



**SRMUN Charlotte 2017**  
***Assessing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalism in the 21st Century***  
**March 30 - April 1, 2017**

[GAssecond\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:GAssecond_charlotte@srmun.org)

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2017 and the General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee – Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN). My name is Brittany Pye, and I am honored to be serving as your Director for ECOFIN. This will be my fourth conference with SRMUN, my second as a staff member. Previously, I served as the Assistant Director for the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) for SRMUN Charlotte 2016. I currently work as a governmental auditor with a public accounting firm. I hold bachelor's degrees in International Relations, International Business, and Accounting. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Garrison Davis. This will be Garrison's first time as a SRMUN Staff member but has completed five SRMUN conferences. Garrison holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Terrorism. He plans to pursue a career in higher education.

As one of the original 1945 committees, ECOFIN focuses on a large range of issues concerning financial and economic growth and development, sustainable development, human settlements, food security, and the international financial system. The range of issues that fall into these categories vary even more. ECOFIN also recognizes issues that affect Member States within special situations or with special characteristics, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). ECOFIN has been instrumental in helping Member States and the global community through financial crises and helped to foster development, growth and prosperity.

By focusing on the mission of the General Assembly Second Committee and the SRMUN Charlotte 2017 theme of "*Assessing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalism in the 21st Century*," we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

- I. Food Security in Economically Impoverished Areas
- II. Enhancing Economic Development with Information and Communication Technologies

While the background guide provides an introduction to the topic it should not be looked upon as the entirety of the topics. We have aimed to provide a broad perspective on the topics above, but wish to hear delegate's independent research that pertains to delegates' individual Member States once in committee. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit [srmun.org](http://srmun.org). **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 10, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. EST via the SRMUN website.**

Garrison and I are honored to serve as your dais for ECOFIN. We wish you all the best of luck while preparing for Charlotte 2017. Please feel free to reach out to Deputy Director-General Brittany Cabrera-Trujillo, Garrison, or myself with any questions that arise while you prepare for the conference.

Brittany Pye  
Director  
[GAssecond\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:GAssecond_charlotte@srmun.org)

Garrison Davis  
Assistant Director  
[GAssecond\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:GAssecond_charlotte@srmun.org)

Brittany Cabrera-Trujillo  
Deputy Director-General  
[DDG\\_charlotte@srmun.org](mailto:DDG_charlotte@srmun.org)

## The History of the General Assembly Second Committee

The General Assembly (GA) is the largest and main body of the United Nations (UN) and is made up of all 193 Member States.<sup>1</sup> The GA itself is made up of six separate committees and many sub-committees.<sup>2</sup> The GA first met on 10 January 1946, in London, United Kingdom, with 51 Member States participating and the first resolution would be passed later in the month.<sup>3</sup> The main six committees cover many different topics including: disarmament, budgetary discrepancies, legality issues, and international security. The GA Second Committee specifically covers economics and finances and is often referred to as ECOFIN.<sup>4</sup> All 193 Member States participate in the ECOFIN with additional non-members and other approved entities who are not given voting rights on substantial matters.<sup>5</sup>

ECOFIN has its power from Articles 55-60 of Chapter IV of the UN Charter and has been designed to create discussion between Member States regarding improvement of their own domestic economies, the global economy, and international finances.<sup>6</sup> The committee's budget is decided by the UN Fifth Committee, whose power is appointed by Article 17 of Chapter IV from the UN Charter.<sup>7</sup> ECOFIN meets in New York City every fall at the UN headquarters and at special locations when needed.<sup>8</sup> One of the foundations of the committee is that a strong global financial system allows institutions and individuals to invest in multiple Member States, and allow developed states to provide not only aid but loans to assist developing Member States.<sup>9</sup> ECOFIN also addresses more specific issues dealing with things like trade policy, economic development, and natural resources.<sup>10</sup> In 2009, ECOFIN strongly urged Member States to take climate change seriously by implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and signing the Kyoto Protocol.<sup>11</sup> The committee does groundbreaking work when addressing the fundamental causes of international economic instability and works with many other key organizations such as the UN Economic and Social Council, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address these causes.<sup>12</sup> ECOFIN aims to collaborate with the World Bank Group to significantly cut levels of poverty and to limit structural problems in developing states in order to sustain economic stability.<sup>13</sup>

ECOFIN primarily completes its work by creating draft proposals and submitting reports to the GA Plenary as described in the committee's Organization of Work.<sup>14</sup> ECOFIN reserves the right to convene appropriate conferences and other summits on the global development agenda, and almost always comes to majority agreements on votes.<sup>15</sup> The committee can also request that the UN Secretary-General submit reports on important issues and can even host events.<sup>16</sup> This plays a role in the committee's ability to restore, reinforce, and revamp Member States'

---

<sup>1</sup> "About the General Assembly," The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> "History of the United Nations," The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/1941-1950.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> "UN General Assembly Second Committee," The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/second/index.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> "Permanent Observers: Non-Member States and Entities," The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/members/nonmembers.shtml> (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> GA/EF/3273. *Second Committee Forwards 11 Drafts to General Assembly, on New Global Economic Order, Agricultural Technology for Development, Climate Change, Among Others*. The United Nations General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/news/press/docs/2009/gaef3273.doc.htm> (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> A/69/83-E/2014/71. *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Committee*. 2014. UN General Assembly. (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> A/C.2/69/L.1. *Organization of work of the Second Committee*. UN General Assembly Second Committee. 2014 (accessed June 12, 2016).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

commitments to development and economic stability.<sup>17</sup> This further devolution of the committee's power allows Member States and ECOFIN as a whole to have a more effective role in producing solutions for numerous issues.<sup>18</sup>

With the influx of financial crises and economic issues across the globe in the last 70 years, ECOFIN has spread its workload to other important international actors such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).<sup>19</sup> By alleviating the workload to other organizations, ECOFIN has revitalized itself and aligned its economic development goals with those of the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that all objectives are being worked towards or completed satisfactorily.<sup>20</sup> The committee places a special emphasis on discovering the roots causes and effects of significant events, as well as what specific factors played a role in the event so that similar occurrences can be prevented.<sup>21</sup> That emphasis also plays a role in ensuring economic stability, while offering a stage for Member States to produce new and innovative ideas.<sup>22</sup>

