



The Southern Regional Model United Nations—SRMUN XVII



Dear Delegates;

Welcome to the 17th Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN). My name is Alison Karch, and I will act as your Director this year in the General Assembly Plenary. This year will mark my 6th year with SRMUN, and 4th as a staff member. Previously, I served as the Director of General Assembly 3rd Committee and the Organization of American States (OAS). I also served one year as Assistant Director for the Commission on the Status of Women. In 2003, I graduated from Berry College with a B.A. in Government with a concentration in International Studies. Currently, I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer for the State of Georgia. Your Assistant Director this year is James Stoval, a senior at the University of Central Florida.

The General Assembly Plenary is an exciting committee dedicated to addressing a variety of international concerns. As such, it is one of the most complex and exciting United Nations bodies. We hope that we have captured that spirit in our chosen topics this year:

- I. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: A Review
- II. Supporting Democracy in the Caribbean
- III. Trends of Corruption in the 21st Century

The background guide will provide you with an excellent foundation about each of these topics. However, it is by no means exhaustive of the topic and should not be considered the last stop in researching these topics or the policy of your State regarding them.

In order to demonstrate your knowledge regarding the topics, each delegation is required to write and submit a position paper. The position paper cannot exceed two pages in length, and you should consult the SRMUN website for further format specifications. **Position papers must be turned into the Director-General, Laura Merrell (dg@srmun.org), no later than 11:59 PM EST, October 30th, 2006.**

Both your AD and I welcome you to the SRMUN and to the General Assembly Plenary. We wish you good luck in researching your topics and writing your position paper. If you have any questions regarding our committee, please feel free to email us. Thank you!

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History of the General Assembly

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to pen the United Nations Charter. They deliberated on the proposal brought by China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. On June 26, 1945 the United Nations Charter was signed by all 50 countries. Poland signed later and became the 51st original member of the United Nations.¹ The United Nations now comprises of 192 members. The United Nations provides a forum for multilateral discussion of all international issues covered in the Charter.²

Every member of the United Nations receives a seat in the General Assembly and every member receives one vote. The Assembly meets in regular session each year from September to December.³ According to the Charter the Assembly is commissioned with several functions and powers including: considering and making recommendations on issues concerning international peace and security; initiating studies and making recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health field,; receiving and considering reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs; approving the UN budget and establishing the financial assessments to UN members states, and electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of other organs.⁴

In order to be able to discuss all the issues that are on the Assembly's agenda (163 items on the latest agenda), the Assembly allocates issues to six Main Committees, which are:

- First Committee-Disarmament and International Security
- Second Committee-Economic and Financial
- Third Committee- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
- Fourth Committee-Special Political and Decolonization
- Fifth Committee-Administrative and Budgetary
- Sixth Committee- Legal⁵

For each annual session, the GA elects a President and 21 Vice-Presidents, as well as Chairs for each of the six committees.⁶ This group, known as the General Committee, is chosen at least three months prior to the opening of the session and makes recommendations to the membership on the agenda.⁷ Because the General Assembly considers such a large number of issues, some agenda topics are discussed in the six Main committees prior to being brought before the Plenary for a vote. The topics debated in the Plenary, therefore, tend to be the most immediate and pressing questions on the agenda.⁸

The General Assembly may also take action if the Security Council fails to act due to a negative vote of a permanent member in a case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression. Even though the Assembly is only empowered to make non-binding recommendations to member states its actions have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

Most votes taken in the Assembly require a simple majority. Any vote taken by the Assembly on designated important issues, such as recommendations on peace and security and the election of Security Council members requires a two-thirds majority. Consensus is urged in all General Assembly votes. The President can propose that a resolution be adopted without a vote after consulting with and reaching an agreement with delegations.

¹ "History of the UN." The United Nations. 2000. <http://www.un.org/aboutun/unhistory/>

²"Press Kit: General Information." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/ga/60/presskit/geninfo.htm>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

Most of the work of the United Nations is derived from the decisions of the General Assembly. The decisions of the Assembly are carried out by committees and other bodies to study and report on specific issues such as disarmament, outer space, peacekeeping, economic development, the environment and human rights. Their work is also carried out by the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Secretary General and his staff of international civil servants.⁹

All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Plenary.

I. The Millennium Development Goals: A Review

*"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline... So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."*¹⁰
-Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General

History

While the past 30 years have seen dramatic improvements in the developing world, for many countries, the 1990s was a decade of despair.¹¹ Incredibly, in 2003, there were 54 countries that were poorer than they were in 1990.¹² In 21 countries, a larger proportion of people were going hungry; and in 14, more children were dying before the age of five.¹³ In 12, primary school enrollments were shrinking, and in 34 countries, life expectancy decreased.¹⁴ Furthermore, the human development index (HDI), a measure of three dimensions of human development: life expectancy, education, and standard of living, showed 21 countries declined in the measurement.¹⁵ Such reversals were rare previous to this time.¹⁶

In a response to the dire need to increase and improve the rate of development worldwide, heads of state gathered at the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, committing countries to doing all they could to eradicate poverty, promote human dignity and equality and achieve peace, democracy and environmental sustainability.¹⁷ At the heart of the Millennium Declaration were key development issues rooted in basic human rights: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nation and shared responsibility.¹⁸

At the time of the summit, there was a sense of urgency to "free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a million of them [were] subjected."¹⁹ The result from the Millennium Declaration were the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established on September 18, 2000 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/2 to create a set of time-bound, measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.²⁰

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "The UN Millennium Development Goals." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

¹¹ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

¹⁸ "About the Goals." United Nations Millennium Campaign. <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c+grKVL2NLE&b=185455>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

The Millennium Development Goals serve as a set of benchmarks for assessing progress and are commitments made by national leaders.²¹ These Goals were created to encourage the international community to stop talking about making a difference in the developing world and start doing something about it.²² The success of achieving these goals rests solely on if they are embraced by the people and their governments, and cooperation between rich and poor countries. Since their creation, nearly 190 countries have signed on to the agreement.²³

Background

There are 8 main MDGs that were promised to be achieved by 2015. The MDGs use 1990 figures in these areas as the benchmark to measure the success of the goal. Most of the goals are inter-related; if one is achieved then it will help to accomplish another. The MDGs are 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.²⁴ Alongside the Goals, a series of 18 targets were drawn up to give the international community a number of tangible improvements to aim for within a fixed time period and provide indicators for progress. Each of the targets linked to the MDGs measures progress against the 1990 statistics. The intention is that all of these targets will be achieved by 2015.²⁵

The commitments made by both rich and poor countries to achieve these goals were affirmed in the Monterrey Consensus that emerged from the 2002 UN Financing for Development conference, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the launch of the Doha Round on international trade.²⁶ The Monterrey conference marked a compact among these countries, calling on all stakeholders to orient their efforts towards ensuring the success of the goals through a system of shared responsibilities.²⁷

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG), first established in 1997, was to serve as an instrument for UN reform, to develop policies and procedures that allow member agencies to work together and analyze country issues, plan support strategies, implement support programs, and monitor results and advocate for change.²⁸ After the creation of the Millennium Development Goals, the initiatives of the UNDG became central to ensuring that the MDGs remain at the center of the UN's efforts.²⁹

About the Millennium Development Goals

The 1st Goal, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, is a basic need to improve development. Human poverty is deprivation in the most essential capabilities of life, including leading a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, having adequate economic provisioning and participating fully in the life of the community.³⁰ The human poverty index (now called the Human Development Index), created by the *Human Development Report 1997*, captures three dimensions: 1) deprivation in a long and healthy life, as measured by the percentage of people not expected to survive to age 40, 2) deprivation in knowledge, as measured in adult literacy and 3) deprivation in economic provisioning, from private and public income, as measured by the percentage of people lacking access to health services, the percentage of people lacking access to safe water, and the percentage of children under five who are moderately or severely underweight.³¹ These measurements suggest that extreme poverty is linked to health,

²¹ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. 2003. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

²² "Millennium Development Goals" Department for International Development. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs." United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=502>

²⁵ "Millennium Development Goals" Department for International Development. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/>

²⁶ "The Millennium Development Compact" *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ "About the UNDG" United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=2>

²⁹ "The Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Role Fact Sheet." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDGs-FACTSHEET1.pdf>

³⁰ "The Commitments to Poverty Reduction." *Overcoming Human Poverty: Poverty Report 2000*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://www.undp.org/povertyreport/ENGLISH/ARfront.pdf>

³¹ Ibid.

education, access to potable water and hunger. As the Goal suggests, poverty and hunger are directly relational with each other. When a person is hungry and living in poverty, the constant search and securing of food consumes valuable time and energy, which allows less time for work and earning an income.

