
SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Fossil Ridge High School

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Staff

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Delegates, if you have any questions regarding this background guide or the security council, please contact one of the four of us listed above and we will answer your questions as soon as possible.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Fossil Ridge High School's Fall of 2017 Conference. This year, Fossil Ridge has decided to change its date and format to appeal to a larger pool of delegates. Each committee will revolve around crises and how each country will adapt to constantly changing circumstances. The strain of resources from mass consumption has created a lively debate on how to control the population while also creating an environment to sustain an ever-growing population. Delegates in the Beginner's Security Councils will be focusing on strategies that will lower the birthrate in the countries faced with the problem of overpopulation as well as figuring out solutions to restore the environment. These include sustainable energy alternatives for countries who are faced with problems of overpopulation, as well as sustainable infrastructure. In addition, delegates will also discuss strategies to combat the current problems that have risen as a result of overpopulation, including environmental depletion due to expansion of countries' urban areas, as well as health issues (e.g. HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, etc.) that are in positive correlation with a rapidly growing population. Strategies should address ways to lower birth rates, plans to allow the development of sustainable energies within communities, and strategies create infrastructure to ensure efforts will be made to restore environments in regions of South America, Central America, South-East Asia, and parts of Africa.

Delegates who have been placed in committees with Media interaction should be prepared for structured interactions with the Media as well as to expect the standard 2 crises per session.

Fossil Ridge High School's conference seeks to be inclusive as well as realistic with its crises and challenges delegates to think quickly, thoughtfully, and with purpose. It will take a lot of work within each council to find a solution for all parties involved.

Best of luck! Sincerely,

Fossil Ridge Model United Nations

Committee

Beginner's Security Council:

Countries: Bolivia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Senegal, Sweden, UK, USA, Ukraine, and Uruguay

Non-voting members: Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, & Nigeria

The United Nations Security Council has been begun attempting to control the rate of population growth that is occurring at an alarming rate throughout the world. In addition to these actions, countries affected by severe overpopulation have tried to implement various methods to control the rate of birth. Family planning programs have many different impacts in beginning to decrease the population in countries like India and in Africa. Education of women in LDCs has worked in tandem with these programs to the slow decrease in population as well.

Though the introduction of various western medicines and vaccines been beneficial in some ways to decrease the death rate in overpopulated LDCs from disease, it has also simultaneously played a role in increasing population size as well.

The Security Council has worked towards various goals regarding sustainable development to not only support the ever-growing population, but also to rebuild and maintain the condition of the surrounding environment. On September 25, 2015, the UN established 17 goals are related towards sustainable development. Specifically, Goal 11 states many targets that are related to the development of communities. By 2030, the UN would like to reduce the adverse per capita of every city, which includes air pollution and waste management. They would like to support LDCs through building cities that use localized resources and do not harm the environment as much as some materials do. There are many more goals and targets related to sustainable development throughout the world.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can nations support the growing population in sustainable ways that will both prevent the environment from deteriorating further while improving the quality of it as well?
2. What population control programs would be effective in further stopping the exponential growth of the population?
3. What risks are associated with high concentrations of people, and how can some of these risks be prevented to endure the health of all people?
4. How can nations attempt to reduce the growth of slums in order to protect the surrounding environments?

Topic/Crisis Overview

With approximately 1.6 billion people living today in East Asia and 0.6 billion living in Southern Asia, this region accounts for nearly one third of the world's approximate 7 billion people. Additionally, in the developing nations of Central America and Africa, populations are growing more rapidly than knowledge in infrastructure and industry, leading to devastating unemployment rates and impoverishment. At such an alarming rate pressure has been put upon resources as well, that each region requires to operate its social economy. Freshwater levels have gradually decreased because of overpopulation. By 2025, it is estimated that half the entire world will face a freshwater supplement crisis due to unstable and alarming levels of needs and demands for the now growing population of people and children who live in areas that contain acute amounts of freshwater. To an extent, the world may very likely enter a Global Water Crisis because of the uncontrollable rate of increase of its human inhabitants. Increase in population also means an increase in necessity for food and other vital resources. Economically, food production requires an increase in land and agriculture to produce more food for the people, which has become the largest threat to natural areas and ecosystems. Currently 17 million people are facing possible starvation in West Africa in the southern portion of the Sahara Desert.

