

Welcome to UCMUN 2017! My name is Janae McMillan, and I am excited to be directing the UNDP committee in this year's conference. The UNDP is recognized as one of the UN's most charitable committees, and it contributes developmental aid and strategies to deprived regions around the world. In order to successfully construct initiatives, delegates must be creative in their approaches and prioritize which investments would be most impactful in developing nations. I have chosen the topics "Expansion of Western Dependency and Foreign Debt" and "Lack of Data Collection in the Developing World," as they tend to be overlooked in discussion of other resource-consuming matters.

This will be my first time serving as a director, and I have been looking forward to doing so since my days as a delegate in high school. I am a junior Political Science major at the university, and I recently returned from studying abroad in Jordan over the summer. I am particularly interested in studying international affairs and the cultures of other civilizations. I am learning the Arabic language in hopes of becoming fluent and working in the Middle East after graduation. I was able to combine my academics and abroad experience with my research for this committee. I am very excited to continue exploring these subjects in this year's debate! Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions leading up to the conference.

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Committee History:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was founded in 1966 with the purpose of advancing the economies and political policies of struggling nations. The UNDP operates in more than 170 different countries, implementing programs into national governments and providing aid that is necessary to initiate them. The committee is completely funded and organized through its member states. Also, the Administrator for UNDP is considered to be the third highest official in the United Nations. When committee is in session the UNDP functions as a general assembly, which allows the delegations of every member state to participate in debate and voting procedure.

Many of the topics discussed by the UNDP involve disease, poverty, and sustainability, all of which impact a vast array of people. The problems faced by most developing countries are not unique, allowing the committee to identify common trends such that they can be addressed multilaterally. Although immediate action is often required to meet the committee's objectives, its goal is to incorporate long term-resolutions that will allow for continuous growth. The UNDP aims to temporarily support developing nations in order for them to reach economic independence from their industrialized counterparts.

The UNDP is often recognized for their employment and clean energy initiatives. In the last 50 years the committee has created 1.35 million new jobs and encouraged 76 countries to follow environmentally-friendly development paths. The committee is active in the fight against global warming and has already spent an estimated \$1.3 billion on projects in over 140 nations.

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Committee Simulation

The Role of the Delegates

A successful conference cannot take place without active and participatory delegates. Participation in committee is essential and takes the form of engaged, persuasive debate with other delegates through informed speech and writing. Delegates are expected to have thoroughly and accurately researched the position of their respective country ahead of time; knowledge of current refugee policy is most important but must be accompanied by an understanding of bloc positions, history, and cultural ideologies. As such, any resolution that is passed by the committee must be representative of the positions of the countries sponsoring it.

Background research is clearly not only crucial for a realistic debate but for a successful committee. Delegates should keep in mind, however, that drafting a resolution is not a simple process, requiring extensive negotiation and structured arguments. Of course, other complicating factors such as political alliances, social and cultural viewpoints, and funding make the writing of resolutions even more challenging. Like any form of negotiation, an impressive debate must draw on compromise and a wide range of knowledge, skills that any accomplished delegate needs.

That being said, there are rules within this committee and the conference as a whole that must be followed. While proper parliamentary procedure and decorum must be maintained throughout all committee sessions, it is even more important that delegates have respect for themselves, those around them, the staff, and the international issues at hand. Following these rules will make UCMUN more enjoyable for everyone, especially as a learning conference. This

conference is supposed to be fun, and it will be as long as delegates act appropriately and respectfully.

The Role of the Dias

The Director and the Assistant Directors will form the Dias. They are obligated to maintain a structured, appropriate debate; they will accomplish this by establishing and keeping committee rules as well as ensuring delegate participation. More specifically, the Dias is responsible for setting debate, ending debate, and voting procedure. All members of the Dias are also available as a resource that delegates may approach with any questions regarding parliamentary procedure, the topics being discussed, or the conference in general.