The targets used to measure the success of this Goal are 1) to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day and 2) to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Currently, more than 1.2 billion people are currently living below the international poverty line earning less than \$1 a day in developing nations,³² while nearly half of the world's population (2.8 billion) lives on less than \$2 a day.³³ Even more disturbing, the three richest people in the world control more wealth than all of the 600 million people living in the world's poorest countries.³⁴

The 2nd Goal, to achieve universal primary education, directly impacts development because it contributes to better health. Better education and health increase the productivity that leads to economic growth.³⁵ The lack of education robs an individual of a full life, and robs society of a foundation for sustainable development because education is critical to improving health, nutrition and productivity.³⁶ Young people who have completed primary education are less than half as likely to contract HIV as those who are missing an education. It is estimated that having universal primary education would only cost \$10 billion a year; half of what Americans spend on ice cream.³⁷

In areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, enrollment rates in primary school are very low, at 57 percent and 84 percent.³⁸ Across the developing world, ¼ of adults or 872 million people are illiterate.³⁹ Gender gaps also remain in this category: 46 percent of girls do not have access to primary education.⁴⁰ Thus, the target for *all* children, boys and girls, to be able to complete a full course of primary schooling, is central to meeting the other goals.

The 3rd Goal, promote gender equality and empower women, is directly linked to illiteracy rates. Of the 115 million children out of school, three-fifths are girls, and two-thirds of 876 million illiterate adults are women.⁴¹ Furthermore, 70 percent of people living in poverty in the world are women, because while they perform 66 percent of the world's work, they only make 5 percent of the world's income.⁴² To address these issues, the target is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education by no later than 2015.⁴³

Because women are the primary caregivers in almost all societies, their education contributes more to the health and education of the next generation than that of men.⁴⁴ By closing the gender gap and increasing primary education levels, healthier women will be able to contribute to higher productivity and higher household incomes. Moreover, educated girls grow to have fewer and healthier children, thereby reducing child mortality, the 4th Goal of the MDGs.

³² Ibid.

³³ "Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger." United Nations Millennium Campaign. <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185518>

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ "Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education." United Nations Millennium Campaign. <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185519>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

⁴² "Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education." United Nations Millennium Campaign. <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185519>

⁴³ "The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs." United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=502>

⁴⁴ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

Goals 4-6 require a dramatic increase in access to healthcare in order to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.⁴⁵ As previously mentioned, access to health care is a basic human right, and healthier citizens lead to increased productivity and economic growth in a society. Yet, every year nearly 11 million children under the age of five die from preventable or treatable causes such as diarrhea, malaria, neonatal infection, pneumonia, preterm delivery or lack of oxygen at birth.^{46,47} More than half a million women die in pregnancy and childbirth every year, and 99 percent of these deaths are in developing countries.⁴⁸ Every day, 8,000 people die from AIDS-related conditions while 5,500 people die from TB.⁴⁹ Almost 300 million cases of acute malaria are reported every year and more than a million of those are fatal.⁵⁰

With proper funding, however, deaths related to child mortality and maternal health could be avoided by the use of low cost measures such as vaccines, antibiotics, macronutrient supplementation, insecticide-treated bed nets and improved family care, abortion practices and breastfeeding practices. The 6th Goal of combating AIDS, malaria and other diseases presents additional challenges. By 2007, it will cost more than \$15 billion each year to fight AIDS worldwide.⁵¹ Currently wealthy countries are only spending less than \$4 billion a year total on the global effort to combat AIDS.⁵²

The targets for these Goals are to reduce the under-five mortality rate by 2/3rds and the maternal mortality ratio by 3/4ths,⁵³ and to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.⁵⁴ Unfortunately, for Goals 4-6, there is a lack of resources for basic health systems and it is basically impossible in poor countries to pay international prices for life-saving medicines.⁵⁵ The lack of such resources has a damaging effect on existing health systems because shortcomings in one area feed into others.⁵⁶ When clinics have no drugs, patients are discouraged from going for treatment, and services eventually become less responsive to patients' needs.⁵⁷

Though not immediately obvious, ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7) will also support the other goals to improve health and standards of living. The targets related to this Goal are to 1) integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the losses of environmental resources, 2) halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and 3) achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.⁵⁸

Ensuring environmental sustainability will require managing ecosystems so that they can provide services to sustain human livelihoods. Issues linked with environmental sustainability include soil degradation, over-exploitation of commercial fisheries and greenhouse gases emissions.⁵⁹ In general, poor people are most vulnerable to environmental shocks and stresses because they depend on natural products to sustain their livelihoods.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "Goal 4. Reduce child mortality." United Nations Millennium Campaign.

www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186384

⁴⁷ "Goal: Reduce child mortality." United Nations Children's Fund. <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/childmortality.html>

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases." World Health Organization.

<http://www.who.int/mdg/goals/goal6/en/index.html>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ "The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs." United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=507>

⁵⁴ "6-Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases." United Nations Development Group.

<http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=509>

⁵⁵ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs." United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=510>

⁵⁹ "Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>.

Malnutrition and poverty are also closely linked to environmental risk factors.⁶⁰ Related to environmental sustainability are sanitation and hygiene, which are critical in order to maintain healthy societies.⁶¹

Today, 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe and sufficient drinking water.⁶² An estimated 3.4 million deaths a year can be attributed to insufficient and unsafe drinking water.⁶³ Additionally, 2.4 billion people lack adequate sanitation⁶⁴ Diarrhea, a major killer of young children, affects people in poor rural areas and slums most. Access to safe water is far less useful without improved sanitation and better hygiene. Good health care is often wasted on water born diseases that could have been prevented if safe water were available. However, to be successful in this arena, governments must ensure that poor people's access to water and sanitation services is not undermined by unfair charges, and the well-off must shoulder the financial costs of maintaining the infrastructure for these services.

While Goals 1-7 were created to improve development in some of the poorest countries of the world, Goal 8, develop a global partnership for development, was created to require the rich countries to help the poor countries achieve these Goals.⁶⁵ The poorest countries do not have the resources to finance the investments required to reach critical thresholds in infrastructure, health and education, and are not able to invest in agriculture and small scale manufacturing to improve worker productivity.⁶⁶ The partnership framework of the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus makes clear that the primary responsibility for achieving Goals 1-7 lies with developing countries, while also making clear that the critical role of the rich countries is reflected in Goal 8.⁶⁷

The United Nations estimates that unfair trade denies poor countries \$700 billion every year.⁶⁸ The poorest 49 countries make up 10 percent of the world's population but only account for 0.4 percent of trade.⁶⁹ It is estimated that rich countries gain \$141.8 billion a year in trade while Africa loses \$2.6 billion.⁷⁰ Rich countries spend \$100 billion a year to protect their markets and only provide half that much for aid in developing countries.⁷¹

There are several targets included with Goal 8, and they are: 1) develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction-nationally and internationally, 2) address the least developed countries' special needs, including tariff and quota-free access for their exports, 3) enhance debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction, 4) deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term, 5) address needs of land-locked and small island states, 6) in cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth, 7) in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries, and 8) in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies.⁷²

Obstacles to obtaining the MDGs

The progress of the MDGs across the board has been minimal at best. There are many obstacles to achieving these Goals, including poor governance, little infrastructure, corruption, poor economic policies and denial of human

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ "Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability." World Health Organization.

<http://www.who.int/mdg/goals/goal7/en/index.html>

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Overview: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty." *Human Development Report 2003*. United Nations Development Programme. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ "Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development." United Nations Millennium Campaign.

