CUIMUN XXIII
Study Guide

United Nations Development Programme

CUIMUN XXIII

STUDY GUIDE

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I.   **Welcome Letter from the Chairs**

Hello from UNDP! We are super-excited for CUIMUN and for our committee which we hope will be bursting with constant debate, energy and innovative solutions. Here are some snippets about the dais members to give you an idea of what/who to expect:

Director:

Name: Miral Mir

Age: 20

Nationality: Pakistani

Occupation: In search of self

MUN Life: Been a delegate, chair and organizer at MUN conferences travelling within Pakistan, Turkey and United Kingdom for the past three years.

Hobbies: Social-media addict & amateur photographer

Fun Fact about Me: High on life.

Assistant Directors:

Name: Tobias Rossi

Age: of Empires III Remastered Edition

Nationality: French

Occupation: Making sarcastic comments

MUN Life: Mostly consists of dressing up and pretending to understand

Hobbies: Rugby, travelling, explaining what MUNs are

Fun Fact about Me: I'm actually GeorgeS' long lost curly haired french twin. We still haven't told him. I also freed the first ever Racoon at CUIMUN XXII.

Name: Cassy Jagroop
Age: 22
Nationality: American
Occupation: Political Detritus Orator
MUN Life: Dressing Fancy and acting like I understand the complicated world of international politics
Hobbies: Dancing, Bouldering, Sarcastic Raconteur
Fun Fact About Me: Still don't know how to ride a bike, #CityGurl

II.   Introduction to the Committee

The **United Nations Development Programme** (**UNDP**) is an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly. The UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives. It provides expert advice, training and grants to support developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance provided to the least developed countries. Recent UNDP programs have focused on reducing poverty, developing strategies to treat and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, promoting environmentally sound energy and economic policies, and expanding communications and technology infrastructure. UNDP resident representatives in more than 125 developing countries help coordinate the local activities of other UN agencies and programs, as well as those of non-governmental organizations.

III. Topic A
Ensuring Sustainable Urbanization

a. Introduction

In 2011, the world population reached the seven billion mark; a monumental feat, as merely twelve years before the world population was at the six billion benchmark. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it took 123 years to go from one to two billion and another 33 years to cross the three billion threshold (UNECOSOC). Experts argue one of the major reasons behind this more rapid increase in population is because half the global population now lives in major cities and towns, making urban areas the main choice of residency (Kummu, Moel, Ward and Varis; 2011). The consequences of urbanisation have had a profound effect on the environment, economics, politics and social aspects of a state.

The addition of the urbanization facet in the post-2015 global development agenda highlights the ever-growing trend of the new millennium. The post-2015 development plan emphasises the fact that the urbanisation agenda should go beyond demographics and look at the challenges and opportunities these populous cities and towns form and their effect on sustainable development. In the committee, we will look at what constitutes economic sustainability, social, ecological and political sustainability and how these five dimensions play a vital role in the relationship between them and the development of urban areas.

It is important to point out that urban sustainability requires us to change the way we understand cities and their diverse impacts on the society and the environment within the state's process of urbanisation. Cities cannot be viewed as their own "islands" and instead need to be included when considering the larger global political economy, where they play a significant role (Lynch, 2005). Therefore, the subject of sustainable cities and urbanisation runs parallel with the construed geographical developments caused by globalisation.

b. Timeline of Events

Illustrated below is the breakdown of the timeline of events that led the international community to find a need to tackle the issue of sustainable urbanisation[1]:

1961- The World Wildlife Fund is created.

1962- Racheal Carson publishes *Silent Spring,* which brings to light the detrimental effects of the indiscriminate use of pesticides on the environment.

1965- The United Nations Development Programme is founded.

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[1] Note: Timeline created based on research conducted for this work.

1968- The book *Population Bomb* by Paul and Anne Ehrlich is published, looking at the issue of mass starvation in the 1970s and 1980s due to overpopulation. Though criticised for its miscalculations, the book raised awareness on the impact of humans on the environment.

1969- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is created.

1972- *The Limits to Growth,* a book about a simulation of exponential economic and population growth with limited resources, is published. This book paved the way for the UN Conference on Human Environment, which resulted in the creation of the UN Environmental Programme.

