



EKIN SNY JMUN BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: GA3 (SOCHUM)

ERADICATION OF POVERTY: POST 2015 AGENDA

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly, one of the United Nations' main organs, was created with the purpose of creating policies, deliberating, and uniting countries around the world. Its creation not only brought countries together to discuss important topics, but has proven its purpose of maintaining peace within member countries from its foundation back in 1945. With 193 member states, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the charter.i

The General Assembly has six Main Committees, the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee), Second Committee (Economics and Financial Committee), Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee), Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee), Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee), and the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee). All of these work together to insure the correct function and to discuss topics within member countries to make the General Assembly achieve its purpose.

Currently the Charter of the General Assembly allows it to, in general, consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessment of Member States, elect the non- permanent members of the Security Council, and other organs, consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament, discuss and recommend on issues not currently discussed in the Security Council, discuss and recommend on the scope of the Charter affecting powers and functions of organs of the United Nations, and other things including the consideration of reports made by Security Council and other United Nations organs. ii



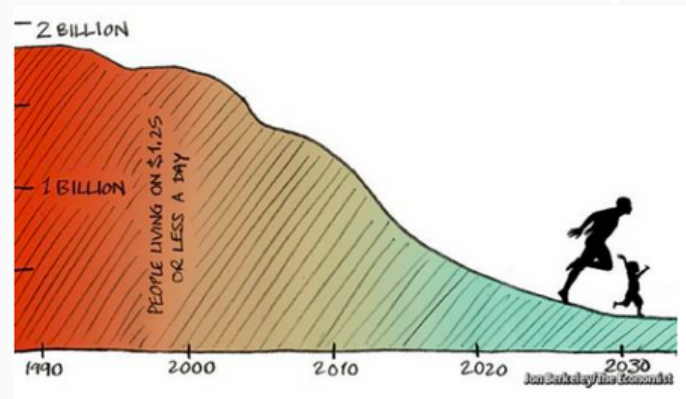
**Opening of the 69th General Debate of
General Assembly 24 September 2014
United Nations, New York Source: UN
Photo/Mark Garten**

TOPIC: ERADICATION OF POVERTY: POST-2015 AGENDA (sochum)

Introduction

Every October 17 the world gets together to acknowledge one of the most important goals each and every nation has established within their entire history; the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The goal to eradicate poverty was established in the

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as the first goal. By taking into consideration the statistics from 1990 and the present ones, the United Nations achieved this goal in 2010. This was 5 years before the deadline, but it has not stopped working towards this global common goal. Poverty is defined by the World Bank “as whether households or individuals have enough resources or abilities today to meet their needs.”ⁱⁱⁱ



In 1990, according to The Economist, 43% of the population in developing countries lived in extreme poverty, and a total of 1.9 billion people didn't have the resources to satisfy their needs. The same source then explains how in 2000 the amount of people living in extreme poverty reduced down to a third of the number that was present back in 1990, and by 2010 the percentage decreased to 21%, or 1.2 billion people.^{iv}

The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Eradication of Poverty, was accomplished in the beginning of the 21st century. The number of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced to 1.2 billion worldwide. Now, world leaders and country representatives are working towards the future; what will happen Post-2015? If in the first 15 years poverty reduced its presence by half, will we see poverty as part of the history of human race and not as a noted reality by 2030?

It is now up to the United Nations and world leaders to work together and create new goals to be met in the next 15 years. The year 2030 might be the year where we reach an incredible zero percent in poverty, and this will happen only if leaders and researchers alongside with NGO's and civil societies work together towards the same common goal. This will not be easy, but according to the current trend, it is possible.

Background

The 55th session of the General Assembly, or the “The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations”, was held in September 2000 at the United Nations Headquarter in New York. With the presence of 149 heads of state and high-ranking government officials the committee adopted the Millennium Declaration, where various statements, values, principles and objectives were set for the future of international relations.

A series of objectives and commitments were established throughout the session, which included the compliance with decisions from the International Court of Justice and the promise for positive globalization amongst all countries.



