

QTMUN



United Nations Commission on Popula- tion and Development

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As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the real-world implications of issues, our committees' contents may necessarily involve sensitive or controversial subject matter strictly for academic purposes. We ask for delegates to be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

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Delegates should be aware of the varying approaches that may have been taken to stem population growth in the best as well as take into consideration the affects that have been an outcome of such growth. When considering disparities in access, delegates should keep in mind that there are many localities around the world that have suffered due to issues concerning this topic and that in discussion, certain aspects of this topic may be upsetting and difficult to relate to. As we are in difficult times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, delegates should be aware that this is a sensitive topic of discussion that has affected multitudes of people in different ways. We would like to stress that due to the nature of our topics, there is a high chance that the pandemic will be brought up as a talking point, and that delegates should speak about this to the relevancy and relationships towards the main topic at hand

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We ask for your cooperation in maintaining order, both inside and outside of committee session, so that we may provide a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational conference.

Throughout the conference, please note that delegates shall only:

1. Wear Western Business Attire (i.e., no costumes, no casual wear)
2. Embody their assigned country's/character's position, not their mannerisms (e.g., no accents, no props)
3. Opt for diplomatic, respectful, and tactful speech and phrasing of ideas, including notes (e.g., no foul language, suggestive remarks, or obscene body language)
4. Make decisions that contribute to a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational space for debate

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UTMUN 2021's Secretariat and Staff are committed to ensuring every attendee has an enjoyable, comfortable, and safe experience and is able to participate fully and positively at our conference.

If you have any equity concerns (e.g., concerns about barriers to participation) or accessibility needs now or during the conference, please do not hesitate to contact your committees' dais and/or our Director of Academics at academics@utmun.org.

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Dear Delegates,

"Never before has the world community had so many resources, so much knowledge and such powerful technologies at its disposal which, if suitably redirected, could foster sustained economic growth and sustainable development . Nonetheless, the effective use of resources, knowledge and technologies is conditioned by political and economic obstacles at the national and international levels. Therefore, although ample resources have been available for some time, their use for socially equitable and environmentally sound development has been seriously limited. [...] **Preamble; Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo 5– 13 September 1994**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to UTMUN 2021 and the 54th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development!

Demography, Developmental Politics, Human Geography and related disciplines are complex considerations that affect many facets of human society ranging from access to healthcare and education to sustainable energy solutions and engineered communities like smart cities. As a result, while in this committee you will consider innovative solutions based topics that in some way affect 7 goals from the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are those aiming to facilitate good health and wellbeing (No. 3), quality education (No. 4), clean water and sanitation (No. 6), affordable and clean energy (No. 7), innovation, industry and infrastructure (No. 9), sustainable cities and communities (No. 11) and responsible consumption and production (No. 12).

As director for this committee, I am excited to see the solutions that you will come up with to some of the most pressing issues in our society today. As the UNCPD you will consider the implications of solutions which aim to: (i.) accommodate changing populations and provide sustainable development, (ii.) provide efficient and effective access to healthcare and education, and (iii.) support the development of communities to facilitate population growth. I hope that you will find the discussions both enriching and inspiring.

The United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) has existed in some form since October 3rd 1946. Established by the Economic and Social Council, the UNCPD monitors, reviews and assess the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels.

Its areas of focus include and is not limited to population issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, population and related development policies and programmes, provision of population assistance to developing countries or those with economies in transition and any other population and development questions from UN agencies.

This background guide is meant to provide background knowledge that is pertinent to debate topics however, committee debates are not limited by what is in this document. Your committee proposals should be guided by research on best practices that countries have employed in addressing issues related to changes in population dynamics and ensuring international cooperation that can guide broader application.

My name is David Allens, and I am in my fourth year of a double major in Political Science, and Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies; with a minor in Caribbean Studies. I've been working with Vice-Director Aryan Soral who is studying Economics and Human Geography, and Moderator Lolita Vorobyeva who is studying Public Policy and International Relations to ensure that all of you have an exciting weekend of debate. We hope that our varying academic backgrounds help to provide you with an interesting perspective and an opportunity to learn more about different academic programs.

For any questions related to our committee please feel free to contact me at the email address below. We encourage you to do more in-depth research in preparing for the conference and to get creative! I wish you the best of luck in your preparations and look forward to meeting all of you in February!

David Allens
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Topic A: Changing Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development

"Guidance provided by the [Plan of Action] to national Governments and international organizations for concerted action in the population field has been crucial for the promotion and actual implementation of many measures related to demographic variables. In population, as in many other fields, however, change is a never-ending process. Issues which were very controversial [...] are less controversial today; certain population problems are more acute and more diversified [...] than they were five years ago; others are showing signs of evolution that can be considered positive; and still others, [...] are now new causes of concern in several countries."
Preamble; Population Commission Report on the 20th Session; 29 January - 9 February 1979¹

There is a growing body of research supporting the interdependence of global populations, sustainable economic growth and development and the environment. As a result, bodies like the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) promote "sustainable macro- and socio-economic policies" which may facilitate "sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development in all countries and to mobilize human and financial resources for global problem solving."² However, in developing these macro-level solutions international and regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as national and local governments must consider the varying scholarship that highlights issues that may arise when applying developmental politics policies and those aimed to accommodate for changing demographics.

Introduction

Politics of development considers abstract theories and frameworks that attempt to delineate the conditions under which a nation-state will develop certain characteristics in the context of real-world issues and challenges in developmental politics. i.e. developmental politics may consider why economic development, urbanization and education may promote political stability, strong and independent judiciary, a common identity and considerations for the rule of law in one instance and in the other leads to sectarianism, religious bigotry and even civil war. Similarly, the study of population dynamics considers the long term effects of changing demographics, the policy decisions enacted in attempts to overcome these issues as well as the issues that may arise from them. When considered together, they begin to provide a robust framework for innovations that will accommodate various population dynamics.

However, there remains various theoretical understandings of development, developmental politics and demography. These then underpin many of the global issues in developmental politics and population dynamics. The study of populations - or demography - is closely related to the politics of development. In developmental politics there are various theoretical frameworks that form the basis for policy decisions that countries - and their delegations - may choose to make. While we will not address these theories directly, this background guide will introduce you policies based on theories including and not limited to institution-building (which lobbies for multilateral agreements and supranational supports aimed at developing LEDCs); and modernization (which

1 United Nations Population Commission, "Population Commission : Report on the 20th Session" (New York, N.Y., United States: United Nations Economic and Social Council, 1979), <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/2590>.

2 United Nations Population Fund, "Programme of Action: 20th Anniversary" (International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, New York, N.Y., United States: United Nations, 2014).

sees that countries and populations follow a standard path to modernization therefore providing a framework for how and when development initiatives should be considered).

Origins and Framework of the UNCPD

Since the commission's establishment in 1946, considerations have been made to the world's growing populations. Originally named the Population Commission, the UNCPD was charged with advising the Economic and Social Council primarily on "population changes, the factors associated with such changes, and the policies designed to influence these factors; the interrelationships of economic and social conditions and population trends; and migratory movements of population and factors associated with such movement."³ In keeping with this mission, this topic considers the policy decisions needed to facilitate sustainable development and combat changing population dynamics around the world.

The commission constitutes a part of a three-tiered intergovernmental framework and plays the primary role in following up on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Similarly, the UNCPD is supported by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs which compiles and analyzes data on populations aging. The Population Division provides an important repository of demographic research that "supports intergovernmental processes"⁴ coordinated by the commission. By bringing population issues to the attention of the international community in general and more specifically the UNCPD, the division highlights the central role of demographic trends in all aspects of sustainable development. Using the detailed collections of data provided by the division in concert with other sources, the UNCPD is able to better monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels, identifying reasons for rates of each initiative success or failure and advise the Economic and Social Council thereon. These collections include and are not limited to data on the world's population, as well as descriptions and analyses of global demographic trends.⁵ This information assists countries in developing their capacity to produce and analyse population data and information.

Alignment to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The ICPD 1994 Programme of Action formed a landmark action plan that garnered the support of 179 governments and proved to be a paradigm shift for population and development as it recognized the needs of peoples' rights, choices and well-being. The principles of the programme of action "underpin the Sustainable Development Goals" and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "including the need for non-discrimination and universality in both opportunities and outcomes; the centrality of health, education and women's empowerment to sustainable development; and the collective need to ensure environmental sustainability."⁶ While the ICPD Programme of Action demonstrates alignment to most if not all of the UN SDGs, the topics of debate during this conference will streamline this focus. Even still, because of the far reaching effects of the topics, they will in some way affect 7 goals from the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are those aiming to facilitate good health and wellbeing (No. 3), quality education (No. 4), clean water and sanitation (No. 6), affordable and clean energy (No. 7), innovation,

3 United Nations Economic and Social Council, "Report on the 3rd Session of the Economic and Social Council" (Lake Success, N.Y.: United Nations, 1946), <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/210849>.

4 United Nations, "United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Population Division," accessed October 4, 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/>.

5 United Nations.

6 United Nations Population Fund, "Programme of Action: 20th Anniversary," 5.

industry and infrastructure (No. 9), sustainable cities and communities (No. 11) and responsible consumption and production (No. 12).

Governance and Membership

The UNCPD is composed of 47 member states elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of “geographical distribution.”⁷ Representatives are chosen by respective countries based on their background in demography as well as political, economic and social development methodologies. Until 1994 when the commission’s goals were expanded, the UNCPD typically met every two or three years. However, it now meets every year. In addition to responsibilities outlined above, its focus of attention is largely centered on arranging, and analysing studies on:

- Population issues and trends;
- Integrating population and development strategies;
- Population and related development policies and programmes;
- Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition; and
- Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice.