More than 11 million children under the age of 5 die each year due to hunger related diseases. The increase of people, mainly children, also requires the increase of educational budgets. Schools have become overcrowded as children do not receive the recommended amount of learning in school needed to innovate future generations. Importantly, overpopulation has made millions of civilians homeless. Housing for the public has raised electricity usage, plumbing and resources that homes require in order to operate. Currently 1/10 of the entire world is left homeless, suffering from starvation, a terrible standard of life, and a likely increase in death rates.

Overpopulation has had drastic effects on not only the environment, but also on the people living in areas of concern. In Brazil, the sheer number of shanty towns (called "favelas") reflects serious problems with overpopulation and the government's lack of resources to provide ample homes for its citizens. Out of the 207.7 million people currently residing in Brazil, 11 million of these people live in favelas. Crowded conditions and poor control of sanitation have

led to rampant disease and soaring infant mortality rates. Illnesses common in favelas are leprosy, tuberculosis, dengue fever, and other infectious diseases. Favela residents typically live 13 years less than those living in the wealthy areas of Rio de Janeiro. Lack of waste control has resulted in piles upon



piles of trash within living areas, once again increasing the risk of illness. These areas are also considered areas of risk with telephone and electricity companies, so the installment of such services is very limited.

Environmentally, overpopulation has led to massive deforestation and pollution in Brazil. In the pursuit of land suitable for agriculture, farming corporations have eliminated a significant fraction of forested natural areas. The destruction of the Amazon Rainforest, known as the “Lungs of the World,” not only devastates natural habitats for the elusive species in the forest, but also contributes to the buildup of carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere. Acid rain from pollution of big cities like Rio de Janeiro has devastated local fauna and has endangered locals who rely heavily on rainwater for sustenance. Acid rain not only damages soil and plants on the ground, but are also devastating to ecosystems like freshwater habitats. Lack of proper waste disposal (rampant in Brazilian favelas) damages the soil, air, and water quality within the country. Brazil produces over 161,000 tons of waste per day, with $\frac{2}{3}$ of Brazil’s municipalities disposing of said waste via landfills. Landfills damage the soil and ultimately degrade water quality.

Indonesia is similarly facing the consequences of rapid population growth. Though there have been attempts to slow exponential growth, none have been successful. Some experts have predicted that Indonesia’s people will fall to the Malthusian trap, which explains how the population rate will soon exceed that of food production leading to a rapid decline in population due to extreme famine.

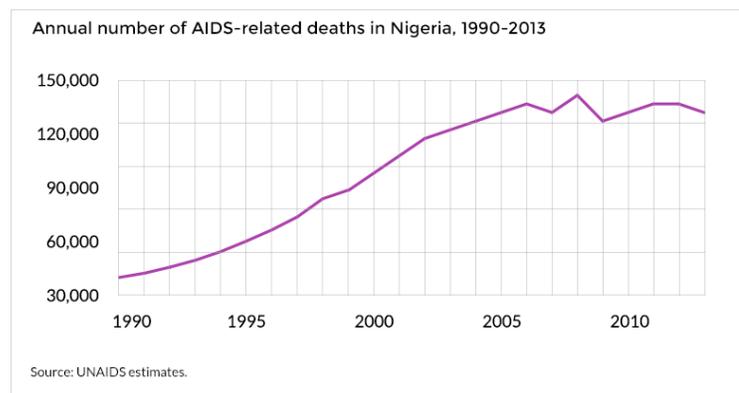


Additionally, in India, economic inequality plus the exponential increase of population has made life unbearable to those living in slums. The lack of contraceptive knowledge in India had led to large, impoverished families. Advancements in technology

contribute to unemployment of these people, leaving many without sources of income. Lack of infrastructure leads to poor housing and transportation. Slums have increased in size and many people living in poverty die from things like disease or hunger. Those who are farmers are forced to exploit the land around them, leading to more environmental degradation. Land salinization and soil depletion are environmental problems that will lead to devastating consequences later on as the population continues to increase in numbers. Domestic sewage and lack of proper filtration of water lead to not only diseases among the poor, but also lead to destruction of the environment. Common illnesses in India brought by overpopulation include tuberculosis, cholera, dengue fever, and malaria.