<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186389>

⁷² "The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs." United Nations Development Group. <http://www.undg.org/content.cfm?id=511>

rights. In general, economic development stalls when governments do not uphold the rule of law, pursue sound economic policy, make appropriate public investments and protect basic human rights.⁷³ Many of these same countries are too poor to make progress and are stuck in a poverty cycle. They have high rural poverty levels, shortages of infrastructure, electricity, water and sanitation, and many children do not attend school because they stay at home to perform housework or work outside of the home in order to provide for the family. Thus, in order for these countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, rural productivity and food output must first be increased.⁷⁴

Another key concern in the ability of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), and other poor countries, to achieve the MDGs is that there must be a significant, and in some cases 100 percent debt cancellation in order for any progress to be made. It cannot be expected for these countries to be able to make advancement in the Goals if they have to pay more in debt than they receive in aid.⁷⁵

Another large reason that many of the Goals are not on target is due to the lack of resources in the developing countries. There are several Bretton Woods institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that provide aid to countries, but most of the programs are not designed with MDG-based poverty reduction strategies. Often the countries' specific circumstances are not taken into account, as long as they exchange liberalization for funding. The IMF program design pays almost no attention to the Goals when considering the country's budget or macroeconomic framework.⁷⁶ In its work the UN Millennium Project has found that bilateral and multilateral institutions are not encouraging countries to consider the MDGs as serious objectives.⁷⁷ One of the main reasons that progress is slowed in achieving the MDGs is that the developing countries have plans to address poverty, but no funds to implement these plans.⁷⁸

Another obstacle to obtaining the MDGs is that multilateral agencies are not coordinating their support. Most multilateral organizations compete for donor and government funding to implement small projects, instead of supporting country-scale plans and budgets.⁷⁹ There is some progress in this area with various UN agencies, programs and funds coordinating their efforts through the UN Development Group (UNDG) at headquarters and through UN Country Teams at the country level. However, many of these organizations are still forums for discussion rather than action.⁸⁰

Development assistance to developing countries is for the most part not proportional to the countries that need the most assistance for achieving the MDGs. The IMF Managing Director has written that it is the developed world that has the most responsibility for ensuring the achievement of the Goals. Investments in the developing world cannot be increased until the ODA is. Often the amount of assistance that is given to developing countries is based on donor preferences and not by the developing countries needs. The amount of aid to the developing world is not growing as fast as promised.⁸¹

The UN Millennium Project has established some guidelines for donor nations in order to improve aid delivery. Donor countries need to confirm the goals as operational targets for the countries. It is imperative that multilateral and bilateral development agencies make explicit their support for MDG-based poverty reduction strategies. Donor support needs to be focused so that the countries with the most needs in terms of achieving the MDGs receive the

⁷³ "Why the MDGs are important, where we stand, and why we're falling short." *A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. United Nations Development Group. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/fullreport.htm>.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ "The Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Role Fact Sheet. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDGs-FACTSHEET1.pdf>

⁷⁸ "World Bank and Donors Must Change to Reach MDGs Says Jeff Sachs." World Bank. <http://info.worldbank.org/etools/bSPAN/PresentationView.asp?PID=1061&EID=548>

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

appropriate amount instead of aid being focused on geo-political motivations. Countries must also address the long-term development goals. There needs to be a 10-year framework that also supports the 3-to-5 year strategies.⁸²

It is important that the ODA levels are established according to the MDG needs assessment. The reoccurring pattern seems to be that the donor countries simply give funding to their allies and not to the countries that actually need it the most. The majority of low-income countries will not be able to achieve the MDGs without substantial help from the donor countries.

Conclusion

Unlike previously established goals and targets, the Millennium Goals are unique because they represent a compact between the world's major economic players, and the performance of these goals is being monitored. Furthermore, the goals are clearly achievable because they are the "minimum" goals – setting the bar any lower would be morally unacceptable.⁸³

There is still a lot that the international community must address in order for all countries to be successful. The UN and other international agencies cannot simply overlook the struggle of HIPC and developing countries in achieving the goals. A concerted international effort must begin immediately if the Goals are to be accomplished in the set time frame. Donor countries need to ensure that they are meeting their promised aid donations. How can hunger be eradicated if the food program in Darfur, established to feed the internally displaced people there, must be cut in half due to lack of funding? At the same time, developing countries must also establish that they are dedicated to reaching the Goals and institute specific deadlines and objectives to be met in order to be successful.

Committee Directive

This topic is not about what successes each country has had on its own in achieving the Goals, but instead on what the international community needs to do in order for all countries to be successful by 2015. What needs to be done in order to ensure that donor countries are donating the full amount they previously promised? Who should be responsible for determining which developing countries receive the most aid? What provisions need to be in place to ensure that the aid is being used specifically for achieving the Goals? Overall, what needs to be established so that all countries can be successful?

II. Trends of Corruption in the 21st Century

*"Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid."*⁸⁴

-Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Introduction

The word corruption, from the Latin word "*corruptus*," literally meaning, "to destroy", takes many forms with different types of participants, settings, stakes, techniques and different degrees of cultural legitimacy.⁸⁵ While corruption often means stealing, for those who hold power in decision-making processes such as governmental offices, it can relate to the abuse of power. Corruption is a deviation from ethics, morality, tradition, law and civic

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ "About the Goals." United Nations Millennium Campaign.

<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c+grKVL2NLE&b=185455>.

⁸⁴ "Secretary-General's statement on the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Corruption." *The Secretary General's Comments*. United Nations. New York, 31 October 2003.

<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=602>.

⁸⁵ "Corruption Definition." Zero Tolerance Campaign.

http://www.anticorruption.info/corr_def.htm. Zero Tolerance Campaign. 2004.

virtue.⁸⁶ Examples of corruption include but are not limited to; dishonesty or a breach of trust by a public officer in his duties, insider dealing and conflicts of interests and fraudulence, including bribes, blackmail and election fraud.⁸⁷ Corruption also includes the acceptance of any gratification from another person to benefit oneself or any other person. These descriptions however are not all inclusive; a wide range of dubious economic and political practices in which politicians and bureaucrats enrich themselves by abusing public power to a personal end may be classified as corruption. In a stricter definition, political corruption involves political decision makers, often leading to the misallocation of resources, the manipulation of political institutions and the rules of procedure, which may eventually lead to institutional decay.⁸⁸ A working definition used by the World Bank is that corruption is *the abuse of public power for private benefit*.⁸⁹

Corruption impacts lives in many diverse ways. From affecting an individual's finances to impacting the quality of their healthcare to reducing their level of freedom, corruption affects people throughout the world. The impact can range from an explosion in a fireworks factory because the inspectors overlooked regulation violations in exchange for free fireworks to the disappearance of an activist raising awareness to a government's actions that were detrimental to a nomadic indigenous people.⁹⁰

History and Background

While the concept of corruption has existed since the history of mankind, it became a subject of substantial theorization and empirical research particularly over the last half-century, when the nation-state became an indispensable instrument for economic development.⁹¹ Particularly in the last decade, corruption became the increasing focus of diplomatic discourse, news and research.⁹²

As the link between corruption, nation-states and development becomes increasingly obvious, many key players, including governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) are addressing corruption more aggressively.⁹³ According to the United Nations Convention on Corruption (UNCAC), there are several types of corruption that are to be criminalized.⁹⁴ They include bribery, embezzlement, influence trading, fund concealment and money laundering. Bribery, defined as money or favors given or promised in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust, is one subset of corruption.⁹⁵ Embezzlement, such as using corporate assets for personal use or the multimillion dollar scams of Enron and WorldCom in the United States, is defined as the fraudulent conversion of property of another by a person in lawful possession of that property.⁹⁶ Fund concealment, a process where governments and individuals either do not disclose the full details of their funds to the proper authorities or conceal their funds in offshore banks, is a 3rd type.⁹⁷ Finally, money laundering, which has become more common in developing nations where the financial sector is seeking a short-term engine of growth, is a process where criminals funnel their proceeds through what appears to be a legitimate financial institution.⁹⁸

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Inge Amundsen. *Political Corruption: An Introduction to the Issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute, Development Studies and Human Rights. Bergen, Norway. 1999. http://www.cmi.no/publications/1999_percent5Cwp_percent5Cwp1999-7.pdf

⁹⁰ "Transparency International: Corruption FAQs." Transparency International. http://www.transparency.org/news_room/faq/corruption_faq

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² "Corruption". Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center. American University. Washington D.C. <http://www.american.edu/tracc/transcrime/corruption.html>

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ "United Nations Convention Against Corruption." United Nations Convention Against Corruption. http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_convention_corruption.html

⁹⁵ "Bribery." *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*. Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/bribe>

⁹⁶ "Embezzlement – What is it?" Free Advice. http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/white_collar_crimes/embezzlement.htm

⁹⁷ "Testimony of Ian Vásquez, Director of the Project on Global Economic Liberty of the Cato Institute before the General Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the United States House of Representatives." Cato Institute. Washington D.C. 1998. <http://www.cato.org/testimony/ct-iv042198.html>

⁹⁸ "Global Programme Against Money Laundering." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money_laundering.html

Effects of Corruption

Corruption undermines the concepts of democracy and good governance, and erodes the institutional capacity of government as procedures are disregarded and resources are misused or misallocated.⁹⁹ It slows economic growth by deterring companies, investments and the outreach of aid programs, because it increases basic business uncertainty. Corruption leads to inefficient allocation of resources, increases in the cost of business, decreases in investor confidence, reduced competition and decreases in the quality of public projects and services.¹⁰⁰ For investors that make their decisions based on the expected rate of return, corruption is a deterrent, because the expected profit rate for potential investors decreases when the level of corruption increases.¹⁰¹ These international investors are therefore more likely to invest their capital in the country with the highest expected returns.¹⁰²

One of the causes of lower investment returns in corrupt nations is the high transaction cost that comes with corruption. Corruption violates the rule of law, a prerequisite for a market economy.¹⁰³ Such a violation of the rule of law leads to higher transaction costs because investors spend more money trying to guarantee a good transaction. For example, it is estimated that senior managers in countries with widespread corruption spend about 20 percent of their working time negotiating corruption and enforcing corruption contracts.¹⁰⁴ If there is no rule of law, then there is no protection of private property rights and little contract enforcement, leading to lower levels of social division of labor, thereby decreasing economic efficiency and social welfare.¹⁰⁵ Because corruption decreases expected returns from investment, corrupt countries receive less foreign direct investment, and therefore suffer lower growth rates.