These findings are then presented to the Economic and Social Council along with appropriate recommendations. These recommendations are given on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Population Characteristics and Their Effects

Issues of Aging vs. Youthful Populations

Aging populations around the world are often seen as a barrier to sustainable community development. A shrinking labor force often means less room for the expansion into new industries as well as an increased burden on public services like healthcare. However, some argue that these communities still provide an opportunity for economic growth through innovations which consider the market dynamics and spectrum of characteristics of older adults as consumers. An argument may be made that in many jurisdictions, there are gaps between available products and services and the needs and wants of older consumers. By aiming to close these gaps, businesses may have opportunities for expansion. This perspective allows aging populations to be viewed more as assets rather than burdens to society.⁸ This has a dual benefit. By creating these opportunities for business development geared towards engendering the “importance of positive, healthy aging-related behaviors like good nutrition and active lifestyles”⁹ it allows for the improvement of the community and quality of life of the aging population. To ensure this occurs however, scholars have argued that there needs to be a “sustained commitment and action from country leaders” to formulate evidence-based policies that will support business opportunities. These may include considerations for systematic nutrition screening and intervention, as well as healthcare workforce training and education that can strengthen and support an active aging population.¹⁰ These

⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “United Nations Population Division | Commission,” accessed October 4, 2020, <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/index.asp>.

⁸ Mary Beth Arensberg, “Population Aging: Opportunity for Business Expansion, an Invitational Paper Presented at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) International Workshop on Adaptation to Population Aging Issues, July 17, 2017, Ha Noi, Viet Nam,” *Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition* 37, no. 1 (December 2018): 7, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41043-018-0138-0>.

⁹ Arensberg.

¹⁰ Arensberg.

policies may be made in collaboration with commercial businesses to leverage the strength of public-private partnerships that may advance products or services for older adults. Furthermore, governments may choose to set “national and local goals to incentivize commercial business development and investment in public-private partnerships to improve quality of care, promote healthy aging, and impact outcomes for noncommunicable diseases, ultimately benefiting population health”¹¹ for various communities around the world especially for those in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries experiencing aging populations.

Understanding the demographic makeup of economies in terms of their population age is key in understanding why social policies implemented by governments may not always have the best end results, when looking at population welfare as a whole. An ageing population’s impact on the economy is firstly going to increase the dependency ratio, meaning that more people are going to be claiming welfare benefits and fewer people are going to be working and paying income taxes. This coupled with a younger working population that is potentially going to have to pay higher taxes to support the welfare schemes that support the ageing population, causes diverse effects across the board in an economy.¹² US government statistics show that for the first time in history, people aged 65 and older are going to outnumber children 5 and under¹³, which along with trends that show that more economically developed countries have lower population growth rates and potential population decline¹⁴, bring to light the importance of having social systems in place to cope with labor supply reduction in certain sectors and increased dependency on government run institutions such as hospitals and care homes. The way in which a country is affected by the age demographics of its population is related to the divide of the ageing versus youthful population and the systems that are already in place to deal with ageing populations, therefore depending on the age of the population in focus, adverse effects of an ageing population might be clearly evident or more likely would start to trend towards what we characteristically see in countries with older populations.

Effects of Education and Socio-Econmic Status on Economic Growth

It is believed that the progress of mankind over the last two centuries is largely due to education, and that economic growth is directly related to both quantitative and qualitative education levels.¹⁵ The concept of sustainable development arose as a response to a growing concern of humanity’s impact on the natural environment, and thus it focuses on the continuous development of nations while not harming the ecological and natural resources society depends upon. Education is connected to sustainable development in the sense that it is due to education that we are able to promote the development of knowledge and skills that is needed to create sustainable development. This concept has arisen largely due to environmental education, which teaches how to care for the environment, and thus provides the knowledge on how to implement what is known about natural resources in order to protect them.¹⁶ Furthermore, education is important for inclusive growth, based on

¹¹ Arensberg.

¹² Nagara, Renuga, Sandra Silva, Aurora Teixeira. “The Impact of an Ageing Population on Economic Growth: An Explanatory Review of the Main Mechanisms”. *Annalise Social*. 2016. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301680578_The_Impact_of_an_Ageing_Population_on_Economic_Growth_An_Explanatory_Review_of_the_Main_Mechanisms

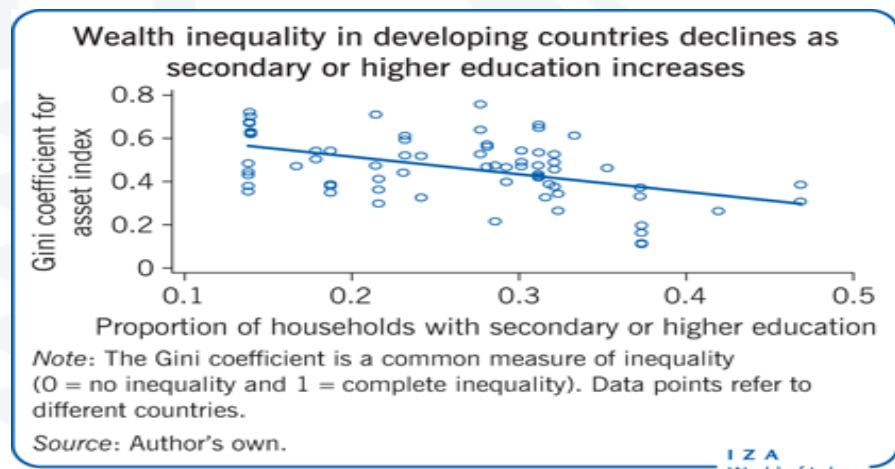
¹³ U.S Department of State. “Why Population Ageing Matters: A Global Perspective”. March, 2007. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-06/WPAM.pdf>

¹⁴ Roser, Max. 2020. “Fertility Rate”. *Our World In Data*. <https://ourworldindata.org/fertility-rate#increasing-prosperity-and-structural-transformation-of-the-economy>.

¹⁵ Burja, Camelia, and Vasile Burja. “Education’s Contribution to Sustainable Economic Growth in Romania.” *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*81 (2013): 147–51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.06.403>.

¹⁶ Nevin, Elaine. “Education and Sustainable Development”. *Development Education Review*. (2006): 49-62. <https://www.developmenteducationreview.com/issue/issue-6/education-and-sustainable-development>

the perspective of inclusive societies where each individual has the opportunity to access education in formal, non-formal, and informal settings. By participating in education, an individual is given the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and knowledge for them to participate in the workforce. Learning is also fundamentally important for an individual's own self-development, and also branches out to the development of families and larger communities.¹⁷



In a study conducted on Romania's workforce, researchers aimed to determine education's contribution to sustainable economic growth in the nation. By studying the connection between sustainable growth and levels of education, they found that the economic performance of the labor force greatly depends on the skills learned and achieved through education.

Additionally, the economy was positively influenced with the reduction of the amount of people in the workforce that has completed lower levels of schooling. Thus, if Romania reduces the amount of people that leaves the education system, it would be possible to stimulate labor productivity and increase sustainable economic growth, thereby demonstrating the effect of education.¹⁸

While schooling does play an important role in the development of sustainable economic growth and teaching individuals the necessary skills required to protect the environment, it is important to note that an individual's socio-economic status plays a strong role in the amount of education they receive. In many countries, there are still inequalities when it comes to accessing education, and some countries have now implemented policies where schooling is included in social protection programs. These programs ensure that hard to reach children, such as those with disabilities or minority status, are able to enroll in education programs to learn the skills that will benefit them in the future.¹⁹ Unequal access to education can be considered partly due to the family's socioeconomic status in developing countries, with roughly only 20% of children receiving a formal education. Even if the child is able to enroll and complete schooling, the child is still disadvantaged due to the poor education facilities and inadequate teachings. Since inequality tends to accumulate throughout an individual's life, it will consequently also affect the nation's human capital development and global economy, further demonstrating why it is crucial for children to receive an education to hopefully change their socio-economic status.²⁰

17 UN. "Education and skills for inclusive and sustainable development beyond 2015". *United Nations*. 2012. https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/4_education.pdf

18 Burja, Camelia, and Vasile Burja. "Education's Contribution to Sustainable Economic Growth in Romania." *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* 81 (2013): 147–51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.06.403>.

19 UN. "Education and skills for inclusive and sustainable development beyond 2015". *United Nations*. 2012. https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/4_education.pdf

20 Niekerk, Arno. "Inclusive Economic Sustainability: SDGs and Global Inequality". *Sustainability*. (July 6th 2020): 1-19. doi:10.3390/su12135427

Rural vs. Urban Conundrum

While population growth is increasing in urban cities, it is common for individuals in rural communities to travel to urban cities in search for jobs or a better quality of life. Thus, while urban cities continue to expand due to economic developments and opportunity, rural communities seem to exist as an untouched resource by governments. For example, a large portion of the Indian population are living, or are migrating to urban cities such as Mumbai or Delhi.²¹ However, these cities are not equipped nor prepared for India's rising population in the future. By 2030, it is expected that 42 million people are going to be living in Mumbai, an amount that the city is not equipped to handle. Furthermore, by 2050, it is predicated that there will be an additional 404 million people added to India's urban population, including cities such as Delhi.²² Population growth in urban cities can be partially attributed to migrants leaving rural communities in search for a better salary, and they commonly adopt jobs in the construction sector. However, these jobs are expected to diminish in the future as it becomes more automated with machines. Since the urban cities are incapable of handling additional population growth and are already challenged by their infrastructure, India is going to have to provide its population with more job opportunities and livelihoods in rural areas. If villages are self-sustaining, then it is likely that less migrants will travel to urban cities in search of jobs, thus preventing the population of cities like Mumbai from increasing drastically.

Barriers to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization

Beyond the various population characteristics highlighted above, methods and considerations for developing viable industries and environments that facilitate them vary based on the region and socio-economic status of these communities. There are two main variations that may be considered. Within the Global North, there are communities that have experienced severe underdevelopment despite the country's strong economic development overall. These communities like Flint Michigan in the United States, or some Indigenous communities in the Northwest territories of Canada, have experienced underdevelopment due to unique policy decisions.

