

KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2019

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

To help facilitate broader understanding of international issues facing the UN, our KUNA Secretaries General and their Presiding Officer teams have published the Secretary General's Agenda.

The Secretary General's Agenda is a list of international issues organized using the 6 Main Committees* of the UN General Assembly (www.un.org/en/ga):

- **First Committee | Disarmament and International Security**
Concerned with disarmament and related international security questions
- **Second Committee | Economic and Financial**
Concerned with economic questions
- **Third Committee | Social, Humanitarian and Cultural**
Deals with social and humanitarian issues
- **Fourth Committee | Special Political and Decolonization**
Deals with a variety of political subjects not dealt with by the First Committee
- **Fifth Committee | Administrative and Budgetary**
Deals with the administration and budget of the UN
- **Sixth Committee | Legal**
Deals with international legal matters

There are 3 issues per committee on the agenda (18 total). Each issue includes a one-page briefing:

- **Background on Issue**
Summary and background information on the issue
- **Questions to Address in Resolutions**
Guiding questions/problems that any resolutions on the issue should look to answer/solve
- **Sources for Research**
Links to research, articles, and other resources for your delegations

HOW TO USE THE AGENDA

- The best way to use the Agenda is to review each issue and explore whether your countries have taken a position on any of them (or has a vested interest in addressing an issue).
- While multiple countries may address the same issue in their resolutions, each country will likely have a different answer or solution to the problems that must be addressed.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA FAQ

Do our countries have to write resolutions on these topics?

These topics are not mandatory (only recommended by your KUNA Presiding Officers), nor are they tied to awards, but these topics will be taken into account by each Secretary General when determining which resolutions they choose to endorse, and which resolution they choose as Secretary General's Choice for the final session of General Assembly.

Does the Agenda take a position on an issue?

The agenda does not take positions on issues (or endorse any solutions), but provides "Questions to Address in Resolutions" so countries can research their own positions when drafting their resolutions.

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Prepared by your **2019 KUNA Presiding Officers**

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First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Border Relations

Issue Brief Author: Mac Meyer, Editor-in-Chief | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

How do we define a border? Is it a line separating people based on religious views? Is it a boundary that designates geographical features? Or is it something else entirely? Merriam Webster simply defines a border as: *an outer part or edge*. This vague idea of what a border is can be a catalyst and cause of danger and conflict. Borders and the territory within them have been at the center of conflicts since the beginning of time. Wars have been waged and lives have been lost for the the earth beneath our feet. The issue of border security has become increasingly prevalent in today's world. This subject encompasses a broad area ranging from territorial disputes to counter-terrorism measures. Border Security is an important topic that needs to be addressed on a global scale in order to insure safety for all. With constant improvements in technology and weapons, it has become difficult to maintain sense of international security.

Border Security is extremely relevant when discussing disputed territories. Kashmir is an example of a disputed territory that has gained a lot of international attention over the years. Kashmir is an area between India and Pakistan that has been a source of conflict since 1947 when both countries gained independence from British rule. Both India and Pakistan argue that they rightfully control Kashmir. Attempts to find a diplomatic solution have failed in the past and it has caused war between the countries on multiple occasions. There is also a religious aspect to this conflict with Kashmir being 97% Muslim. Kashmir is just one example of border disputes and the global ramifications they can have. This is why border security must be a point of emphasis in order to ensure a safe environment for all parties involved.

The North and South Korean conflict is another example of border relations and how it can have a global effect. These two independent nations are different in almost every way imaginable: democracy versus dictatorship as well as emphasis on infrastructure versus military strength. The two countries' differences however have had a greater impact on the world than just on the citizens of the shared peninsula. A major conflict between these nations would be an extremely dangerous event. Therefore, border security between these two countries is always a topic of discussion.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Is my country currently involved in a border dispute/conflict?
2. What measures can be taken to prevent future conflicts?
3. What legal precautions are already in place?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Border Management

<https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/border-control/>

Conflict in Kashmir Takes a Grim Toll

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/kashmir-conflict-anger-indian-police/>

Why North and South Korea are Still at War

<http://time.com/5253054/north-korea-south-korea-war-history/>

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Weapons of Mass Destruction

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Aisha Asad, Secretary General | KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The spread of weapons of mass destruction, typically classified as chemical, biological, or radioactive weapons which are capable of causing widespread death and destruction to a large number of humans and human-made structures, can have unfathomable ramifications for national and international security. The term weapons of mass destruction (WMD) was coined during World War 2 in reference to aerial bombing with the use of chemical explosives. Throughout time, as the definition of WMD has shifted, so have the arisen committees that were created in order to combat the potential misuse of WMD. With the birth of numerous government-issued organizations that attempt to regulate terrorism by WMD to the international organizations created to organize global partnerships, it is evident that there is an urgency to find strategies that will counter proliferation of WMD.

However, even with the establishment of several anti-terrorism consortiums, the threat of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction still looms forebodingly. Syria has had cities plagued by chemical warfare, tensions mount between India and Pakistan in a nuclear-power rivalry, and the United States shifts its attention to North Korea's large accumulation of weaponry.