Following the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ECOFIN hopes to continue to further and effectively address the issues of global poverty, external debt, and sustainable development, along with creating alliances in order to achieve multiple goals.<sup>23</sup> ECOFIN has already made substantial progress in accomplishing these goals and worked earlier on in the turn of the century to ensure as little as possible interfered during the MDGs' tenure. Through resolutions such as A/C.2/69/L.48, "International Financial System and Debt," and A/C.2/69/L.3, "External Debt Sustainability and Development," the committee has worked and continues to work towards complete international financial stability.<sup>24</sup>

*All Member States are represented in the General Assembly Second.*

---

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> "Regulation of Financial Institutions Critical to Avoiding Spread of Global Risk, Speaker Says as Second Committee Debates Economic Crisis." UN DPI. 2013. (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> "Side events of the 70th Session," UN General Assembly Second Committee, 2015, (accessed June 11, 2016).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

## I. Food Security in Economically Impoverished Areas

### *Introduction*

Food security is fundamental in creating economic growth and sustainable development across the globe. Many issues in food security can be caused by underperforming farms and the lack of investments in agriculture that developing Member States have experienced. The payoff for investing into agriculture is extremely high, but often there is a lack of money in these systems because of political turmoil.

An important step in reducing poverty and hunger is the increase of food security.<sup>25</sup> The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) describes food security as “when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”<sup>26</sup> Many different components make up food security including stability, time, and utilization.<sup>27</sup> Food security is a core topic discussed when trying to find solutions to world hunger, and it must be addressed to promote sustainable development of rural states and raise the global nutrition.<sup>28</sup> In order to raise agricultural productivity and guarantee the eradication of poverty, especially in developing states, it is of significance to provide food to all people.<sup>29</sup> Because of this significance, food security is one of the most important, if not the most important, component of any policy whose goal is to expand agricultural productivity.<sup>30</sup>

To solve the obstacles of food security in impoverished areas and spread the benefits of investing in agriculture to all Member States, the Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN) made efforts to increase the participation of states and likeminded organizations as everyone works towards sustainable food sources. Throughout history ECOFIN has worked with other organizations such as the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the FAO to stimulate better investments into underdeveloped agricultural systems.<sup>31</sup> ECOFIN easily maximizes its efforts when it works with these other institutions, such as the FAO, who created The Special Programme for Food Security, which aimed to halve the number of hungry by 2015.<sup>32</sup> ECOFIN must continue its alliances with these institutions and organizations in order to foster the financing of agriculture and food security in Member States that have pre-modern infrastructure.

### *Current Situation*

The belief of investing in agriculture to ensure the security of food and therefore ensure the increase of economic growth is a fundamental focus within the UN and its many organizations and committees.<sup>33</sup> The complete removal of global poverty and hunger was goal number one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>34</sup> The goal specifically called for the number of people living in poverty and suffering from chronic hunger to be halved by 2015.<sup>35</sup> According to a World Bank study, underdeveloped Member States collectively achieved that goal in 2010

---

<sup>25</sup> WSFS 2009/INF/2. *How to Feed the World in 2050. Feeding the World, Eradicating Hunger, World Summit on Food Security.* Food and Agricultural Organization. 2009  
[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert\\_paper/How\\_to\\_Feed\\_the\\_World\\_in\\_2050.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/How_to_Feed_the_World_in_2050.pdf) (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013. FAO. p. 10. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>31</sup> “The Special Programme for Food Security,” Food and Agriculture Organization,  
<http://www.FAO.org/FOCUS/E/SpecIPr/SProHM-e.htm> (accessed 1 August 2016).

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> *FAO and the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals: The road ahead*, FAO. 2005, p. 24.  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/009/j5259e/j5259e00.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

when they dropped the number of individuals in extreme poverty from 43 percent to 21 percent.<sup>36</sup> In total across the globe, poverty levels are estimated to have dropped from 1.91 billion impoverished in 1990 to 1.22 billion in 2010.<sup>37</sup> That accomplishment is significant and shows that progress can be made, but as of 2015, up to one billion people are still living in extreme poverty in places like sub-Saharan Africa and many regions of Asia.<sup>38</sup> As of today, about one in eight children suffer from chronic hunger and this includes around 200 million small children less than five who are undernourished and suffer from malnutrition.<sup>39</sup> Roughly ten million of those children won't live to see their fifth birthday because of hunger and undernourishment.<sup>40</sup> With this being such a massive and global problem, the UN does not intend to shift its focus off poverty and the reduction of hunger and has added these goals to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>41</sup> The two are inherently linked to food security and must be addressed before major advances can be made towards economic stability.

The UN and its organizations try to ensure that information and education regarding food security is available to all especially those whom the UN may not be able to reach directly.<sup>42</sup> The FAO publishes newsletters and in-depth articles that inform people on the current state of agriculture and food security worldwide.<sup>43</sup> These articles seek to provide specific education to all workers in agriculture from farm owner to the field laborer to improve agriculture methods and business so as to allow more people to branch into the industry.<sup>44</sup> Due to FAO's successful strategy, many Member States sought to adopt their emphasis on reducing poverty by investing in agriculture and bringing it to their own domestic systems and the General Assembly (GA) as a whole.<sup>45</sup> Throughout 2009 and 2010, the GA passed two resolutions that focused on advancing agriculture for the benefit of reducing poverty and raising the quality of life.<sup>46,47</sup> The first is A/RES/63/235 which focuses on overall investment into agriculture while the second is A/RES/64/197, focusing on developing better technology within agricultural systems.<sup>48,49</sup> These resolutions help organizations like the FAO who are on the brink of discovery when it comes to understanding how poverty and hunger are jointly reduced. The steps taken by the UN to recognize and advanced these new findings shows its commitment to stopping extreme poverty and hunger in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With relatively new factors introduced such as climate change and evolving needs, the UN and its partner organizations have started to change their mindset to focus on building agriculture industries within Member States that are very specific to their own community needs but are also sustainable.<sup>50</sup>

### *The Poverty – Food Security Network*

Studies show a connection between agriculture and areas with concentrated poverty and hunger, especially in areas that are more removed from modern society.<sup>51</sup> In places like Zambia roughly 45 percent of the people rely on