Similarly in LEDCs multilateral agreements have sometimes yielded negative consequences. For example, a 1994 agreement between the Haitian government and the International Monetary Fund "brought the near-total collapse of Haiti's local rice industry" through the reduction of tariffs on rice imports from 35% to 30% allowing "cheap, subsidized rice from the United States [...] economically undermining Haitian rice farmers who received neither government subsidies nor access to cheap capital."²³ Another example exists in the Jamaican context. As a part of conditions attached to a structural adjustment loan, the World Bank forced Jamaica to reduce import tariffs on milk powder and abolish its subsidy of the local dairy ruining the industry forcing farmers to dump their production and sell off cows.²⁴ When considered in a broader context it is clear how this provides an opportunity for uneven development. In contrast, the global north is allowed to give its

21 Biswas, Asit, Udisha Saklani, Cecilia Tortajada. "India's rural-urban conundrum". *Asia and Pacific Policy Society*. October 9th, 2017. <https://www.policyforum.net/indias-rural-urban-conundrum/>

22 Biswas

23 Jeannette Diaz, Renate Schneider, and Pwogwam Santé Mantal, "Globalization as Re-Traumatization: Rebuilding Haiti from the Spirit Up," *Journal of Social Issues* 68, no. 3 (2012): 495.

24 Stephanie Black, *Life and Debt*, Documentary, 2001, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cdCCJtOAMQ>; JULIA Rendleman, "Jamaica: Fresh Milk Down the Drain," *Pulitzer Center* (blog), October 20, 2011, <https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/jamaica-fresh-milk-down-drain>.

citizens access to concessions such as the \$230 Billion subsidies of the US steel industry²⁵ or USDA cheese surplus buyback program – which have continued since 1949²⁶ – and in 2018 was expanded to liquid dairy.²⁷

For the global north, domestic protectionism through subsidies has long been proven necessary in core industries, a sentiment that should be expanded to the global south -- and arguably should be expanded in the global north itself to accommodate economically disadvantaged communities. This then can allow globalization to continue promoting trade for specialist and niche markets that countries would have more capital and capacity to develop. Without this basic level of protectionism, when economies of scale yield production changes like outsourcing and mechanization, the associated job losses lead to higher rates of income inequality due to the highly integrated nature of the country's economy. However, in some instances competitive advantages may be created to the detriment of LEDCs.

One of the most prominent examples of how competitive advantages are artificially created through state policies is the United States' support of United Fruit (and later for Chiquita). United Fruit has had a checkered past and maintained a reputation of being ruthless when crossed and "acted to remove governments that did not comply with its wishes."²⁸ This is a company culture that continued after the corporation was dissolved and transitioned into Chiquita. Chiquita has been able to force and keep workers under poor working conditions by suppressing unions and gaining control over their shelter so "that if they leave, they stand to not only lose their source of income but also their house."²⁹ These actions on the ground have also been coupled by strain placed on its competitors by the United States.

For example, for decades, Caribbean nations have had access to the European markets for the sale of bananas. Since the 1950s the UK allowed the protected sale of bananas to replace unprofitable sugar production³⁰ and in 1975 this was expanded to EC countries under the Lomé convention allowing "[African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)] countries a set price for a fixed amount of a certain commodity, regardless of the world market price."³¹ This provided a way to develop the markets of these former European colonies without their reliance on foreign aid. At its peak in the early 1990s, this brought the banana industry to about 20 percent of the GDP of the Caribbean Windward Islands.³² This large share of GDP, however, only represented seven percent of Europe's bananas with three-quarters coming from US multinationals, which control the Latin American

25 Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 4th ed. edition (W W Norton & Co Inc, 2018), 295.

26 Emily Moon, "What Will the U.S. Government Do With 1.4 Billion Pounds of Cheese?," *Pacific Standard*, January 10, 2019, <https://psmag.com/economics/what-will-the-us-government-do-with-1-4-billion-pounds-of-cheese>.

27 Stephanie Ebbs, "What's behind the Government's Unprecedented Move to Buy \$50M in Milk," *ABC News*, August 15, 2018, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/us-government-buying-50-million-milk-dairy-farmers/story?id=57180332>.

28 Peter Chapman, "Rotten Fruit," May 4, 2007, <https://www.ft.com/content/778739c4-f869-11db-a940-000b5df10621>.

29 Allison Piper, "The Creation of a Banana Empire: An Investigation into Chiquita Brand | Harvard Political Review," *Harvard Political Review*, June 10, 2017, <https://harvardpolitics.com/world/the-creation-of-a-banana-empire-an-investigation-into-chiquita-brand/>.

30 Montfort Mlachila, Paul Cashin, and Cleary Haines, "Caribbean Bananas: The Macroeconomic Impact of Trade Preference Erosion," *IMF Working Paper* (International Monetary Fund, March 2010), 3, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2010/wp1059.pdf>.

31 Lotte Drieghe and Jan Orbie, "Revolution in Times of Eurosclerosis: The Case of the First Lomé Convention," *L'Europe En Formation* n° 353-354, no. 3 (2009): 172.

32 Mlachila, Cashin, and Haines, "Caribbean Bananas: The Macroeconomic Impact of Trade Preference Erosion," 3.

banana crop.³³ However, petitioning under Sec. 301 of the US Trade Act, these multinational corporations garnered the support of the US's legal and administrative resources, to pit "against the struggling democracies of 7 small Caribbean countries whose combined wealth [at the time was] less than 0.4% of that of the US."³⁴ Warning against this action, the State Department argued that an ill-advised attack on the banana industry and the decline of traditional one-crop economies would only increase "the lure of drug money."³⁵ A position that has proven right with one farmer stating, "now that the Americans have killed us on bananas, we have no other choice" but to rely on marijuana.³⁶

Managing Populations and Sustainable Consumption

Population dynamics such as increasing divergence across countries, rapid population growth in poor countries, aging population in more advanced ones, complex migration and high rates of urbanization play a big role in influencing sustainable development at the global and national levels.³⁷ Population dynamics affect almost every part of a citizen's wellbeing, including but not limited to employment, housing, healthcare, education, production, income distribution, and access to food and water. One of the biggest posed challenges is pressure on resources, which comes primarily from demographic transitions, more specifically-from population growth in certain regions. Economic hardships, poverty and lack of opportunities facilitate exploitation of resources, therefore causing environmental damage, pollution, inappropriate agricultural practices. As a result the country with a fast increasing population is more likely to have a major negative impact on health and future economic growth.³⁸

Lately, more advanced countries have seen the highest level of migration in history on both internal and external levels. Increased migration develops economic linkages between regions, therefore providing more business opportunities. Moreover, managed migration can directly speed up development, by promoting innovation in advanced countries and in some cases reducing poverty in poorer ones.(Rio 2012 UN Issues Brief). Another powerful driver of sustainable development is urbanization; one of the reasons being greater access to healthcare and education. Moreover, population density makes it easier for the government to deliver essential infrastructure and services in urban areas at a lower cost, and provides energy savings³⁹.

Seeing that either a)migration and rapid population growth in some countries or b)an aging population in other countries have been two of the biggest population dynamics, it is only logical for governments to try and implement policies or programs to manage the aforementioned. A population program is the enactment of

33 By Patrick Barkham, "The Banana Wars Explained," *The Guardian*, March 5, 1999, sec. World news, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/1999/mar/05/eu.wto3>.

34 European Commission, "EC Fact Sheet on Caribbean Bananas and the WTO" (Brussels: European Commission, March 18, 1997), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_97_28.

35 Bob Herbert, "In America;Banana Bully," *The New York Times*, May 13, 1996, sec. Opinion, <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/05/13/opinion/in-america-banana-bully.html>.

36 Mark Fineman, "Seeds of Distress in St. Vincent; Marijuana: Cultivation of the Illegal Drug Quietly Rules the Caribbean Nation's Economy, and Some Say U.S. Policies Are to Blame.," *Baltimoresun.Com*, January 28, 2000, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2000-01-28-0001280218-story.html>.

37 "Sustainable Development and Population Dynamics: Placing People at the Centre," United Nations Population Fund, June 19, 2013, <https://www.unfpa.org/press/sustainable-development-and-population-dynamics-placing-people-centre>.

38 'Population Summit of the World's Scientific Academies' at NAP.edu," National Academies Press: OpenBook, accessed November 13, 2020, <https://www.nap.edu/read/9148/chapter/5>.

39 "Sustainable Development and Population Dynamics: Placing People at the Centre," United Nations Population Fund, June 19, 2013

nationally defined policies or strategies to affect demographic trends and patterns⁴⁰. There are various policies being implemented on both micro and macro levels in individual governments and international establishments such as the United Nations. Some of the most well known programs aimed to control population growth are Family Planning Family and Fertility Programs. Family planning programs are described as “organized efforts to assure that couples who want to limit their family size and space their children have access to contraceptive information and services are encouraged to use them as needed”⁴¹. Family programs have proven effective. After being implemented in developing countries in the 1960s—more precisely Sub-Saharan African and East Asian countries—the number of females practicing some form of pregnancy avoidance increased by about 9 times by 1990⁴². Moreover, SDGs include targets on mortality, reproductive health and education for all girls to affect demographic trends. Seeing that the situation with population growth is highly unpredictable, UN focuses on developing the most likely scenarios and creating solutions to combat them. There are SDG goals that focus on child mortality, maternal mortality, causes of death and reproductive health which directly affect population trends.