Topic A: Expansion of Western Dependency and Foreign Debt**Introduction:**

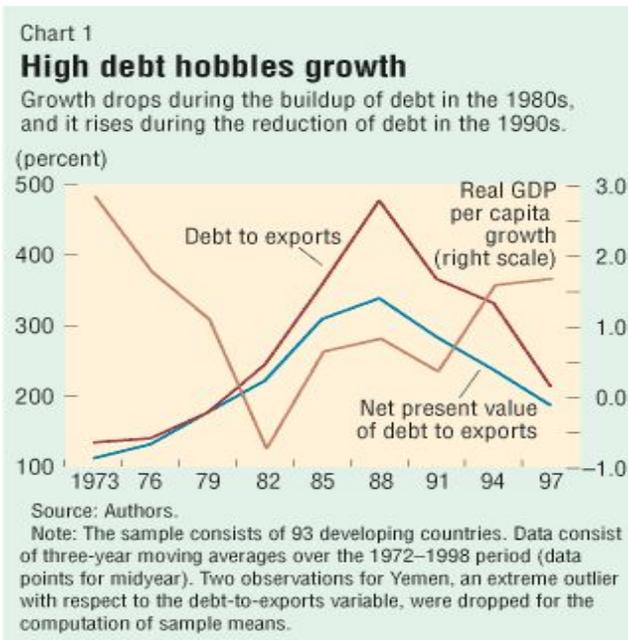
Numerous countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America provide a suitable environment for producing internationally-desired natural resources. These nations consistently export their products across the globe, meaning that they are able to access markets providing much grander economic opportunities. The main issue with this, however, is the refusal of industrialized states to offer the appropriate value for products produced by developing countries. These nations are not in a position to deny any potential profit they may receive, since the alternative is to lose their income entirely. The general consensus of the states comprising the UNDP is that steps should be taken to alleviate the lethargic economies of developing countries. The first stage of this plan will require the Western World to take responsibility for their actions that may have led to current instability.

Without properly analysis of this issue, it may appear that developing nations lack resources in general. Although this is not the case, industrialized nations have previously decided to distribute loans to impoverished countries to fund programs that would supposedly advance their economies. The temporary support such states received has only increased the struggle of developing nations to reach stability. These loans have an unreasonably high interest rate that only accumulates over time, a reality due to developing nations straining to sustain themselves or make necessary payments. A simple solution to this crisis would be to forgive their debt, allowing them to economically rebuild. Due to the apparent mismanagement of funds in developing countries, this is not a satisfactory solution in the minds of the Western states . This committee is challenged to create a resolution that appeases countries at both ends of the

economic spectrum and promotes development and growth in these underdeveloped nations.

History and Description of the Issue:

In former colonial territories like much of sub-Saharan Africa, borders were drawn not necessarily with the best intent of the indigenous peoples in mind, but instead with the maximum benefits that could be brought to the colonizer, more powerful countries. This impacts the people who already inhabit this land and must suddenly submit to the demands of the colonizers. These lands are also known for being rich in resources that are desirable around the world. History has often seen the countries that are doing the colonizing, take particular advantage of the developing countries and their resources. In modern time, this is seen in the form of industrialized nations purchasing the natural resources of developing countries for outrageously low cost. Meanwhile, the Global South is struggling to uplift its economy and escape debt.



<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2002/06/pattillo.htm>

The graph above focuses on ninety-three developing countries displaying various aspects

of economic sustainability during the last two decades of the twentieth century. The graph considers factors such as debt to exports, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth, and net present value of debt to exports. The data suggests that a higher amount of loans from industrialized countries actually results in less development, while a moderate amount of support actually allows them uplift their financial circumstances. There is a drastic shift in the dataset from the first decade to the next, which is mainly the result of the funding these countries received. The authors noted that during the second decade developing countries were given less loans, and subsequently experienced more growth.

A notable political ideologist and leader once foresaw the need to place restrictions on foreign trade. Thomas Sankara, the former military captain and president of Burkina Faso, believed his country should stop importing/exporting as frequently and utilize their own resources. Sankara disapproved of their funds returning to industrialized countries through purchasing their products, and believed they should solely take advantage of what they produce locally. He recognized that in order to achieve fair prices for the country's resources, they must stop selling the products at its current low cost. This led to backlash from other nations, and even more economic disparity among the Burkinabé people. Nevertheless, it was necessary for the nation to achieve long term sustainability. Before his assassination, the goals that Sankara had for Burkina Faso were had the potential to uplift its people, as well as anger those who benefited from their deprivation.

Current Status:

The problems the Third World is currently facing are not limited merely to a lack of funds; foreign aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, has skyrocketed in recent decades (Akwagyiram 2013). The domains of healthcare, education, and sanitation have seen enormous investments from Western governments, yet the current system has not become sustainable. Ethiopia exemplifies this trend, maintaining overall economic growth while relying to an unhealthy extent on British assistance (2013). While it is tempting to look at increased GDP per capita as a sign of progress, this single measurement is problematic. In many cases, nationwide economic growth masks a reality of stark income inequality wherein wealth is concentrated in an oligarchical manner. Regulation of the recipients of foreign aid is a constant battle, as the masses most deserving of increased assistance either have difficulty obtaining it or become overly dependent on it.

The colonial roots of loan and development dependence have contributed a geopolitical environment that limits economic opportunities for the Third World; the raw materials and natural resources that first encouraged market economies Africa, Latin America, and Asia remain concentrated in Western countries. The technology and refined goods produced in the West have slowly become more available in underdeveloped nations, but need remains high (Sullivan 1983).

