



Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN 2010) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Background Guide

Honorable delegates,

It is a privilege and an honor to welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Montessori Model United Nations 2010.

The United Nations Development Programme is the UN's global development network, advocating for inspired development ideas. The UN System consists of almost ninety different entities: Specialized Agencies, Departments and Offices, Subsidiary Bodies, Programmes and Funds, Institutes, and Commissions. Over one-third of these entities were nurtured by the UNDP; each plays a particular role in the process of global development and the sharing of resources.

The Background Guide that follows is a starting point, intended to orient you to the great and important work of the United Nations in general and the scope and breadth of the work of the UNDP in particular. The stories and information shared and the questions posed at the end of each topic we will cover in committee have been posed to inspire you to think deeply about each topic, to ask questions of your own, and to engage in further independent research to better understand your country's position on each topic. Such an understanding will be necessary for you to develop a position paper, which will serve as reference for you during your work at the Montessori Model United Nations in February.

We appreciate your hard work, and eagerly look forward to meeting you in February.

Montessori Model United Nations 2010 Secretariat

The Birth of the United Nations

The first half of the 20th century is remembered as a period of change and turmoil. After the First World War many people believed that it was necessary to create a world organization capable of keeping peace and preventing the horrors of war. The League of Nations was founded immediately, consisting of 42 countries, 58 at its largest point. Its goal was to preserve peace by solving international conflicts peacefully and promoting cooperation between nations in economic and international affairs. However, the Second World War unfolded and proved that the League had not accomplished its goal.

In 1944 representatives of China, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Russian Federation (In that moment USSR) meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, prepared a blueprint for a new and stronger international organization. Towards the end of the war, representatives of 51 countries gathered in San Francisco in 1945 to prepare the final text that would lay the foundations of international cooperation. Most of the ideals and structure of this new organization were the same as the League's. The difference was that now, the organization had the support of the most powerful countries of the world. The UN came to exist officially when the Charter of the United Nations was supported by the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and France) and a majority of all other signatories on October 24, 1945.



The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests while addressing international problems. Currently, 192 countries are United Nations Member States. Representatives from these nations meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest event to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote.

The United Nations Today

The United Nations is an international organization committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 192 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.



The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System affect our lives and make

the world a better place. The Organization also works on: sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



The United Nations Development Programme grew out of a commitment to the ideals of the UN Charter, particularly those set forth in Chapter IX, International Economic and Social Co-operation, Article 55, which charges the United Nations with effecting social progress and development by promoting respect for and observance of human rights for all.

With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations, the United Nations Development Programme promotes:

- (a) Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- (b) Solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- (c) Universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

Predecessors of the United Nations Development Programme – The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund

In order to address inequality among developed and developing nations, technical assistance, including the sharing of knowledge and training, would be necessary. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) was born in 1949 to carry out this commitment.

Over the course of ten years, from 1949 to 1959, this Programme achieved a high degree of success, so much so that it became clear that, to more effectively meet the needs of developing countries, an additional organization would be necessary to explore the financial feasibility of projects and help get them off the ground. The General Assembly's answer was to set up the United Nations Special Fund. During its first five years, the Special Fund sent more than 1,500 experts to the field, gave advanced training to 56,000 people under 124 projects, carried out 31 national and physical resource surveys, established two research institutes and completed two long-term training projects. And its feasibility studies generated \$800 million in follow-up investments.

Throughout this time, the Special Fund developed strong working partnerships with its executing agencies, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Educational, Scientific,

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). By 1964, the process of decolonization was in full swing, which created a tremendous increase in the demand for development aid among newly born countries. The United Nations therefore ordered a merge of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund which they did in 1965 forming the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP operations began on January 1, 1966.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Today

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network.

The UNDP:

- Creates a sustainable way of conducting relations among people and nations
- Advocates for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources
- Helps people build a better life by developing capacity so they can overcome their own challenges.
- Works on the ground in 166 countries confronting poverty, giving a voice to the voiceless
- Plans programs to reverse the growing global economic gaps.

UNDP is the largest organization in the world that provides grants for technical assistance and is the largest source of development cooperation in the UN System. The UN Secretary General selects a UNDP Resident Representative in each country where UNDP works. This person is also the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in each country. The leadership of UNDP is the 36-member UNDP Executive Board that came into being January 1, 1994.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Executive Board

The Executive Board is responsible for providing support and supervision of the activities of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as guided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Executive Board is also responsive to the needs of countries. The Board is under the authority of the Economic and Social Council.