Questions to Consider

1. Global population and movement affect our ability to create sustainable communities. Considering the dynamics of your own country, how has population development, migration, urbanization and other demographic factors affected your country’s ability to facilitate good health and wellbeing (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), innovation, industry and infrastructure (SDG 9), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)?
2. What are the current trends, recent developments and emerging solutions in the field of demography and sustainable development? Consider recent resolutions of the UNCPD (related or unrelated to topics) and your country’s stance on the resolutions.
3. Based on the work done by the UN Populations Fund - notably its report on the progress and gaps towards fulfilling the ‘International Conference on Population and Development Promise’⁴³ - what do you think are some key areas of focus that your country will want to pursue in debate?
4. What are some changes your country (and others) are making in alignment with the Programme of Action? Consider new technologies that may be leveraged to improve development, as well as how COVID has affected (positively or negatively) the development of tech and the movement of ideas.

40 Tsui, Amy Ong. “Population Policies, Family Planning Programs, and Fertility: The Record.” *Population and Development Review* 27 (2001): 184-204.

41 Ong, 187

42 ibid

43 United Nations Population Fund, “Fulfilling the ICPD Promise,” April 2019, /publications/fulfilling-icpd-promise.

Topic B: Efficient and Effective Access to Healthcare and Education

The world today is demographically and economically more diverse [...]. National and regional differences in population dynamics are particularly striking. While some countries remain young, with high population growth rates, others face rapid population ageing and negative population growth. More than half of all population growth between now and 2050 will occur in just nine countries, where many women cannot limit their family size for lack of empowerment or services. The realization of a demographic dividend in these countries would require not only far better access to health and family planning, but also major investment in the empowerment of women and girls, coverage and quality of education, skills development and decent work..

– Introduction; Fulfilling the ICPD Promise: Progress, Gaps and Working and Scale April 2019⁴⁴

Many cities face barriers to access to healthcare and education because of poor territorial and urban planning. Covid-19 pandemic especially draws attention to the disparities in access to healthcare in certain regions. Over 50 percent of the world's population lives in cities, however the infrastructure to accommodate the growing urban population have not yet been built. Currently, on top of the worldwide pandemic, some cities face health issues such as infectious diseases, inadequate access to clean water, hygiene facilities and sanitization; consequently, those cities don't have an opportunity for economic growth, social development and adequate standards of living. Governments around the world alongside world organizations acknowledge the issue of poor access to healthcare and therefore propose changes. For example, in light of the pandemic WHO issued a source book *Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning* that provides guidelines on building cities with a focus on human and environmental health. They highlight ways and tools to bring together city planning and health care, such as health appraisal, and analysis and data tools(i.e public space assessment, health impact assessment, cumulative and comparative risk assessment, spatial epidemiology, online analytic tools and city profiling)⁴⁵. The biggest reason for poor access to healthcare is the lack of communication or unity between the urban planner and healthcare professionals. Seeing that, the UK implemented a few policies targeted to increase communication and cooperation between the two sectors. In 2012 the UK government reorganized public health functions and gave local authorities responsibility for the healthcare of their population, which brought public health under the same authority as urban planners and as a result supported collaboration between the two sectors.⁴⁶

Another issue that urban planners often oversee is access to education. Opportunities to education are often given to, in some sense, undeserving urbanized sites. One of the reasons being increase in migration to urban areas, which makes authorities assume that providing education in rural areas will promote even more migration. One of the biggest programs implemented in the past was *Millennial Development Goal*(MDG)

44 United Nations Population Fund, "Fulfilling the ICPD Promise."

45 "Urban Planning Crucial for Better Public Health in Cities," World Health Organization (World Health Organization), accessed November 13, 2020, <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/urban-planning-crucial-for-better-public-health-in-cities>.

46 Laurence Carmichael et al., "Urban Planning as an Enabler of Urban Health: Challenges and Good Practice in England Following the 2012 Planning and Public Health Reforms," *Land Use Policy* (Pergamon, March 19, 2019), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837718307361>.

which targeted to achieve a significant improvement in education in slums by 2020.⁴⁷ And another program *Education For All Goal 2* focused on providing children in difficult circumstances and of ethnic minorities with good quality education.⁴⁸

However, none of the policies on improving access to healthcare and education come without challenges. Firstly, it is extremely costly to implement, because private investors usually focus on improving access in remote locations, whereas public investors find it easier and cheaper to implement those programs in urban areas. Consecutively the issue with cost-effectiveness arises when it comes to implementing programs (especially those that improve access to education), because they are known to be very costly but authorities don't perceive the benefit obtained to be proportional to the cost. Lastly, the capacity constraints can act as a barrier to ease the access to healthcare and education. Most slumps have weak planning, implementation and monitoring capacities, which lead to poor organization and a weak lobby to infrastructure investments.⁴⁹

Disparities in Access

Socioeconomic status has direct effect on peoples access to healthcare and, as a result, their wellbeing. For example, in the Unites States 40 percent of adults who don't hold a high school degree are uninsured compared to only 10 percent of uninsured college graduates; moreover, 60 percent of the uninsured in the US are low income families⁵⁰. Despite having poorer access to healthcare, low income families or disadvantaged persons receive worse quality of healthcare. Research shows that in the Unites States of America, states with higher income inequality have fewer primary care doctors per capita⁵¹, which naturally leads to higher mortality and morbidity. Moreover, a study conducted in the poorer countries of the former USSR (Armenia, Georgia and Moldova) showed that 45.2 percent of people who reported illness but did not seek professional help said they were experiencing financial difficulties and thus were unable to seek treatment. On the contrary, very few people in Moscow and Belarus were unable to visit a professional because of the financial constraints. Moreover, in the countries where affordability was a substantial barrier to access to services, the proportion reporting that they had to go without drugs because of financial reasons was also high⁵². Additionally, in some countries, there is an issue of public vs private sector healthcare providers. In the United States healthcare is mostly private, unlike in Canada, for example, where healthcare sector is predominantly public. Because of the issues listed above, public healthcare can act as a solution to the financial barriers to access. Private healthcare, on the other hand, puts low income families and disadvantaged persons in the position of struggle and contributes to decreased wellbeing and higher mortality.

47 Anne Kielland, "Evolution in Approaches to Improve Access to Education for Children Living in Urban Slums," unesdoc.unesco.org (UNESCO, 2015), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000232395>.

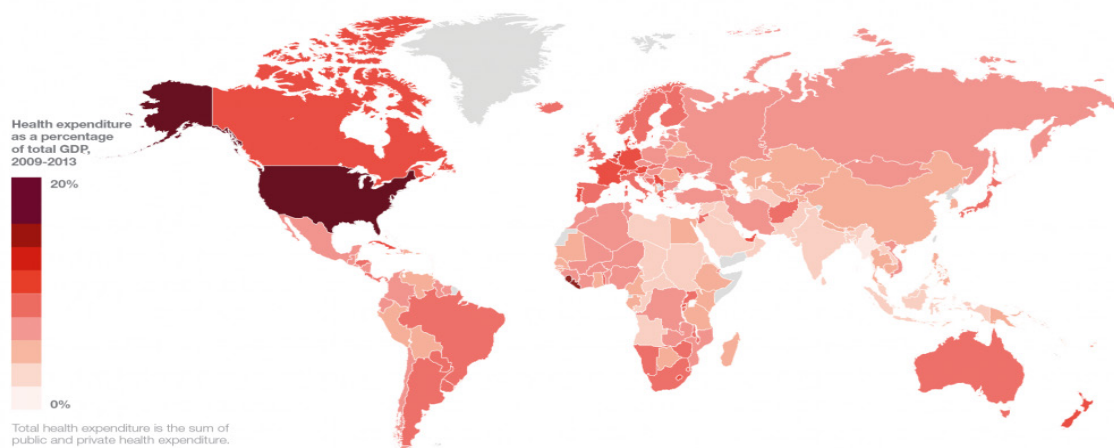
48 ibid.

49 ibid.

50 Nancy E. Adler and Katherine Newman et al., "Socioeconomic Disparities In Health: Pathways And Policies," Health Affairs, April 2012, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.60>.

51 Ibid.

52 Sarah Walters, "Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health and Health Care Access in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS: a Review of the Recent Literature," WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development (WHO Europe, November 2005), https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/125457/e94412.pdf.



Socioeconomic status doesn't only have effect on the quality of healthcare and access to it, but it also greatly affects education. The biggest barrier to accessing good quality of education is poverty, because children in low resourced communities are less likely to meet the so-called basic prerequisites for learning and are ill prepared for school. Children in poverty are more likely to have absent parents, be malnourished, experience violence and/or great stress. Moreover, developing countries have unequal conditions of socioeconomic development and funding, therefore even if children don't face the aforementioned issues, they might not have access to education because schools in rural regions and informal settlements receive less funding than schools in urban areas. Discrimination in certain areas is also one of the barriers to accessing education. Some children face discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity, religion and/or culture, therefore are at higher risk to suffer mental or physical effects of it very early on.⁵³

Poor access to education and healthcare has been a topic of concern, therefore two of Sustainable Development Goals heavily focus on improving the quality and access to both. SDG 3 focuses on ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing, and improving the health of people around the globe. Currently, because of the pandemic the goal has been amended to also focus on the health emergency and the disparities in some countries' abilities to "cope and recover from Covid-19 crisis"⁵⁴. SDG 3 has already made effort to increase life expectancy and reduce some common killers associated with child mortality⁵⁵

SDG 4 is another goal of The United Nations Development Program and it focuses on enabling upward socioeconomic mobility by improving the quality and access to education⁵⁶. Similarly to SDG 3, certain amendments have been made, seeing that the world is facing an unprecedented health emergency. Therefore, SDG 4 made an effort to target the issue of children who relied on school meals as their primary source of food, being forced to look for other sources of nutrition. However, over the years the UN has already made major progress in "increasing access to education and school enrollment rates at all levels, particularly for girls."⁵⁷ And even though there are still millions of children out of school and literacy rates are extremely low, the program has

53 Kielland

54 "Health – United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations (United Nations), accessed November 13, 2020, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>.