Nevertheless, their biggest accomplishment was the creation of the Millennium Development goals:

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

The main idea is to “counter the threat of the planet being irredeemably spoiled by

United Nations - We Can End Poverty, Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015 FACT SHEET - Goal 1: Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

“Fast Facts:

- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty declined by half at the global level.
- In developing regions, the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day fell from 47 per cent in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.
- While the proportion of undernourished people globally decreased from 23.2 per cent in 1990-1992 to 14.9 percent in 2010-2012, this still leaves 870 million people-one in eight worldwide-going hungry.”

human activities”, and with this in mind the adoption of ethic and conservation ideologies would become the primary focus for each country. Besides all this, “The United Nations Summit leaders resolved to reaffirm the central position of the United Nations General Assembly; intensify efforts for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects; further strengthen the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice; encourage regular consultations and coordination among the Organization's principal organs; ensure greater policy coherence and urge the Secretariat to make the best use of resources, which should be provided on a timely and predictable basis.” v

Past International Action

POLICY

The 55/2 Resolution - United Nations Millennium Declaration

After the assurance of the importance of the Charter of the United Nations along with the unity of country leaders working toward a better world for their citizens, the Resolution adopted in 2000 considers fundamental values for the twenty-first century international relations: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility. These values are all translated into the 8 millennium goals stated above. The first of these goals focuses on the eradication of poverty, which is a key part of the Post-2015 Agenda.

This United Nations Millennium Declaration includes not only the topic of universal poverty, but also the strengthening of the United Nations, the protection of the vulnerable, human rights, democracy and good governance, the protection of our global environment, and peace, security and disarmament; all to be significantly reduced or changed towards the better of humanity by 2015, using the 1990 rates as baseline.vi

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The World Bank

The World Bank is made up of 188 member countries and presided over by Jim Kong Kim. It works with a Board of Governors (made up to nations’ leaders) towards finding solutions to global issues. This World Bank proposes a few solutions to reduce hunger which include: investing in agriculture, creating jobs, expanding social safety nets, expanding nutrition programs that target children under 2 years of age, universalizing education, promoting gender equality, and protecting vulnerable countries during crises. vii

During the years 2003 and 2013 The World Bank organization supported basic nutrition services for more than 211 million pregnant women, nursing mothers, teenage girls and children under the age of 5. Through the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank funded the poorest countries with \$22.2 billion dollars which was used to promote economic growth. In Kenya they supported 245,000 orphans and children and in Nepal they helped reduce by half the number of people living with less than \$1.25 dollars a day in 2013. In Senegal they improved food security for 1.3 million children under 5 years old, amongst many other actions focused to the reduction of poverty globally. viii

HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON POST-2015 AGENDA

A group of people assigned by the United Nations' Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon were given the task to create a post-2015 agenda. They decided that the next fifteen years would need a universal approach with five transformative shifts:

1. Leave no one behind. The elimination of extreme poverty should be the new global goal. Even though the reduction of extreme poverty was a success of the MDGs, unfortunately there are billions of people that still live in extreme poverty. The complete elimination of poverty should be a main goal. “We should ensure that no person, regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race and other status – is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities”, we could be the first generation to end world hunger.
2. Sustainable development should be at the core. Member countries should work to stop the alarming climate change and degradation of the environment. Invest in green economy, with special attention given to developing economies.
3. Create new jobs and inclusive growth. This will be achieved by an economic transformation which will end extreme poverty and improve livelihood of people around the world. Access to quality education should be increased. Important skills should be encouraged in various sectors, like water, telecommunications, transport and healthcare.
4. Build peace and effective, open, and accountable institutions for all. “Freedom from fear, conflict and violence is the most fundamental human right, and essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies.” The rule of law should be respected, property rights should be granted, and freedom of speech should be upheld.
5. Forge a new global partnership. Solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability should be the values in which common understanding should be positioned. ix

RÍO +20: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, 2030

In 2012, world leaders and private groups gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. It focused on creating sustainable development through the promotion of green economies, as well as establishing an institutional framework for sustainable development.x One of the main outcomes of the conference was the creation of a non-binding resolution, which promoted the idea of Sustainable Development Goals. It became understood that these would follow-up where the MDGs left off in Post-2015.

NATIONAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY

China

According to the MDG Achievement Fund, China became the first developing country to achieve reducing 50% the number of people living in extreme poverty, this by 2010. In the year 2000, 94 million people lived in poverty and by 2010 this number had decreased to 27 million people. The Chinese economy has been growing quickly and extreme poverty has been disappearing.^{xi} The economic growth was due to the growth in certain economic sectors within the country. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported more than 400 projects in China in different sectors such as agriculture, fishery and forestry. Taking this situation in mind, countries around the world should invest in the different economic sectors that would benefit sustainable development.^{xii}

Beyond 2015

One of the largest Civil Societies is Beyond 2015, created in 2010 with the goal to push for a strong and legitimate successor framework for the MDG 2015. Beyond 2015 unites more than 1,000 Civil Society organizations from 132 countries around the world. Its purpose is to enable coherence and prioritization of action, secure commitment to action and ensure accountability.^{xiii} Beyond 2015 provides visions for the creation of the Post-2015 goals. It not only takes what it receives from the 132 countries worldwide in order to create this visions, but it transforms them to elaborate research regarding the problems currently present globally.

systems.²⁰ In the same month two major international human rights groups, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, released investigative reports about UAV strikes in Pakistan and Yemen claiming the attacks may have constituted war crimes. The report from Amnesty International warned, “U.S. policy and practice on targeted killings and drones are not only of concern in their own right: they also set a dangerous precedent that other states may seek to exploit to avoid responsibility for their own unlawful killings.”²¹

Possible Solutions

The United Nations has a big job to do by 2015. The Millennium Development Goal's deadline is closing and results must be presented. Our world leaders have been planning for the next 15 years with a different approach, and some might decide to have more of an environmental focus; others may believe a political adjustment must be made. Either way, it is fundamental for every delegation to keep in mind the main goal: the eradication of poverty.

When writing a resolution, countries must consider not only their policy, but the policy of others as well. Discussing the topic with fellow regional countries would increase the chances of finding common ground. There are multiple aspects of the issue of poverty that should be considered. For example, there are a variety of root causes of poverty in different countries. In some cases, it is a result of political corruption preventing an equal distribution of wealth and welfare. In other cases, there are simply too many people for two few people. Make sure to identify several sub-issues, like those just stated, when discussing this topic. For example, what are political solutions to eradicate poverty, economic ones, philanthropic ones?



Questions to Consider:

1. How did the Millennium Development Goals affect your country?
2. Did your country accomplish reducing by half the amount of people living in extreme poverty? If yes, how? If no, why not?
3. What problems does your country think the UN should consider for the Post- 2015 Agenda?
4. How can the Post-2015 Agenda completely eradicate poverty?
5. What obstacles will the global community have towards the elimination of poverty in the next 15 years?

Updated from UNA-USA Materials 2024





RESEARCH AID

1. Final Compilation of Amendments to Goals and Targets, by: Mayor Groups
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4438mgscompilatoinowg13.pdf>
2. A new Global partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development. By: High Level Panel <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>
3. Getting to Zero: Finishing the Job the MDGs Started
<http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/post-2015-getting-to-zero-1.pdf>
4. The Ecological Dimension in the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development
http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/The%20Ecological%20Dimension%20in%20the%20Post-2015%20Agenda_German%20NGO%20Forum%20on%20Environment%20and%20Development.pdf
5. Participation of people living in poverty In Policy Making, Dr. Andrea Rigan
<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/CAFOD%20People%27s%20Participation%20in%20Post-2015.pdf>
6. For information on country facts: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Updated from UNA-USA Materials 2024



TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Charter: a formal statement, esp. by a government or ruler, of the rights of a group organized for some purpose. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Eradicate: to get rid of or destroy something completely. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Extreme poverty: average daily consumption of \$1.25 or less and means living on the edge of subsistence. (The World Bank)

Multilateral: involving more than two groups or countries (Cambridge Dictionaries)

Sustainable: able to be maintained or continued (Cambridge Dictionaries)

Investing: to put money or effort into something to make a profit or achieve a result (Cambridge Dictionaries)

Globalization: the process by which the world becomes more interconnected, involving a global exchange and interaction in politics, economics, and culture

Green economy: a system of economic activities to the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services that result in improved human wellbeing over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities. (United Nations Environmental Programme)

Rule of law: a set of laws that people in a society must obey (Cambridge Dictionaries) Forge: to make or produce, esp. with difficulty (Cambridge Dictionaries)

Solidarity: agreement between and support for the members of a group. (Cambridge Dictionaries)

Resilience: able to improve quickly after being hurt or being ill. Resilience

Economic sectors: a division of a country's population based upon the economic area in which that population is employed. (Business Dictionary.com)