The current administrator of the UNDP is Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand. Helen Clark became the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on April 17, 2009, and is the first woman to lead the organization. She is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues. Prior to her appointment with UNDP, Helen Clark served for nine years as Prime Minister of New Zealand, serving three terms from 1999 to 2008. As administrator of the UNDP, as well as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, her hope is to be able to contribute to poverty reduction, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and sustainable development, including sustainable human development, which encompasses a variety of dimensions including poverty alleviation, good governance, building equity, employment, empowerment, and environmental regeneration, all of which are at the core of the UNDP's strategic plan.

Achieving Security and Sustainable Human Development—The Human Development Report

Today, development is increasingly viewed within a moral framework as a fundamental right of *every* person, everywhere; human rights and security are part of the development agenda. The United Nations Development Programme commissioned its first annual Human Development Report in 1990 with this in mind. Its sole goal was putting people back at the center of the development process to bring about development of the people, by the people, and for the people, emphasizing that the goals of development are choices and freedoms, and suggesting a clear link between human security and a strategy of sustainable human development. In fact, the UNDP affirms that it will not be possible for the community of nations to achieve any of its major goals—not peace, environmental protection, not human rights, not democratization, not fertility reduction, not social integration—except in the context of human security. Human security includes economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security.

The Human Development Report reflects people's priorities, building national capacities, engaging national partners, identifying inequality and measuring progress. Regional reports address region-specific human development needs to human rights, poverty, education, economic reform, HIV/AIDS, and globalization.

The United Nations Development Programme and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Development Goals grew out of the Millennium Declaration of 2000, and reflect the development aspirations of the world as a whole. Although each goal is important, they should be viewed together. According to Helen Clark, "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are at the core of the UNDP's strategic plan."

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are listed below:

- Goal 1—Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2—Achieve Universal primary education
- Goal 3—Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4—Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5—Improve maternal health
- Goal 6—Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Goal 7—Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8—Develop a global partnership for development



UNDP's work on the MDGs focuses on coordinating global and local efforts that:

- Campaign and mobilize for the MDGs through advocacy;
- Share the best strategies for meeting the MDGs through innovative practices,
- Support governments in tailoring the MDGs to local circumstances and challenges.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Executive Board at MMUN 2010

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Executive Board, will be discussing two very important topics during the 2010 conference:

Topic 1: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

Topic 2: Creative Poverty Reduction Programmes with Participation of the Poor as Active Agents of Change

Topic 1: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

UNDP is the United Nations' worldwide development network. It works to create change and provides countries with knowledge, skills and resources so their people can improve their lives. Through the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP is working together with governments from the region, as well as civil society organizations and development partners, to strengthen the governance capacities in partner countries.



The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) offices were established by the Organization for African Unity (OAU) in July 2001. The document arose from a mandate given to the five initiating Heads of State (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) by the OAU to develop an integrated socio-economic development plan for Africa.



NEPAD's primary objectives is to end poverty; to place African countries on a path of growth and development; to give Africa a place in globalization and integrate it into the global economy to enable the empowerment of women.

The New Partnersership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) works on:

1. Agriculture & Food Security
2. Infrastructure (Water & Sanitation, Transport, Energy, ICT)
3. Human Resources Development (Education and Health)
4. Science and Technology
5. Trade & Market Access
6. Environment & Climate Change
7. Culture & Tourism, Governance
8. Capacity and Gender Development.

UNDP provides support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to translate "new partnership" into the action and cooperation for Africa.

Discussion Questions

1. How does this topic affect your country? What are your country's priorities for development? Is your country expected to achieve the MDGs?
2. What is your country's position on human rights?
3. Does your country believe there is a relationship between human rights and development?
4. What actions have been taken by your government with regard to this topic?
5. What new actions could your country take in support of the UNDP's work in Africa?
6. What actions can international partners do to collaborate more to achieve the MDGs in Africa?
7. What are some ways in which civil society and Non-governmental organizations can support UNDP's work in Africa?
8. What role can media groups, actors, musicians, and journalists, play?