Another related effect of corruption is the possibility that corruption might reduce the effectiveness of aid flows. If the funds are diverted to help support unproductive and wasteful government expenditures, then some donors may scale back their assistance to that country.¹⁰⁶ Similarly, the composition of government expenditure may be distorted by government officials who spend based on the opportunity they provide for extorting bribes, rather than on the basis of public welfare.¹⁰⁷ In these cases, foreign aid may foster corruption if the size of resources fought over by interest points and factions within a corrupt government are increased.¹⁰⁸

New research also shows that there is a strong causal effect between the control of corruption and development outcomes such as lower infant mortality rates and higher rates of literacy.¹⁰⁹ Furthermore, corruption jeopardizes efforts to protect the environment, as pay-offs derail the formulation or implementation of effective policies. From a political standpoint, corruption undermines the legitimacy of elected officials and democratic values and reduces representation in policy-making. As a result, the rule of law is eroded and the performance of public institutions is devastated.¹¹⁰ Corruption also facilitates trafficking, money laundering and organized crime.¹¹¹

⁹⁹ Paolo Mauro. *Why Worry About Corruption?* International Monetary Fund. 1997.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues6/index.htm>

¹⁰⁰ "Corruption Definition" Zero Tolerance Campaign. 2004. http://www.anticorruption.info/corr_def.htm.

¹⁰¹ Boris Begovic. "Corruption: Concepts, Types, Causes and Consequences" *Economic Reform Feature Service*. Center for International Private Enterprise. Washington D.C. March 21, 2005.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Paolo Mauro. "Why Worry About Corruption?" International Monetary Fund.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues6/index.htm>

¹⁰⁸ Beatrice Weder and Alberto Alesina. "Do Corrupt Governments Receive Less Foreign Aid?" *American Economic Review*. Vol. 92, No. 4, September 2002. pp. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8282_percent28200209_percent2992_percent3A4_percent3C1126_percent3ADCGRLF_percent3E2.0.CO_percent3B2-L&size=LARGE

¹⁰⁹ "Corruption Definition" Zero Tolerance Campaign. 2004. http://www.anticorruption.info/corr_def.htm.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

Causes of Corruption

While corruption is found everywhere, it runs particularly rampant in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and in many newly industrialized states and post communist countries.¹¹² However, corruption is not limited to developing nations and authoritarian regimes and is also commonly found in liberal democracies. Some theories suggest that corruption is derived from moral and cultural characteristics of individual societies.¹¹³ For example, cultural values from the past including gift-giving, negotiations and solidarity with extended families, clans and other communal groups may be carried over into present day political behavior. This theory of cultural differences may help to explain the contrast between Africa and Europe, and the differences between the catholic Western European countries with a “Latin” culture and the Nordic, protestant countries. This is particularly true for some countries in which the act for the benefit of a state agent’s family and friends is not banned by law and may be considered a moral duty. It is important to note that the illegality of corruption varies across countries according to the national legislation and customs.

However, more concrete explanations for the causes of public corruption are generally tied to government intervention in the economy. This is because government regulations, including policies aimed at liberalization, stabilization, deregulation and privatization, generally rely on officials that have discretion in applying them.¹¹⁴ Economic reforms are dependent on political and administrative reforms, such as good governance and civil service reforms, accountability, human rights, multi-parties and democratization.¹¹⁵

As a result, the governmental structures of nation-states are directly related to levels of corruption within that state. Because authoritarian power holders need to enrich themselves, deliberately applied corruption is often a means of basic operation.¹¹⁶ Often in these same authoritarian countries, the legal bases against which corrupt practices are usually evaluated and judged are weak and subject to further encroachment by the rulers. While the normalcy of political corruption is generally linked to forms of authoritarianism, a large number of corruption scandals in liberal democracies have also surfaced. However, in democratic countries, the problem of political corruption is more incidental and occasional. These cases of corruption can usually be dealt with within the existing framework of the political system by reforming, strengthening and vitalizing the existing political institutions of checks and balances.¹¹⁷

From an economic standpoint, statistics suggest that the level of corruption varies inversely with the level of economic prosperity. In other words, the level of corruption decreases when a country grows richer. According to data from the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International and the income data from the GNP per capita of 1995 basic indicators of a World Development Report by the World Bank, there is a strong relation between the level of income and corruption. In countries with high levels of income, the corruption levels are lower.¹¹⁸

Examples of Corruption

In Latin America, corruption has been commonplace for centuries. Bribes are paid in order to obtain drivers licenses and university degrees, embezzlers enrich their personal fortunes, government resources are used in order to win elections and large-scale drugs and arms trafficking organizations conduct business without much fear of punishment.¹¹⁹ Recent attempts at reforms within Latin America, focused on institutional reorganization, did not

¹¹² Inge Amundsen. *Political Corruption: An Introduction to the Issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute, Development Studies and Human Rights. Bergen, Norway. 1999. http://www.cmi.no/publications/1999_percent5Cwp_percent5Cwp1999-7.pdf

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Paolo Mauro. *Why Worry About Corruption?* International Monetary Fund. 1997. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues6/index.htm>

¹¹⁵ “Transparency International: Corruption FAQs.” Transparency International. http://www.transparency.org/news_room/faq/corruption_faq

¹¹⁶ Inge Amundsen. *Political Corruption: An Introduction to the Issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute, Development Studies and Human Rights. Bergen, Norway. 1999. http://www.cmi.no/publications/1999_percent5Cwp_percent5Cwp1999-7.pdf

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Michelle Lescure. “Corruption – Panama – Latin America.” World Press Review. April 11, 2002. <http://www.worldpress.org/Americas/521.cfm>

achieve the desired results due to weak public officials who were not able to or did not desire to enact the reform.¹²⁰ Civil society based anti-corruption initiatives also failed because criminals used these initiatives to create a positive public image for themselves.¹²¹ Very often, there were no adequate resources and little funding to fight corruption, and the efforts generally failed.¹²²

Particularly in Latin America, the media has played an important role in fighting corruption. The media has the potential to not only highlight the use of public funds, but also to hold politicians accountable, deter government corruption and to pressure the government to institute reforms. Quality journalism has the ability to engender a democratic mindset and citizens will ultimately demand accountability.¹²³ Reporters are often the ones who investigate and expose corruption instead of prosecutors and police.¹²⁴ Unfortunately, these efforts to combat corruption are often met with opposition from those being exposed. In Panama for example, the impact of corruption was evident in the local communities, because the funds allocated to these communities were generally not used to make the improvements that they are designated for. Trails of fake receipts and false promises were used to account for the money pocketed by local officials. In a backlash against reporters exposing such corruption, in April of 2002, almost 90 of the country's 200 active journalists were charged with or were facing charges of defamation against the Republic of Panama.¹²⁵

