

# United Nations Economic and Social Council

## **Chairs**

### **Niels Rasmussen**

My name is Niels Rasmussen, and this is my fourth year in Model UN and my first time chairing. I am a Senior at Pittsford Mendon High School where I love playing tennis and competing on the Math League and Science Olympiad teams. I am so excited to chair ECOSOC Plenary this year!

### **Max Stern**

Hi delegates new and old! I'm Max Stern, I go to Brighton high school, and this is my second year chairing. I have been doing Model UN since I was a freshman, and am senior board member at my school. Other than model UN I am the head counsel for my schools mock trial team, as well as president of citizens of the world club, and president of young republicans club. Outside of school I have a job at Abbots, and participate in many local musical theatre opportunities. In my free time I like going to the gym and hanging out with friends. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding committee, the topics, or anything else! Hope to have a great Hilton conference!

## **Committee Description:**

ECOSOC Plenary will be run Harvard Style. This means that pre-written resolutions and anything with pre-written operatives or clauses are prohibited. Delegates that use aforementioned materials will be ineligible for an award. Committees run best when no delegate has an unfair advantage, so please abide by these rules.

It is strongly advised that all delegates write at least one position paper and hand it in at the beginning of committee. Not only does writing a position paper make a delegate eligible for an award, it also prepares a delegate for intellectual debate. Furthermore, delegates should thoroughly research the topics and the policies of the country they represent before the conference. The better prepared each delegate is, the better they will be able to collaborate with the other delegates during committee.

ECOSOC describes its central purpose as, "Achieving sustainable development." Therefore, delegates should consider how to create the most sustainable solutions while they research and prepare for the conference.

## **Forced Sterilization of mothers with HIV/AIDS**

Although progress is being made in the U.S and other developed nations for the awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, this is not the case in developing nations in Asia and Africa. In both Africa and Asia gross human rights are being violated by non-consenting sterilization.

Although, HIV/AIDS is not an inheritable disease, there is a possibility of a pregnant mother passing the disease onto her children. This had lead many in Africa and Asia to coerce mothers into sterilization in order to eliminate the possibility of passing on the trait. Additionally, the majority of the areas where the sterilizations are taking place are without access to proper medical care, creating a necessity for sterilizations as there are no other options.

Because many of these areas are underdeveloped, without proper documentation of birth, it is difficult to catch the illegal sterilization until after the procedure has been done, even when many of the sterilizations are carried out in public hospitals.

To make matters worse, in many countries where medical care is available--such as Namibia--these violations have been reported to their respective ministries of health but no action has been taken.

The United Nations needs to find a solution not only to the problem of the forced sterilizations, but also fight the stigma many mothers with HIV/AIDS face.

### ***Questions to consider:***

*How can the United Nations combat forced sterilization without infringing on the national sovereignty of the nations involved?, What actions can the United Nations take to protect women and expectant mothers with HIV/AIDS from coerced sterilization or any other HIV/AIDS stigma related actions. How can the United Nations increase the efficacy of the child/birth process in developing countries in order to further keep track of the sterilizations?*

<http://www.amfar.org/forced-sterilization-and-abortion-a-global-human-rights-problem/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4374084/>

<http://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2015/10/pfor2-1510.html>

## **Illegal Timber Trade in Africa and the Americas**

Although it may not seem like a significant issue, the illegal timber trade affects multiple facets of the global economy. Illegal timber trade is the act of selling or distributing timber--cut down trees--without abiding by trade regulations or agreements. Illegal timber trade can also be classified as the act of clearing forests for plantation use.

Illegal timber trade has become increasingly popular due to the recent increase in the demand for timber, and wood based products such as paper. Not only does illegal timber trade have detrimental effects on the environment, but it has major economic effects as well. Selling the timber without paying regulation taxes can be, and is, devastating for local communities and companies which make their livelihood through the trade. In addition to affect local communities, the timber trade is estimated to lose the world bank an annual \$10 million dollars.

The trade also, as discovered by Interpol, has connections with other crimes such as gun trafficking, and fraudulent permit issuance. The United Nations is dire need of a solution to this issue, as it not only directly affects local communities, but also the world.

