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**MUNSA XVI**

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Agenda item 1

**Limiting the Impact Industrial and Economic Growth Has on the Environment in Newly Industrialized Countries****Report of the Chair****I. Statement of the Problem**

1. Many newly industrialized countries (NICs) are experiencing unprecedented population and economic growth. One result of this growth has been enormous amounts of pollutants being released into the environment, specifically in countries such as China and India (3).
2. Although these countries have experienced rapid industrial growth, their governments rarely intervene and make regulations on industrial pollution because imposing restrictions on the industries that are producing the pollution would be detrimental to their economies (5)(2). Governmental attempts to cap industrial pollution just haven't been effective. Recently, the Chinese government stated that they shut down 47,000 heavy polluting coal factories and mines. Researchers visited a sample of those mines and noticed that many of them were still running, despite efforts by the government to shut them down. Chinese coal consumption is estimated to be rising about 10 percent per year.
3. Overpopulation is another cause of the poor environmental conditions. A substantial and sudden increase in population creates a higher demand for resource production and puts a strain on the environment. Twelve of the fourteen most polluted cities are located in either India or China. Multiple cities in China have pollution levels ten times higher than Los Angeles (4).
4. Lastly, many developed nations exploit these NICs to build factories and dispose of waste so as to evade the environmental restrictions that are in effect in their own countries (7).

**II. History of the Problem**

5. China and India experienced extreme population growth and urbanization in the 20th century. In the 1980's, 20 cities in southern and central India experienced growth of over 100
6. The growth in population and industry in countries like India and China is the root of the environmental issues in those countries today (6).
7. One notable attempt to control the population of China was the implementation of the "One Child Policy" in 1978. Though it has prevented an estimated 600 million births in China, a significant difference in terms of the environment has not been seen.
8. Zambia is another country with the same issue. For years, Zambia has been one of the most polluted areas on Earth due its heavy mining of copper and lead. However, the Zambian government has taken measures in the past to try to eliminate as much pollution as possible. Major regulations have been put in place like the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act of 1990 (8). In 2007, the Zambian government shut down a Chinese run mine in Zambia because it was polluting the air to point that it endangered residents in the area (9). This is a good example of how an NIC can deal with their pollution issues positively without too much economic damage.
9. Although there has been progress in countries like Zambia, the problem is far from solved. Other developing countries have yet to emulate Zambia and set regulations on industrial pollution.

### **III. Potential Solutions**

10. This committee should discuss ways in which the governments of NIC's may limit the impact of their industrial and economic growth on the environment. Potential approaches for this problem include, but are not limited to:
  - Discussion of industrial pollution regulations to NIC's. These regulations could include things like emission limits and tighter restrictions for new businesses that could negatively impact the environment.
  - The spreading of awareness to the citizens in NIC's about the effects of their daily habits and activities on the environment.
  - Discussion of possible incentives for countries that reduce pollution and for environmentally friendly businesses within those countries.

### **IV. Potential Research and Tips**

11. When researching, delegates need to be sure to find credible and reliable sources. A few questions that delegates might want to research are:
  - Does your country have environmental issues currently?
  - What action has your country taken in the past to try to solve these issues?
  - Is your country an NIC?
  - If not, would your country be willing to provide foreign aid to NIC's?

**Useful Web Sources**

- <<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>>
- <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>>
- <[http://library.thinkquest.org/26026/Economics/pollution\\_problems\\_in\\_the\\_thir.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/26026/Economics/pollution_problems_in_the_thir.html)>

**V. Note to Delegates**

Delegates,

I hope this background paper is clear and helpful to your research. I am excited to hear the debate on this topic and the resolutions that are created. Good Luck!

-Matt Stahl

**References**

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