The United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) with the purpose to prepare proposals for "a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction" (United Nations Disarmament Commission). However, the UNDC would only meet occasionally after 1959 and there has been up to a decade of inactivity between any guidelines being released. Even though the threat of war continues to emerge in today's unstable political climate, the proactive measures that need to be taken to inhibit mass destruction are minimal. This prompts the question on whether enough is being done in order to ensure peace and safety for all.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. Is the United Nations Disarmament Commission not effective enough to combat the rapid proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?
2. What are some concrete measures that should be implemented for the UNDC?
3. Is my country one with unrest in matters relating to WMD?
4. What are precautions to be taken by each country to decrease the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

United Nations Disarmament Commission

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

<http://unrcpd.org/wmd/>

WMD Proliferation Threatens the World

<https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/wmd-proliferation-threatens-world>

Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

<http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/global-partnership-against-spread-weapons-and-materials-mass-destruction-10-plus-10-over-10-program/>

First Committee | Disarmament & International Security

Natural Disaster Preparation, Prevention, and Emergency Response

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Maddie Wallace, Editor in Chief | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Eight years ago, a massive earthquake swept Haiti, taking over 300,000 lives and displacing millions of people. This horrible disaster left most of the country homeless and in a devastating food shortage. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy flooded the country and killed more Haitians, which was followed by a three-year drought. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew killed at least 1,000 people and left entire communities flattened. Haiti, along with many other countries including Puerto Rico and Kiribati, continues to suffer from the catastrophic storms that can wipe out an entire nation's people, infrastructure, and resources in just a few hours or even minutes. Unfortunately, underdeveloped nations are the most vulnerable to disasters: poorly constructed buildings, poor sanitation, a lack of economic safety nets, and limited resources to rebuild after a disaster. On an island as small as Cuba, one hurricane or earthquake could demolish the entire nation. The human impacts of natural disasters includes emotional aftershock and mental health issues, health risks such as waterborne bacteria and malaria-carrying mosquitoes that have bred in the stagnant water from floods, and severe food scarcity.

In an effort to provide relief to these countries, the United Nations bring neighboring communities and cultures together to be advocates for emergency preparation and response as well as provide aid to each other in the aftermath of a natural disaster. In 1971, The UN General Assembly established the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to provide international assistance to nations affected by a disaster or emergency. When and if the scale of a natural disaster or emergency has surpassed the national capacity, at the request of the government affected by a disaster, OCHA may dispatch a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) to the country within 12 to 48 hours after a sudden-onset disaster to provide technical services, principally in tasks such as damage and needs assessment, on-site coordination, and information management.

Not only does the United Nations aim to build these countries back up after a shattering disaster has occurred, but the UN also works to prevent these disasters. Although the United Nations is incapable of stopping a hurricane or an earthquake, there are offices that help in reducing the risk of suffering a natural disaster. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, otherwise known as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), is an organizational unit of the UN Secretariat that aims to coordinate international efforts in disaster risk reduction, advocate to support disaster risk reduction, and monitor the implementation of disaster risk reduction systems in countries who have adopted it.

Over the last two decades, natural disasters have increased from around 200 per year to 400. Overall, natural disasters can have lasting effects on developmental achievements within already struggling nations. Efficient and effective disaster preparation and emergency response has the ability to save millions of lives and the livelihood of entire nations.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Does my country have healthy relations with other communities that we can count on in times of need?
2. What can my country provide to others if appointed by OCHA?
3. Does my country have a history of natural disaster occurrences? If so, how can our country improve its infrastructure to better withstand a disaster?
4. How can my county enhance our preparation for a natural disaster or provide better relief to those in emergencies?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

How are Disaster Relief Efforts Organized?- Cluster Approach and Key Actors
<https://business.un.org/en/documents/6852>

Support Emergency Relief Efforts

<https://business.un.org/en/browse/disasters>

Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response

https://www.unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/2909_Disasterpreparednessforeffectiveresponse.pdf

The Devastating Impact of Natural Disasters

<https://www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489272/>

Second Committee | Economic & Financial Infrastructure Improvements

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Alex Johnson, President of the UN GA| HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Business consists of two aspects: having a product and effectively selling said product. For struggling developing nations, having the products is less of an issue than effectively selling them. With a swiftly globalizing world, nations in Africa and Asia need vast infrastructural improvements to compete in a global laissez-faire economy.

Catching up to developed nations is no easy task, however to preserve sustainability, it must be done the right way in order to maintain ecological prosperity. An equitable, level economic playing field must be reached by improving global infrastructure while also reducing a carbon footprint.

Developed nations also have room for improvements. In the United States, cities are looking for ways to improve their efficiency in transit and trade on a national scale. These cities, including Louisville and Denver, are in the process of redoing their current transit layout based on the trade routes most commonly used.

These issues must be attacked to improve economic efficiency and sustainability in a very conscious and well thought out way.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What responsibilities do countries have improving the infrastructure of other nations?
2. In what ways can infrastructure be improved efficiently and environmentally conscious?
3. How can infrastructure in already developed nations be improved?
4. What should the priorities be in improving infrastructure whether in air, land, or sea?
5. How can economic success be guaranteed through infrastructure?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Infrastructure in Africa

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/05/10/figures-of-the-week-infrastructure-quality-in-africa-is-stagnating/>

Business Leaders Pressure Lawmakers For Transportation Funding

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2018/04/09/lawmakers-transportation-funding/>

China's Global Infrastructure Initiative Could Bring Environmental Catastrophe

<https://www.ecowatch.com/china-global-infrastructure-2571414709.html>

Second Committee | Economic & Financial

Global Debts

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Audrey Fields, Editor-in-Chief | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

In April 2018, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) comprised the debt of governments, households, and nonfinancial firms, determining global debt to be \$164 trillion, or roughly 225% of global GDP (Gross Domestic Product). In the past two years, global debt has reached record highs, substantially affected by the richest countries in the world: United States, China, Japan, and France. These countries account for more than 50% of total global debt, significantly more than their global output, creating an imbalance that results in steep increases in debt. Unsurprisingly, this trend is relatively new. In 2001, total debt was \$62 trillion, dramatically less than the \$164 trillion calculated in 2016. The most terrifying factor is that low-income countries account for less than 1% of total global debt, much below their share of output, creating a drastic division between rich and poor countries.