1973- The Oil Crisis leads to the breakout of the Yom Kippur War.

1979- The first ever World Climate Conference, organised by the World Meteorological Organisation, is held in Geneva. The Iranian Revolution triggers another Oil Crisis.

1982- The Ten-Year anniversary of Stockholm calls for a Commission on Environment and Development. Also, the UN Convention on Law of the Sea is drafted, although it will not come into force until 1994.

1983- The UNGA creates the UN Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission.

1985- The Vienna Convention on Ozone Depleting Chemicals is drafted, but does not come into force until 1988.

1986- The Chernobyl Disaster happens.

1987- The Brundtland Commission Report is produced, triggering the creation of a Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

1992- The UN Conference on the Human Environment Earth Summit is held in Rio de Janeiro.

1997- The Earth Summit +5 Special Session of the UNGA takes place in New York City.

2000- The Millennium Summit produces the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), with nations committing to global partnership and setting out a series of goals to achieve by 2015.

2002- The World Summit on Sustainable Development is held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

2010- The UN MDG Summit adopts a global action plan to have tackled the eight anti-poverty goals by 2015.

2012- The Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development launches the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which expand upon the MDGs and coincide with the post-2015 development agenda.

2013- The creation of the SDGs paves the way for the birth of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly.

2015- The UNGA Post 2015 MDG Review Summit initiates the SDGs.

c. Discussion

Before delving into the intricacies of the sustainable urbanisation issues, it is important to be fully aware of what the term actually means. There have been many variations of the definition of sustainable urbanisation, yet the easiest way to understand the terminology is to look at the two words separately. Urbanisation can be defined as the movement of population from rural to urban areas, as well as the growth of cities in numbers and size and the increased share of urban population; this can transform the structure of the state's economy, as well as cause a shift in human behaviour. One should also understand that the characteristics of developing economies differ greatly from those of developed and industrialised states.

Sustainability gives a new dimension to urbanisation. Depending on the pace, nature and patterns, urbanisation can potentially create various problems. Sustainable urbanisation can thus be understood as the "maximisation of economic efficiency in the use of resources including air, water and soil, maintaining natural resource stocks at or above their present level, ensuring social equity in the distribution of development benefits and costs and avoidance of unnecessary foreclosure of future development options" (Keles, 2001).

Under sustainable urbanisation, as mentioned earlier, numerous variables come into play. One of the most obvious is economic sustainability, which is seen as the capacity and ability of a system in which local/regional resources can be productive enough to benefit the community in the long-term, without damaging or depleting the natural resource base on which it relies on (Castells, 1989). As global trade has increased through the 20th century, cities have become less reliant on their local rural areas for sustenance and instead look more favourably upon importing food, energy, water and building materials from various states. The waste produced by the cities is then exported to different regions of the state or other states. This system tends to go on without the urban residences realising and can potentially result in ecological or geopolitical instability they have no choice but to depend on (Rees, 1992). Economic sustainability for one state cannot jeopardise the economic sustainability of another, just because that state may not be as developed as the other.

Another aspect that scholars look at when discussing sustainability of urban areas is the social sustainability aspect. This type of sustainability looks at the fairness, inclusivity and cultural adequacy of an intervention to prioritise equal rights over the natural, physical and economic capital, with emphasis placed on the poor and marginalised groups (Adams, 2007). Cultural adequacy for each state means something very different. Not every state is comprised entirely of homogenous entities, thanks to historical ties as well as globalisation. Thus, ensuring that individuals of a state feel welcomed and included where they live and even where they travel to is imperative. Out of all the different types of sustainability pillars in urbanisation, social sustainability is the least defined and least understood. It definitely had less attention than economic and environmental sustainability (Woodcraft, 2011). The idea of social sustainability has heavily been based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, where states are obliged to "respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms" (UNHRC, 2016).

