

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXIII

FRESHMAN # 1 1

TOPIC: SLUM UPGRADING



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Freshman #11 Slum Upgrading

Hello delegates! My name is Katie Donaldson, I will be your chair for SOCOMUN XXXIII. I am a Senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my 4th year of MUN. At SM I play golf and lacrosse. In my free time, I like to go to the beach and hang out with friends. MUN has been such a help to me as it has helped me with public speaking and collaborating with others. I am so excited to be your chair and I can't wait to see how amazing things you guys will do at this year's SOCOMUN!

Hello! My name is Cindy Shi. I am a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and I am the vice chair for this year's SOCOMUN conference. This is my fourth and last year doing MUN. I hope that you all enjoy the conference this year and may you all learn something new after today!

Hello, my name is Julia Wood, and I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. I am the Rapporteur on the Freshmen Committee 11. I started MUN freshman year and every single conference has been a great experience! I hope that you all enjoy SOCOMUN!

Welcome Delegates! We are all so excited to help you all as you begin SOCOMUN XXXIII! We know that for many of you, this will be your first conference, so feel free to ask any questions about any of the procedures, or just general information about the conference. To best prepare yourselves for the conference, we recommend you research not only the topic but how your country impacts the topic and if anything has already been done to combat it. We would also recommend making your own solutions to combat the topic or promoting solutions your country has already implemented. How the day will begin, is we will open a speakers list so that you can give a speech on your country's policies as well as the solutions that you have come up with. Throughout the day we will be hosting formal and informal consultations so that you can discuss your solutions and ideas with other delegates. In these informal consultations, you will collaborate with other delegates who share similar solutions to create resolution groups, in these groups you will type up a resolution paper together that will be voted on at the end of the conference. If you have any questions about anything, please email us at fresh11.socomun@gmail.com, and good luck at SOCOMUN XXXIII!



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Background

Slums, which are “characterized by unsanitary conditions and social disorganization” can lead to many health and social issues for millions of people around the world (Britannica). Although there have been many advancements both technologically and economically in our communities, it is still undoubtable that slums are a prominent issue that the UN needs to tackle. These slums, according to NIHM, harbor around 1 billion individuals around the world and pose a significant threat to individuals, the community, and societies. For residents that live in these slums, there can be many possible health issues that they are exposed to. While living in these slums, individuals are forced to scavenge for materials to use for shelter. These shelters are usually very poorly made and provide little to no shelter for the members of the slums from harsh weather and other dangers of the elements. In addition to makeshift shelters, there are many cases of overcrowding in the slums. When the slums become overcrowded, the citizens living in the slums become extremely susceptible to disease. Disease spreads extremely quickly in these highly populated areas. As stated by the National Library of Medicine, “With 1 billion people currently estimated to live in such communities, this neglected population has become a major reservoir for a wide spectrum of health conditions that the formal health sector must deal with” (NIHM). Living in the slums makes it extremely difficult to receive healthcare as well, only further increasing the difficulty of preventing the spread of diseases. Administering things such as vaccines and other basic healthcare services is challenging in slums due to the unsanitary conditions and overcrowding experienced. Slums are a huge obstacle to the education of children living in slums. When children live in slums, it is often very difficult to go to school when most are expected to take care of their families from a very young age by working and providing other familial services. Education is not seen as very important to these families as they are just trying to survive. Slum dwellers often face a heavy stigma due to their economic standings. They may be deemed as unimportant or less than in comparison to the more affluent members of society. This stigma deters the members living in slums from attempting to get the healthcare they need or get the education they deserve. In a study done by NIHM, it was shown that, “ordinary members of the urban slums can articulate critical linkages between their everyday sociocultural realities and health conditions, which can support the design and delivery of interventions to promote wellbeing” (NIHM). Slums can greatly harm the environment that they surround. It has been shown that, “slum residents themselves can impact their environment due to lack of basic services, which results in contaminated soil and polluted air and waterways” (Taylor and Francis Online). All these effects have many long-term consequences on the environment and if not stopped will only progress. Slums pose many harmful effects on the people inhabiting them in addition to the community. It is critical to address the issues of slums to make the world more sustainable and to protect the health of all individuals.



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Possible Solutions

These solutions are here to give you an example and a starting ground for solutions that would be useful in this committee. We encourage you to look at already existing solutions within your own countries and how you can build off those solutions. Also, when it comes to spending and costs, you do not need to mention who will be funding the solutions as there should be a common understanding that the World Bank and the UN 5th committee will be providing the funds for all your solutions.

In many of these slum areas, little is done to help provide them with proper medical care and nutrition. It is critical to get the necessary healthcare services to people living in slums. Healthcare can be provided through either government spending or the work of NGOs. Some examples of possible NGOs to work with are Doctors Without Borders and Forefront. Both NGOs work on providing healthcare to people who lack basic necessities and by extending these NGOs, we can advance the health of people living in slums. Another solution to the healthcare of people living in slums is healthcare on wheels. By setting up a bus filled with critical healthcare materials such as vaccines we can bring the care to the slums instead of having the people living in the slums have to go to a hospital, which may be challenging for them. With the ability to provide care to these people, the spread of disease can be mitigated throughout slums.

Another issue that is faced in many slums is the lack of access to clean drinking water. When the water is dirty, it can greatly contribute to poor health for the people living in slums and it is of the utmost importance that the issue is addressed. A solution to this issue is the establishment of clean water stations. Clean water stations will take dirty water and sanitize it to the point where it is completely drinkable for people living in the slums. Stations that provide drinking water can be set up throughout the slums and can be regularly checked on and monitored to ensure that the water that is coming from the stations is still clean and that the stations are being properly used by the people.

Finally, one long-term solution that can be implemented is through the work of financial investment in the future of the people living in slums. Many people living in slums cannot get a proper job, and this greatly affects their financial situation. In addition to this, many of the people living in slums are unable to work due to health-related issues. By using social impact investing, investors provide capital to projects that generate positive social outcomes alongside financial returns. Through these social impact movements, money can be generated to provide support for people living in slums. This boosts the morale for slum upgrading efforts and encourages international aid to the areas as well as government grants to be provided.

Delegates, we encourage you to come up with your own solutions and to keep in mind the goal of this committee: to help promote growth, to remove the slum title, and to call them communities. This could include nutrition, clean water, housing, medical care, and employment; all basic human necessities that we all share.



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Questions To Consider

You do not need to include these questions anywhere and these are not mandatory to answer. The questions are tools to guide understanding and research going into this conference and will help put you on the right track when writing your solutions and speeches.

1. How will your solutions apply to slums in different areas around the world?
2. How will you ensure that your solutions do not violate any of the basic human rights of the residents living in the slums?
3. How can you work with other countries to improve the outreach of your solutions?
4. What other countries might be willing to work with you due to their policies? What countries may not be willing?
5. What is your country's policy on the issue and what have they done in the past to address the issue?
6. Are there any past UN actions that have been made to address the issue?
7. What NGOs could you work with or support to address the issue?
8. Do your solutions impede any cultural or religious beliefs?
9. Will your solutions be globally accepted or are there countries with opposing beliefs that may reject them?

MUN Impact: We hope that you learn a lot about not only your topic, but how your chosen country has been impacted or impacted by the topic. Please look into the MUN impact <http://munimpact.org/> and more specifically <http://munimpact.org/sdg-page/sdg-11/> to learn more on the goal of MUN and the goal of SDG 11!

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrading slums

Goal 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross



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domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

11.A Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

11.B By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

11.C Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local material



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