The private sector, or the part of the economy not controlled by the government, has been the largest factor in global indebtedness, almost tripling its debt in the past 68 years. The public sector, especially of advanced economies, has also had a steady increase in debt, although much less significant than that of the private sector. According to the International Monetary Fund, public debt is defined with four distinct reports: central government, general government, non-financial public sector, and public sector. The public sector is the part of the economy controlled by the government; any entity or organization run and funded by the government to provide services to its citizens (or relative status). Private debt is defined specifically in the Global Debt Database as “the gross outstanding stock of all liabilities that are debt instruments”, especially focusing on loans and debt securities.

Specific to Low-Income Developing Countries (LIDCs), public debt accounted for around -45% (meaning the public sector was not in debt, it contributed to the economy) of the GDP for those countries from 2000-2008. Recently, from 2008-2016, we have seen this figure increase to around 10% of the GDP. This is still a stark contrast from the nearly 35% of the GDP accounted for by public debt in Advanced Economies (AEs). In nearly all instances, however, public debt is much less of an issue than private debt, regardless of economic system. It is important to note that Emerging Market Economies (EMEs) have the most significant amount of private debt. From 2008-2016, private debt accounted for almost 60% of the GDP.

The data suggests that, generally, the government creates substantially less debt than private institutions, although governments are often blamed for the extent of debt in a given nation. Additionally, LIDCs have proportionally less private debt than any other countries, and account for very little debt globally. The most significant reasoning for this is that LIDCs have only one impactful source of private debt: domestic bank claims. There are very few private institutions creating billions of dollars of debt. This leads to the question of exactly how helpful private institutions are in general. Perhaps the necessity of such large entities should be reevaluated.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How does your country impact global debt?
2. What measures can be taken to solve the debt crisis in your represented country?
3. How can AEs and EMEs use data from LIDCs to better their own economies?
4. Should EMEs shift their private sector’s involvement in the economy to an increasingly government-run economy?
5. How big of a role should private entities/banks play in the economy?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH:

Global Debt Database: Methodology and Sources

<http://www.imf.org/en/publications/wp/issues/2018/05/14/global-debt-database-methodology-and-sources-45838>

World Economic Situations and Prospects

https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2018_Full_Web-1.pdf

Second Committee | Economic & Financial

Access To Primary Care

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Maddie Goldstein, Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine define primary care as the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community. A primary care provider is usually an internist, family physician, pediatrician, or non-physician provider such as a family nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Physicians who provide primary care services often help with health promotion and education, preventative care, early detection and treatment of diseases, and chronic disease management for people of all ages. People with access to consistent primary care are far more likely to receive recommended and sometimes necessary service such as vaccines, flu shots, and cancer screenings. Primary care physicians may also provide basic prescriptions to treat common diagnoses such as diabetes and obesity.

Half of the world's 7.2 billion people lack access to basic health services. Currently, nearly a billion people spend at least 10 percent of their household budgets on health expenses, which is high enough to push 100 million into extreme poverty, forcing them to survive on just \$1.90 or less a day. Basic primary care is difficult to access in underdeveloped nations as well as rural areas of developed nations. Millions of people die from preventable illnesses such as cholera or influenza because they lack access to basic health care services.

Because both the issues of global healthcare access and healthcare systems themselves are very complex, finding the root of the problem is challenging. However, there are several major causes. There are wide gaps in the availability of primary care services in underdeveloped parts of the world including Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Basic health care services such as family planning and infant immunization are becoming more available, but without financial protection, families continue to struggle financially to pay out of their own pockets. In addition, these countries usually don't have enough staff and healthcare equipment to offer healthcare access to the most in need. Because of this, access to primary care is limited even when systems are in place.

The United Nations has made global healthcare one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals -- ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Many strides have been made to provide child care, maternal healthcare, and prevent disease. However, there is much left to do to ensure a presence of primary care services as well as financial access to these services.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What can the United Nations do to provide more health care facilities and services that is within its powers? What infrastructure improvements or additions would be needed?
2. How can the issue of financial protection in healthcare be addressed through the General Assembly?
3. How can physicians and specialists be incentivized to work in rural areas where primary care lacks?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

Right to Healthcare around the Globe

<https://www.humanium.org/en/right-to-health/>

How many people lack access to healthcare?

<http://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/how-many-people-lack-access-to-health-care-hint-more-than-who-and-the-world-bank-report/>

World Bank and WHO: Half the world lacks access to essential health services, 100 million still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses

<http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/13-12-2017-world-bank-and-who-half-the-world-lacks-access-to-essential-health-services-100-million-still-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-because-of-health-expenses>

Rural physician shortage demands innovative solutions

<https://www.hhnmag.com/articles/6881-rural-physician-shortage-demands-innovative-solutions>

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Maternal Health

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Ayesha Nasir, Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Pregnancy: a natural process that should be of comfort and ease. Women, across the globe, deserve the right to give birth. Maternal Health is often defined as the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Maternal health in developing countries has reached a staggering low in response to multiple environmental and external factors. Women in developing nations are no longer given the attention and care they need in order to deliver their child. As a result, a healthy delivery has become a privilege to mothers all over the world.