Ecological sustainability, also known as environmental sustainability, deals with the effects of the urban population and consumption on the integrity and health of the city region and global carrying capacity. This brings into question the relationship between the state and the environmental resources and services, with the demands that are exerted over them. When one applies the precautionary principle to ecological sustainability, meaning if there are serious threats or irreversible environmental degradation, it demands for individuals to be involved (Andorno, 2004). Another principle discussed in the context of ecological sustainability is intergenerational equity; the current generation is obliged to make sure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or upgraded for the benefit of future generations. In recent years, there has been a push for the sustainability of the built environment, which concerns itself with the capability of enhancing the living qualities of buildings and urban infrastructures for 'all' city dwellers including animals, without disruption of the urban environment (McCormick, 1986). With incidents like the Grenfell Tower still occurring in the modern era, it has become clear to urban designers and politicians just how necessary it is to build infrastructure that is stable for its residences and the environment.

Finally, it is also important to consider political sustainability together with the sustainability of urbanisation. It is easier to understand the political aspect of urbanisation through political economy; this approach allows one to look at the political and economic forces involved in the process and development of urbanisation. The 21st century saw a growth in neo-liberal ideology and its invasion into the politics and economies of the world. The deregulation schemes introduced by Reagan and Thatcher brought about a significant change in the role of government and the function of private capital (Boucher, 2015). Social scientists have argued that the ideal form of governance for urban areas that would cater for sustainability is leadership that adapts to the pressures of climate change, globalisation and social fluidity (Bulkeley, 2005). Others argue that it is necessary to tackle the blatantly obvious class divisions in the urban areas. No matter which side you take, the political sustainability of urban areas has significant profound impacts on the region they have jurisdiction over.

d. Bloc Positions

China's environmental crisis is one of the most pressing challenges to emerge from the country's rapid industrialization. Its economic rise, in which GDP grew on average 10 percent each year for more than a decade, has come at the expense of its environment and public health. China is the world's largest source of carbon emissions and the air quality of many of its major cities fails to meet international health standards. Severe water contamination and scarcity have compounded land deterioration. Environmental degradation threatens to undermine the country's growth and exhausts public patience with the pace of reform. It has also bruised China's international standing and domestic stability, as the ruling party faces increasing scrutiny and dissatisfaction from the public.

Brazil's rainforests are the famous for their size and diversity, but unfortunately faced massive deforestation over previous decades due to the expanding agriculture. In the 1990s, Brazil was cutting down large tracts of trees, though now public sentiment has shifted significantly towards conservation. The government has been trying to find a balance between its agricultural sector and reducing deforestation; however, Brazil has come under criticism for its Forest Code, a law giving amnesty to landowners who illegally cleared lands before 2008 and reduced the rainforest areas from 500,000 to 210,000 sq. kilometers.

Germany has the most leading sustainable urban cities and are thus frequently seen as Europe's green leader. Munich has presented its initiative to power the city completely by renewable sources by 2025, and so far the city is 37% of the way there. Freiburg is also well known by its eco-friendly traits. Freiburg was one of the first cities in Germany to adopt local energy production. By creating a situation in which citizens are committed stakeholders, the green movement is a natural part of daily life.

Australia owns an incredible ecosystem and is currently pushing to become more eco-friendly. Melbourne won the Energy Efficient Built Environment category for sustainable buildings, which gives building managers and owners funding for energy and water retrofits, and the country is taking further measures to decrease its environmental impact.

The Scandinavian countries are known internationally for their concerted efforts to preserve their environments. They typically rank in the top 5 (with annual variations) and are often referred to as "green states". Policy makers and citizens increasingly recognize the growing constraints on common resources, the effects of climate on human welfare, and the need to develop collective solutions. These issues are have been gaining ideological prominence and political salience in northern Europe lately, and the governments of these nations have succeeded in reflecting this into the management of the state.

e. Conclusion—Key Issues

In finding relevant solutions to sustainable urbanization, delegates should look at both quantitative and qualitative factors and data. Detailed knowledge of one's own country policy and efforts as well as innovative and practical ideas are essential.

To summarise, delegates should research, debate and write resolutions by addressing the key issues highlighted in this study guide, particularly the following questions:

What are the problems caused by urbanization?
Why do people prefer urban areas over rural areas? What kind of improvements and adjustments can we make to both urban and rural areas in order to maintain an equal distribution of population?
What makes an area "sustainable"?
What kind of factors should a sustainable city include?

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IV.   Topic B

The Effect of Water Scarcity on Global Peace and Development

a. Introduction

The link between water, its abundance or scarcity, and a region or nation's development and security have been studied for millennia. Used in religious rituals, agriculture, military campaigns and mercantile purposes, water has many different uses, each with crucial roles in a given society.