Another highly publicized example of corruption was the recent Oil-for-Food Programme scandal. Founded in 1995 under United Nations Security Council Resolution 986, the Oil-for-Food Programme provided a way for the Iraqi government to sell oil on the world market in order to procure food and humanitarian supplies for Iraqi citizens.¹²⁶ Unfortunately, as a result of corruption, oil was provided to government officials, journalists, activists and U.N. officials so that they could resell that oil for personal profit.¹²⁷ Additionally, a surcharge was allegedly placed on commercial oil sales by Saddam Hussein, who pocketed the money.¹²⁸ In January 2004, several Iraqi documents were found alleging that the U.N. and other officials had profited from the sales.¹²⁹ Implicated in the Oil-for-Food corruption scandal are officials from various governments, the U.N. administrator of the program, as well as the Secretary General Kofi Annan's son, Kojo Annan. Kojo Annan worked for a company called Cotecna, which was awarded a contract to oversee the Oil-for-Food program. In a report released in February 2005, the Independent Inquiry Commission into the Oil-for-Food Programme, headed by Paul Vockler, did not make specific allegations against Kojo Annan, declaring that they would continue to look into his involvement in the scandal.¹³⁰

National Efforts to Combat Corruption

Corruption occurs at all levels: local, national and international. It is essential that governments work together to enforce anti-corruption legislation and regulations in order to maintain the trust of their citizenship. In general, high levels of corruption are often observed where the population views the government as illegitimate, or in states that play an interventionist role in the economy.¹³¹

Following the end of the Cold War, the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe were plagued by corruption. After years of Soviet rule, not only was democracy introduced, but also adapting the institutions to democratic rule has been a problem for many of the former Soviet satellite states. Recent examples of countries that have taken dramatic actions to reduce and remove corruption include Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. Georgia's "Rose Revolution" in 2003, the election of Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko in January 2005's "Orange

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ "UN Office for the Iraq Program – Oil for Food." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/depts/oip/index.html>

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ "Sorting it Out: Oil for Food." *St. Petersburg Times*. 18 December 2004: 8A.

¹³⁰ Paul Vockler, et al. "Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme." United Nations, 53.

¹³¹ Inge Amundsen. *Political Corruption: An Introduction to the Issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute, Development Studies and Human Rights. Bergen, Norway. 1999. http://www.cmi.no/publications/1999_percent5Cwp_percent5Cwp1999-7.pdf

Revolution” and the March 2005 “Tulip Revolution” in Kyrgyzstan marked turning points in the global fight against corruption.¹³² The populace, tired of the methods of sustaining their power employed by the government, finally committed themselves to changing the structure of government.¹³³

Prior to the Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia rampant corruption was crippling national development. Georgia had been governed by Eduard Shevardnadze since 1992, and his family became increasingly associated with corruption, leading to a political and socioeconomic crisis that peaked near the November 2003 parliamentary elections, which were denounced by local and international observers as being grossly rigged. Massive anti-governmental demonstrations followed, and on November 22, supporters of a popular opposition group seized the parliament building with roses in their hands, resulting in Shevardnadze’s resignation. On March 28, 2004, new parliamentary elections were held. To demonstrate the new government’s commitment to building a stable and modern European democracy, several reforms were launched and strong anti-corruption measures were established.

The Orange Revolution that followed the 2004 Ukrainian presidential election may have been partly inspired by the Rose Revolution of Georgia. Similarly, the massive corruption, voter intimidation and direct electoral fraud during the Ukrainian presidential election of November 2004 led to the inauguration of a regime led by Victor Yushchenko that was dedicated to fighting corruption. In the first six months of Yushchenko’s administration, a series of anti-corruption measures were adopted.¹³⁴ The June 2005 roundtable discussion of the World Economic Forum discussed the corruption in Ukraine in depth and proposed ten action steps to deal with corruption to Yushchenko. Nine of the ten steps dealt indirectly with corruption, and the tenth step had several provisions dealing directly with corruption. The tenth step recommended blacklisting companies that were identified as corrupt, basing appointments to the civil service and judiciary on merit, raising the salaries of civil servants to reduce the incentives of corruption, introducing a new system for public procurement, and disclosing the salaries and business affiliations of senior members of government, judges and legislators.¹³⁵ All ten steps were accepted by Yushchenko’s government with enthusiasm. The most notable of the initiatives pursued by the Yushchenko government is an anti-smuggling program, which addresses bribery to avoid paying import taxes and customs duties.

In Kyrgyzstan, the new government that came to power following the Tulip Revolution was quick to commit itself to fighting corruption. Living under a corrupt, authoritarian regime for 14 years, the public was finally able to remove the administration from power. The new coalition government that took power quickly acted in order to investigate the abuses of the previous administration. Furthermore, the government announced the creation of an anti-corruption center that is also comprised of a monitoring agency that has oversight of local government institutions.¹³⁶

Unfortunately, in each of these three countries, the newfound democratic governments remain fragile, and remnants of the older, corrupt institutions still remain. Without the continued efforts of the governments and the international community to combat corruption, the dramatic results of these revolutions may be stifled.

Other efforts to curb corruption throughout the world have taken place in countries such as Uganda, Latvia and South Korea. In Uganda, only 13 percent of government funds allocated for school supplies were reaching the actual schools. In an effort to reduce the problem, all fund transfers were published in newspapers and broadcast on the radio. Schools were required to post public notices of all funds received. Three years after the reforms were initiated, 90 percent of funds allocated were received by the schools. In Latvia, in a major reorganization of the State Revenue Service tax and customs functions, citizen oversight activities were included in the reforms in order to increase the level of transparency in the taxation process. Before their 2000 election, South Korean civil society watchdogs published lists of candidates and parties tainted with corruption and the press disseminated these lists and provided additional investigative reporting.¹³⁷

¹³² Jana Kotalik & Diana Rodriguez. *Global Corruption Report 2006: Transparency International*. Ann Arbor: Pluto Press, 2006.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ Ed. Kotalik Jana & Rodriguez Diana, 266.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ Ed. Kotalik Jana & Rodriguez Diana, 195-198.

¹³⁷ Ed. Spector, Bertram I. *Fighting Corruption in Developing Countries*. Bloomfield: Kumarian, 2005, 3.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

One of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aims to effectively halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015.¹³⁸ Poverty and corruption are linked. In order for the world community to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty, it must take steps to remove corruption. The traditional belief about corruption held by both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank is that it is a political, and not an economic problem. However, a recent study completed by the IMF disproved this long-held belief. The study highlighted that corruption raises the cost of capital for investors, reduces the returns on investment and causes several other structural problems in the government.¹³⁹ Due to the problems caused by corruption in the government, business and private sectors, the United Nations realized that it was necessary to create a convention against corruption that was independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Adopted in October 2003, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) contains provisions that stress the need for the prevention of corruption in both the public and private sectors, while stressing the need for the criminalization of corruption. It also outlines the several types of corruption that are to be criminalized, while providing mechanisms for asset recovery for states that are victims of corruption.¹⁴⁰ Prior to the creation of the UNCAC, many international anti-corruption agreements existed, but their implementation was uneven and only moderately successful. However, the UNCAC gave the world an opportunity to address these weaknesses. As a result of the UNCAC, the Global Programme against Corruption (GPAC) was created to serve as a resource to help countries effectively implement the provisions of the UNCAC, in order to provide practical assistance and build technical capacity by supporting member states in the development of anti-corruption policies and institutions.¹⁴¹

International Efforts to Combat Corruption

In the private sector, efforts are being made to reduce corruption in the media. The Charter on Media Transparency, developed by the International Public Relations Association, contains several provisions to foster greater transparency in the media and to end bribery for media coverage throughout the world. In order to achieve these goals, the charter has provisions that address the necessity for advertisements to be clearly labeled, for news coverage to appear solely for its merit, and for media organizations to institute written policies about the receipt of gifts or discounted products or services.¹⁴²

In the last decade, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations also became increasingly active in working with nation states and local governments to combat corruption. Transparency International (TI), founded in 1993 by Peter Eigen and others that shared his vision of a world free of corruption, focuses on removing corruption through their three basic principles: coalition building, proceeding incrementally, and remaining non-confrontational.¹⁴³

Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organization, became involved in combating corruption in April 1998 with their first International Conference on Corruption Related Crimes. The conference established the International Group of Experts on Corruption (IEGC), which was mandated with developing and implementing an anti-corruption strategy, by raising awareness of corruption and its effects and improving law-enforcement's ability to deal with corruption.¹⁴⁴ In addition to adopting both a code of ethics and a code of conduct for law enforcement officials, IEGC has conducted a survey of police integrity and published a library of best practices for law enforcement officials dealing with corruption.¹⁴⁵

¹³⁸ "Millennium Development Goals." United Nations Development Programme. <http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal1.shtml>

¹³⁹ "Combating Corruption." *Hindustan Times*. 9 November 2005.

¹⁴⁰ "United Nations Convention against Corruption." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2006. http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_convention_corruption.html.

¹⁴¹ "Corruption." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2006. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/corruption.html>.