The numbers do not lie. In 2015, 303,000 women died from pregnancy or childbirth related complications. 99% of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries with almost all fatalities being easily preventable had the mothers had access to proper prenatal care. These numbers are unacceptably high. Women are not given a proper education regarding pregnancy. The use of contraceptives has decreased from 1990 to present day. The mass majority of these mothers are from low-income households who are unable to provide for their child and are victim to domestic abuse. Many of these mothers are also adolescents, who are at a greater risk of complications.

The issue of Maternal Health aligns with Millennium Development Goal 5 which aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by 75%. Maternal Health improvements also falls under the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well- Being. One of the number one targets of this goal include by 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 20 per 100,000 live births.

It is possible to decrease these startling statistics. As of 2000, countries have begun to see a gradual decrease of approximately 5.5% per year regarding maternal casualties.

Maternal health is often an overlooked issue. Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care they need. When they do receive health care, it is often the bare minimum and of poor quality and in desperate need of sterilization. When you think of Maternal Health, you think of only the pregnancy aspect. Maternal health encompasses care from conception onwards. Postpartum depression is also an increasingly growing issue among mothers today.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What is my nation's status regarding maternal health?
2. What resources, if any, are available to expecting mothers? If so, what are they?
3. Is contraceptive use common in my nation?
4. What legislature can be implemented in my nation in order to reduce maternal mortality?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

Maternal Health. World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/maternal-health/en/>

Maternal Health, Key Facts, World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Ethnic Cleansing

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Palmer Lessenberry, POTUNGA I KUNA 2

Issue Brief Author: Palmer Lessenberry, President of the UN GA | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

Currently, the United Nations provides funding at \$7.73 billion which is allocated directly towards aid in the Syrian refugee crisis. However, this funding is predicted to eventually run dry unless we continue to prioritize the safety and rehabilitation of these displaced people who have undergone severe psychological trauma in their search for livable conditions. While Syria is ranked as the country producing the highest number of refugees, they are not alone in their affliction. Conflicts in Afghanistan, which ranks second in the global refugee crisis numbers, have produced approximately 2.6 million immigrants, with Somalia trailing close behind with almost 1.2 million. Furthermore, global human rights crises extend beyond the individual, intentional movement of groups of people to the nonconsensual transporting of these refugees through the mass trading of slaves in Libya and other nations. In Libya specifically, approximately 400,000 to 1 million immigrants to Libya are now at high risk of being smuggled and sold into slavery, or are at risk of robbery, rape, or murder due to the dangerous, lawless conditions of the nation. CNN recently recorded footage of multiple men being sold for \$400 as farm laborers at a late night auction in the outskirts of Libya, sparking an international outrage and an investigation into issue, which should be tackled on a much larger, *global* scale.

Other international affairs in need of humanitarian attention and concern include widespread famine in Yemen, which, according to the UN chief humanitarian, Mark Lowcock, is the worst in decades. The final issue in need of UN concentration is the persecuted muslim religious minorities in China and Myanmar. The Rohingya and Uyghur people have been oppressed by their governments in ways that have an eerie resemblance to the UN's definition of genocide, due to their religious practices in countries of a differing majority faith. Although the Uyghurs are the fifth largest recognize religion of a Turkish muslim descent with 9 million members in all of China, they are still being oppressed by their own governments, fleeing to Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, and other countries with aligning beliefs and cultural values. The Rohingya face similar oppression in Myanmar where they are denied citizenship, making them stateless, but also are prevented by their government from leaving. C

Conclusively areas of focus for international attention and aid include the Libyan slave trade, Syrian and Afghanistan refugee crisis, and the oppression of Rohingya and Uyghur muslims.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. How does the UN value lives of religious minorities in "big five" (permanent UN seat holders) countries like China?
2. Why is there little to no press coverage of the Rohingya and Uyghur people? In what ways might we mitigate and decrease international slave trade?
3. What makes these problems concerning for the entire global population and, specifically, for unaffected wealthy white Americans - or other first world countries - with power?
4. How do you define illegal immigrant?
5. Are the Syrians and Afghanistanis fleeing war and violence illegal immigrants?
6. What can we do to ensure they are rehabilitated back into society?
7. What sorts of resolutions may be drafted which will, in turn, impact the entire globe in solving these diverse international dilemmas?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

"Which Country Produces The Most Refugees?" <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-origins-of-the-world-s-refugees.html>

"What You Don't Know, But Should, About the Slave Trade Happening in Libya Right Now"
<http://fortune.com/2017/11/29/libya-slave-trade/>

"Saudi Blockade Pushing Yemen Towards Worst Famine in Decades"
<https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/09/middleeast/yemen-famine-saudi-arabia/index.html>

"How Do You Define Genocide?"
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-11108059>

"Who are the Uyghurs?" https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/uyghurs_facts-07092009163637.html

"Chinese Uighur Settlers Flow into Syria, Replacing War Refugees"

<https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/03/03/chinese-uighur-settlers-flow-into-syria-replacing-war-refugees/>

"Who are the Rohingya?"