55 Ibid.

56 "Education – United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations (United Nations), accessed November 13, 2020, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>.

57 ibid

been proven to be beneficial.

Technology-Based Solutions

Technological developments pertaining to access have been paramount in enabling less economically developed countries to bridge the gap in recent times and to ensure that they are not left behind in this era of rapid development. Technological solutions in the context of education have never been as important as they have been in 2020 globally, however when looking at less developed countries, the need for technological development in education has always existed and only grows as the years pass. Looking at schools in Kenya, a vast number of them are relatively underfunded and lack books and other educational supplies that convey a high standard of education and access to resources.⁵⁸ It is a systematic problem in relation to funding in many countries that are considered less economically developed, and harboring these issues leads to larger infrastructural problems down the line, in which developing a functioning educational system becomes incrementally harder.

The use of mobile electronics offers students and teachers the ability to access resources they previously would not have had, coupled with research from MIT and Harvard that show technology such as computers and phones can facilitate students' learning in disadvantaged areas⁵⁹, bring up a strong case for the implementation of technological solutions in less economically developed countries. However, in this pursuit of reducing barriers to education, new barriers rise in the form of the initial investment costs to implement technological solutions in many of these less economically developed nations. Technological solutions cannot however, solve all problems in disadvantaged areas and it is argued that rather than focusing on buying technology for their students, governments should focus on hiring teachers and other educational priorities that may sustain and influence developmental standards for the future.⁶⁰

Like education, the usage of technological devices have been implemented in developing worlds in an effort to support their healthcare. In areas where doctors and practitioners are lacking resources and health care data, it would be expected that the usage of technology would thus improve the care patients are receiving. In 2013, WHO estimated that 6 million children under the age of 5 die each year, and that about 1000 women die each year due to pregnancy or pregnancy related causes.⁶¹ Improving access to healthcare technology could lower this mortality rate, however some areas are unable to receive these resources. Research has found that medical devices are incredibly important in diagnosing diseases and for implementing preventative measures, and evidence also suggests that investing in the devices reduces the overall amount of health expenditure, as every dollar spent on medical devices correlates to approximately 3 dollars saved on other hospital care costs.⁶² However, steps should be taken before introducing new technology to disadvantaged countries to ensure that they will be useful and not a waste of funds for governments that are already tight on resources. A Web based health application was useful in Uganda because it increased birth registration in the country. Due to this data, doctors and officials are able to track health outcomes and services for children, ensuring that they are treated and vaccinated. This approach was successful because it identified the problem that children wouldn't receive

58 Livingston, Steven. "Classroom technologies narrow education gap in developing countries". *Brookings*. August 23rd, 2016. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2016/08/23/classroom-technologies-narrow-education-gap-in-developing-countries/>

59 Livingston.

60 Livingston.

61 Abbam, Gisela. "Diversity and Equality in Health and Care". *IMedPub*. November 9th, 2020. <https://diversityhealthcare.imedpub.com/what-role-does-technology-play-in-improving-access-to-healthcare.php?aid=1535>

62 Abbam.

aid because there was no documentation of the child, and then solved it by introducing a method to increase birth registration in the country.⁶³ Therefore, technology is most likely to be successful in developing countries when they are implemented with a clear purpose and goal, rather than simply donating them the technology.

Effects of Poor Urban Planning

Since the industrial revolution, the world has been becoming more and more urbanized. New and rapid urbanization can lead to challenges for global health, and infectious diseases as it can become an incubator for epidemics and zoonotic diseases⁶⁴. Health issues primarily arise from poor city planning. Different risk factors in the urban environment can, for example, be poor housing which can lead to proliferation of insect and rodent vector diseases and geohelminthiasis. This is connected to inadequate water supplies as well as sanitation and waste management. All contribute to a favorable setting for both different rodents and insects which carry pathogens and soil-transmitted helminth infections. If buildings lack effective fuel and ventilation systems, respiratory tract infections can also be acquired. Contaminated water can spread disease, as can poor food storage and preparation, due to microbial toxins and zoonoses. The density of inhabitants and the close contact between people in urban areas are potential hot spots for rapid spread of emerging infectious diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the avian flu. Criteria for a worldwide pandemic could be met in urban centres, which could develop into a worldwide health crisis⁶⁵. Moreover, oftentimes proximity to certain emitters such as factories is not taken into account.



<https://www.bigeasymagazine.com/2019/04/01/they-dont-call-it-cancer-alley-for-nothing/>

The most prominent example of that could be the Cancer Alley in the US. This area in Southern Louisiana, which is sometimes also simply called Chemical Corridor got its name from the concentration of chemical manufacturing plants located in close proximity. Cancer Alley is filled what has been described as "Oz-like [cities] of steel pipe, cylinders and tanks [from which] [s]team billows from ...cooling towers ...and flames from burning chemical waste leap from 200-foot-high stacks [while] strange odors and a fine mist fill

63 Dercon, Stefan. "Is technology key to improving global health and education, or just an expensive distraction". *Worlds Economic*. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/05/technology-health-education-developing-countries/>

64 Jason Corburn, "Confronting the Challenges in Reconnecting Urban Planning and Public Health," *American journal of public health* (© American Journal of Public Health 2004, April 2004), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1448291/>.

65 ibid

the air”⁶⁶. Naturally, the toxicity in the region causes severe health issues for residents. It has been reported that the toxic industrial elements released into Ascension Parish air, water and soil contain ammonia which cause irritation and serious burns on the skin and in the mouth, throat, lungs, and eyes and hydrochloric acid which can cause corrosive damage to the eyes, skin, and respiratory tissues and lead to pulmonary edema⁶⁷. Moreover, poor urban planning and urbanization lead to some areas having easier access to healthcare and medications. Difference in the density of health services can also be associated with lower incomes, and higher numbers of minority populations

Questions to Consider

1. What are some issues with access to healthcare and education your country faces? Have there been any policies implemented to combat that?
2. Consider other countries with related socio-economic characteristics and the methodologies that may or may not have been employed in those jurisdictions?
3. What are some of the barriers to access and disparities in access in your country? What are some of the root causes?
4. Around the world, countries have begun to use innovative solutions to improve access to healthcare and education. Considering these technology based solutions employed around the world, which methodologies may prove to be effective in your country and why?
5. Seeing that there is arguably a negative correlation between increased urbanization and worsening health, what are some urban planning policies that could be successful at helping prevent the difference in density of health services and close proximity of manufacturing plants in some regions?

⁶⁶ Polluter’s Paradise, “Welcome to ‘Cancer Alley,’ Where Toxic Air Is About to Get Worse,” ProPublica, accessed November 13, 2020, <https://www.propublica.org/article/welcome-to-cancer-alley-where-toxic-air-is-about-to-get-worse>.

⁶⁷ Merrill Charles Singer, “(PDF) Down Cancer Alley: The Lived Experience of Health ...,” June 2011, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/51564478_Down_Cancer_Alley_The_Lived_Experience_of_Health_and_Environmental_Suffering_in_Louisiana’s_Chemical_Corridor.

Topic C: Development of Communities to Support Population Growth

Around the world many of the basic resources on which future generations will depend for their survival and well-being are being depleted and environmental degradation is intensifying, driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, unprecedented growth in population, widespread and persistent poverty, and social and economic inequality . Ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of future generations . There is an emerging global consensus on the need for increased international cooperation in regard to population in the context of sustainable development ...” **Preamble; Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo 5–13 September 1994**

Historically as populations have grown, it has been important to consider the framework under which the needs of these burgeoning communities will be met. This has led to transitions from hunter-gatherer societies around the world or to feudalism in Europe. In the modern era, it has included the use of, and transitions between urban, suburban and rural centers to minimize negative effects of population growth.

Effects of Population Growth

Population growth characterized to a formula is simply the percentage change in population from one period to another, however, when looking at population growth, analysing the socioeconomic impacts and stresses put on a particular locality is fundamental in understanding why regions around the globe are affected as they are due to their growing populations. The issues that arise due to population growth are vast in the areas they cover and tend to be fuelled by a combination of factors such as unsustainable policies to curb increasing population densities along with poor, and usually in the case of LEDCs, overwhelmed necessity infrastructure such as healthcare facilities.

Rapid urbanization has had a significant impact on the ecological environment, largely due to the large amounts of municipal wastewater being discharged into rivers. The effect of population on water quality is more pronounced in urban areas, and as a result, the worsened water quality negatively affects agriculture and aquatic wildlife, thus affecting the population who lives in the area.⁶⁸ The polluted water can prevent farmers from being able to grow crops to feed the urban population, and the contaminated water prevents individuals from being able to use it to drink. Thus, it is important for countries to be able to undertake sustainable development without contaminating their water supply, as well as find ways to protect their natural resources. In a study conducted in Sri Lanka, researchers investigated the correlation between population density and water contamination levels near the city. Data was collected on pollution levels in the lower and middle levels of the Kelani river, which is typically incredibly rich in biodiversity and offers benefits to 25% of the Sri Lankan population.