However, growing populations and larger societies have put increasing stress upon the world's hydraulic resources. Indeed, the role of water is often underestimated to human consumption for drinking and cleaning, and maybe the occasional car wash and fountain display. Recent efforts have been made to educated consumers on the amount of water used in other parts of their daily life: a pair of 501 Jeans[2]? Around 4000 Litres. One beef steak[3]? Around the same amount. Water is also greatly used in agriculture, as well as in industry for cooling and purification needs. Hence, water scarcity isn't just an issue of being thirsty. Famine will ensue, industries will shut down and States will struggle to function without the means to run the different sectors of its economy.

Historically, water has never been the sole reason for a conflict but has played a role as a reason among others. Many believe that this will change as greater consumption, as well as climate change, have completely upset water distribution. Recent reports published in the scientific review *Nature*[4] show dryer regions getting dryer, while wetter regions will get wetter; both cases will lack clean water for the variety of ways humans consume it. In the absence of clear and equitable shares of water, States and their populations will take up arms and fight for the most precious resource there is.

Discussing the effects of water scarcity, specifically on global peace and development, is of crucial importance for countries around the world, whatever their level of development. This debate is as much a national as an international problem of good governance, resource management, and cooperation over the many sectors linked to water.

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[2] http://www.levistrauss.com/sustainability/planet/water/
[3] https://www.peta.org/videos/meat-wastes-water/
[4] https://www.nature.com/articles/srep38752

b. **Timeline**:

1790 BC: The Code of Hammurabi marks one of the first set of laws pertaining to the utility and theft of water and irrigation systems

1415: Angkor Wat's (Cambodia) population plummets as a severe drought extends over South East Asia

1902: Australia faces a drought so severe, the then 6 states unite to cooperate over water consumption and distribution

1921: A drought leads to a crop failure of around 20% of Soviet farmland, the ensuing famine is responsible for the death of an approximate 5,1 million Soviets.

1947-1960's: Disputes over the Indus River between Pakistan and India

1958: Egypt and Sudan clash over the Nile River

1977: United Nations Water Conference

1981-1990: International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

1989: Operation Lifelife Sudan is launched, an attempt by the international community to combat the devastating a devastating drought

1992: International Conference on Water and the Environment

1997: The worst drought in 50 years forces 1 million Indonesians into a famine diet; without the means to respond, over 750 000 acres of forest burn to the ground

1999: A drought destroys 70% of Iraqi crops for the year

2005: 90 die over water consumption fights between Kenya's Maasai and Kikuyu tribes

2010: The right to Water and Sanitation is recognised as a human right by the United Nations General Assembly

c. **Discussion:**

Discussing the effects of water scarcity on global peace and development obviously falls into two divisions. First, analysing the effects of water scarcity on global peace and security, and second, its effects on global development.

The effects of water scarcity on global peace hinge around the idea of water conflicts. Water conflicts are conflicts between groups or states over access to water resources. Saltwater conflicts do exist, though the attention is mostly focused on fresh water, which is vital for human

development but very unevenly distributed. Hence, areas proximal to deserts are very protective of their limited reserves. Violence and military operations have been employed to secure key irrigation points to preserve access to fresh water.

Water security is made particularly difficult because of Water Resource Law, the branch of law pertaining to the ownership and use of water resources. What makes this branch of law difficult is the nature of water and the different ways in which a group or State can use it.

First, water isn't eternal. Some years it rains, some years it doesn't, and entire rivers and lakes can appear of disappear due to this, which makes owning them quite complex. Then there's using the water, which is also complicated according to how you're using it. The water can be used within the water cycle, such as for a dam or a river boat, or outside the water cycle, e.g. for agriculture.

Multiple sets of rules have been drafted to achieve some order with respect to Water resources, such as the *Helsinki Rules on the Uses of Waters of International Rivers* or *The Hague Declaration on Water Security in the 21st Century;* however, as with most concepts in International Law, getting every country to adhere to the rules is easier said than done.