An additional area of concern when it comes to overpopulation is Africa. Most countries in the continent are still considered to be LDCs, characterized by high birth rates which contribute exponential population growth. In Nigeria, a country about the size of Texas, the population has now exceeded 170 million people. By 2050, it is expected to surpass that of the United States. Due to severe overpopulation, most residents living in big cities like Lagos live in crowded slums. The total fertility rate (TFR) is currently 5.5 children per woman, compared to the world average of around 2 kids per woman. This soaring statistic has occurred as mothers try to cope with an exceptionally high child mortality rate. Rising populations threaten the

government, as it places greater strain on infrastructure and services. Diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria are prevalent in areas like the slums due to the high density of people and the lack of sanitation. As the city struggles to expand and the



government tries to keep up with the large population, the environment is depleted even further. Pollution and deforestation increase in tandem with the population, harming the environment more which are not only big problems to the population, but are also big problems the world.

There have been many attempted solutions to growing population crises in Southeast Asia, Central America, South America, and parts of Africa.

Such solutions include:

contraceptive awareness

programs aimed at women living

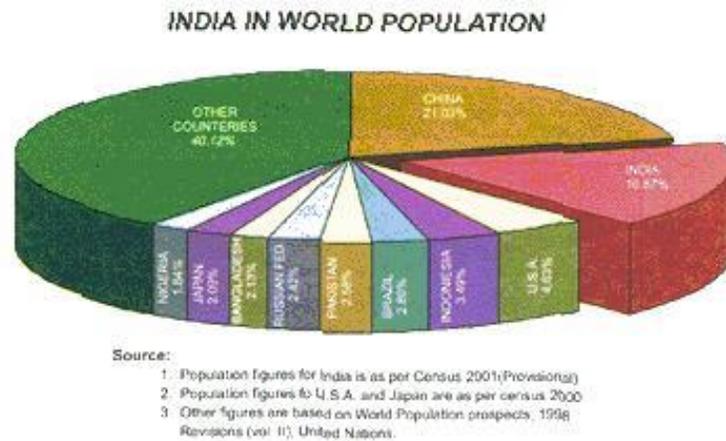
in areas with excessively high

birth rates, increased education

availability for women in those

same areas, and incentives provided by governments for families who have less children. A

primary example of this is the “One Child Policy” instituted in China in the 1980s. This policy placed heavy taxes on families which chose to have more than one child; however, many people found this policy to be unnecessarily cruel and limiting. Sexual education programs have proven to be very effective, especially in India where the National Family Planning Programme has brought contraceptive awareness to nearly every part of the country. This family planning not only encourages increased educational availability to females but also the involvement of males (who objectively have much more power in Indian society) to increase the use of contraceptives and thus diminish the total fertility rate of the nation. While campaigns like the National Family Planning Programme have found some success in their respective regions, this problem is international and there still is an astonishing lack of contraceptive knowledge in many African LDCs and Latin American countries. In Niger, the Total Fertility Rate is approximately 7.8 children per woman, giving rise to a teeming population which is too large for the fragile government of the region to support. It is suggested that initiatives to broaden the use of contraceptives in LDCs are considered in this council. It is also important that delegates work to develop programs which strengthen national infrastructure and economy to support the already existing populations.



The largest challenge faced by this council is undoubtedly how LDCs with the aid of the United Nations can effectively manage and diminish their shocking population growth. This population growth has severe consequences on the environment and the overall health of the people living within these countries as well.

Timeline

~1760: The Industrial Revolution begins, significantly increasing the population. Later on, it also inspires the Medical Revolution, which is one of the key turning points to population growth in LDCs.