However, since the river mainly consists of flatbed areas, it is more susceptible to pollution and

⁶⁸ Liyanage, Chamara, Koichi Yamada. “Impact of Population Growth on the Water Quality of Natural Water Bodies”. *Sustainability*. (August 9th, 2017):1-14.

urbanization, and the Kelani river is now one of the most polluted rivers in Sri Lanka.⁶⁹ The study compared the pollution levels of water against the population density of nearby areas to create a method for measuring the effects of urban areas on water pollution. The researchers found that with increasing urbanization and population density, the water did indeed become further polluted. In order to help cities evaluate the possible contamination of their waters, they determined two parameters to judge its quality in terms of population density. A population density of less than 2375 makes the water safe to drink, while a population density between 2375 and 2672 is acceptable for aquatic life.⁷⁰

While using the methods discussed above makes it possible to determine the possible water contamination levels near a city, it is also possible to use technology to create more safe drinking water. Mexico city is one of the most water stressed cities in the world, and there are many areas where there is poor quality drinking water, most notably in areas of low-income. Due to this demand for clean water, the usage of rainwater harvesting has been proposed as an additional resource to the city. In a study conducted to test the contents of water harvested by the system, researchers found that the water is indeed safe to drink, and is up the water quality standards both internationally and in Mexico. Thus, rainwater harvesting is a strong potential to be a substantial water drinking source in urban settings.⁷¹

When it comes to energy, the focus is being moved away from the usage of fossil fuels and more towards renewable energy sources. More than 50% of today's population lives in urban cities, and this figure is expected to rise to 70% by 2050.⁷² During the industrial revolution, cities have become reliant on the usage of fossil fuels, and also commonly import the vast majority of resources, such as food and energy. This resulted in the waste and depletion of non-renewable energy sources, as well as harmful effects such as pollution on our environment. Thus, it is crucial for cities to identify new ways in which they can provide energy for their population. In a paper conducted by researchers to determine the actual application of renewable energy sources in urban cities, they determined the most realistic and best renewable energy options for developing versus developed cities, and also considered low versus high population density. They determined that cities with a low population density were best suited to use solar energy, while cities with a high population density should implement electrification in buildings.⁷³ Other possible renewable energy sources are hydropower, wind power, and geothermal power. Through the usage of these technologies, it is possible to continue to provide energy for cities while becoming less reliant on fossil fuels, and provide better care to our environment.⁷⁴

What Makes a Successful Community?

A good environment and strong social organization are two necessities for the formation of a successful city. A good environment includes clean water and a favorable climate for growing crops and agriculture. A strong sense of social organization helps a newly formed city work together in times of need, and it allows people to develop various functions to assist in the future development of the city. Without these two common

69 Liyanage.

70 Liyanage.

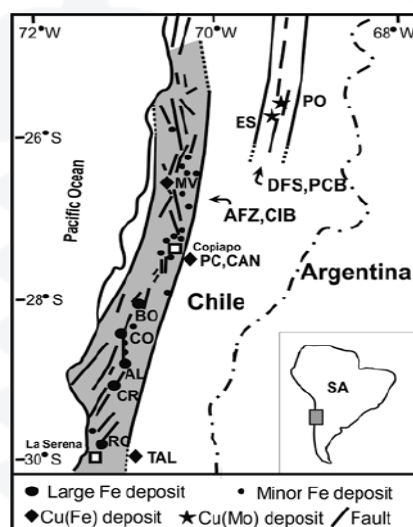
71 Gispe, Mireya. Maria Hernandez, Enrique Climent, Maria Flores. "Rainwater harvesting as a drinking water option for Mexico City". *Sustainability*. (October 28th, 2020): 1-13. doi:10.3390/su10113890

72 Delponte, Ilaria, and Corrado Schenon. "RES implementation in urban areas: an updated overview". *Sustainability*. (January 3rd, 2020): 1-14.

73 Delponte.

74 Delponte.

features, as well as advanced agricultural technology, a newly formed city is not likely to succeed.



In order to understand what makes a city or community successful, it would be useful to provide a contrary example, of a region that has been experiencing an industrial decline. The rust belt is an area of mid-west US, dominated by manufacturing industry, which can be characterized by 3 trends: High unemployment, declining populations, falling real incomes, and social problems associated with structural employment⁷⁵. However, after the area boomed in the 20th century, it failed to adapt to new social and economic conditions. Shift in comparative advantage, shift in the job market, negative regional multiplier effect and social problems in the area (increased crime rate) contributed to the industrial decline in the area. On the contrary, the area in Chile known as the Iron Belt is a province rich in oil deposits. The development of the area even constitutes a turning point in the history of Chile. The Chilean Iron Belt is a good example of industrial specialization of a community. Industrial specialization takes advantage of the natural resources of a region, such as Oil, Ore, Forest, and fertile land.

Specialization has impacts on the economy of the specializing region. It promotes the development of new techniques and technologies, which consequently lead to the increase in productivity and higher standard of living⁷⁶. However, specialized cities are under higher risk of unemployment. Studies have shown that inflow of less educated migrants in the US have been putting native workers out of the industry. Moreover, a large inflow of immigrants with limited schooling alters the relative scarcity of education groups and increases wages paid to highly educated workers and decreased wages paid to less educated ones⁷⁷. It is believed that migrants carry a new range of skills, diversity and innovation to the countries, thus stimulating economic growth. However, if the region is specializing in a certain sector, it is safe to assume that migration will be limited to immigrants with a certain set of skills. Therefore, the chances of migration negatively affecting native workers are higher because there is no room to maneuver and no opportunities to acquire new skills.

75 Tejvan Pettinger, John, and David Morton, "Healthcare - Private vs Public Sector," Economics Help, December 7, 2019, <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/1777/economics/health-care-arguments/>.

76 Sean Ross, "What Are the Economic Impacts of Specialization?," Investopedia (Investopedia, October 16, 2020), <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/040615/what-are-economic-impacts-specialization.asp>.

77 Peri, Giovanni, and Chad Sparber. "Task Specialization, Immigration, and Wages." American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 1, no. 3 (2009): 135-69



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-Lower-Cretaceous-Chilean-Iron-Belt-CIB-along-the-southern-segment-of-the-Atacama_fig1_225380170
<https://beltmag.com/mapping-rust-belt/>

New Social Constructions of Cities

For cities, its origins as an impartial association dedicated to communal improvement is important. In many instances it has allowed these spaces to extend their control beyond that of national authorities as we have seen instances such as American cities committing to abide by the guidelines of the Kyoto Accord despite the federal government's withdrawal.⁷⁸ Beyond this however, its origins have important implications on the ways in which individuals collectively develop them. While there are various elaborate conceptions of how cities should operate in the moving forward, in what ways do they - or do they not - align to its intended ideal? These considerations below then form a basis for new innovative considerations like Paris' 15-Minute City which is a movement to decentralize city spaces allowing residents to have access to things they need within a 15 minute walking radius.⁷⁹

For example, based on the implied mandate of improvement, municipalities often utilize standards embedded in policies (instead of laws as used on the federal or state/provincial level) as the basis of their quasi-legislative authority. Through this, a city's authority of forced acquisition of property in general goes beyond that of the state as allowing expropriation even if only for a private developer. Under our current conceptions of city governance, municipalities only consider an individual's existence "insofar as we have a place to stand" rather than as persons as on a constitutional level.⁸⁰ This introduces its own challenges paving the way for "draconian and arguably unconstitutional rules that target propertyless people."⁸¹ Similarly, to be 'recognized' (i.e. those whose existence municipal standards even aim to govern) individuals must align to a positionality that has been shaped through a Foucaultian notion of normalization.

Another form of normalization comes in the form of city spaces being incorrectly sold as 'public'

78 David W. Burns, "Mayors Climate Protection Center," United States Conference of Mayors, December 6, 2016, <https://www.usmayors.org/programs/mayors-climate-protection-center/>.

79 "The 15-Minute City—No Cars Required—Is Urban Planning's New Utopia," *Bloomberg.Com*, November 12, 2020, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-11-12/paris-s-15-minute-city-could-be-coming-to-an-urban-area-near-you>.

80 Mariana Valverde, *Everyday Law on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity* (University of Chicago Press, 2012), 32, <https://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/E/bo13948187.html>.

81 Valverde, 32.

or 'common' spaces. Unlike truly common spaces like grazing lands, citizens are required to ask for special permissions regardless of if they are seeking an exception which would allow them to infringe on another's right.⁸² This conception has two diverging methodologies. There is an interesting distinction between city regulations that infringe by requiring and selectively applying permissions for activities, and those which explicitly diminish rights (either deliberately or merely as a consequence of it's goal). In a sense, through either of these methodologies, an individual's right to the city is always being infringed on; both before and after encountering regulations that explicitly do so. For example, one might require a permit to be on the sidewalk past certain amounts of time (like those for busking), food preparation, building on private property, or parking in public areas. While in many instances these are less likely to include an innate form of malice, regulations like those that dictate design requirements often harms those not in those 'ideal' categories. These include those that exclude accessibility features in public spaces (like elevators in subways), hostile designs against homeless people, or those that do only mandate bike lanes in certain areas (i.e. not suburban ones) exclude 'abnormal' positionalities. In these ways it can be a challenge to achieve goals such as the UN's eleventh sustainable development goal which seeks to ensure that existing and/or redesigned communities are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Smart Cities

However, how is all of this changed with the introduction of technology? As highlighted in part above, our interactions through city governance have historically been largely subjective and fluid. With the introduction of more elaborate forms of surveillance, detection and measurement how will this change? Perhaps not much. Smart cities empowered with every-ware "offers the promise of an objectively measured, real-time analysis of urban life and infrastructure";⁸³ however data is never 'pre-analytic' and always requires parameters for collection allowing subjectivity.⁸⁴

Smart cities are derived from the goal of supporting and spurring innovation through the integration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) with existing human and social capital and wider economic policy. This sort of integration has already begun in numerous cities like Rio de Janeiro, London and Dublin allowing the aggregation of data on employment, traffic, crime, utility and dozens of other government departments and agencies. To this end big businesses become the strongest proponents of this transition as not only are their technology solutions used to fuel it but also to promote deregulation and privatization. This would not only legitimate existing private data collection, but also expand its access to data generated by local governments and state agencies. It also creates a virtually permanent technological lock-in where cities are reliant on big business for software updates and management. As a result it is important to consider "the values and agendas underpinning" big data and whose interests they serve.⁸⁵

Despite their promise, smart city technologies provide a considerable amount of secondary risks including "making city infrastructure and services insecure, brittle, and open to extensive forms of vandalism, disruption and criminal exploitation."⁸⁶ However, even now it is too late to fully revert to 'traditional' city governance considering the level of integration that has already started to take place. As a result it is important to consider

82 Valverde, 35.

83 Rob Kitchin, "The Real-Time City? Big Data and Smart Urbanism," *GeoJournal* 79, no. 1 (2014): 5.

84 Kitchin, 9.

85 Kitchin, 9.

86 Rob Kitchin and Martin Dodge, "The (In)Security of Smart Cities: Vulnerabilities, Risks, Mitigation, and Prevention," *Journal of Urban Technology* 26, no. 2 (2019): 61.

ways to counteract previously unknown (or ignored) risks of the transition. For example, some scholars suggest wider systemic interventions including security-by-design as the standard approach for new cities, remedial security patching and replacement, formation of core security and computer emergency response teams to address increasingly complex issues as they arise, changes in procurement procedures that consider security vulnerabilities from the outset and increased opportunities for professional development that address the new learning competencies.⁸⁷

Existing city structures already marginalize and over police certain groups. Not only is enshrining this into an automated process without prior adjustments problematic but also is meshing this unequal framework with one that places penultimate -- if not ultimate -- power in the hands of corporations narrowing the "corporate and state visions" it may portray instead of broadening it to match "the desires of wider society."⁸⁸ The increasing power of corporations conversely decreases the opportunities for independent arbitration. Control is often exerted through the possibility of desired services being withheld.

