lack thereof, to ICTs, devices, obstacles, goals, modes, and means of using ICTs. To better understand what ICT indicators are and how information about ICTs is gathered, processed, and made accessible, look in the sections labeled “Highlights,” “Quick Links,” and “Recent Documents.” Here delegates may also find information for specific Member States and their individual statistics for ICTs.


UNCTAD's Web site on the Information Economy provides access to the many publications in the Information Economy Report series thematically focused on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and their effect on economics. The variety of topics within this realm includes software use in developing countries, public and private sector influences, poverty alleviation, and development on many different levels. Understanding the influence ICTs have on development, and consequentially on socioeconomic statuses, and the predictions for the future will contribute to the ability to propose innovative solutions to obstacles in utilizing ICTs for growth and development.


The Communication and Information Web site for UNESCO makes information easily and efficiently accessible about its programs that incorporate Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), documents, policies, and latest news regarding information and communication. Within this Web site, UNESCO places a great deal of attention on gender and the empowerment of women through ICTs. From that information, identifying the correlation between empowering women and influencing socioeconomic policies will contribute to the creation and enhancement of specific and thorough solutions.

The 67th Session of the GA Second Committee report reviews and considers many aspects of growth and development where Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are concerned. Details of working groups and draft resolutions that were submitted for consideration are provided in great length. Innovative ideas are discussed regarding growth and development in this area for Least Developed Countries and disadvantaged communities. This report provides an accurate idea of where the Second Committee has made progress, and where the international community sees opportunities for improvement regarding ICTs before the beginning of the 68th session.


This Web site explains that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was created through GA Resolution 56/183 (2001). This Web site provides information on the historical goals and progress of the Summit, including documentation such as the Geneva Declaration of Principles, Geneva Plan of Action, Tunis Commitment, and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. Furthermore, valuable information is provided for the WSIS+10 Review Process. Delegates should read these documents as a point of reference for progress that has been made in recent years and future goals.

**III. Managing Migration for Economic Development**


The ILO's International Migration Branch (MIGRANT) is the premier division within the ILO to focus on international migration. This Web site provides recommendations of standards for migration per the ILO's massive database of information on migrants worldwide. There are links to hundreds of articles and papers, which outline various policy methods and results from each one. Delegates should look to this source as a way to brainstorm ideas. Delegates should also review the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, which is provided at the Web site. This is a non-binding set of guidelines for migration for governments and organizations.


In this presentation by the International Organization for Migration, the structure and goals of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue (HLD) are outlined. The committee should take these goals into consideration when drafting resolutions. The HLD will have occurred prior to the conference so delegates should be aware and follow-up with any results from the dialogue as well.


The OECD's Migration Web site provides information on both international and internal migration with respect to development. The OECD provides an outline of key data on migration as well as an outlook on future migration. The section that is most beneficial to delegates is the International Migration Policies portion, which provides details on various OECD Member State policies and views on migration. There are also documents on opportunities for children of migrant workers and citizenship paths within existing OECD States organized alphabetically.


This is the first time that international migration was discussed in terms of development at the UN GA. This document summarizes the key discussions back in 2006, many of which are still applicable today, in particular addressing the root causes for migration and incorporating migration into poverty reduction.
strategies and national development plans. A consensus was reached that migration can be a global development tool if used effectively. Delegates may use this as a primary source towards investigating migration and development.


Resolution 65/170 is one of the most recent GA resolutions on migration and development. Key attributes of this resolution include expansion of opportunities for low-skilled migrants, facilitation of development of the home countries of migrants, combatting discrimination and abuse of migrants, and other key themes. This is an essential resolution for delegates interested in learning more about the current and past actions of the GA with respect to migration and development.