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/08/rohingya-muslims-170831065142812.html>

Third Committee | Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian

Agricultural Sustainability

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Sam Clark, President of the United Nations General Assembly | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

In today's world of miraculous technology, we often forget that which ties us most closely to others: agriculture. Farming connects generations, building upon the past to improve the future. Unlike short-term conflicts, current farming methods affect humanity forever. Without food, people cannot live; without life, humanity will no longer exist. The example of Senegal holds pertinent. Because of poor farming techniques and climate change, desertification -- the process by which fertile land becomes a desert -- increased throughout Senegal's northern regions. People lost their land, their livelihoods, and their families. In response, the African Union developed the Great Green Wall initiative. By planting trees in areas depleted by poor farming techniques, these countries work in hopes of retaking their lost land.

Let us look at agricultural struggles in the first world. Monocultures (the cultivation of only one crop in a large area) dominate the world--the Union of Concerned Scientists found that most agricultural exporters depend wholly upon them. In his book, "The Unsettling of America," Kentuckian Wendell Berry outlines fundamental issues with monocultures, citing specifically their exacerbation of soil erosion. Though every country differs in the challenges they face, destructive farming is an issue they face together. In the second world, problems are less extreme. Russia and Eastern Europe farm much more sustainably, but environmental fallout from the USSR remains. Despite American sanctions, these countries rely upon the first world for processed goods, and thus continue to fuel the fire. Conditions are better in the third world. Most people farm for themselves, and industrial farming lacks a foothold. Paraguay, for example, has both a contented public and localized agriculture. Farming remains an essentially localized pursuit, therefore finding international solutions may be a challenge. Always remember that for farming to be sustainable, the community must also be stable.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. How should small countries avoid reliance on cheap, but unsustainable, monocultures?
2. What powers does the U.N. have (budgetary, legislative, etc) to promote sustainable practices?
3. How can the U.N. confront exploitable labor practices in third world countries?
4. What can the U.N. do to face the political clout held by international farming corporations?
5. What are the least intrusive ways the U.N. can alter local farming practices?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

40 Maps that explain food in America

<https://www.vox.com/a/explain-food-america>

Industrial Food Production

<https://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/food-agriculture/our-failing-food-system/industrial-agriculture>

Farming & the Global Economy

<http://home.btconnect.com/tipiglen/farming.html>

Wendell Berry discusses life

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DMLvvZvXcPY>

Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Government Corruption in Developing Nations

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Racheal Coleman, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Poorer countries tend to be measurably more corrupt than richer countries. The debate regarding causality is still open. Is corruption the single most important reason why many sensible reforms essential for economic development fail in developing economies, or does economic development raise demand for fighting corruption?

The link between political and economic power can be direct. There is patrimonialism, as in Morocco, where access to political power ensures access to economic privileges. The link between political and economic power can be indirect as well. In the Philippines, political power, such as a privileged position in a patronage-based system, can be bought and sold. In short, the process of allocating political and administrative posts— particularly those with powers of decision over the export of natural resources or import licences— is influenced by the gains that can be made from them. The political foundations are cemented as these exchanges of privileges are reciprocated by political support or loyalty.

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism, and other threats to human security to flourish. The goal of the United Nations is to encourage ambassadors and their countries to create effective solutions for the corruption of governments. With this goal in mind, there will be a decrease in the causes of corruption that are so deeply rooted in many developing countries. The liberation from corruption however, is not easily obtainable, as it does not flow from one singular source, but from many back room deals. Though it is a strenuous task, it can be achieved through the collaboration of ambitious ambassadors, to which this task is handed to them to solve.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Is my country's government corrupt?
2. What solutions can my country effectively establish to decrease the hold corruption has on governments.
3. Has your country been affected by the corruption in government? If so, how can you learn from the past to find solutions?

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

British Rule Over Gibraltar

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Alex Mills, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Gibraltar is a small peninsula on the Southern Coast of Spain which borders the Strait of Gibraltar, a body of water connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea— a geography propitious for trade and thus desirable to other nations. A colony of Great Britain since 1830, Gibraltar has yet to become an independent nation, despite it having its own self-governing parliament.

Originally a Spanish territory, Gibraltar was reluctantly handed over to the British following the Treaty of Utrecht from the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714.) Since then, Spain has continued to claim Gibraltar as their own; however, following several referendums, the vast majority of Gibraltarians voted against any sharing of sovereignty with the Spanish. Despite this, Spain and Britain continue to spar over Gibraltar's rights— recently manifested by arguments over the claim to Gibraltar's bordering waters, resulting in non-violent naval confrontations between the two "mother nations," leaving Gibraltar's people caught in the middle of the exo-territorial political quarrels.

Although some rights have been given to the people of Gibraltar, Britain still holds a great deal of direct influence. For instance, although the territory has its own parliament and has tax-autonomy(as of only 2008), the UK remains in charge of Gibraltar's foreign relations, internal/external security, and financial stability. In addition, the passing of amendments still require the British monarch's consent, and the Gibraltians do not hold their own citizenship. Finally, the differences between the Gibraltarians and the British— and the hierarchy thereof— is best exemplified by the recent Brexit, in which 96% of Gibraltians voted to remain in the EU, yet because they lack independence, their voices were silenced.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. If Gibraltar were to become an independent nation, what precedence would this set for other British (and non-British) colonies around the world? What other territories (now independent) set precedence for this case?
2. What other territories, similar to Gibraltar, would potentially benefit from becoming independent?
3. How much authority should the UN have over settling such matters?
4. Should sanctions be placed on the "mother countries" for refusing to give autonomy?