---

<sup>36</sup> “Remarkable Declines in Global Poverty, But Major Challenges Remain,” World Bank, 2014, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/04/17/remarkable-declines-in-global-poverty-but-major-challenges-remain> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> “The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security,” FAO, 2013, p. 10. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>39</sup> A/RES/71/283. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* United Nations General Assembly, (accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> OHC. *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background*, 2014. <http://www.ohchr.org/post2015agenda/Pages/redirect.aspx> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>42</sup> FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014. <http://www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/en/> (accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> “In Action,” FAO, 2014. <http://www.fao.org/in-action/en/> (accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>46</sup> A/RES/63/235. *Agriculture development and food security.* United Nations General Assembly. (accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> “FAO and Post-2015,” FAO, 2014, <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/overview/fao-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda/en/> (accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>51</sup> Mucavele, *True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*, 2009, p. 3. <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d01034/Synthesis%20Report%20-True%20Contribution%20of%20Agriculture.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2016).

agriculture, and approximately 76 percent farm only enough to feed themselves and their families.<sup>52</sup> In some sub-Saharan African Member States, the agricultural industry affects 90 percent of homes.<sup>53</sup> Seeing how most of the job markets in these Member States consist of agricultural work and a majority of households are directly affected by the agriculture industry, it would seem that increasing agricultural productivity is directly linked to reducing hunger and poverty.<sup>54</sup> This connection between poverty, hunger, and food security has even been recognized by then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who spoke on the issue, saying, “If hunger and food insecurity are to be overcome, an estimated 60 percent increase in agricultural productivity, including a 100 percent increase in developing countries, will be necessary by 2050.”<sup>55</sup> Recognizing the importance of financing these agricultural systems must become a universal understanding that all entities committed to ending hunger and increasing food security must agree to.

It is important to note ECOFIN’s traditional role within the world hunger and food security problem. Since eradicating poverty and increasing the production of food is one of the top goals of the UN there is no absence of personnel focusing on this issue. The question becomes how does the UN invest better into these rural agriculture systems and keep them blossoming. Most Member States did not meet the 2015 MDGs set forth in 2000s but Member States such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea, and a few others managed to complete the goal giving their people a better quality of life.<sup>56</sup> Looking past 2015, the UN still believes that reducing poverty and increasing food production is one of the top goals.<sup>57</sup> It continues to support that belief by hosting multiple summits and international events that keep the dialogue moving forward in order to analyze effective policies and create realistic goals that can put an end to hunger.<sup>58</sup> It would be important to focus on why some of the goals do not have success in certain regions and Member States, and how the UN should reassess those goals going forward.

### *Making Smarter Investments*

Focusing on factors that could be bad for investment is a proven way to identify what exactly a Member State or region needs to do to increase its odds at completing SDG objectives. The two most prominent factors to focus on would be the environment itself and ensuring that farmers are the main component of any strategy.<sup>59</sup> The stability and overall appeal to investment is the more important of the two because areas prone to violence or political turmoil are less likely to succeed simply based on the environment around them.<sup>60</sup> This can become particularly complicated when variables like the consistency of markets and how effective institutions such as law enforcement and governance are.<sup>61</sup>

Investments often succeed in places where there is a stable government that has control, the domestic economy is sustained, and individuals own their property.<sup>62</sup> Along with stable economics it is smart to target areas that have strong financial institutions that regulate currency and keep it uniformed. This allows investors to be satisfied and more at ease that inflation or a sudden debt recall won’t cripple their investment.<sup>63</sup> Member States are encouraged to aid investment in any way possible through various subsidies and tax incentives to rural farmers who would

---

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>55</sup> A/RES/67/294. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>56</sup> World Bank, *Twenty Fragile States Make Progress on Millennium Development Goals*, 2014. (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>57</sup> FAO, *FAO and Post-2015*. 2014. <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/overview/fao-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda/en/> (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>60</sup> Aykroyd & Smith, *Review of Public Spending to Agriculture*, 2007, p.10. <http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/pe/pfma07/OPMReview.pdf> (Accessed August 15, 2016).

<sup>61</sup> Aykroyd & Smith, *Review of Public Spending to Agriculture*, 2007, p.10. <http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/pe/pfma07/OPMReview.pdf> (Accessed August 15, 2016).

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).



normally bear the economic cost of an increased agriculture industry.<sup>64</sup> It is important to remember the amount of economic investment that must go into these systems for them to flourish. Financial investment is just the sponsors sending their money into a program but the workers themselves would be tasked with purchasing all the necessary equipment and other amenities that would allow them to start to profit from the farming.<sup>65</sup> It is of importance to remember that subsistence farming dominates certain Member States agricultural industry and trying to quickly switch those industries to commercial sizes could lead to complications. To optimize investment opportunities the best thing a Member State can do is provide a stable platform that puts the farmers first and gives them the ability to branch out and spread the industry.<sup>66</sup>

#### *Downfalls of Increasing Agricultural Productivity*

Food Security is composed of many different variables including physical access, usage, price increases/decreases, vulnerability, and economic access.<sup>67</sup> The FAO released a publication in 2013 titled *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* which addressed the issue of food security abruptly, suggesting many solutions and methods to accomplishing the goal of securing food for the masses who are impoverished.<sup>68</sup> The report refers to the completion of the MDGs in 2015 and points out that despite progress towards the goal of eradicating hunger, regions in located in Sub-Saharan Africa have some of the highest rates of malnourishment due to multiple factors including poverty and underdevelopment, environmental conditions that could lead to droughts, insubstantial infrastructure giving way to poor transportation of goods, and the inconsistency of food prices.<sup>69</sup> Increasing the so called food price index is almost always followed by an increase in the price of various food commodities.<sup>70</sup> Given these price increases, price stability is altered around the world, particularly in underdeveloped and developing Member States where average incomes are not suitable to account for drastic fluctuations in food prices.<sup>71</sup> Unfortunately, in most cases these increases in food prices often lead to the consumers buying cheaper and less-nutritious food which then raises the chances of malnutrition.<sup>72</sup>

While increasing agricultural production in rural areas would aid in the abundance of food doing so does not necessarily guarantee the availability, or access to that food by the malnourished and starving.<sup>73</sup> Increasing the agricultural productivity can be redirected to other state interests such as exports and investments in fuel. This would bring economic relief and wealth into the state but would not do anything to reduce the number of hungry and malnourished.<sup>74</sup> To certify that Member States are keeping their attention on administering economic growth towards the impoverished and malnourished, the UN, and FAO specifically encourage Member States to create programs and policies that are nutrition focused.<sup>75</sup> If the ultimate goal is to direct economic growth towards reductions in poverty and hunger then nutrition-sensitive curriculums and policies should be highly encouraged.<sup>76</sup>

