

Committee: UNESCO

Topic: Developing Sustainable Resources in Densely Populated Urban Areas

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

This committee hopes to protect resources in densely populated urban areas by developing a method to keep these resources sustainable. Many countries and regions of our world are facing serious crises that involve housing issues, overpopulation, water scarcity, and famine. For instance, in India, the city of Delhi has been receiving the maximum influx of migrants to the country, adding many more people to an already dense population.² Delhi is going through a housing crisis; the local government is nearly incapable of providing adequate housing for its citizens. This committee aims to construct a future in which people in urban areas have access to adequate resources, and said resources are allocated equitably.¹

III. Background of the Topic

Hong Kong, home to 7 million residents, is 3 times denser than New York, with a population density of 7,000 residents per square kilometer³. Housing in Hong Kong comes at a premium because of how dense the population is. Apartments are often subdivided so that more residents can fit, resulting in more income for landlords. 50,000 people are estimated to be living in 2 meter-long cages stacked on top of each other for the price of \$200 a month. Housing has

become a huge crisis in many densely populated cities, which results in substandard living conditions.

Housing isn't the only global issue involving unsustainable resources; many regions are also having issues with water scarcity. For example, Mexico has been known to have unreliable sources of water. In Mexico City, a city of 21 million people, 1/3 of the population doesn't have reliable tap water service.

The UN has prioritized this issue and had conferences to deal with this growing crisis. In 1977, The United Nations Water Conference was held in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, where delegates from 105 countries came to discuss this global issue. Their first action plan was then created, which guaranteed all people the right to access drinking water equal to the amount they require.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Hong Kong isn't the only megacity being affected by immense population density; Delhi, a megacity with over 29 million residents, has a population density of 1,484 residents per square kilometer. Delhi is facing a huge housing crisis; being the capital city of India, Delhi takes in an abundance of migrants every year. As more migrants come into Delhi searching for housing, the more demand for housing increases.

Water scarcity is another global issue that must be addressed. Mexico isn't the only nation plagued with a water crisis; other countries including Yemen, Somalia, Egypt, and Syria are also dealing with mass water scarcity. The main causes of this issue are the minimal quantity of safe water and the state's inefficiency in providing water to the citizens.⁵ Yemen, for example, faces a huge water crisis with about 50 percent of the total population struggling to obtain clean water to drink and to grow their own food. Therefore, 14.7 million Yemenis are currently depending on humanitarian aid for water and other resources.

The UN has recently taken some actions regarding these issues. The most recent action taken was the passage of Resolution 64/292, in which the UN General Assembly acknowledged that clean water is an essential human right and called upon states and international organizations

to help countries, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean and drinkable water to their citizens.⁴

V. References and Research Resources

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- 2) Agarwal, S. (3/21/18). Delhi's affordable housing situation, is a potential crisis. Retrieved August 30, 2019 from <https://housing.com/news/delhis-affordable-housing-situation-potential-crisis/>
- 3) John. (12/23/14). Hong Kong's Housing Crisis: Soaring Buildings And Rent. Retrieved September 3, 2019 from <https://allthatsinteresting.com/hong-kong-housing-crisis#17>
- 4) UN WATER. (5/29/14). International Decade for Action 'WATER FOR LIFE' 2005-2015. Retrieved September 3, 2019 from <https://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/index.shtml>
- 5) Missions Box Organization. (3/13/2019). TOP 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE WORST WATER CRISIS. Retrieved September 5, 2019 from <https://www.worldwatersolar.com/top-10-countries-with-the-worst-water-crisis/>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to MUNSA XXIV: Envision! We have high aspirations for our committee this year, and can't wait to see the brilliant solutions brought to the table at the conference. We're very excited to have you all participate and we look forward to a fantastic MUNSA conference.

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