



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

---



**Topic Synopsis:**  
World Bank, Sustainability

**I. Background of Topic**

There are over 1.3 billion without access to clean water and approximately 2 billion without access to electricity. About half of the world does not have access to adequate sanitation and three billion live on less than 2 dollars a day.<sup>1</sup> Sustainability seeks to provide for the people of today while ensuring the conservation of resources with the practice of responsible stewardship. It can be applied in many senses: social, economical, and ecological. The concept revolves around forward thinking programs, countries, and individuals that understand that future generations will inherit the problems that develop in our time.

In order to reduce ecological damage, individual nations will need to implement strategies that will improve their current environment. Two great concerns are preventing the loss of fertile farmland to the effects of desertification and ensuring the availability of wood, minerals, clean water, and other natural resources in later years. In order to increase social sustainability, children must be educated, raised with moral convictions, and taught how to responsibly lead their countries. In order to sustain themselves economically, countries must be willing to look at their current financial situation and move towards improving it, so as to keep undue burden from falling on the shoulders of future generations. If nations struggling with staggering inflation, self-serving leadership, and huge wealth disparities are able to implement policies that reduce these financial strains, to build a government that is capable of sustaining itself from year to year without loans and borrowing, then the global financial

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

---

situation will slowly recover. By assisting financially struggling countries, the world moves closer to financial sustainability.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The World Bank feels very strongly about establishing sustainable practices to protect the environment and ensure a better life for future generations. Agenda 21 of the United Nations established the goal of increasing sustainable development through U.N. actions. Following the 1992 Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, the U.N. in conjunction with the World Bank have been working towards responsible leadership and reasoned decision making on a global scale in reference to the environment and the nature of this planet in the future. One of the Millennium Development Goals is to ensure environmental sustainability, which includes the integration of principles of sustainable development into country policies and program, increase access to clean drinking water, and to achieve significant “improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020,” among other things.<sup>2</sup>

The World Bank is looking to give loans to nations that will be actively pursuing the success of its MDGs and are seriously seeking to improve their country’s programs in order to develop a long-term way of thinking about their country, their people, and their future.

## **III. Possible Solutions**

Possible solutions are based on individual countries. For a country like Nigeria, where energy resources (oil) are being overly exploited by the Shell Oil Company, causing polluted air and water, perhaps a loan proposal could suggest a plan that would establish a way to purify the water, create more efficient oil refining technology, or increase governmental monitoring of pollution. If you are concerned about your solution, feel free to contact me.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html>



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

---

#### **IV. Bloc Positions**

As stated previously, sustainability is a globally significant issue because pollution and ecological damage does not respect national boundaries. Pollution of the ground water, destruction of the ozone, depletion of the minerals in the soil, and destruction of wildlife, will all have huge effects on our generation and those to follow. The Western Hemisphere is notorious for over consuming, using a huge majority of the Earth’s energy and fuel, while Africa, South America, and portions of Asia do not have the access to supplies that others do.

Once again, look at your specific country and determine what is plaguing it the most. It could range from soil-erosion, to over-fishing, to energy over-consumption, to excessive governmental spending, or irresponsible governmental practices. After, determine a project that could address an aspect of that issue, on which to develop a loan proposal.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

The World Bank is different from any other MUN committee. It is based around a loan proposal in which you must develop an idea for a World Bank-funded project to take place in your country.

1. When developing your loan proposal, focus on your country’s needs. What is your country’s most pressing concern: water, electricity, or other forms of power?
2. What regions will the plan most heavily impact? Why were these areas targeted?
3. What are the long-term consequences of your proposal? Are there unintended consequences that may accompany your project plan?
4. Have sustainability projects already been implemented in your country? Would your plan extend a previous project or develop a new area?
5. How much would your country reasonably be able to borrow and repay? How much would your country need to develop your sustainability-based project?

If you have any other questions about how to format a loan proposal or have any other questions about the workings of the World Bank, feel free to email me at [maryssa.spires@gmail.com](mailto:maryssa.spires@gmail.com).