---

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> FAO, *From Economic Growth to Food Security and Better Nutrition*, 2009. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3027e/i3027e.pdf> (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>66</sup> FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*, 2012 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3028e/i3028e.pdf> (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>67</sup> FAO, *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security*, 2008. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf> (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>68</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Lagi et al., *The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion*, 2011, p. 2. [http://www.necsi.edu/research/social/food\\_prices.pdf](http://www.necsi.edu/research/social/food_prices.pdf) (Accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>71</sup> Rosen & Shapouri, *Rising Food Prices Intensify Food Insecurity in Developing Countries*. 2008, p.6 <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2008/february/rising-food-prices-intensify-food-insecurity-in-developing-countries/> (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>72</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>73</sup> A/RES/67/294. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* " United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>74</sup> Lagi et al., *The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion*, 2011, p. 2. [http://www.necsi.edu/research/social/food\\_prices.pdf](http://www.necsi.edu/research/social/food_prices.pdf) (Accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>75</sup> FAO, *From Economic Growth to Food Security and Better Nutrition*, 2009.

<sup>76</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

This nutrition-sensitive approach would strengthen customer awareness in regard to what appropriate nutrition levels are in regions with high levels of hunger and undernourishment.<sup>77</sup> One of the central pieces of this nutrition-sensitive policy is the creation of a uniformed approach that focuses on those who would benefit from the policy the most to ensure the maximum amount of effort is being given to reducing hunger and undernourishment.<sup>78</sup> These types of policies would ensure that resources targeted public goods and services that assist the poor, as well as encourage the poor to use more of their income towards bettering their diet and improving their health altogether.<sup>79</sup> Evidence of these nutrition-sensitive curriculums being successful is prevalent in Bangladesh where a substantial amount of assets were redirected to focus on the impoverished and hungry.<sup>80</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Throughout its history, the UN has made severe poverty and hunger eradication a central part of its international goals; the UN and its sister organizations stay fully committed to solving hunger and undernourishment around the world.<sup>81</sup> As mentioned above, there are numerous variables in securing sustained investment within agricultural industries to aid development and establish food security. Raising investments in agricultural industries and their productivity increases the availability of food and its security, which then leads to increases in the substance of individuals' lives and their food intake thus reducing hunger.<sup>82</sup> The existence of an economy that is stable and offers incentives for agriculture can help increase financing and federal attention given to agriculture.<sup>83</sup> Moreover, an all-inclusive monitoring approach directed at food security can also be used to readily understand the overall factors and other variables associated with food availability and access.<sup>84</sup> In the post-2015 timetable, an all-inclusive approach that leads to expanded agricultural production should be a factor of any solution attempting to eliminate poverty and hunger.<sup>85</sup> With an approach that incorporates the creation of a sustainable and attractive investment climate, proper funding and financing, and the development of an all-inclusive approach to numerous factors of food security, Member states can adequately combat steep levels of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.<sup>86</sup>

## **Committee Directive**

Delegates should focus on solutions that are capable of being adapted to different regions while maintaining the ability to grow agricultural industries. Areas of underdevelopment should be the main focus but in Member States where the agricultural industry and economy are already relatively developed then cutting waste should be a top priority. Wasting food is a negative trend mostly adopted by highly developed areas and it would be wise to discover ways to decrease waste in those places while funneling it into areas of high famine and undernourishment. It is important that delegates not lose track of the topic which means food security should be the issue trying to be resolved. Increasing jobs and benefits in the agriculture industry may be a product of investing in agriculture, but that doesn't do much for the bigger picture of malnourishment or food security.

---

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> A/RES/67/294. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>79</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>80</sup> Rabbani, Sulaiman, & Das, *The impact of asset transfer on livelihoods of the ultra poor in Bangladesh*, 2009, p. 6 <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.470.2993&rep=rep1&type=pdf> (Accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>81</sup> A/RES/67/294. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed August 20, 2016).

<sup>82</sup> Mundlak, *Economic Growth: Lessons from Two Centuries of American Agriculture*. *Journal of Economic*, 2005, p. 6. [https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4129381.pdf?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4129381.pdf?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents) (Accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>83</sup> Yudhoyono, Sirleaf, & Cameron, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 41. <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf> (Accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>84</sup> FAO. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf> (Accessed July 30, 2016).

<sup>85</sup> Yudhoyono, Sirleaf, & Cameron, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 42.

<sup>86</sup> A/RES/67/294. *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General.* United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed August 20, 2016).



## II. Enhancing Economic Development with Information and Communication Technologies

### *Introduction*

The internet was spearheaded by the United States Department of Defense and first brought online in 1969 to create a communication network between major universities. The birthday of the internet is often recognized as 1 January 1983, as the supercomputers at universities were connected to more basic computers on new networks.<sup>87</sup> These new networks allowed all types of computers to communicate with each other by sharing a common universal language.<sup>1</sup> After decades of innovation, the internet has evolved into a structure that facilitates the global sharing of information.<sup>88</sup> Business have hardwired themselves into the internet and from this have seen great success in increasing efficiency in all areas of the supply chain.<sup>89</sup> A 2015 study by the World Bank Economic Review found that 45.2 percent of companies in low income economies use the internet to conduct business, compared to the 93.7 percent of companies in higher income economies.<sup>90</sup> The study derived these percentages from observing business's use of email to talk with suppliers and consumers; with the purpose of investigating if obstacles limit the potential beneficial impacts of the internet. The results of this study show that the internet greatly increased productivity in the economies of developed Member States; however, least developed Member States saw a much smaller increase in productivity due to the many obstacles they face.<sup>4</sup>

### *What is Information and Communication Technology?*

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refers to “all the technology used to handle telecommunications, broadcast media, intelligent building management systems, audiovisual processing and transmission systems, and network-based control and monitoring functions.”<sup>91</sup> This broad definition continues to grow each day with the invention of new technologies and systems, making it a very fluid concept.<sup>92</sup> Another description of this broad concept is the merging of telephone, cable, internet, and computer networks into one system.<sup>93</sup> These diverse systems have provided many opportunities to Member States that possess strong ICT, but lesser developed Member States still struggle to catch up.<sup>94</sup> The world has entered into a digital age and the access to ICT has become a necessity for any kind of strong development. Some economists and researchers have even included connectivity and local services offered (such as transportation, internet, mobile access, etc.) in a broad definition for quality of life.<sup>95</sup> ICT has quickly become the largest distribution platform for private and public services.<sup>96</sup>

---

<sup>87</sup> A Brief History of the Internet,” Online Learning Library, [http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/unit07/internet07\\_02.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/unit07/internet07_02.phtml) (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>88</sup> “The Advantages (Benefits) of Networking,” The TC/IP Guide, [http://www.tecpipguide.com/free/t\\_TheAdvantagesBenefitsofNetworking.htm](http://www.tecpipguide.com/free/t_TheAdvantagesBenefitsofNetworking.htm) (accessed September 10, 2016).

