



Group of Twenty

Junior Model UN 2018

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Director's Letter

Welcome to Junior Model United Nations 2018 and the Group of Twenty! My name is Simran Tandon and I will be your director. Model UN has been one of my biggest passions ever since I participated in my first conference in 8th grade. I've been obsessed with it ever since, attending and staffing 9 conferences since then. JMUN will be my 4th time staffing, and I am excited to be accompanied by my wonderful dais, the chair Isha Murali and the assistant director Adit Agarwal. We are extremely excited to be your dais for JMUN 2018's G20 and to see plenty of controversial debate, passionate delegates, and creative solutions as you come together and explore the nuances of some of the world's most difficult problems. I have no doubts that you all will do an amazing job!

This year, the G20 will be dealing with the primary issue of the effect of global warming on agriculture, and secondarily on the issues of worldwide immigration. Global warming is an increasingly concerning issue that affects many global industries. Thus it is equally necessary that the G20 come together to determine the effects of global warming on agriculture and how to address those problems. Part of your challenge in this topic will be determining how to deal with this problem, though there may also be debate on if this is a problem at all. I look forward to seeing how all of you approach solving it.

Sincerely,

Simran Tandon | Director of G20

Committee Overview

The G20 is made up of countries that control 85% of the world's economy and 78% of trade and 2/3 of the world's population. These countries are critical for stabilization of the global economy as they have the greatest spending power and tend to be the ones who buy most of the goods produced worldwide.

The G20 was originally created in 1999 when the G7, a group of primarily western nations, saw that the world needed a more inclusive and diverse forum to address the financial issues of the world. During the global financial crisis of 2008, the world saw the value of a group like the G20, and they began to have yearly meetings with heads of member states appearing. Other countries were and are also invited to the meetings in order to help the G20 maintain a diverse perspective and expand their ability to assist and include other countries points of views. They also work with groups like the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, several NGO's, and other groups.

The work of the G20 typically falls into two tracks; the finance track and the sherpa track. The finance track makes meetings with finance ministers and focuses on economic issues in the world. Meanwhile, the sherpa track places its focus on areas such as political engagement, climate change, corruption, development goals, gender equality, and more. The G20 agenda includes over 50 meetings with ministries, banks, and world leaders, culminating in the Leader's Summit. The Leader's Summit is the G20 meeting that we will be modelling at JMUN 2018, as all member countries will be present in this committee.

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Topic A: Impact of Global Warming on Agriculture

Topic Introduction:

Since the Industrial Revolution, the Earth has been warming at an unprecedented rate, causing local weather patterns to change all over the world. Growing seasons for plants in established areas have been shrinking as ideal temperatures shift upwards. This can cause great harm to countries where agriculture is the main aspect of their economy. For lots of smaller countries, farmers will grow one type of food that best suits the climate, called a monoculture. This is popular because farmers are always guaranteed a good crop and it can be easier to grow large amounts and take care of the whole field in the same way. For example, in Southern Africa, it is popular to grow corn, a major source of income for those countries. When growing seasons move upwards, the places where corn is usually grown no longer have an ideal climate, and crop size shrinks. Aside from being a major source of money, corn also happens to be a primary food source. The government usually cannot afford to import food, so if the farmers are not able to feed the people, famine ensues. Prices rise, and food riots incited. Corn is only one example; this issue is seen all over the world.

Topic History:

Agriculture has influenced all aspects of human life. Changes in climate can greatly affect the decline and growth of staple crops through temperature and soil composition changes, making it an important factor in the stability of agriculture. For example, Cacao has been increasingly more difficult to grow because the temperature ranges in the tropical climates that it typically thrives in have been changing. Additionally, 30% South Africa's staple crop, maize, and 50% of South Asia's staple crops of rice and millet are predicted to be destroyed.

The main citizens who suffer from climate change are noted to be poorer agricultural farmers, particularly in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Due to the effects of climate change, some Latin American countries have already seen a decline in their maize production, primarily on sustenance farms. This change in their food production has in turn caused numerous farmers to fall deeper into poverty as they are unable to produce enough food to make a living.