Topic 2: Creative Poverty Reduction Programmes with Participation of the Poor as Active Agents of Change

"A specific anti-poverty strategy is ... one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development. An effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment at the same time should begin by focusing on resources, production and people and should cover enhanced health care and education, the rights of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process..."

--Agenda 21, Chapter 3, paragraph 2

The first Millennium Development Goal aims to reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty – and those suffering from hunger – between 1990 and 2015.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can only happen through action at the local level—in villages and towns, provinces and regions. Local actors—community leaders, local government officials, civil society activists, farmers and entrepreneurs—know best what does and does not work within their communities and they should have the voice and support they need to meet their fundamental needs and work their way towards a better quality of life.

The UNDP supports the progress of human development to eradicate poverty through development, equitable and sustained economic growth, and capacity development. All UNDP policy advice, technical support, advocacy, and contributions are aimed at real improvements in people's lives and in *the choices and opportunities open to them*.



UNDP therefore recognizes the importance of MDG localization. This means translating the MDG goals so they are applicable in small towns and villages. UNDP helps develop the capacities of local governments to plan, monitor and implement local development plans with participation of the people, working together with civil society and other local organizations. UNDP also promotes efforts to include marginalized groups and indigenous communities whose voices are unheard.

Within many countries, some regions fall behind others for different reasons as their geography, social exclusion, conflict or natural disaster. For these regions, blanket national economic and social policies to promote development are not enough. This is why UNDP works within specific areas with the local governments supporting programs that provide small businesses with skills training and access to microcredit and farmers with agricultural services, connecting smaller farmers with large exporters.

Discussion Questions

1. Is your nation a developed or developing country?
2. Is there poverty in your country? What is the percentage of people living in poverty in your country?

3. What are some programs in place to tackle the problem of poverty in your country?
4. Does your country receive financial support and technical assistance from the World Bank? If so, what is your country's poverty assessment and poverty reduction strategy, according to the World Bank?
5. What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
6. What is your country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? How does it rank against other countries?
7. What is your country's rating on the Human Development Index (HDI)?
8. What is your country's status with regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals? What programs are currently in place?

Glossary of Key Terms

Benchmarks are standards, or points of reference, against which things can be compared.

Capacity Development refers to the process through which individuals, organizations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.

Civil society refers to non-profit organizations and institutions, distinct from the state, the market and the family. Civil society organizations include community groups, academic and research institutions, non-government organizations (NGOs), cultural groups, professional associations and religious groups.

Decolonization refers to the undoing of colonialism, the establishment of governance or authority through the creation of settlements by another country or jurisdiction. The term generally refers to the achievement of independence by the various Western colonies and protectorates in Asia and Africa following World War II.

Development is a concept defined as a process of enlarging people's choices and enhancing human freedoms and capabilities (the range of things people can be and do), enabling them to live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge and a decent standard of living and participate in the life of their community and decisions affecting their lives.

Disaggregated means separated into its component parts.

Multilateral refers to something agreed upon by three or more parties, especially the governments of different countries.

Policy A corporate, national or other course or plan of action that directs the operations in a certain domain or sector; it consists of strategic goals and guidelines on how they are to be achieved.

Poverty is "pronounced deprivation in well-being." The conventional view links well-being primarily to command over commodities, so the poor are those who do not have enough income or consumption to put them above some adequate minimum threshold. This view sees poverty largely in monetary terms. Poverty may also be tied to a specific type of consumption; thus someone might be house poor or food poor or health poor. The poor lack key capabilities, and may have inadequate income or education, or be in poor health, or feel powerless, or lack political freedoms.

Poverty reduction strategies form the basis of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance in the poorest developing countries.

Self-determination is the process by which a country determines its own statehood and forms its own allegiances and government.

Technical Assistance is a procedure for helping underdeveloped countries to help themselves; it is not a procedure for giving or lending them money to be spent on actual development.

Recommended Links

1. Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) Website

<https://www.montessori-mun.org/>

2. Information about the United Nations

<http://www.un.org>

3. Information about the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

<http://www.undp.org>

4. Information about the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

<http://www.nepad.org/home/lang/en>

5. Millennium Development Goals Indicators

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx>

6. MDG Monitor

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/index.cfm>

7. The World Bank PovertyNet Poverty Assessments

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20210352-menuPK:435735-pagePK:148956-piPK:216618-theSitePK:430367,00.html>

8. Information on Human Development Reports

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

9. CIA World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>