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Fourth Committee | Special Political & Decolonization

Neocolonialism

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Destine Grigsby, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Neocolonialism is using capitalism and globalization to influence a developing nation without employing military force or political control. This is most greatly seen in parts of Africa and Southeast Asia by European countries, the United States, and China. In most cases, this consists of developed nations taking control of resources, including land, oil, water, and the economy at whole. For example, in 2008, a South Korean company secured 1.3 million hectares of land in Madagascar, including one half of the country's arable land and national rainforests. This land was converted to monocultures, producing food for export from a country where a third of the population and 50% of children under the age of 5 are malnourished.

Although there is a lack of written scholarly support, locals from developing countries argue that cultural imperialism is also used by developed nations to maintain hegemony. Much of the media, including TV broadcasting, magazines, and even children books in African and Asian nations is dominated by Western culture. A Bahamian student argued in her TED talk that Western nations were "engineering an aesthetic" to be adopted by developing nations which diluted their traditional culture.

Neocolonialism continues today partially because of the dependence that withstood even after the age of imperialism, but also in part because of a lack of regulation. There have been international laws passed, however lacking, such as labor laws that prevent the abuse of international workers, although they are weakly enforced. One example is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which outlined the rights and responsibilities of nation's regarding the world's oceans. It also recognized the importance of fishing for small and developing communities. Weak legislation is greatly attributed to neocolonialism being undefined by international law and therefore difficult to regulate.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. What other laws and regulations can be put into place to protect developing nations from neocolonialism?
2. What programs and plans can be developed to lessen developing nations dependence on more developed ones?
3. How can neocolonialism be defined and recognized by the United Nations?

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NLKiCgJC60>

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Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary Relation Transparency

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Areeba Saleem, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Relation Transparency: a term that is not common in today's society and economy. How so? Let me explain.

Relation transparency involves being honest and open about any topic regarding people. In America, privacy and secrecy is a scarce privilege. News about what occurs in government is always plastered in the media and is able to be broadcasted all over the world in a matter of seconds. To be transparent or ambiguous in government is no longer possible. There are illegal actions known as "under the table deals." For example, in *Nicaragua vs The United States (1968)*, the US was found responsible for providing weapons and money to aid contra forces fighting against Nicaragua. This was all done without permission from Congress nor was it made public to the people. At one point, the contras were so dependent on the US that it could not conduct its crucial and most significant military/ paramilitary activities without multifaceted support from the US.

In 2016, Egypt had given two Red Seas to Saudi Arabia. This arrangement quickly amassed attention and protests from Egyptian citizens. In Israel, the deal had shed light on their secret dealings with Saudi Arabia. Yaakov Amidror, a former director of Israel's National Security Council, told Israel's Army Radio on Wednesday that Israel's inclusion in the Egyptian-Saudi agreement involving Tiran and Sanafir was unusual. From these previous statements it is easy to infer and conclude that in recent years, countries have been violating the trust of their economic followers by making trades and agreements with nations that were never viewed as allies.

When Obama's Administration sold its weapons to Iran, it was conceived that the deal was very narrow; in fact this was not the case at all. It lifted only nuclear sanctions. Obama was later found saying that America would remain a vigilant foe of Iran. Other great powers were negotiating a deal to bring transparency to Iran's nuclear program with the intentions to undermine global drug trafficking and the money laundering network.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What precautions should be implemented in order to guarantee relation transparency in my nation?
2. Has my country been a victim of negative relation boundaries?
3. Has my country faced any major repercussions because of faulty relations?

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Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Allocation of Funding

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Abigail Mortell, ICJ President | KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The UN General Assembly divides its responsibilities into six main committees, under which different programs function. Consolidating the distribution of funds becomes more difficult as the budget is divided up between such programs. The UN's set budget for peacekeeping alone in the fiscal year 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 is \$6.7 billion; however, the budget is further divided by each peacekeeping operation. Reports are submitted to the General Assembly at the end of the fiscal year outlining the actual use of resources and effectiveness of the mission. It is unclear, however, what standards are used for determining whether the budget of each subsequent year should increase or decrease and in what areas. Peacekeeping, though only one area of the UN's work and budget concerns, is a key example of the expansive list of oversight from both UN officials and UN affiliate groups such as The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Correcting corruption or clarifying what specific purpose any one section of the budget is serving becomes exponentially more complicated when the budget has been approved and altered by so many interest groups.

Those who provide the funding and resources for the UN prove to have greater influence over how said resources are allocated, often disregarding a need-based system of providing aid. Countries capable of providing greater percentages of the UN budget are in a position to do so as a result of their overall economic status as a nation. Additionally, countries that provide substantially to the UN or are an ally of a UN permanent member/substantial contributor are prioritized in terms of receiving UN aid. This is evident when looking at countries such as Rwanda, who have suffered atrocities but have not receive an equitable amount of aid; a reality that may not have occurred if Rwanda was more fruitful in resources or funds. Rwanda continues to provide peacekeepers to the UN, with nearly 6,550 uniformed Rwandan officers serving as peacekeepers (an increase from one officer serving in 2005). Comparatively, Kuwait provided \$500 million in support of the Gulf States Initiative and development projects aimed at stability in Yemen from 2012-2014. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, who had the responsibility of overseeing the efforts of Kuwait cooperating with Iraq in the recovery of Kuwait national archives and missing Kuwaitis, was then established in 2013. These events are obviously the result of spheres of influence developing in tandem with the monetary contributions of a country.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS:

1. What UN programs is my country currently involved in/benefitting from?
2. Can these programs be consolidated in a way that would improve their efficiency or increase the number of issues being address?
3. Are the previous year's budgets reviewed for their efficiency in achieving program benchmarks when setting the next year's budget?
4. What standards are used for determining if the budget was used effectively?
5. Who is responsible for setting such standards?
6. Who in my country is capable of inflating the budget?