<sup>89</sup> Raskob, Jacob. “Managing the Supply Chain: The Internet as Energizer.” Richard Ivey Business School. <http://iveybusinessjournal.com/publication/managing-the-supply-chain-the-internet-as-energizer/> (accessed September 19, 2016).

<sup>90</sup> Penn, Joanna. “How Is the Internet Fueling Economic Growth in the Developing World? New Research.” Journalist's Resource. <http://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/internet/internet-contribution-firm-development> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>91</sup> “Information and Communications Technology (ICT),” Techopedia, <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/24152/information-and-communications-technology-ict>, (accessed July 27, 2016).

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> “Importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Making a Healthy Information Society: A Case Study of Ethiopia East Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria,” University of Idaho, <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/ogbomo2.htm>, (accessed July 27, 2016).

<sup>95</sup> “Quality of Life: Everyone Wants It, But What Is It?” Forbes, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/iese/2013/09/04/quality-of-life-everyone-wants-it-but-what-is-it/#4b9abbf02c7d>, (Accessed July 27, 2016).

<sup>96</sup> “Information Communications Technology for Development,” World Bank Live, <http://live.worldbank.org/information-communications-technology-development>, (accessed July 25, 2016).

## *Economic Opportunities*

The biggest advantages of working on ICT development are the economic opportunities for developing and developed Member States alike. ICT can “bring market information, financial services, and health services to remote areas” and change the way that rural communities live and operate.<sup>97</sup> This relationship can show changes on a small scale, as a one percent increase in mobile telecommunications access/growth leads to a 0.03 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>98</sup> The access to financial and market information from other Member States as well as the ability to conduct business internationally can spur local businesses and economies with newly attainable foreign investment. Examples of these include crowdfunding sites for startups and online retailers who sell handmade goods from local artisans in developing Member States.<sup>99,100</sup> Other opportunities include financial planning assistance for businesses as well as the ability to conduct their business faster and more efficiently through the use of high-speed internet and telecommunications.<sup>101</sup> The majority of these business that will benefit the most are micro and small enterprises (MSEs); MSEs can range from a local village producer to an industry that is trying to supply an entire region with a product or service.<sup>102</sup> In underdeveloped Member States where citizens are mainly self-employed through agri-business, ICT offers a wealth of opportunities to grow their business, improve their standard of living, and enhance the local economy.<sup>103</sup> Having access to high-speed internet can assist a farmer in better ways to fertilize his crops, where to buy them, changes in local weather patterns before damage can occur, as well as more efficient farming methods.<sup>104</sup>

Asides from improving efficiency in the operation and growth of available capital for businesses, ICT facilitates trade unlike any other platform in the modern business world.<sup>105</sup> Advertising and marketing have entered a new age of constant marketing through the radio, television, and internet platforms now available to them.<sup>106</sup> ICT also offers a new platform through which to trade through with online shopping.<sup>107</sup> Other platforms that trade benefits from ICT are using ICT as a service (such as outsourcing payroll or online management services) as well as an information bank concerning trade (such as researching competitor prices).<sup>108</sup>

While the examples above demonstrate how MSEs and self-employed citizens may enhance their local economy, it is important to note that the potential for large scale growth does exist. However, this kind of whole economy growth will not materialize without centralized planning and infrastructure.<sup>109</sup> Member States should implement industry regulation as well as national policy reforms so as to obtain a unified and working connectivity infrastructure.<sup>110</sup> These can include things such as standardizing and implementing fiber optic cables for high-speed internet access or mobile telecommunication towers. One major goal of regulation and policy reforms concerning ICT is not just a citizen’s ability to access it, but in regulating the providers.<sup>111</sup> A high tendency for monopolies to

---

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> “The ICT/Poverty Nexus,” UN Chronicle, October 2011, <http://unchronicle.un.org/article/ictpoverty-nexus/>, (accessed July 28, 2016).

<sup>99</sup> Global Goods Partners, <http://globalgoodspartners.org/pages/our-story>, (accessed September 15, 2016).

<sup>100</sup> Lets Venture, <https://letsventure.com/about>, (accessed September 15, 2016).

<sup>101</sup> Boateng, Michael Sakyi, “The Role Of Information And Communication Technologies In Ghana’s Rural Development,” University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2065&context=libphilprac>, (accessed July 27, 2016).

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> “Information Communications Technology for Development,” World Bank Live, <http://live.worldbank.org/information-communications-technology-development>, (accessed July 25, 2016).

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> “The Role of ICT in Advancing Growth in Least Developed Countries: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities 2011,” International Telecommunications Union, p 25, [https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Documents/Turkey\\_IV/The\\_Role\\_of\\_ICT\\_in\\_Advancing\\_Growth\\_in\\_LDCs\\_Trends\\_Challenges\\_and\\_Opportunities.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Documents/Turkey_IV/The_Role_of_ICT_in_Advancing_Growth_in_LDCs_Trends_Challenges_and_Opportunities.pdf), (accessed July 25, 2016).

develop exists in Least Developed Countries (LDC).<sup>112</sup> This comes from a large demand for capital and not a large consumer demand, making it difficult for new or smaller ICT firms to start and survive.<sup>113</sup>

As stated before, an increase in telecommunications infrastructure and development can lead to a direct increase of GDP. Member States and other public and private entities use ICT development as a poverty reduction tool. As of 2011, mobile network suppliers are estimated to have invested USD 90 Billion in Africa alone.<sup>114</sup> This small but important growth of GDP can lead to direct investment in ICT infrastructure and improvements, economically multiplying GDP and the economic health of the Member State.<sup>115</sup> This can lead to new jobs in constructing the infrastructure, the growth of new MSEs, as well as more direct GDP growth.<sup>116</sup> Development of ICT can also lead to better accessibility to education which leads to economic and social growth of a community.<sup>117</sup> By investing in the development of ICTs, Member States are allowing their citizens access to online higher education, online primary and secondary school, and access to the wealth of knowledge contained within the internet.<sup>118</sup>