The major food producers of the world are those you would expect: The U.S., China, Russia and India. Consequently, these countries are some of the biggest polluters. In addition to this, these countries have some of the largest populations in the world. They are both a cause and a victim of climate change, as the amount of carbon dioxide emissions they release in their own countries has the potential to speed up the rate of climate change and cause further decline of their crops. Numerous agricultural centers within these countries have seen a major decline in crop growth due to climate change. For example, the United States produces 25% of the world's wheat, but that number has faced reductions due to extreme weather events caused by climate change.

The main impact that climate change has had on agriculture has been through natural disasters. The temperature rises and atmosphere composition changes have not had a measurable impact according to most scientists, but the extreme weather phenomenon linked to climate change drastically impact regions. In the 2010's, Bangladesh faced extreme rains that caused most of the farmable land to become useless in terms of producing crops. Additionally, floods and increasing forest fires in dry regions can ruin arable land for months, sometimes even years, wherever they occur. These weather events are speculated to have brought in by climate change and a lack of effort to sustainably develop to avoid furthering global warming.

Bloc Positions:

Paris Agreement:

The primary document that is encouraging countries to take action against climate change is the Paris Accord of 2015. This agreement was signed by numerous members of the United Nations, and its purpose was to hold nations accountable for reducing their carbon footprint and taking steps to prevent climate change. All the countries in the G20 except the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey have ratified and stated they thoroughly support the agreement. The European Union has especially been pushing for developed countries to begin to help developing countries achieve their climate goals in order to help maintain their primary industries in a more sustainable way. These countries believe their affluence and expertise can help decrease the carbon footprint in their own countries as well as others, and provide overall benefit for the world's food crops. These countries believe that food security with the oncoming of climate change is extremely important, especially for rural farmers in Africa and South/Southeast Asia.

Global Warming Deniers/Skeptics:

Although many G20 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, there remain a few that either have pulled out of the agreement or have been extremely ambiguous about their opinions on climate change. The United States pulled out of the Paris Agreement in 2017, and there are many strong disbelievers in global warming in the government. Similarly, although Saudi Arabia and Russia have signed the agreement, they have been known to not take action on climate change. Both countries are also fairly strong allies of the United States at the moment, and benefit from industries that contribute to global warming, like oil. Their economic interest in industries that contribute to the issue make them less likely to agree with the ideas proposed to save agriculture from the onset of climate change.

Countries impacted by Climate Change:

The primary agricultural producers in the G20 are Russia, China, and India. Although mostly developed countries, they are likely to face huge issues as global warming gets worse. Research shows that it is likely that crop yields in South Asia will decrease by 10% as climate change furthers. Other large agriculture producers, such as South American countries, are also a necessary target for assistance in increasing food security. Outside of the G20, numerous South and Southeast Asian countries, as well as Sub-Saharan African countries are likely to begin to feel the effects of climate change soon if they haven't already faced problems because of it. The priority of these countries is to ensure food security for their crops and it is in their interest to support action to end global warming.

Possible Solutions:

Our job as delegates is to come up with the best possible solution to the problem. These solutions are presented to the dais in the form of a resolution. Writing a resolution that the majority of the committee approves of is the goal of the committee. So make sure to get everyone's opinion and incorporate it into the resolution. For more tips on how to write a good resolution go to the JMUN website or any other MUN website. Most of them have guides on the how-to's of MUN. Below are some possible solutions that relate to our topic. Remember not to just copy these into your final resolution. Use them as a guide.

One solution would be to create an agreement between all delegates to reduce emissions but make sure to not just copy already existing agreements like the Paris Agreement. Another possible solution would be to promote farming worldwide as a desirable job which would help increase the number of farmers. The government could also start encouraging all families to start their own gardens, a strategy that was extremely effective during WW2. The government could also encourage farmers to grow crops that provide food.