This is demonstrated most clearly through Facebook's response to Amnesty International's report on corporations they referred to as data giants. At the core of the report's argument, platforms like Google and Facebook have provided crucial connections to the global economy thereby forcing one to be subjected to a loss of privacy and data to achieve their right to access, and information online.⁸⁹ Within this framework, there are often more liability policies for companies than protection assurances for consumers. This demonstrates the paradoxical nature of data that allows one to be liberated and controlled at the same time. In response to accusations of a 'payment in data' scheme, Facebook once again reiterated that "no one is obliged to sign up" for their service while also pointing out the importance of the access to their service by quoting Amnesty's use of it themselves.⁹⁰ This seems to acknowledge, ignore, and reframe the core issue that the 'choice' one is given is limited by the digital nature of society and the lack of alternatives. Essentially, the internet has grown beyond the realm of a private good and now instead is a public good that is still able to yield profit through dubious means. What may happen when there is government mandated use of these systems to support city and community governance? How may these dichotomies be different when considering liability policies for smart city service providers and protection assurances for citizens?

Data Ownership

To better consider the rights that have (or have not been) infringed upon based on the laws current technological understanding Kitchin describes three broad categories of data: representative, implied and derived. With these categories comes different standards of ownership and obligations for collection. These balances are often fluid however in the face of competing conceptions of personal information protection and access to and use of data in the public interest. Data is not just being ubiquitously and continuously collected but is also being "processed, analyzed[,] stored in increasingly complex ways" and being used "to generate new

87 Kitchin and Dodge, "The (In)Security of Smart Cities."

88 Kitchin and Dodge, 12.

89 Amnesty International, "SURVEILLANCE GIANTS: HOW THE BUSINESS MODEL OF GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS" (Amnesty International, November 21, 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/document/?indexNumber=pol30%2f1404%2f2019&language=en>.

90 Amnesty International.

data in the form of profiles, predictions and analytics.”⁹¹

Fundamentally data protection is challenging because in many jurisdictions one does not own their personal information. Unlike creative outputs, personal information falls under facts and can not be protected under copyright and moreover, personal information does not require any ‘creation’ in a traditional sense. The distinction between data and knowledge that occurs in ‘real-life’ follows the existing distinction between publicly and privately known personal information. There is a reasonable ‘right’ for the public to know your name or how to contact you (historically your number in the case of phonebooks and in smaller societies one’s address); however how far does this extend? Especially in the face of more sophisticated data mining techniques than word of mouth?

As a result, Kitchen offers principles to be used to regulate the use of data considering: notice, choice, consent, security, integrity, access and accountability. While states already routinely circumvent privacy for security reasons and individuals are often aware they are being observed but do not have the means or wherewithal to track or prove it, it is important that these considerations are enshrined as protection paradoxical and coercive nature of data and its collection. This however is not always so simple as contradictory regulations can legitimately be an undue burden on producers however universalizing policies like General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) prevents faster improvements on these policies.

These universal policies are often necessary due to the nature of data storage and management that is often transnational. Extra-national outsourcing is often the most financially feasible option however it leaves data vulnerable to multiple factors. For example, not only will varying protection policies yield additional risks from third parties, but the hosting of cloud servers in certain jurisdictions gives countries certain access to the data in it based on suspicions that may not be fully legitimate. Research has found considerable risk for the outsourcing of services beyond a country’s borders without sufficient and equivalent legal and constitutional protections.⁹² To evaluate this risk it also found that Privacy Impact Assessments and Threat Risk Assessments may be conducted. Even beyond actual storage there is risk for individuals and corporations when internet traffic is routed outside of the country even for intra-national communications. This requires considerable law reform to protect trans-border dataflow.

Militarized Cities

Cities, by their very nature, are often prone to manifestations of political violence. While modern infrastructures and economic powers have driven the urbanization of contemporary cities today, these factors that have built the city up, also play a hand in leaving cities vulnerable to a variety of threats; be it organized crime, types of political violence, terrorism, or natural disasters. As both cause and consequence to these risks, we have begun to witness the securitization and militarization of urban spaces.⁹³

As seen in the militarization and segregation in Rio de Janeiro, the government utilized military power in

91 Teresa Scassa, “Data Ownership,” SSRN Scholarly Paper (Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network, September 4, 2018), 7, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3251542>.

92 Heidi Bohaker et al., “Seeing Through the Cloud: National Jurisdiction and Location of Data, Servers, and Networks Still Matter in a Digitally Interconnected World,” 2015, <https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/73096>.

93 Svitkova, Katarina. “Militarization of Cities: the Urban Dimension of Contemporary Security”. *GESI*. November 3rd, 2013. <https://www.seguridadinternacional.es/?q=en/content/militarization-cities-urban-dimension-contemporary-security>

an attempt to combat violence and crime in favela communities, which were largely controlled by drug gangs. Rio underwent an economic boom in the late 1990s and early 2000s and experienced a change in their urban landscape where the city underwent immense transformation due to the influx of new jobs, which consequently brought in migrant workers, and a population growth in the city. This growth put remarkable pressures on the urban landscape, with housing struggles, high crime rate, and socioeconomic inequality. At the turn of the 21st century, as the nation's capital moved from Rio to Brasilia, Rio experienced an economic decline, resulting in many being struck in poverty. This resulted in an accumulation of people living in the favelas, which created a social and political divide since wealthier residents attempted to distance themselves from these locations as they were seen to be violent or dangerous. The policy aimed to take the favela back into control by the police, and most often would do so by force using military weapons. Once the community was taken back under control, the government aimed to expand local residents' access to social services and education programs.⁹⁴

The United States of America has a highly militarized border between them and Mexico. Non-documented immigrants commonly travel from either Mexico or South America in an attempt to enter the United States, however have to face both the border security agents as well as the deadly dangerous terrain in the desert. There have been multiple reports citing both physical and verbal abuse from the security agents, as well as agents not helping migrants when they are asking for or are in dire need of help. Violence, thus, can be said to be a border enforcement strategy.⁹⁵

Gentrified Cities

Gentrification can be stated to be both an economic and social force, but can also be considered the product of the state. Put simply, gentrification is the planned process of targeted reinvestment in neighborhoods, which could cause the displacement of the previous occupants. This is most commonly seen with 18-19th century housing in older neighborhoods of the city. These buildings are then either renovated, or can be demolished and newer structures are built. Once this process of gentrification begins, it continues until all original working class occupiers are displaced. Thus this process seems to exacerbate social inequalities as the lower, working class of people are effectively forced out of their homes and replaced by those with a higher income. By concentrating in specific areas, real estate capital exposes themselves to a variety of vulnerabilities. Anti-gentrification movements can threaten the real estate capital's capacity to earn profits, thus transforming the housing crisis that tenants and homeowners felt to one being felt by landlords and developers as they struggle with their projects without profit.⁹⁶ However, there are some positive effects of gentrification, primarily being that it repairs buildings and old infrastructures, as well as raises property taxes in the given area, resulting in the government having the money to be able to fund improvements in the street and offer other services. This can be seen in various cities in Australia such as Melbourne and Sydney, where gentrified areas had building conditions improved, preventing the possibility that they would later have to be torn down, thus also preserving the heritage of the site.⁹⁷

94 Fahlberg, Anjuli, and Thomas J. Vicino. "Breaking the City: Militarization and Segregation in Rio de Janeiro." *Habitat International* 54, no. Part 1 (May 1, 2016): 10–17. doi:10.1016/j.habitatint.2015.08.042.

95 Slack, Jeremy Y., Daniel E. Martínez, Alison Elizabeth Lee, and Scott Whiteford. "The Geography of Border Militarization: Violence, Death, and Health in Mexico and the United States." *The Shadow of the Wall: Violence and Migration on the U.S.-Mexico Border* 15, no. 1 (2018): 94–119. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2016.0009>.

96 Stein, Samuel. "Gentrification is a Feature, Not a Bug, of Capitalist Urban Planning". *JACOBIN*. March 12, 2019. <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/03/gentrification-is-a-feature-not-a-bug-of-capitalist-urban-planning>

97 Shaw, Kate. "Gentrification: What It Is, Why It Is, and What Can Be Done about It." *Geography Compass*. 2013. 2. 1697 - 1728. 10.1111/j.1749-8198.2008.00156.x.