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Impact of US Contributions on Functionality of UN Programs:

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Fifth Committee | Administrative & Budgetary

Sustainable Water Purification Systems

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Sydney Speed, ICJ President | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Water has an immense impact on the function of life on this planet. People worldwide use water for various needs on a daily basis. Water's uses, from drinking, to cleaning, to agriculture, to allowing for the use of toilets, can define a society. However, there is a growing water crisis on our earth. The Water Project indicates numerous statistics that illuminate the effects of the growing water crisis. It states that 783 million people worldwide, or about 1 in 9 people, lack access to clean water. Illness from unclean water leads to 443 million school days missed each year, half of all hospital treatments, and about 1 in 5 deaths under the age of 5. The Water Project also indicates that another 2.4 billion people, or 1 in 3 people, and half of all elementary schools lack access to sanitation facilities, such as toilets. A lack of sanitation facilities in societies leads people to defecate in the open, leading to increased illness, while a lack of sanitation facilities in schools leads girls to drop out of school once they reach puberty. In areas suffering from these mal-effects of unpurified water, it is very common for women to trek to the nearest water system and carry heavy containers back to the family, causing women to miss education and schooling opportunities. Although the water crisis is a wide-reaching problem that affects most everywhere in the world, a couple specific areas are especially. Sub-Saharan Africa is greatly impacted, as it is a region with one of the highest demands for water, as are most developing countries, where women are typically responsible for seeking out water to bring back to the home. Some areas are also greatly affected because their governments are failing to provide plumbing or purification systems. The millennium development goal (MDG) for increasing water purification between the years 2000 and 2015 were widely not met. Fifty-seven countries saw little to no sanitation improvement due to a lack of government influence while only four regions in the entire world met the MDG. The government of individual nations plays a key role in increasing water purification systems.

Clearly, unclean water is devastating to many societies. However, we can work to ease the water crisis through sustainable water purification systems. Sarah Slaughter speaks on two methods that could be implemented to increase clean water: first, adding small, local water treatment systems in specific areas to the existing large treatment system, and then connecting the smaller treatment systems to the large, central treatment system to create a network, or a localized network water system. Slaughter claims the second step of creating a network would allow for compensation between the different water demands of different areas while creating a strong, connected passageway for the water that would withstand natural disasters and other disruptions, that would encourage innovative development, and that would be easier and safer to close off specific systems to work on them. These two methods would each increase water treatment and allow for the creation of more clean water for more areas. However, these are not the only examples of sustainable water purification systems, there are many other methods, including solar powered water purifiers, being created and invented. A variety of innovations are also being created to purify the water at water purification systems such as those proposed by Slaughter.

Regulations and policies regarding water treatment systems are also necessary in order to make a difference. In order to move forward with innovations, international organizations such as the United Nations with an influence in development and finance need to change policy in order to ensure entire communities can gain access to new water purification systems, rather than only those communities that can afford it.

From creating new, innovative methods of sustainable water purification systems to writing decisive, inclusive new legislation regarding water purification policy, we can work together to decrease the effects of the water crisis and increase the availability of clean water around the globe.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTION

1. Does my country have clean water or access to water at all?
2. How is my country affected by its water supply?
3. Does my country have the resources to create sustainable water purification systems? If not, how could my country get those needed resources?
4. Is my country, or specifically my country's female citizens, hurting academically due to the water crisis?

5. Can my country work with others to change water purification policy?
6. How can the United Nations affect policy change in countries lacking water purification?
7. How can the United Nations work with my country to create and provide sustainable water purification for my country?
8. Is my country's government effectively working to increase water purification?

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Sixth Committee | Legal

Marital Rights in the Middle East

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Jack Bonn, ICJ President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Marriage laws in parts of the world have made phenomenal achievements like legalizing gay marriage, making divorce available, and having laws that ensure the equality of both parties. This is not the case for most Middle Eastern countries. Several places in the Middle East have made little progress regarding marital rights, and results in the suffering of citizens.

It is not uncommon in the Middle East for arranged or forced marriages to take place. These marriages condemn very young girls being forced into a decision they are not ready to make. In a country like Yemen, 32% of marriages are of girls under the age of 18. Once these girls are married, there are very few laws that protect them from domestic violence, rape, or abuse. In 2016 the Islamic Council proposed a bill in Pakistan that would allow husbands to “lightly beat” their wives. Domestic violence is already a major issue in this region. This particular legislature truly highlights the prevalence of domestic violence and an attempt to legalize it makes the issue that much more unsettling.