1798: Thomas Malthus, in his book *An Essay on the Principle of Evolution*, explains his theory which is later known as the “Malthusian trap.” It states that at some point, population will exceed the rate of food production, leading to a mass starvation that will wipe out much of the population.

1804: The world population finally hits one billion people. It took all of human history up to 1804 to reach one billion people.

1927: 100 years later, the world population reaches two billion people, showing the exponential growth brought by the Industrial Revolution.

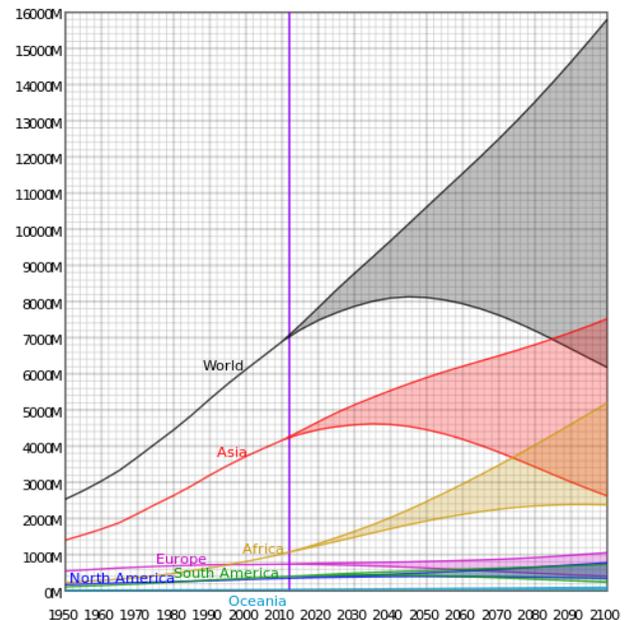
1959: The world population, as noted by the International Database of the United States Census Bureau, reaches three billion.

~Late 20th century: The Medical Revolution begins, pushing many less-developed countries out of stage one of development and into stage two.

1974: The world population reaches four billion people.

1987: The Day of Five Billion, as it was called, happened at around July 11, 1987. Matej Gaspar from Croatia was chosen as the symbolic five billionth person.

1999: The population reaches six billion people. The United Nations Population Fund designates the date of October 12, 1999 as the official day.



1999: Countries with a population of 100 million or more included China, India, United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Japan, and Nigeria.

2011: The population reaches seven billion. The official day was October 31, 2011.

Crisis Committee Information

What to Expect

In this beginner's council, delegates will be asked to draft comprehensive solutions in response to the growing urgency of this crisis. Using the information provided with the background guide, delegates will research their country's position. They will draft resolutions that will attempt to resolve the problem of overpopulation in regards to health, environmental restoration, and ways to prevent further problems associated with overpopulation.

Media Coverage/Press Conference and Interviews

Though historically our media presence has been a unique aspect of the FRHS Crisis Committees, this year, due to available media personnel, we will only have one committee per topic available with media presence. Please make sure that you properly specify which committee delegates would like to participate in: with or without media interaction. Delegates wishing to participate in media committees should be prepared for structured interactions with the Media as well to expect at least 2 crises per session, which is standard for any of the Security Councils.

Resolutions and Directives

In this crisis conference, the passing of both directives and resolutions will be encouraged. Uniquely, in this conference, there will be a live media aspect, intended to interact with the delegates. We encourage the use of this resource to its fullest potential. Delegates will be encouraged to (in collaboration with our Crisis team), to announce their actions to the media. A directive, most simply put, is a command or instruction to carry out an action. Some delegates find it easiest to think of directives as the operative clauses of a resolution. A directive simply needs to be a few brief lines specifically detailing what you wish to occur. The power that a directive has in its ability to carry out actions is limited to the sum of the powers of the total signatories on the directive; directives do not have sponsors. Signing on to a directive gives is the legitimacy required to pass. With each subsequent signatory the directive gains the power of that signatory. For example a directive signed by the leaders of the United States and the France would possess the combined power of those two nations. Directives are best used to carry out an action in response to crises that occur; to mobilize or move troops, close borders, or utilize any of the powers vested in you as the leader of a nation.

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