### *Current Situation*

One main problem the UN faces is combating the digital divide. The digital divide can be referred to as the difference between peoples or regions access to the internet. In the past, the digital divide has been most prevalent in that at the beginning of the digital age, the majority of the developing world had no access to internet, while the developed world was integrating the internet into every aspect of daily life.<sup>119</sup> However, the most current definition has transferred to concentrate on more types of access rather than just access itself.<sup>120</sup> As efforts have increased over the past decade to increase international access to internet, the difference between the developed and developing world has grown to internet speed, technology, and the different products and types available, such as mobile access and technology.<sup>121</sup>

The topic of the digital divide has become an important part of the ICT development discussion because access to telephone and basic internet has become understood as a basic civil right.<sup>122</sup> Which, as discussed before, promotes economic equality, social mobility, and economic growth.<sup>123</sup> The other aspect concerning the modern digital divide is the relationship between freedom and censorship.<sup>124</sup> Many Member States recognize the freedom of speech, privacy, and consumer rights as basic rights and censorship can pose a threat to them.<sup>125</sup>

Although widely supported as an essential part of the developed world, ICTs face many challenges when it comes to investing and implementing these developments around the globe. The wide access to the internet has led to a sharing of ideas and information, which usually applauded, has the danger of promoting cultural imperialism, cultural homogenization, or westernization.<sup>126</sup> These three terms are used synonymously here as they speak to the wide but similar fear of smaller cultures essentially being pushed out online.<sup>127</sup> As Western society has a large,

---

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> “The ICT/Poverty Nexus,” UN Chronicle, October 2011, <http://unchronicle.un.org/article/ictpoverty-nexus/>, (accessed July 28, 2016).

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> “The Digital Divide, ICT, and Broadband Internet.” Internet World Stats (May 1, 2016), <http://www.internetworldstats.com/links10.htm>, (accessed September 11, 2016).

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Markus Sabadello, “ICTs for a Global Culture for Peace,” *Project Danube* (Summer 2011), <http://projectdanube.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/ICTs-for-a-Global-Culture-of-Peace.pdf>, (accessed September 15, 2016).

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

heavy presence within the online world, some fear that this presence will suppress other cultures and traditions rather than celebrating diversity.<sup>128</sup>

### *International Efforts*

The World Bank Group is composed of international organizations who create loans for developing Member States, for the purpose of ending extreme poverty and building prosperity that is shared between member states.<sup>129</sup> The use of ICTs is of the utmost importance to the organization, as internet access has become a necessary tool for developing Member States.<sup>130</sup> The use of ICT's in developing Member States has the potential to establish efficient services, create economic growth, and increase access to social networks. To accomplish these goals, the World Bank has created a strategy for the next three years (2016-2018): increasing digital connectivity by creating policy and regulatory commissions for ICT to flourish, establishing the structure for a digital economy by building the skills for people to use the internet, and to deal with international issues like cyber-crime.<sup>6</sup>

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is working to increase access to ICTs for the purpose of boosting growth, expanding opportunities, and improved service delivery for the Asian continent. ICT development has the ability for both economic and social benefits in the lives of people in the Pacific.<sup>131</sup> The ADB strives to create policy and regulatory legislation, infrastructure, and information technology security. Success has been seen from the ADB's efforts in connecting the Pacific to broadband internet access to boost education, agriculture, healthcare, and communication.<sup>132</sup> Mostly recently, the ADB worked with other organizations like the World Bank to fund an underwater fiber optic cable to the Tonga. In prior years, Tonga has been disconnected due to the lack of infrastructure, but with this new technology a revolution has begun. Improvements in health care have allowed medical professionals to connect themselves to other areas of the hospital, and has allowed for the faster processing of large files like CT scans and X-rays. Education has become diverse, as classrooms in the University of the South Pacific classrooms are now able to use the internet to connect themselves to other satellite campuses, and use the internet for greater access to educational material. Business have also benefitted from the internet with their ability to conduct instant commerce online, and open themselves to increase international trade.<sup>133</sup>

Close the Gap is an international not-for-profit organization (NPO) whose purpose is to increase access to ICTs by delivering pre-owned computers to educational, medical, and social projects in developing Member States. While following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Close the Gap pushes for ICTs to support sustainable development through economic development, social inclusion, and environmental protection.<sup>134</sup> Projects have been implemented to use ICTs to connect the sixty million children worldwide who aren't able to receive an education from a local school.<sup>135</sup> An example of ICT implementation is seen between the partnership between Close the Gap and Reynaers Aluminum, who worked together in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to distribute 630 computers to schools in need. Last year these computers were used to build 10 computer laboratories in schools, and to educate teachers on how to implement ICT's in the daily education of young schoolchildren. To date these computers have taught digital literacy to over 7,400 students and 20 teachers.<sup>136</sup>

One Laptop Per Child is a NPO with the mission of increasing education to the world's poorest children. This is accomplished by providing every child with an affordable laptop or tablet, which is built to withstand a rugged

---

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> "What We Do," The World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do> (accessed September 10, 2016).

<sup>130</sup> "Information and Communication Technologies," The World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/ict/overview#2> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>131</sup> "ADB's Work to Improve Access to Information and Communication," Asian Development Bank, <http://www.adb.org/sectors/ict/overview> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>132</sup> "ICT in Key Sectors," Asian Development Bank, <http://www.adb.org/sectors/ict/ict-in-key-sectors>, (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>133</sup> "Tonga's High-Speed Revolution," Asian Development Bank, <https://www.adb.org/results/tonga-s-high-speed-revolution> (accessed September 10, 2016).

