



Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations
29th Annual Conference
“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”



Topic Synopsis
ECOSOC, Millennium Development Goals

I. Background of Topic

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals were adopted in 2000 with goals of achievement set to be reached by 2015. They provide concrete, quantified goals for tackling extreme poverty all around the world. Not only that, but they also provide a framework for international cooperation in ensuring that all humans receive the opportunity to have development and growth within their countries. Should these goals be reached, world poverty would decrease by more than half. These goals, if properly instated, could save the lives of tens of millions of people and would give everybody the opportunity to benefit from the global economy. These goals can be summarized into 21 targets that can be measured by 60 indicators. These goals must especially focus on countries that have many rural areas, because this is where poverty is highest. In particular, Sub-Saharan Africa is at the epicenter of a global poverty crisis and they desperately need their situation turned around by the MDGs. They continue to have food insecurity, high mortality rates among women and children, a rise in extreme poverty, huge numbers of people living in slums, and an overall lack of success in implementing the goals. Conversely, Asia has already seen great progress thanks to the MDGs; however, their huge population means that hundreds of millions are still living in terrible poverty. Most other blocs have seen progress in some areas, and failures in others, so the implementation of these international goals has been tricky all along the way.

II. United Nations Involvement

The main actions taken by the United Nations involving this topic mainly revolve around their simple decision in 2000 to set up the goals. When 189 of the world's leaders came together



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for the largest international summit ever, the United Nations showed huge ambition and a focus on global cooperation just by having that many leaders in one place. Their consistency with monitoring progress and having multiple follow-up summits have shown their commitment to ensuring that countries do their best to follow through on promises made all the way back in 2000. Organizations such as USAID in the United States have come together to development personal country strategies for implementing the goals set forth by the MDGs. By implementing a plan of action and consistently following up at least every 5 years, the United Nations is using all their means to try and ensure that countries stay on the right track towards achieving these goals.

III. Possible Solutions

The best possible solutions that could come out of this plan would be that all eight of its main pillars could be achieved in every country, all around the world. In order to meet this goal, it is essential that countries continue working together with one another, and on their individual strategies. One problem that has been faced thus far is that some countries are fudging their data on reports so true transparency and honesty in reporting to follow-up committees is essential. Ultimately, it will benefit the countries and their people, rather than hurting them if they are honest about where they are in reaching the goals. Continued follow-up summits and reports will be critical in ensuring the long-term implementation of this project.

IV. Bloc Positions

Latin American/Middle Eastern:

The Latin American and Middle Eastern blocs have had mixed results with regard to the MDGs. Nations in these regions have shown little to no progress in many sections of the



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reports and there are persistent cultural inequalities here that undermine many of the equality goals set forth by the MDGs.

African:

Countries in this bloc have seen limited progress, if any. Their huge issues with overall severe poverty, hunger, child and women mortality rates, slums, and cultural inequality have made reaching any of the MDGs nearly impossible. Despite efforts, they have seen a general shortfall in regards to reaching any of the goals set forth by the MDGs.

Asian:

This region has seen the fastest progress towards reaching many of the goals; however, the huge populations and dense crowding within many of these countries has allowed progress only to reach so far. Hundreds of millions remain in poverty and such fast-growing populations have made reaching the Non-Income Goals increasingly difficult.

European Bloc:

These nations are probably the closest to reaching the goals though they generally have the least poverty issues to begin with. They continue to work on promoting gender equality, especially in the workplace, and are fighting poverty though it is usually less of an issue here than in other regions.

Guiding Questions:

1. How well have the MDGs been implemented thus far?
2. What can be done to speed up their progress?
3. Do the goals already set forth do enough?
4. Or, do the goals attempt to tackle too many problems at one time?
5. Is your country doing all they can to ensure these goals are reached?

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm>

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml>



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http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/mdg/