¹⁴² "Six Global Organizations Join Forces against Bribery for Media Coverage." U.S. Newswire. 13 August 2004.

¹⁴³ "Transparency International: Corruption FAQs." Transparency International. 2006. http://www.transparency.org/news_room/faq/corruption_faq.

¹⁴⁴ "Corruption: International Group of Experts on Corruption." Interpol. 2005. <http://www.interpol.int/public/corruption/iegc/Default.asp>

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

Conclusion

Recent efforts to combat corruption have shown that any such efforts must rely on prevention, awareness and enforcement.¹⁴⁶ Preventative measures include limiting opportunities for corruption by increasing transparency, improving oversight, and realigning official incentives to public ends. Awareness raising measures should include strengthening civil society organizations, advocacy, monitoring and investigative journalism. Such efforts also require political leadership, collective action and an in-depth knowledge of the situation in order to tailor reform strategies to specific problems.¹⁴⁷

The United Nations Convention against Corruption, alongside Interpol's International Conferences on Corruption Related Crimes and the Charter on Media Transparency are some of the ways that the international community is working together in order to eradicate corruption. However, due to the extensive nature and diversity of corruption, the United Nations and other international organizations must continue to work against the threat of corruption by addressing its underlying issues, including poverty, culture, and governmental infrastructure.

A 1997 World Development Report stated that "an effective state is vital for the provision of the goods and services – and the rules and institutions – that allow markets to flourish and people to lead healthier, happier lives. Without it, sustainable development, both economic and social is impossible."¹⁴⁸ Thus, in order for the world to make progress to reach the Millennium Development Goals, which include eradicating poverty and increasing economic development, it is of utmost importance that we continue our efforts to combat corruption.

Committee Directives

Nobel Prize laureate Gary Becker once said: "if we abolish the state, we abolish corruption."¹⁴⁹ While it is not the mission of the United Nations nor this committee to abolish the state, it is important for delegates to examine the relationship of their nation state in relation to corruption. Delegates will be required to address the level of corruption present in their own nations. Is corruption present? What has the government done in order to reduce and remove corruption threats to the nation? Delegates must examine their nations' efforts to fight against global corruption, and the methods that work best within that country. Delegates should not only evaluate their own country's efforts to fight corruption but should also assess the international efforts against corruption. What efforts does your country believe should be taken against corrupt regimes throughout the world? How does your country interact with the media? How can the international community effectively fight corruption at the local level? What can the international community do in order to protect the global economy against the threat of corruption? All of these questions should address efforts to combat corruption within the 21st century.

III. Supporting Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

"For most people, their government's ability to provide basic services and improve living standards is where democracy succeeds or fails"-Ambassador Rodger Noriega¹⁵⁰

Introduction

Governance is a concept as old as human civilization and is defined as "the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)."¹⁵¹ Democratic governance is central to the

¹⁴⁶ "Corruption Definition" Zero Tolerance Campaign. 2004. http://www.anticorruption.info/corr_def.htm.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Inge Amundsen. *Political Corruption: An Introduction to the Issues*. Chr. Michelsen Institute, Development Studies and Human Rights. Bergen, Norway. 1999. http://www.cmi.no/publications/1999_percent5Cwp_percent5Cwp1999-7.pdf

¹⁴⁹ Boris Begovic. "Corruption: Concepts, Types, Causes and Consequences" *Economic Reform Feature Service*. Center for International Private Enterprise. Washington D.C. March 21, 2005.

¹⁵⁰ "USAID Supports Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean." United States Agency for International Development. August 2004. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/pdf/dg_goodgovernance.pdf.

¹⁵¹ "What is Good Governance?" United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. 2005. <http://www.unescap.org/huset/gg/governance.htm>.

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) because it provides an enabling environment for their realization, in particular, the elimination of poverty.¹⁵² The Millennium Summit of 2000 highlighted the importance of democratic governance when the world's leaders resolved to "spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for the internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development."¹⁵³ According to a UN strategy document on the MDGs, "the MDGs have to be situated within the broader norms and standards of the Millennium Declaration," including those on "human rights, democracy, and good governance."¹⁵⁴

Today, 140 countries in the world are governed by democratic regimes in which multiparty elections are held.¹⁵⁵ However, only 80 of these countries with 55 percent of the world's population are fully democratic.¹⁵⁶ Some contend that many democratically elected governments tend to maintain their authority by undemocratic means, such as amending their national constitutions to favor themselves and intervening in the electoral process and undermining the independence of the legislative and judicial branches. Democracy cannot be defined as simply holding elections. Full democracy also includes public institutions and a culture that accepts the legitimacy of political opposition and recognizes and advocates for everyone's rights.¹⁵⁷

Latin American and Caribbean leaders agree that democratization has taken place over the past decade and that the countries of the region are meeting the minimum requirements of democracy. Popular participation and checks and balances on the exercise of power have increased, and threats to democracy by the insubordination of the military have decreased. However, political parties are failing to effectively channel the demands of their citizens.¹⁵⁸

The 2004 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Report on Democracy in Latin America drew attention to declining public faith in the institution of democracy for many reasons including poverty and the government's inability to effectively deliver public services such as education, health and public security. In 1996, 61 percent of citizens in Latin America surveyed preferred democracy to any other form of government but in 2002 only 57 percent did.¹⁵⁹ In the 2002 survey, 45 percent of the people who stated that they preferred democracy also stated that they would prefer an authoritarian government if that government could resolve the economic problems in their country.¹⁶⁰ These statistics underscore the importance of good governance and citizen support to the acceptance of long-term democracy in the Latin American and Caribbean region.¹⁶¹

Governance

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development."¹⁶² The United Nations promotes democracy mainly for the fact that democracy and human rights are interlinked and "mutually reinforcing." In Resolution 60/253, passed in May of 2006, the General Assembly states: "democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives."¹⁶³

¹⁵² "Governance and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)." United Nations Development Program. <http://www.undp.org/governance/mdgs.htm>.

¹⁵³ "Democratic Governance." United Nations Development Program. <http://www.undp.org/governance/about.htm>.

¹⁵⁴ "USAID Supports Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean." United States Agency for International Development. August 2004. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/pdf/dg_goodgovernance.pdf.

¹⁵⁵ "Deepening democracy in a fragmented world." *Human Development Report 2002*. United Nations Development Program. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2002/en/pdf/overview.pdf>.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ "Report on Democracy in Latin America." United Nations Development Programme. http://www.undp.org/democracy_report_latam/latin_america/executive_summary.pdf

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ "USAID Supports Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean." United States Agency for International Development. August 2004. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/pdf/dg_goodgovernance.pdf.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

According to the World Bank, there are 6 distinct aspects of governance: voice and participation, rule of law, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality and graft, or the control of corruption within a country.¹⁶⁴ Other institutions specifically list a few additional important characteristics which are vital to good governance's success, including: transparency, accountability, responsiveness, consensus orientation, and equity and inclusiveness, most of which fall under the umbrella of the 6 aspects of governance as defined by the World Bank.¹⁶⁵

Voice and participation by both men and women through direct or legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives in aspects of the political process, civil liberties and political rights is crucial.¹⁶⁶ Studies show that participation of women in government leads to more effective government and lower levels of corruption.¹⁶⁷ Good governance also requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved.¹⁶⁸ In general, acting in the interest of the whole community requires that fair legal frameworks and rule of law be impartially enforced by an independent judiciary and an impartial and incorruptible police force. Having the rule of law in a society is reflected by the extent to which people have confidence in and abide by the rules of society. In several studies, it has been shown that the growth of income of the poor depends very much on the rule of law. While there is a strong link between rule of law and democracy, the relationship sometimes diverges. In general when the relationship diverges, countries with reasonably good rule of law but lacking democracy tend to have rapid poverty reduction (China for example), while countries with democracies but weak rule of law do not do well (Nicaragua for example).¹⁶⁹

Unfortunately for many countries, rule of law does not exist due to the political instability in their societies. Political instability and violence reflects the likelihood that the government in power will be destabilized by unconstitutional or violent means, including domestic violence and terrorism.¹⁷⁰ In a country that lacks political stability, changes in government may have a direct effect on the continuity of policy, and undermine the ability of citizens to peacefully select and replace those in power. Government effectiveness includes the responses on the quality of public service provision, bureaucracy, the competence of civil servants and the credibility of the government's commitment to policies. On the other hand, regulatory quality refers more to the policies themselves, including market-unfriendly policies and inadequate bank supervision. The control of corruption is closely linked to government effectiveness and regulatory quality, because the burdens imposed by excessive or too little regulation in areas such as foreign trade and business development are directly influenced by the government in power. Graft is the measure of perceptions of corruption, or the exercise of public power for private gain.