<sup>134</sup> "Mission," Close The Gap, <http://close-the-gap.org/discover-us/mission/> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>135</sup> "ICT4Development," Close The Gap, <http://close-the-gap.org/discover-us/ict4development> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>136</sup> "Close The Gap Annual Report 2015," Close The Gap, <http://close-the-gap.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2015-Annual-Report-Close-the-Gap.pdf> (accessed September 10, 2016).

terrain and maintain a long battery life.<sup>137</sup> The laptops and tablets are designed to expand learning through dedicated educational software and programs. Over two million children in Latin America and five hundred thousand children in Africa have already had access to resources provided by this NPO.<sup>138</sup> Uruguay was the first Member State in Latin America to begin the widespread adoption of the laptops in public schools, and the first Member State in the world to give a free laptop to every primary school-children to between the ages of 6-12.<sup>139</sup> To date over 362,000 students and 18,000 teachers have used these laptops to promote education and literacy.<sup>14</sup>

Computer Aid International is a NPO based in London, whose sole purpose is to bridge the division of technology by delivering low-cost ICTs to developing Member States. There is great emphasis on providing proper training to communities, so that ICTs are efficiently integrated and equally shared in educational curriculums.<sup>140</sup> In the past, projects have utilized ICTs to provide educational, agricultural, health services, and post crisis support to perished communities. To date this NPO has given more than two hundred thousand computers to over one million children since 1998, totaling one billion hours of shared access.<sup>141</sup> When the University of Zimbabwe was dealing with gender inequality in the ICT labs on their school campus, Computer Aid International sought to solve the problem by creating a female only computer lab. The new female only computer laboratory destroyed the social stigma of men who felt that they had a privilege over women who wanted to use computers. Now females are able to learn how to use computers without ridicule of other men, and allows for women to use ICTs to compete with males in the competitive workforce.<sup>142</sup>

Technology for People Initiate (TPI) is a technology and design NPO at the Lahore University of Management Science in Pakistan, who focuses on using technology as a tool to catalyze social development and bring citizens closer to public life. Their goal is to solve governance problems in the public sector by educating the public with knowledge, and research. TPI also strives to improve transparency and accountability through giving both citizens and policymakers open access to digital research and data.<sup>143</sup> Key projects have been seen in creating an easy-to-use online interface and case management system for court staff to record analytics, and to increase transparency in the criminal prosecution.<sup>144,145</sup> Smartphone technology has allowed geographical technology to connect common areas of crime, monitoring attendance to reduce absenteeism in the workplace, protocols for monitoring construction projects to reduce quality defects, and finding socio economic data for the general population.<sup>146,147,148,149</sup>

### ***ICT and the Environment***

While the world pushes for increased development in the ICT industry, some scientists and Member States are concerned of the effect that it has and will have on the environment. The concept of constant development is a

---

<sup>137</sup>. "OLPC Mission, Part 1: Principles and Child Empowerment," One Laptop Per Child, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-M77C2ejTw> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>138</sup>. "About the Project | Countries," One Laptop Per Child, <http://one.laptop.org/about/countries> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>139</sup>. "Laptop for every pupil in Uruguay," British Broadcasting Corporation, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8309583.stm> (accessed September 10, 2016).

<sup>140</sup>. "Our Mission." Computer Aid International, <http://www.computeraid.org/our-mission.html> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>141</sup>. "Who Are We? Read Our Story," Computer Aid International, <http://www.computeraid.org/our-story.html> (accessed August 7, 2016).

<sup>142</sup>. "Gender Equality at the University of Zimbabwe," Computer Aid International, <http://www.computeraid.org/project5.html> (accessed September 10, 2016).

<sup>143</sup> "Innovate, Partner, Engage," Technology for People Initiate, <http://tpilums.org/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>144</sup> "Court beat," Technology for People Initiate, <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/court-beat/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>145</sup> "Prosecution," Technology for People Initiate, <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/prosecution/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>146</sup>. "Construction Quality Monitoring," Technology for People Initiate, <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/construction-quality-monitoring/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>147</sup>. "Evidence-based Policing," Technology for People Initiate. <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/evidence-based-policing/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>148</sup> "Mobile Phone Price," Technology for People Initiate <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/mobile-phone-price/> (accessed August 8, 2016).

<sup>149</sup>. "Smart Attendance Monitoring," Technology for People Initiate, <http://tpilums.org/projects/completed/smart-attendance-monitoring/> (accessed August 8, 2016).



foundation of the industry, but it quickly leads to outdated devices and infrastructure worldwide.<sup>150</sup> One of the largest problems is electronic devices, such as cell phones, televisions, and other consumer devices.<sup>151</sup> The improper disposal of these items into landfills can allow toxic heavy metals (such as cadmium, lead, and arsenic) into the ground.<sup>152</sup> The potential for contamination actually starts with the manufacturing of these devices, with industrial waste.<sup>153</sup> Although many developed Member States have regulations concerning the potentially dangerous recycling process of these heavy metals, many developing Member States do not, such as China, India, and many African Member States.<sup>154</sup> There is often an “informal marketplace” for consumer devices to harvest the gold used in the circuit boards or other electronic parts, which then leave many of the toxic parts exposed and in a landfill.<sup>155</sup>

The other major negative impact on the environment is the sheer energy consumption needed to power all the ICT devices in the world.<sup>156</sup> It has been estimated that the “production and use of ICT equipment is [...] equivalent to one percent to three percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and a higher and growing share of electricity use.”<sup>157</sup> Given the recent Paris Agreement signed on 12 December 2015 concerning the rise of global temperature and climate change in general, Member States are currently greatly concerned with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in their regions, especially from manufacturing.<sup>158</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

ICT has grown exponentially over the past two decades and has reshaped the way the world works and interacts. In some instances it has created equality for Member States, but in others it has only broadened the gap.<sup>159</sup> As economies strengthen and ICT grows, the controversy of how electronics are disposed of and the negative environmental impact of manufacturing them becomes more and more apparent. However, the world cannot advance its economies without promoting the growth of ICT as the two are heavily entwined.<sup>160</sup> The world economy has grown as a result of the globalization made possible through ICT. In order to help the economy and the citizens of developing Member States, many organizations, including the UN, have implemented programs to expand quality access to communications technology, but the gap continues to grow with the accelerated advancement of ICT. The future of how the world uses and develops ICT remains to be seen.

### ***Committee Directive***

There are many directions that ICT development can take, and, so far, no one-fits-all solution has been proposed. Delegates should focus on developing ICT within all Member States, keeping in mind the issue of ICT equality. Delegates should come to Committee with knowledge of the usage of ICT within their respective Member States (i.e. percent of the population that has access to cellular technology, percent of the population that has access to internet, etc.) and the current level of integration ICT has with the Member State’s infrastructure. There are many downfalls to the increased development and usage of ICT, and these downfalls can be exacerbated in the smaller or developing Member States. Delegates should find consensus of a direction that the UN should take concerning the future of ICT. However, Delegates should be mindful of any current organizations, initiatives, or programs already in place and attempt to integrate and expand their ideas with the current infrastructure.

---

<sup>150</sup> “Environmental Impact of Information and Communication Technology,” Decoded Science (2011), <http://www.decodedscience.org/environmental-impact-of-information-and-communication-technology/7453> (Accessed September 13, 2016).

