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Agenda item 1

Analyzing the Effects of Globalization as it Relates to Chronic Poverty

Report of the Chair

I. Statement of the problem

1. Globalization can be defined as "the worldwide integration of humanity and the compression of both the temporal and spatial dimensions of planet-wide human interaction (1). The trend of globalization can easily be attributed to colonization.
2. For further clarification, there are broadly two economic worlds that cut across the globe, these are the Global North and the Global South. The Global North represents the economically developed societies of Europe, North America, Australia, Israel, South Africa, amongst others, the Global South represents the economically backward countries of Africa, India, China, Brazil, Mexico amongst others. While Global North countries are wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging as their societies tend towards zero population growth the opposite is the case with Global South countries. While Global South countries are agrarian based, dependent economically and politically on the Global North, the Global North has continued to dominate and direct the global south in international trade and politics (5). A north country can simply be thought of as an economically developed country, while a south country can be considered a developing nation.
3. Minorities can be defined as A group of people that constitutes less than a numerical majority of a population. Because of their cultural, racial, ethnic, religious or other characteristics, such groups are often labeled and treated differently from others in society. They are usually considered to be less powerful than the dominant group(3). In the context of poverty, main minorities consist of the colored, women, and the uneducated.
4. Chronic poverty has been defined as (a cycle) occurring when an individual experiences significant capability deprivations for a period of five years or more (4). As a global citizen one must understand that poverty is the result of global issues. Inequalities based on race,

class, and gender place groups of people who lack resources and power at a disadvantage, and these combined factors set a civilization up for poverty. Those who lack necessary resources are in such a position because rapid development has led them to have those very resources exhausted by nations and institutions who have exploited both their physical (cheap labor) and material resources (gold, silver, water, agriculture etc.) through colonization, expansion and conquest, a industrialization. For example, Puerto Ricos raw material deposits were torn from the native peoples by Spanish conquerors. (Now) Puerto Rico has very few natural resources of economic value and its economy relies mainly on Federal Aid from the United States Government, which depends on the industrialization programs and the tax incentives that U.S. offers (2).

5. The United Nations hopes to end the cycle of poverty before 2015. But after examining the way events are playing out, instances of chronic poverty can be expected to increase rather than decrease. The General Assembly hopes for delegates to discuss the strains of globalization and the authentic roles that their individual country is taking in an inclusive way through past and present colonization and the tolls they take on another impoverished country, or the ways colonization has diminished ways of life and perhaps strategies to fight chronic poverty in a specific country.

6. The political economy can be defined as the interrelationships between political and economic institutions and processes. That is, analyzing and explaining of the ways in which various sorts of government affect the allocation of scarce resources in a society through their laws and policies as well as the ways in which the nature of the economic system and the behavior of people acting on their economic interests affects the form of government and the kinds of laws and policies that get made (3). Globalization has long lasting effects on the lives of populations around the world. The political economy is composed by the interconnection of political, economic, and social factors that have historically placed people at risk and disadvantage. In this case the disadvantage is related to poverty.

7. In a political context, an institution in power (for example a developed countrys government, church, or state body) feels entitled to expand their territory and conquer an area inhabited by lesser beings.

8. In most cases of such colonization the natives of that area were living off of the land when infrastructure was built by outsiders so there was less access to social, economic, and political power to keep natives from becoming displaced. This resulted in agricultural peoples becoming extremely impoverished.

9. Socially, those who became poor as a result of the colonization system were faced with great social disadvantages because they were seen as other or lesser economically, culturally, and religiously. The poor faced less financial resources and were treated as a source for cheap labor.

10. Economically, Agricultural modernisation creates a group of newly destitute people as a corollary of increased wealth stratification. The commercialisation of agriculture often increases levels of transitory, relative poverty and raises the likelihood that some segments of society will be pushed into chronic poverty(4). Through periods of conquest, industrialization of agricultural societies and eminence of environmental degradation result in irreversible climatic changes. These changes then result in a country of the Global South having the inability to bounce back to traditional ways of life. Free-trade agreements and liberalized markets continue the cycle of chronic poverty as well and allow a Global North country to produce goods

for personal benefit by outsourcing and exploiting laborers in a Global South country. Liberalized markets are often seen as a positive movement for trade but many of these business developers continue the cycle of poverty by enforcing harsh working conditions as well as low wages so they can maximize their profits (6).