Each of these characteristics is interrelated. The 2002 Human Development Report states that democracy is valuable in itself but also in its tie to human development.¹⁷¹ Democratic governance is a key condition for human development since it is through politics and not only through economics that it is possible to create more equitable conditions and to expand the opportunities for people.¹⁷² Democracy provides the opportunity for political and social participation, especially for the most disadvantaged, which are the poor and minorities.¹⁷³ Promoting

¹⁶⁴ "Governance and Social Justice in Caribbean States." Development Research Group. The World Bank. June 2000. [http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/\\$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf).

¹⁶⁵ "USAID Supports Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean." United States Agency for International Development. August 2004. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/pdf/dg_goodgovernance.pdf.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

¹⁶⁷ "Governance and Social Justice in Caribbean States." Development Research Group. The World Bank. June 2000. [http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/\\$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf).

¹⁶⁸ "USAID Supports Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean." United States Agency for International Development. August 2004. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/pdf/dg_goodgovernance.pdf.

¹⁶⁹ "Governance and Social Justice in Caribbean States." Development Research Group. The World Bank. June 2000. [http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/\\$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf).

¹⁷⁰ "Governance and Anti-Corruption." World Bank. 2004. <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/kkz2004/q&a.htm#2>

¹⁷¹ "Deepening democracy in a fragmented world." *Human Development Report 2002*. United Nations Development Program. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2002/en/pdf/overview.pdf>.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ "Governance and Anti-Corruption." World Bank. 2004. <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/kkz2004/q&a.htm#2>

democratic politics means expanding capabilities such as education, to enable people to play a more effective role in such politics, and fostering the development of civil society groups and other informal institutions to help democratic institutions better represent the people.¹⁷⁴

When democratic governments do not respond to the needs of poor people, the increasing frustration of the lack of opportunities and the high levels of inequality, poverty and social exclusions becomes expressed by instability, a loss of confidence in the political system, radical action and crises of governance that threaten the stability of the democratic system.¹⁷⁵ The public then becomes more inclined to support authoritarian or populist leaders who claim that limiting civil liberties and political freedoms will accelerate economic growth and promote social progress and stability.¹⁷⁶

Governance in Latin America

In Latin America 18 countries fulfill the basic requirements of a democratic regime. However, the citizens of these countries are still faced with high levels of poverty and the highest levels of inequality in the world.¹⁷⁷ In Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay, more than 30 percent of the population lives below the extreme poverty line. In Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Peru, extreme poverty or indigence rates range between 20 and 24 percent.¹⁷⁸ More than half of the population living in extreme poverty is concentrated in just three countries: Brazil (25 percent), Mexico (14 percent) and Colombia (12 percent), showing that the majority of the poor population is concentrated in those countries with the largest populations.¹⁷⁹

In Latin America high income inequality and poverty go hand in hand with low public trust in political institutions and greater willingness to accept authoritarian rule and violations of human rights. These lead to other obstacles in promoting good governance. A key challenge to the deepening of democracy is that political parties in these countries are deeply distrusted as representatives of the people, thereby decreasing participation, a major characteristic of good governance. As a result the “Report on Democracy in Latin America” showed that participation in elections is uneven because in some countries the level of participation is very low and new entrants to the electoral contests face barriers to their entry.¹⁸⁰ In addition, participation in policy debates and formulation is increasingly limited to few people.¹⁸¹

Related to participation is the equality of men and women and the protection of basic human rights. During the 1960s, disenfranchisement and lack of faith of democracy combined with the success of the Cuban Revolution fed the idea that more just societies could be attained through political violence.¹⁸² However, concern in the developed world eventually led to transitions to democracy in almost every country in Latin America in the 1980s. Most of the countries in the region have ratified the main international treaties and enacted domestic laws concerned with equality under the law and the protection against discrimination as well as women’s rights, including the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearances, the Inter-American Convention against Torture, and the Convention on the Prevention of Violence against Women.¹⁸³ But where these countries have faltered is in accepting the international treaties that provide protection for the right to life, to humane

¹⁷⁴ “Deepening democracy in a fragmented world.” *Human Development Report 2002*. United Nations Development Program. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2002/en/pdf/front.pdf>.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ “Deepening democracy in a fragmented world.” *Human Development Report 2002*. United Nations Development Program. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002. <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2002/en/pdf/front.pdf>.

¹⁷⁷ “Report on Democracy in Latin America.” United Nations Development Programme. http://www.undp.org/democracy_report_latin_america/exective_summary.pdf

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ “Combating poverty and hunger.” *The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective*. United Nations Publications. Santiago, Chile. August 2005. <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/0/21540/chapter2.pdf>

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ Juan Mendez and Javier Maricurena “Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Regional Perspective.” United Nations Development Program. 2000. [http://hdr.undp.org/docs/publications/background_papers/mendez2000.pdf#search=percent22human percent20rights percent20treaty percent20latin percent20america percent22](http://hdr.undp.org/docs/publications/background_papers/mendez2000.pdf#search=percent22human%20rights%20treaty%20latin%20america%20)

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

treatment and to security. While most of the States no longer commit gross human rights violations, they have been unable to control the parastatal or criminal forces that do so within their borders.¹⁸⁴

In terms of equity and inclusiveness, while significant achievements have been made, including the allotment of seats in the legislature for women, indigenous peoples and Afro-Descendants are still under-represented in governmental institutions.¹⁸⁵ In a number of the countries, the executive branch continues to openly interfere in the affairs of the Supreme Court, although some progress has been made towards constitutional reforms aimed at professionalizing and strengthening the independence of the judiciary.¹⁸⁶

The trends towards social citizenship have also not been as positive as expected. The most serious challenge for Latin American democracies is that the groups that are frequently excluded from the full exercise of social citizenship are the same ones that have limited participation in other aspects of citizenship. This is mainly caused by poverty and inequality, which do not allow individuals to express themselves on matters of public concern as citizens with full and equal rights and which undermine their social inclusion. In 15 out of the 18 countries studied, more than 25 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and in 7 of these countries, more than half live under it.¹⁸⁷

Governance in the Caribbean

The Caribbean Region consists of 23 relatively small independent islands, dependent territories, and sovereign states, most of which share a common history of European colonization and mono-crop plantation economies, giving rise to a number of developmental similarities and strong correlations among their current economic problems.¹⁸⁸ In the Caribbean, Haiti is the country with the highest poverty and indigence rates, not only in the Caribbean but also in the entire region. Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname also have high poverty rates.

There are several reasons why the countries in the Caribbean have not achieved higher levels of economic development, including the lack of diverse and open economies, government-ownership of inefficient state enterprises, and the lack of good governance measures.¹⁸⁹ In addition the wide-scale breakdown in the rule of law is largely related to the transnational trade in illegal drugs. Many Caribbean states are drug transshipment points for illegal cocaine and heroine shipments bound from South American drug producing countries to markets in the United States and Europe. Drug money payoffs cause government officials, police officers, and justice system officers to look the other way in many Caribbean States, thereby decreasing the rule of law and increasing crime and violence rates across the region. The Bahamas, the only independent state in the Caribbean region listed as a high income developed state by the United Nations, is one of the only examples of a diversified open economy and good governance, resulting in a high economic growth.¹⁹⁰

Haiti

One of the most extreme examples of the struggle for democracy in the Latin American and the Caribbean is the Republic of Haiti, which is a case of a country caught in a vicious circle in which unemployment, inequality, and poor education feed into violence and unstable governments, making it difficult for the economy to grow and create

¹⁸⁴ "Report on Democracy in Latin America." United Nations Development Programme. http://www.undp.org/democracy_report_latam/summary.pdf

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ "Report on Democracy in Latin America." United Nations Development Programme. http://www.undp.org/democracy_report_latam/summary.pdf

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ "Democracy and Governance: Caribbean Regional." USAID. 2005. http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/regions/lac/car_regional.html

¹⁸⁹ Michael Collier. "The Effects of Political Corruption on Caribbean Development." Florida International University. 2002. http://lacc.fiu.edu/research_publications/working_papers/working_paper_05.pdf#search=percent22corruptionpercent20caribbeanpercent22

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

jobs.¹⁹¹ In terms of governance and the rule of law, economic growth, voice and participation, political instability and violence, and corruption, Haiti ranks very poorly.¹⁹²