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> John Houghton, “ICT and the Environment in Developing Countries: Opportunities and Developments,” *OECD* (October 2009), <http://www.oecd.org/ict/4d/44005687.pdf>, (accessed September 13, 2016).

<sup>157</sup> Ibid.

<sup>158</sup> “Paris Agreement Signing Ceremony 22 April 2016,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/parisagreement22april/> (accessed September 13, 2016).

<sup>159</sup> “The Digital Divide, ICT, and Broadband Internet.” Internet World Stats (May 1, 2016), <http://www.internetworldstats.com/links10.htm>, (accessed September 11, 2016).

<sup>160</sup> “Information Communications Technology for Development,” World Bank Live, <http://live.worldbank.org/information-communications-technology-development>, (accessed July 25, 2016).



## **Technical Appendix Guide**

### **I: Food Security in Economically Impoverished Areas**

Hanson, C. World Resources Institute. (2013). Food Security, Inclusive Growth, Sustainability, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved 28 October 2016 from:  
[http://www.post2015hlp.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/05/Hanson\\_Food-Security-Inclusive-Growth-Sustainability-and-the-Post-2015-DevelopmentAgenda.pdf](http://www.post2015hlp.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/05/Hanson_Food-Security-Inclusive-Growth-Sustainability-and-the-Post-2015-DevelopmentAgenda.pdf)

This document identifies numerous target areas that the United Nations (UN) post-2015 goals can focus on. It recognizes these areas as being inflicted with poverty, political and economic stability, and having a lack of food security. The document also includes specific objectives to accomplish as well as indicators of poverty and the metrics experts should use to measure success towards the objectives. This source will be very useful to help delegates identify distinct problems and different approaches in which to solve issues that relate to agricultural output and sustainable food security.

Lagi, M., Y. Bar-Yam & K. Z. Bertrand (2011). The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion. New England Complex Systems Institute. Retrieved 28 October 2016 from: [http://necsi.edu/research/social/food\\_prices.pdf](http://necsi.edu/research/social/food_prices.pdf)

This report focuses on the recent increase of food prices as well as factors leading to the increased need for food such as ethanol conversion in the United States. It goes on to show why models that only rely on the supply and demand factor are not efficient in describing the increase of the demand for food. The report eventually identifies ethanol conversion and investor speculation as the two main factors attributed to price spikes from 2007-2011. This particular document would be beneficial to delegates because a good portion of it focuses on the involvement of developed areas. Investor speculation is composed of developed states economic involvement within these developing agriculture systems so specific attention should be given to investment.

Rome Declaration on World Food Security. (1996). Retrieved 29 October 2016 from:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/EradicationOfHungerAndMalnutrition.aspx>

The Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition was an instrumental part in guaranteeing the world's commitment to aiding those who suffer from lack of food security. This document provides a foundation of what the United Nations was committed to in 1974 and how that original message has not changed over the past forty-two years. It is written in a framework style that would aid delegates in identifying general goals, factors, and solutions relating to food security and malnutrition. The document will also help contribute to the proper creation of language that delegates should use when formatting their solutions for the issue.

United Nations Development Programme South Sudan. (2012). Investing in Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Transformation [Website]. Retrieved 28 October 2016 from:  
<http://www.ss.undp.org/content/dam/southsudan/library/Reports/southsudanothertools/Investing%20in%20Agriculture%20for%20Food%20Security%20and%20Economic%20Transformation%20-%20November%202012.pdf>

This is a report done by the United Nations Development Programme office (UNDP) located in South Sudan. It highlights the accomplishments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UNDP in assisting with the creation of institutional policies that reconstruct rural agriculture systems and establish food security among susceptible populations. This report will present practical information about the importance of agriculture in underdeveloped areas, especially post-conflict regions. The report goes on to introduce more intricate factors like legislative frameworks, market flexibility, and the creation of infrastructure that would specifically focus on agricultural economic growth.

## II: Enhancing Economic Development with Information and Communication Technologies

Eggleston, K.; Jensen, R.; Zeckhauser, R. (2012) “Information and Communication Technologies, Markets, and Economic Development”, *The Global Information Technology Report 2001-2002*: 62-74, <http://livernspleen.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/readiness-for-the-networked-world.pdf#page=78>

This chapter is pulled from the “The Global Information Technology Report 2001-2002: Readiness for the Networked World” sponsored by the World Economic Forum. It aims to emphasize the significant potential for developing Member States to utilize information and communication technologies (ICTs) to stimulate economic development and alleviate poverty. The explanation of fundamental market concepts and economic efficiency are used to explain the roles and challenges of information in an economy, and will provide a more technical econometrics perspective. The relationship between market integration and economic development plays an important role in using ICTs to improve living standards and promote economic growth.

Gulati, S. (2008) “Technology-Enhanced Learning in Developing Nations: A review”, *The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*, Volume 9 Number 1, <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/477/1012>

This paper presents the use of educational technology to address the challenges faced by many underdeveloped Member States. It highlights the use of technology in reducing educational gaps and social exclusion that is seen across the globe. This paper also sees and argues for the adoption of more technology enhanced learning to solve societal issues such as poverty and political instability. The paper explores current efforts in targeting disadvantaged and poor populations, and provides insight for future improvements.

Namias, J. (2013) “The Future of Electronic Waste Recycling in the United States: Obstacles and Domestic Solutions”, *Columbia University Press*. 46-51, [http://www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/wtert/sofos/Namias\\_Thesis\\_07-08-13.pdf](http://www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/wtert/sofos/Namias_Thesis_07-08-13.pdf)

This paper promotes an end-of-life management of electronic waste plan that attempts to overcome the main problems that Member States face. The end-of-life management of electronic wastes provides the opportunity to safely manage hazardous and toxic materials, and provides the opportunity to recover valuable materials that can be reused in new technology. This paper argues that the major obstacles in recycling electronic waste is the lack of regulatory and recycling infrastructure. The author provides recommendations that can be implemented in legislation, business, as well as to promote consumer awareness.

OECD (2016) “Statistical Analysis of Science, Technology, and Industry”, *Organization for Economic and Co-operative Development*, <http://www.oecd.org/sti/statisticalanalysisofsciencetechnologyandindustry.htm>

The Directorate for Science, Technology, and Innovation manages these databases that show internationally comparable statistics in the areas of digital economy, growth, productivity indicators, globalization, industrial performance, and many more. This can be used as a resource for Delegates to learn more about how their Member States compare to others in many different areas relating to information communication technology.