Remember these are just some of the possible solution that might help. It's more than likely that it will take a combination of different solutions to help save the planet and avert a global famine.

Guiding Questions:

1. How can developed countries be incentivized to help reduce the impacts on developing countries?
2. How can developing countries reduce or transition away from their dependence on agriculture while maintaining a stable economy?
3. How will the shortage of growing seasons affect global food trade?
4. Should developed countries pay for developing countries who produce a majority of the global food to become sustainable by funding irrigation systems or other sustainable farming methods?

Further Research:

"How Does the G20 Work?" *What Is the G20?* | G20 Argentina, 20 Sept. 2018, www.g20.org/en/g20/how-it-works.

"Climate Change." *International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48, FAO of the UN*, www.fao.org/climate-change/en/.

"Agriculture & Development." *Alcohol: 5. How is climate change threatening agriculture?*, 15 Apr. 2008, www.greenfacts.org/en/agriculture-iaastd/index.htm#4.

Topic B: Immigration

Topic Introduction:

While immigration itself is a broad topic, we will be focusing on the economic impacts of legal immigration. Firstly, the larger the economy of any given country is, the smaller the effect of immigration will be. This is because immigration tends to occur when citizens of a poorer country want to increase their chances of economic success by relocating to a country with a higher GDP. From this point, there are two likely paths. With either of these paths, the economy of the higher GDP country will expand, because more citizens are making money. In the first possible path, the immigrant has a high level of education and is able to secure a “white-collar” job. The money they pay on taxes more than makes up for any costs they incur to the government, and economic theory predicts they are creating more jobs for natives with similar levels of education. However, most of the natives in need of jobs are those with very low levels of education. In this case, they are not benefited by immigrants. With the second possible path, the immigrants have a low level of education, and are likely to fall into a “blue-collar” job. They are directly in competition with the poorer working class natives. In this case, they reduce overall wages for natives by redistributing jobs among a larger number of people. Additionally, most of the increase seen in GDP goes to immigrants as wages. Given all this, how should immigration policies reflect the economic impacts to the natives?

Topic History:

Immigration itself is a timeless and broad concept. However, in the modern world it has become a vastly different thing as people now have access to better transportation technologies and the motivating factors have changed. The topic this committee will explore is economic impact of legal migration.

The time when sovereign states began to limit and pass laws on migration cannot quite be pinned down to a specific date, but it can be said to have been a product of the late 18th to early 19th century. However, this time period also retained elements such as forced migration in the forms of slavery and indentured labor. One major network that involved these elements was the Triangular Trade in the Atlantic was one of the largest sources of migration in the era. These forced migrations were always caused by an economic incentive, which in this case was to create labor forces to produce crops and goods to sell back to the European empires that controlled the colonies that slaves were sent to. However, as colonies began to declare independence and the world began to see the formation of more and more sovereign states with clear borders, the question of immigration laws came.

Many countries passed laws about naturalization of potential citizens in reaction to large-scale migrations. Most of these migrations were caused by a lack of economic opportunity in the country of origin, or of an increase in economic opportunity in the area they wished to immigrate to. However, some countries began to regret opening themselves to immigrants and began to pass laws to restrict immigration. A popular example is the Chinese Exclusion Act, in which most Chinese citizens were prevented from entering the U.S. and becoming citizens. A number of other laws were passed in the same nature as this act, excluding certain groups from immigrating based on racial and cultural factors, and in some cases in order to preserve economic opportunity for their citizens. By the 1960s-1970s, this racial profiling, found mainly in Western countries, died down significantly, and immigration policy experienced a shift to more skill-based evaluation of immigrants.

On the other hand, there are numerous countries that attempted to increase immigration rates of specific populations. One example of such was the Brain Drain that took place in the United States, in which the U.S. encouraged immigration of highly skilled or highly intelligent immigrants. These individuals would receive an automatic visa upon arrival and be set on the path to gaining citizenship. This process was much faster and easier than regular immigration processes, making it an appealing offer for many highly-skilled immigrants. A similar occurrence has been taking place in the Middle East, particularly in countries who rely on oil as an export. These countries, particularly Qatar and Saudi Arabia, rely on immigration from neighboring Asian countries in order to maintain their labor forces in the oil industry.