Despite the benefits of controlling one's own water resources, water cooperation could also be a strong force of good. Indeed, in their report entitled *Water Cooperation for a Secure World,* the Strategic Foresight Group put forward the idea that any two countries engaged in active water cooperation do not go to war with each other. 37 countries are currently at risk of war, and not one of these countries has any cooperation on water resources with any of its neighbours. Hence, cooperation should be kept in mind when discussing the effects of water scarcity on global peace.

Something else to keep in mind is the scales of global peace. Wars are increasingly intra-national not international, so water scarcity is having as big an impact inside countries than between countries, if not more. This is an issue concerning every State, from the most developed GDP giants to the smallest landlocked sliver of land: without water, society will crumble.

How water effects development is almost obvious because of how central it is to every part of everyone's daily life. Water governs when and what we eat, what we wear, how we get places and how cheap the things we buy are. The sectors affected by a lack of water are numerous and allow for everyone to find meaningful and concrete ideas to further the debate. While all the sectors are important, there are a select few themes that need attention, namely the effects on food, on energy, and on the economy.

As the timeline shows, droughts are almost systematically followed by famines due to massive crop failure. Better management of water resources and infrastructures can curb the incredibly destructive effects of these drought induced famines.

States are increasingly turning towards alternative energies to reduce their carbon footprint, and hydroelectric power is often seen as the most developed of these alternative energies. Without the necessary hydraulic resources to power these dams though, whole cities or even states could find themselves without power. This would be incredibly disruptive to society, but also turn an entire economy upside down.

A country's economy would indeed suffer incredibly from a lack of energy, but a lack of water would hit them even harder. Many of the industries would shut down, unable to continue delivering its services. Many countries would also find themselves deprived of important communication routes. Rivers and lakes are the backbone of the economy for many states. Just look at the economic consequences of the Aral Sea Crisis, or imagine the disaster if the Great Lakes region in Easter Africa dried up. Without these "water routes", imports and exports would plummet and countries would descend into violence.

A good discussion on the effects of water scarcity would consider the many different sectors affected by water scarcity. Delegates also need to keep in mind the universality of their proposals to avoid more international law proposals not adopted by all. Access to water has become a human right according to the United Nations, let the debate reflect the importance water holds in each one of our lives. Battle waste, pollution, bad policy and bad governance, unequal distribution could be a problem of tomorrow with the right mind-set. However, stick by your State policy on water: remain true to yourself while striving for cooperation.

d. Bloc Positions

Africa:

Large stretches of the middle of the continent are experiencing water scarcity, limiting economic development and sometimes human survival. Some of those countries, including states from both the south and north, are experiencing some degree of water shortage. African nations are united in their need for more resources to improve their infrastructure and increase their citizens' access to drinking water. However, like with any other region, not all nations will necessarily agree on the specifics of a plan, especially when political factors are taken into consideration.

Middle East:

Like Africa, most states in the Greater Middle East are experiencing serious physical water scarcity. This region was at the forefront of water security in the early 1990s and continues to lead because of the immense relevance of the topic to the region. Desertification is one of the largest issues causing water scarcity, and this is one that the countries of the Arab League might not be able to solve alone. An example is found in Yemen, where 50% of the population struggle daily to find enough clean water to drink or grow food. The water crisis has heightened due to an increasing population and poor water management. The capital Sana'a could run out of water by 2017. Yemen's solution was initially rainwater harvesting but later turned to drilling, which is more modern but puts too much pressure on the groundwater.

Asia:

China and India are experiencing either physical water scarcity, economic water scarcity, or approaching this dangerous territory, though they no longer are international aid recipients. The water scarcity issues found in India and China can be largely attributed to pollution and overpopulation of urban centres. As two of the largest polluters in the world, they have a responsibility to their citizens and the rest of the world to find more sustainable ways.

e. Conclusion—Key Issues:

In considering what actions can be taken by the international community to ensure universal access to water while maintaining global peace and development, delegates should think about the following questions:
- To what extent have past frameworks been implemented, and what challenges remain?
- Which bodies and programs in the UN system can be best utilized to ensure less conflicts on water amongst countries and regions?
- To what extent has your Member State and region ensured universal access to water and what are the continuing obstacles?
- What practices have been successful in extending water infrastructure and access?
- What special considerations for access to water must be made for vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the disabled?

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