*How can the United Nations infiltrate the illegal timber trade?, What incentives can the United Nations offer to nations for their support and agreeance with any initiatives?, What steps can the United Nations take in order to combat the trade?*

- <http://www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives/stopping-illegal-logging>
- [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/deforestation/deforestation\\_causes/illegal\\_logging/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/deforestation/deforestation_causes/illegal_logging/)
- <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/forests/>

## **Implementing Milk Banks in Developing Nations**

Infant mortality is one of the most significant issues facing the United Nations. Although the issue has been addressed in various ways over the years, the problem is still at large. The UN has reported that , “Every day in 2015, 16,000 children under five continue to die, mostly from preventable causes.” With most of these deaths occurring in developing nations, it is necessary that this committee helps these countries ensure the health of their children.

A frequently unheard of method of tackling infant mortality is introducing human milk banks into developing nations. Babies commonly die so young because they are extremely malnourished, making them physically weaker and vulnerable to illness. Bhavdeep Singh says that, “Feeding these babies with donor breast milk through milk banks can have the single largest impact on reducing child mortality.” Singh is the CEO of Fortis Healthcare which is a chain of hospitals with the initiative of spreading milk banks throughout India. By introducing more milk banks, the organization hopes to provide a supply of human milk for mothers who are unable to provide their own breastmilk. For about one in five mothers, this is the case. Milk banks have a strong presence in some countries like Brazil, but their presence is quite underwhelming in other countries like India despite high rates of infant mortality. Clearly, work must be done to determine which locations are suitable for milk banks and how to best implement them. However, there are several obstacles that complicate the matter.

There are many requirements in order to have an operational milk bank, such as cold storage transportation and bacterial culture testing. Some developing regions may not have the necessary infrastructure to meet these requirements. Ethical concerns have also been raised centered around informed consent and how to evenly distribute human milk. Furthermore, any cultural opposition to widespread proliferation of milk banks must be heavily considered.

**Questions to Consider:**

*How can we raise awareness about the generally unheard of milk banks? What are some ways that we can deal with the lack of necessary infrastructure in developing regions? How can we involve developing nations in the process of implementing milk banks?*

IPS News: Banking on the Milk of Human Kindness

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/06/banking-on-the-milk-of-human-kindness/>

NCBI: Global health policies that support the use of banked donor human milk: a human rights issue

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1766344/>

American Academy of Pediatrics: Contemporary Ethical Issues in Human MilkBanking in the United States

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/6/1186>

## **Addressing the Macro-Economic Effects of Internally Displaced People**

With thousands of people currently being forced to migrate out of their home countries, the issues revolving around internally displaced people are often being overlooked. This is highly unfortunate as the effects of these IPDs, particularly the macro-economic effects, are extremely consequential.

In 2007, the United Nations reported that 50% of the world population lived in urban areas. Almost ten years later, that number has only risen, and it is projected that it will continue to rise in the upcoming decades. As the global population grows exponentially, the number of IDPs will grow drastically as well.

Several studies have been carried out with the purpose of detailing the relationship between IDPs and the economy of the communities in which they settle. These studies, such as one performed in Colombia, have shown that the paucity of steady incomes is what primarily keeps many IDPs in economic instability. Current legislation in many nations is ineffectual in dealing with the economic predicaments of many IDPs.

Researches Roberto López, Clara Arredondo, and Jorge Salcedo wrote that in Colombia, “Participating in the formal work sector and social security system renders registered IDPs ineligible for state assistance...” As a result, IDPs frequently must search for occupation in the informal work sector or start informal businesses, neither of which have shown to be steady, long term sources of income.

Additionally, the increase in IDPs in recent years has led to massive jumps in housing prices. Consequently, IDPs resort to renting living spaces. However, relationships are tense between IDPs and their landlords due to their unreliable sources of income.

As more and more people move into urban areas, the economic instability of the IDPs could lead to economic turmoil on a much larger scale. It is important to consider how to improve the economic condition of IDPs and also contain their economic instability.

Questions to Consider:

*How can we develop solutions that will not diminish any benefits that urbanization may bring to a region? How can we involve developing nations with many IDPs in implementing solutions in order to make the solutions more sustainable? In what ways can we ease tensions between IDPs and the communities that they move into?*

Brookings: The Effects of Internal Displacement on Host Communities

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2011/10/host-communities-colombia-idp>

International Review of the Red Cross: Internal displacement in Colombia: humanitarian, economic and social consequences in urban settings and current challenges <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/irrc-875-carrillo.pdf>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: Internal Displacement in Africa: A development challenge <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2012/201210-af-internaldisplacement-in-africa-development-challenge-thematic-en.pdf>