While being legally married, rape laws do not always apply. It was found recently in 2017, a man could escape punishment for rape by marrying his victim in Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon. Marital rape is something that women in Middle Eastern countries are rarely protected from. This leads to physical and psychological trauma for the victims. If a women desired to divorce her spouse, she would have a very difficult time doing so. Women have to receive permission in order to divorce their significant other. They must also get permission to leave the house to get divorce papers. Some areas in the world completely outlaw divorce. Divorce in Middle Eastern countries often has a stigma surrounding it discouraging women from making that decision. Making divorce more accessible and eliminating the stigma around it is extremely important for the betterment of marriages in the Middle East.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Does my country have outdated marriage laws?
2. How can I make divorce easier for women to obtain in my country?
3. What measures can we implement in order to ensure the safety of women in marriage?
4. How can my country prevent child marriage?

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Sixth Committee | Legal Cybersecurity

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Wick Hallos, ICJ President | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

A “new frontier” is often associated with hope, opportunity, and innovation. Today’s technological new frontier is not traditional in the geographic sense, but it does have the connotations of hope and opportunity—with a menacing underbelly to match. This underbelly is not the oppression of some specific people or the destruction of the environment, it is the use of cyberattacks, and as all underbellies go, dealing with it is complex and opaque. As weapons of interference, terrorism, and espionage, cyberattacks should undoubtedly be subject to United Nations regulation, especially because of their likelihood to provoke international disputes. This assertion seems fairly universal—in a June 2013 Governmental Group of Experts Report (GGE), GGE stated that international law was “essential in maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, peaceful, and accessible ICT [Information and Communication Technology] environment.” Although this agreement on jurisdiction is important, it needs specific regulation to support it, and unfortunately, specific regulation is a source of intense disagreement.

There are obvious examples in recent years of cyberattacks that violate United Nations values—Russia using cyber operations in annexing Crimea and intervening in Ukraine, Iran hacking a Las Vegas casino, and North Korea launching a cyber attack against Sony. Even before getting into the legality of the issues, there are moral grey-area scenarios, such as the United States’ and Israel’s invention of the computer worm Stuxnet, which delayed the advancement of Iran’s nuclear program but also affected thousands of innocent computer owners. Once into specific regulation, similar debates also exist about toeing the line between regulation and censorship. For instance, eradicating “bots”—which impersonate people on the Internet—would keep only actual people on the Internet but could also lead to authoritarians restricting dissent and free speech.

The legal underpinnings of potential regulations are also much undecided. Basic standards, such as armed attacks and uses of force, remain undefined in the context of cyber attacks. Furthermore, international law does not regulate or prohibit espionage, which is one of the most widespread uses of ICTs that causes international security problems. According to the US Director of National Intelligence, nations can also evade potential cyber attack laws by calibrating the effect of their programs to “impose cumulative costs on... [the] economic competitiveness and national security” on any suffering country while still being technically legal. Even assigning guilt to state perpetrators is difficult (in fact and in law) with the obscuring capabilities of computer programs to protect perpetrators.

Of the many proposals, there is one that is unacceptable when it comes to cyber attack regulation: inaction. North Korea is getting bolder with their attacks—one of the most recent being WannaCry ransomware, which spread in Britain, Japan, Russia, and Taiwan in May 2017. Similarly, the United States has still not answered for possibly illegal cyber-related practices revealed by Edward Snowden. Without a quick solution, the disagreements over cyber attack regulation will only widen as the scale of these attacks, and therefore the political stakes of these new laws, rise with time.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. What constitutes an armed attack or a use of force in cyber security?
2. What is the difference between an armed attack and a use of force in cyber security?
3. Is espionage legal in a cyber security context?
4. How do basic international laws of non-intervention and a non-use of force apply in the cyber context?

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Sixth Committee | Legal

Democratic Representation

ISSUE BRIEF AUTHOR: Ben Peters, Deputy Secretary General | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE

Democracy has often been one of the forefronts in deciding if a decision is just. If the majority wish for something to occur, then society deems it fair to make that happen. However, this largely accepted belief is contradicted within the core operations of the United Nations. Due to their power and influence, the Big Five -- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States -- not only serve as permanent members of the UN Security Council, but each also holds unconditional veto power within the Security Council. This means that if any one of the five countries chooses to veto a resolution, said resolution immediately fails to pass no matter the number of countries which supported the resolution. Great debate has been sparked by this immense power given to a select few. One side believes the more powerful countries deserve more control over which resolutions pass, while the other views it as a breach of democracy and unfair to the smaller countries.

Just as the Byzantine empire fell and the Ottoman empire rose to power, so have new countries replaced old ones in terms of global influence. With this, several alternatives to the seventy-three year old veto system have been proposed, ranging from abolishing the unconditional veto entirely to expanding the number of countries with the veto power. It seems that with each solution, however, one problem remains constant: If any of the Big Five feel they are losing their power and influence within the UN, they very well may threaten to leave the organization. After all, one of the main reasons behind the United States joining the United Nations was due to the promised power of an unconditional veto.

The United Nations has always acted to serve not as an international government, but rather as a means of communication and cooperation between countries. As an ambassador representing your country, it is your duty to recognize your country's role in this international discussion and take action if its voice is not being heard by the current system of veto power. Democracies are intended to ensure the opinion of the majority becomes reality, but who's to say the UN was intended to be democratic?

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN RESOLUTIONS

1. Does my country deserve unconditional veto power and a permanent spot on the UN Security Council?
2. What solution could appease both the larger and smaller countries of the United Nations?
3. Do members of the Big Five have a "right" to this power?
4. Is my solution viable to occur and solve the issue at large?
5. What is the intended point behind the unconditional veto power?

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