While Haiti became an independent state in 1804 and was the first independent black republic, it has struggled for two centuries to achieve democracy and good governance. For the following century, Haiti slowly gained international recognition as an independent nation, despite occupation by France and the United States during that time. On September 22, 1957, Francois Duvalier, known as “Papa Doc,” supported by the United States, declared himself president for life. However, he was distrustful of the military and formed several personal military groups to maintain his power, including the Ton Ton Macoutes, created to intimidate or murder his perceived political opponents. An estimated 30,000 Haitians were killed for political reasons during his 14-year rule.¹⁹³ When Duvalier died in 1971 his rule was passed to his 19-year-old son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, or “Baby Doc.”¹⁹⁴

In 1983 a popular revolt forced Duvalier to flee the country three years later.¹⁹⁵ Starting in 1986, several attempts at civilian democracy were terminated in military coups. Haiti didn’t experience its first free elections until 1990, when Jean-Bertrand Aristide became the first freely elected president in Haiti’s history. Less than a year after taking office, Aristide was overthrown in a military coup and Haiti quickly fell into civil violence as the new military leaders massacred potential opponents in the streets.¹⁹⁶ The United States and the Organization of American States responded with a trade embargo, and in 1993 an UN-sponsored oil embargo was imposed.¹⁹⁷

In 1994, Haiti’s leaders refused to relinquish power to Aristide and the UN Security Council passed Resolution 940 which authorized member states to form a multinational force and “to use all necessary means” to facilitate the ousting of the military government and that return of Aristide. Aristide was restored to office, and Rene Preval became his successor in the 1996 elections. In 2000, the UN peacekeepers and United States soldiers left an ineffectual government behind.

Aristide started to lose support and paramilitaries started launching small raids on Haitian towns. The paramilitary groups attacked small towns and killed police, attempted to take over the towns and increase their fighting force.¹⁹⁸ While these military factions gained little popular support their power was magnified in the 2000 democratic elections. Under the umbrella group called the Democratic Platform, Aristide’s opposition contested the results of the parliament elections in which Aristide’s Lavalas Family party won major gains. In the presidential elections that followed shortly, Aristide won again but the opposition groups largely boycotted the polls, which put them in the position to claim that he was not a true democratic leader. Opponents of Aristide’s rule started marching through the streets in mass demonstrations but were often quashed by Aristide supporters who used violence to forcefully stop the protest.¹⁹⁹

In 2004, the Democratic Platform launched a successful work strike that weakened Aristide’s power. The international community, mainly the United States, had placed an economic embargo on Haiti that also diminished Aristide’s rule. The United States, who considered Aristide an unpredictable populist leader, placed a near total embargo on Haiti following the 2000 elections. This included blocking loans from the Inter-American Development Bank for improvement in roads, health care and education. Haiti, who relies on assistance from the international community, was further devastated by these actions.²⁰⁰

¹⁹¹ “Governance and Social Justice in Caribbean States.” Development Research Group. The World Bank. June 2000. [http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/\\$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf)

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ “Haiti in Turmoil.” MacNeil/Lehrer Productions. 2006. http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/latin_america/haiti/history.html

¹⁹⁴ “Haiti’s Experiment with Democracy Subverted Once Again.” *Power and Interest News Report*. March 2004. http://www.pinr.com/report.php?ac=view_report&report_id=148&language_id=1

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ “Haiti History.” *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. Thomson Gale Corporation. 2006. <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Haiti-HISTORY.html>

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid

²⁰⁰ Ibid

Due to the embargos and Aristide's feeble hold on power, a guerilla campaign was ignited to him. Paramilitaries invaded Haiti through the Dominican Republic, burning and destroying police stations while moving from city to city, eventually taking over Haiti's second largest city of Cap-Haitien. Throughout this invasion, the Democratic Platform claimed to have no ties to the armed groups and that they intended on taking over through non-violent means.²⁰¹ In February of 2004, amidst intense violence in his country and pressure from France and the United States, Aristide resigned and fled the country and an interim government took over led by Prime Minister Gerard Lartortue and President Boniface Alexandre.²⁰²

Elections to replace the Aristide government were originally scheduled for October of 2005. Due to street violence and money problems, the elections were postponed a total of four times and were not held until February 7, 2006. Even with the delays the elections were still marred with problems and violence. The United Nations force of 9,000 troops and civilian police are not capable of controlling the violence. In Port-au-Prince, criminal gangs continued to terrorize people living in the urban slums. In the provinces, armed groups of former soldiers exerted de facto authority in the absence of functioning government institutions. Some areas continued to be too volatile to hold a vote. The most violent slum in the capital, Cite Soleil, did not have a polling station due to the expectation of violence. The residents of Cite Soleil had to make their way to other polling stations if they wanted to vote.²⁰³ Despite the violence and problems, thousands of Haitians exercised their right to vote for the new government.

Initially after the elections, it was announced that Rene Preval had been elected president with 61 percent of the vote. A few days later, however, it was reported that he only received 49.1 percent, which would have caused a run-off vote. On February 13, 2006 more than 10,000 people protested in the Haitian capital for Preval to be declared president, and Preval was sworn into office three months later, on May 14, 2006.²⁰⁴

Even though Preval was declared the victor in the election, it was still marred with fraud. During the election an unusually larger number of blank ballots were cast. Normally those blank ballots would have been divided among the candidates but Brazil had brokered a deal to not have the blank ballots count which gave Preval over the 51 percent that he needed to be declared the winner and avoid a run-off.²⁰⁵ In addition, unmarked ballot boxes were found smoldering in a garbage dump after the elections.

While there is hope that one day Haiti can become a stable democracy there is also evidence that the violence in Haiti is escalating even with the new government in place. Haiti still does not have an established military of its own and still relies on the United Nations peacekeepers as well as a large force from Brazil to control the violence. The democracy in Haiti has continued to be marked by distrust and fraud. Almost every regime in the past 20 years has been ousted by a coup, either from military powers within or by outside powers. Because it is perceived to have a poor rule of law and a high degree of violence and political instability, domestic residents and foreigners are reluctant to invest. Since the 1990s, the per capita GDP has declined at 3.5 percent per year, further exacerbating problems of poverty and high unemployment. The poverty rate in Haiti is 65 percent of the population.²⁰⁶ In addition, 54 percent of Haiti's adults are illiterate.²⁰⁷

Conclusion and Committee Directive

Democracy does not fit a certain form nor is it just the implementation of free and fair elections. It is not enough to just say that a country is democratic; they must also practice good governance. As seen in the example of Haiti, even in states where the leader is elected in a free and fair election there are still atrocities that exist, including civil

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² "Haiti's new prime minister sworn in." Caribbean Net News. March 2004.

<http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/2004/03/13/sworn.htm>

²⁰³ "Haiti: Secure and Credible Elections Crucial for Stability." *Human Rights News*. Human Rights Watch. New York. February 6, 2006. <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/02/06/haiti12611.htm>

²⁰⁴ "Haiti's new prime minister sworn in." Caribbean Net News. March 2004.

<http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/2004/03/13/sworn.htm>

²⁰⁵ "Haiti: A country in turmoil." CBC News Online. May 15, 2006. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/haiti/>

²⁰⁶ "Governance and Social Justice in Caribbean States." Development Research Group. The World Bank. June 2000.

[http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/\\$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf](http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/External/lac/lac.nsf/c3473659f307761e852567ec0054ee1b/e13721b3914a6b12852568ef00506a48/$FILE/Governance_percent20&_percent20Social_percent20Justice.pdf)

²⁰⁷ Ibid.

unrest and human rights violations. Most citizens are more concerned with their economic development than whether or not their government is democratically elected. Research shows that if a democratic government is unable to solve the economic problems in the country, the citizens will take any form of government that can, as witnessed in the civil uprisings in Haiti.

Even though the only country that was closely examined in this guide was Haiti, there are several other Latin American and Caribbean countries that have struggled in establishing a true democracy. While democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean has advanced significantly in the last 25 years, challenges persist in the region. Overcoming these challenges will be key for these nations in their quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Although this topic is focused solely on Latin American and Caribbean countries, many nations share the same struggle with achieving good governance. The resolutions written by this committee should focus on overcoming the obstacles unique to the Latin American and Caribbean region to achieving good governance, while also keeping in mind the importance of good governance in a global scope.

Every country's experience with democracy and governance is valuable in achieving success in this specific region. What has worked in your country that can be implemented in that region? What has not worked? What resources are needed to make democracy a success?