Bloc Positions:

Western Countries:

Countries in the western hemisphere tend to be known for their large immigrant populations and their attitudes towards them. Canada, the United States, the UK have some of the highest immigrant populations in relation to their total population. However, there has been growing concern by some in these countries about economic opportunities. Numerous citizens have expressed they do not support more immigration for economic related reasons, as there is a belief that they will receive jobs and assistance that citizens do not receive. Regardless, a majority of European and Western countries continue to accept immigrants into their countries through their individual immigration policies. Although these immigration policies have withstood criticism, the economic incentive of these countries to accept immigrants has come under fire. Many of these nations primarily accept highly skilled immigrants, pursuing high levels of education. These immigrants are considered to be in higher demand because of the economic and other benefits they provide to their new nation. However, this leaves the issue of the migrants who are not considered highly skilled. Their immigration process has typically taken much longer, though they are not necessarily less economically advanced.

High Emigration Countries

Some states that experience a high emigration rate face a vastly different issue. India, China, Mexico, and Indonesia have the highest emigration rates of all the G20 Nations. They also tend to have higher populations than others, providing economic incentive for immigrants to move to a new country. Although China and India may not receive a net benefit or detraction from this, it has the possibility to affect Indonesian and Mexican economies. A high rate of emigration can mean that instead of more competition for jobs, there is virtually none, and some jobs are unable to be filled because the population simply isn't there. This creates a new set of problems for the industries in these countries, as they cannot be sustained without substantial employment. These countries look to find ways to either encourage their own population to remain in their native lands or to encourage immigration in order to maintain a stable workforce.

Possible Solutions:

Our secondary topic of immigration has a much broader range of solutions than the primary topic. Since the G20 is an economic group we are looking at the economic side of immigration and how it will benefit the country in questions economy. One possible solution would be to ban all immigration which would increase wages and the number of domestic jobs. On the other side of the spectrum, another possible solution is to open all borders; however, this would probably lower wages significantly and bring in an influx of skilled and unskilled labor. A common strategy used for limiting immigration is to have a quota for the number of visas given out which would limit the amount of unskilled workers and limit immigration from certain countries. A similar strategy would be to only let in those with jobs already secured which might help lower the unemployment rate and get skilled workers.

These are only some of the solutions that might help. Remember that these are general solution that might work for all countries. In reality your country will need unique solutions that might only be valid for your country. You should try and take these and make them applicable to everyone so that it makes it into the resolution. Also remember that all of these policies have downsides such as increased risk of terrorists immigrating into the country. You need to weigh the positives versus the negatives and find a solution that is balanced. Also remember to combine different ideas to get the best one possible.

Guiding Questions:

1. What qualifications should immigration policies be based on? Do these qualifications change based on whether or not the country is developed or developing?
2. What is the net economic effect of immigration? Is there a way to regulate this?
3. How do immigration policies affect relations between countries?

Further Research:

"How the G20 Views Migration." *Global Migration Trends Factsheet* | IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, gmdac.iom.int/how-G20-views-migration.

Hochschild, Jennifer, and John Mollenkopf. "The Complexities of Immigration: Why Western Countries Struggle with Immigration Politics and Policies." *Migrationpolicy.org*, 12 Aug. 2015, www.migrationpolicy.org/research/complexities-immigration-why-western-countries-struggle-immigration-politics-and-policies.

Camarota, Steven A. "The Fiscal and Economic Impact of Immigration on the United States." *CIS.org*, 17 May 2013, cis.org/Testimony/Fiscal-and-Economic-Impact-Immigration-United-States.

Porter, Eduardo, and Karl Russell. "Migrants Are on the Rise Around the World, and Myths About Them Are Shaping Attitudes." *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 20 June 2018, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/06/20/business/economy/immigration-economic-impact.html.