While gentrification increases the economic value, there is oftentimes a demographic change, with racial and ethnic groups being displaced by those with a higher income. In a study conducted by the NCRC, they found that displacement of black and Hispanic residents accompanied gentrification in many areas, including 20,000 black residents displaced in Washington, D.C between 2000 and 2013. As a result of minority groups moving out of gentrified neighborhoods, the area then lacks in cultural diversity as white residents move in, creating controversy as it affects people at the neighborhood level with a disruption to the support structures provided by their old neighbors.⁹⁸

Night-life Cities

Nightlife economy can be defined as “the social, cultural, and economic activities that take place between 6pm and 6am in the city”. A key component of the nightlife economy is the nightlife activities, which center around entertainment focused and related activities. Supporting the nightlife economy has the potential to strengthen a city’s economy through tourism, as well as increasing businesses and jobs in the area. In 2019, the city of Toronto devised a 3-year plan on how they would strengthen Toronto’s nightlife, which included protecting music venues downtown, extending temporary liquor licensing, as well as ensuring that they would provide safe transportation for nightlife patrons.⁹⁹

Nightlife has been recognized as an important resource for the enhancement of the post-industrial profile of a city, and a city with an exuberant nightlife appeals to the young workforce who might move to the city in search of jobs. However, there are negative effects as it promotes gentrification in derelict neighborhoods, and is found that once gentrification settles into the neighborhood, the nightlife businesses that once made the neighborhood be seen as previously desirable becomes pushed out. Artists and musicians are key contributors to nightlife, and by their expression are able to create a strong music scene, as seen in New York in the 1970s. These artists were able to find cheap rent in the neighborhood, before later having to move out when the real estate market in these neighborhoods changed. At that time, music and nightlife businesses were one of the only viable economic resources for the city, and those working in real estate saw the opportunity to make capital in the area. Thus, the presence of the artists that helped revalorise the local property market, were displaced as the neighborhoods reshaped and were marketed with an increase in property value.¹⁰⁰

Cities that use nightlife as their predominant base for stimulating the economy and attracting tourists, tend to lose focus on other aspects of urban development that can inhibit overall development and socioeconomic growth of the cities. There tends to be seasonal demand fluctuations that make consistent employment in the nightlife sectors difficult for workers and can burden governmental services due to increased unemployment at different times during the year. However, it must be stressed that this is only applicable to cities that solely focus their aim towards tourism and the nightlife entertainment sector, and most cities that you would consider nightlife cities are also major financial powerhouses that don’t focus on one aspect of their city, such as New York City.

98 NCRC. “Shifting Neighborhoods: Gentrification and cultural displacement in American cities”. March 19, 2019. <https://ncrc.org/gentrification/>

99 City of Toronto. “Toronto Nightlife Action Plan”. 2019. <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-134446.pdf>

100 Hae, Laam. “Dilemmas of the Nightlife Fix: Post-Industrialisation and the Gentrification of Nightlife in New York City.” *Urban Studies* 48, no. 16 (2011): 3449–65. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098011400772>.

Questions to Consider

1. Think about the effects of population growth in your respective country. How would you characterize the effects on major areas of focus, such as water sources and energy distribution? Can you identify other areas of focus pertaining to population growth effects in your country?
2. Consider innovative solutions like the '15-Minute City'. In what ways do they or do they not address issues resulting from population growth in your country?
3. Consider the circumstances on what might cause a nation to use militarized forces on their own citizens or on their borders. Are these circumstances justifiable reasons to use militarized forces?
4. Population density can have a major effect on a city's economy as well as its resources such as water and the surrounding ecosystem. In the development and planning of a city, is one more important to consider than the other? How can cities optimize both factors?
5. Consider the importance of data ownership and privacy for both individuals and the larger community as a whole. Think about various laws and policies in your respective country in regards to this topic.

Advice for Research and Preparation

When writing your position paper for the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) and preparing for committee sessions, here are a few key points you should consider.

Research. When writing your background guide think of it as an academic paper. Wherever possible, your writing should be supported by primary or secondary sources that show where your information is coming from. Make sure you provide a bibliography at the end of your position paper.

Policy Position. UNCPD deals with general policy considerations related to population issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, population and related development policies and programs as well as the provision of population assistance. Using best practices, the UNCPD creates methodology to guide national and international policy. This includes through monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Therefore, feel free to bring innovative solutions introduced by your member state or new solutions that your state might back based on previous positions. This should address some key themes outlined above.

Your Country's Position. Who are the political actors that impact your country? How does this impact the way your country feels about methods for political development vs. the level and rate international cooperation (or interference)? Many smaller developing countries may not have much information available on their foreign policy.

Here are a few resources that can help you when researching your country's position:

1. CIA World Factbook:
2. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
3. Your country's ministry of foreign affairs
4. Speeches made at multinational organizations (eg. the UN): <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/andorra.shtml>
5. Your country's UN permanent mission:
6. <http://www.un.org/en/member-states/>; <https://www.un.int/>
7. BBC country profile and timeline: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
8. IMUNA Country Profiles: <http://www.imuna.org/resources/country-profiles>

In instances where your country's position has not been clearly defined, there are a some key things you can do:

1. Look at your country's voting record on UN resolutions relating to key committee issues:
 - a. First look at <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/45> (45th Session 1990-91 for example) which breaks down UN resolution voting by year, subject and body.
 - b. You can then go to <http://www.un.org/en/ga/documents/voting.asp> which breaks down resolution voting by country.
2. Look for any other multinational organizations that your country is a part of and decisions the organization has made that your country has signed on to or ratified.
3. Look for any other multilateral agreements (eg. trade) that your country has taken part in. Some

of the language or central tenets of the agreement can give you information on general policy.
<https://treaties.un.org/>

Think about what is important to your country and how international action on each topic affects your interests, both as a sovereign state and as a member of the UNCPD. Please consult the key resources below as a starting point for your research on each topic.

General Key Resources

United Nations Population Division. "Previous Sessions of the Commission on Population and Development." United Nations Population Division. Accessed November 14, 2020. <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/index.asp>.

Record of previous sessions of the UNCPD. Good starting point to consider the issues addressed by the commission in the past.

United Nations Population Fund. "Fulfilling the ICPD Promise." UNFPA, April 2019. </publications/fulfilling-icpd-promise>.

25 years after the implementation of the Programme of Action in 1994, the United Nations Populations Fund considers the progress that has been made thus far and the areas of focus moving forward.

Topic A Key Resources

Albrechtsen, Anne-Birgitte. "Sustainable Development and Population Dynamics: Placing People at the Centre." Statement presented at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, June 19, 2013. </press/sustainable-development-and-population-dynamics-placing-people-centre>.

Statement by Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, UNFPA's Deputy Executive Director of Management, at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals highlighting the need for micro-level considerations in sustainable development

Nagara, Renuga, Sandra Silva, Aurora Teixeira. "The Impact of an Ageing Population on Economic Growth: An Explanatory Review of the Main Mechanisms". *Annalise Social*. 2016. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301680578_The_Impact_of_an_Ageing_Population_on_Economic_Growth_An_Explanatory_Review_of_the_Main_Mechanisms

Considerations of the impacts of aging populations

U.S Department of State. "Why Population Ageing Matters: A Global Perspective". March, 2007. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-06/WPAM.pdf>

More perspectives on aging populations

Biswas, Asit, Udisha Saklani, Cecilia Tortajada. "India's rural-urban conundrum". *Asia and Pacific Policy Society*. October 9th, 2017. <https://www.policyforum.net/indias-rural-urban-conundrum/>

Case study into the issues of rural and urban development in India

Topic B Key Resources

Kielland, Anne. "Evolution in Approaches to Improve Access to Education for Children Living in Urban Slums." [unesdoc.unesco.org](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000232395). UNESCO, 2015. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000232395>.

Report published by UNESCO on methods for improving access to education for children in underdeveloped urban environments

Walters, Sarah. "Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health and Health Care Access in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS: a Review of the Recent Literature ." WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development . WHO Europe , November 2005. https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/125457/e94412.pdf.

Case study on barriers to access equitable healthcare in Central and Eastern Europe published by the WHO

Merill Charles Singer, "(PDF) Down Cancer Alley: The Lived Experience of Health ...," June 2011, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/51564478_Down_Cancer_Alley_The_Lived_Experience_of_Health_and_Environmental_Suffering_in_Louisiana's_Chemical_Corridor.

Considerations on the lived experiences of those in live in environments that are negatively affected by industrialization

Topic C Key Resources

Gisper, Mireya. Maria Hernandez, Enrique Climent, Maria Flores. "Rainwater harvesting as a drinking water option for Mexico City". *Sustainability*. (October 28th, 2020): 1-13. doi:10.3390/su10113890

Case study of a solution implemented to reduce the impact of population growth on salination processes and access to clean water

Kitchin, Rob, and Martin Dodge. "The (In)Security of Smart Cities: Vulnerabilities, Risks, Mitigation, and Prevention." *Journal of Urban Technology* 26, no. 2 (2019): 47-65.<http://www.kitchin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/JUT-2019-Security-of-Smart-Cities.pdf>

Considerations for the issues that may arise through the implementation of smart city approaches to governance

"The 15-Minute City—No Cars Required—Is Urban Planning's New Utopia," *Bloomberg.Com*, November 12, 2020, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-11-12/paris-s-15-minute-city-could-be-coming-to-an-urban-area-near-you>.

An example of an innovative approach to population growth and equitable access to resources

NCRC. "Shifting Neighborhoods: Gentrification and cultural displacement in American cities". March 19, 2019. <https://ncrc.org/gentrification/>

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Mark Fineman, "Seeds of Distress in St. Vincent; Marijuana: Cultivation of the Illegal Drug Quietly Rules the Caribbean Nation's Economy, and Some Say U.S. Policies Are to Blame.," *Baltimoresun.Com*, January 28, 2000, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2000-01-28-0001280218-story.html>.

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