11. Traditionally, those who hold the lowest political and/or economic power and those with the least access to resources are stigmatized based on class, race, and gender. This system puts the poor women, children, the colored, and those of lower economical placement (laborers) at extreme risk for chronic poverty.

12. In this tragic cycle, water sources are diminishing due to privatization. The global population is increasing and the environment is slowly giving out. Political instability causes reduced amounts of social aid within governments and other outside aid, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are becoming overwhelmed therefore are not working at their full potential. Declining economies result in low paying jobs and a lack of jobs. The effects of globalization on the global economy keep the minorities oppressed. Industrialization has shifted previously agricultural societies to industrial societies and this sudden development can lead to a lack of sustainability in many of these societies. Lack of proper education keeps the population stagnant, and brain drain certainly does not promote development.

II. History of the Problem

13. The UN passed a resolution in 1999 promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (7). In this resolution the General Assembly addresses the issue broadly focusing on the benefits that should be bestowed upon the impoverished because of globalization, and though this is a positive idea, it is hardly being instated or followed.

14. Currently, because of the recent global economic fallout, there is an increase in the distinction between upper and lower economic classes. The rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Because of globalization, this is happening not only in developing nations but also in industrialized nations, and as a result political instability is appearing across the globe.

15. International Corporations have increasingly been creating factories and sweat shops in developing nations, protected by free-trade agreements (8). The lack of labor laws and unions in these nations has created an open door for exploitation and therefore an inequality in wealth distributions. Corrupt governments have put forth very little effort to solve this problem.

16. Countless UN resolutions have been placed in order to promote education in developing nations. While these resolutions are effective and necessary, more specific regulations should be passed in order to keep children out of work and prevent people from being forced into a labor system that is unfair and abusive.

17. The UN Millennium goal of ending poverty by 2015 is a policy that has been embraced by many countries and globally supported. The efforts that have been placed in order to reach this goal had been monumental and, up until the global economic crisis of 2008, situations were improving. Although there has been improvement, there still is a long road ahead. More specific regulations and resolutions should be put in order to specifically target ways of ending poverty.

18. Since of the age of exploration, the more powerful countries have been colonizing the

rest of the world. Because of this colonization, these dominant countries have been stripping other nations of their resources for their own personal economic gain. To this day industrialized countries purchase resources from developing nations and re-sell them for exorbitant profits. These fossil fuels also create a negative effect on the environment. Not only does this have immediate effects but it keeps countries from industrializing as well they could be.

III. Potential Solutions

19. When considering potential solutions, one must recognize the several tension points that poverty encompasses. Some possible solutions could include:

- Micro financing
- Higher wages enforced by governments
- Promoting sustainable development in all impoverished areas
- Promoting education rather than work at early ages.
- Promoting civil societies
- Womans health
- Acknowledgement of the UN Millennium goals
- Improving poverty in more impoverished nations before wealthier nations
- Enforcing health care emphasizing womans health

IV. Position and Research Tips

- Delegates should conduct extensive research on the topic, as the participation and knowledge of every delegate is an exceedingly important component of the room's dynamic.
- Note that poverty is a multi-faceted topic may trigger outside consequences. Delegates should attempt to calculate future possibilities and be mindful of possible outcomes.
- Delegates should remind themselves to avoid adhering a price to human necessities.
- While researching, delegates should use reliable sources and remain authentic to their country's position.
- Delegates should conduct themselves with utmost diplomacy
- Delegates should understand that the use of statistical information is necessary because it articulates and supports any statements made during debate.
- Keep in mind the sheer importance of eliminating poverty, the UN has placed this as objective as a millennium goal.
- Chairs recommend that delegates research ideas and resolutions already put in place to ensure a smoothly flowing room, and that they enter the room with an open-minded air, authentic and well researched.

Useful Web Sources

- <<http://www.un.org/>>
- <<http://www.cia.gov/>>
- <<http://www.nytimes.com/>>
- <<http://www.bbc.com.uk/>>
- <<http://www.economist.com/>>
- <<http://www.state.gov/>>
- <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>>
- <<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml>>

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