Western dominance in the Third World has manifested itself in other, more subtle ways; the relationships between underdeveloped nations and large transnational corporations often encourage unhealthy power dynamics and exploitation (Islam 2013). Bangladesh has experienced these conflicts firsthand, as corporations have perpetuated poor workplace safety

and low incomes for workers. Underdeveloped nations often have little power compared to transnational corporations, and as such they must rely on international institutions such as the UNDP to give them a voice. Entire economic sectors are increasingly based in a small set of countries due to market forces; this system has the potential to turn governments into chess pieces as well as prevent national economies from diversifying. If cheaper labor or unforeseen catastrophes were to encourage investment elsewhere, many underdeveloped countries would be left with an useless industrial infrastructure. Cambodia exemplifies this, now that the garment and textile sector manufacturing has moved south from China due to rising costs of labor (Bradsher 2013). An overdependence on investment from transnational corporations will limit Cambodia's prospects for continued economic growth, eventually leaving it with an inflexible workforce unaccustomed to innovation and experimentation.

Dependence on the West is not just a problem for small nations with mixed economic prospects; indeed, many postcolonial states undergoing rapid growth have issues to face. Brazil is an emerging powerhouse with its own sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere, yet it still struggles to avoid succumbing to pressures imposed by income inequality, geographic concentration of wealth, and encroachment by transnational corporations ("Income" 2015). For such states that have seen overall growth, stability is key; a transition to economic independence after a long history of reliance on Western investment is complex and has the potential to endanger the lives of many people in the short-term. It has been and continues to be challenging for underdeveloped nations to overcome their historically weaker positions in the face of a surging West; encouraging local innovation and entrepreneurship is crucial to sustainable, organic development. However, national governments must also be assisted in their efforts to

produce and manage more of their own aid. After decades of decolonization, no state should rely overwhelmingly on another, as this perpetuates dependence and puts millions of people at risk if aid should suddenly disappear.

Bloc Positions:*United States and United Kingdom*

The governments of the Third World are in need of drastic development, but they can only be put on a true path to independence if the Western powers so powerful in the domain of foreign aid establish more sustainable investment strategies. Due to their positions as global superpowers and their ubiquitous involvement in international relations, the US and the UK are particularly well-suited to bring about change in underdeveloped nations. The former nation has been active in foreign investment since the end of the Second World War, launching programs such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps. These programs seek to promote reforms in underdeveloped nations, but sustainability and a path to independence are key goals that the US should emphasize as it moves forward.

The UK remains an important benefactor to many of its former colonial territories, and as such it has a duty to assist underdeveloped states. Along with the US, it is home to many transnational corporations, and its reach goes far beyond its borders. As the nation emerges from its “Brexit” negotiations, its future will undoubtedly come to rest in large part on its relationship with the territories of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern/Western Asia, Middle East

Though a large and unwieldy bloc, these countries have common interests when it comes to establishing independence. Given (with several exceptions) their status as former colonial territories, they have all endured the hardships of exploitative power relations with the West. Most of the states in this bloc still rely on maintaining economic ties with either their former colonizers or other Western nations. The governments of these countries have a vested interest in diversifying their economies, promoting business and technological innovation, mitigating income equality, and preparing workers to adapt to the industrial needs of the 21st century.

Given the position of weakness that many of these states hold in the face of power transnational corporations, the UNDP has an obligation to emphasize their national sovereignty. The individual nations of this bloc often still feel the lingering traces of colonization, meaning that it will be important to assert their right to self-determination and to establish their identities as sources of economic power.

European Union

Many European Union (EU) member states were historically colonial powers, and they maintain ties to their former territories. France and Germany, two of the body's leading members, are particularly active in this area; the former is known for perpetuating involvement in *Françafrique*, a term employed to emphasize the extensive ties between France and its former West African colonies.

Healthier investment in underdeveloped nations also presents the EU an economic opportunity; many of the underdeveloped nations in the preceding bloc are considered emerging

economies with the potential for robust economic growth. As the EU works to expand its role in foreign trade, it would do well to invest in the long-term future of underdeveloped countries.

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa,

These states, collectively known as “BRICS,” are emerging economies previously considered to be underdeveloped. Though they still suffer to an extent from growing pains inflicted by the dominance of transnational corporations and dependence on the West, they have been largely able to diversify their economies, adapt to modern economic needs, and reestablish themselves as powerhouses in their respective regions. These states have the opportunity to act as leaders for surrounding, less-developed nations.

Committee Mission:

The UNDP seeks to promote the development of all states, regardless of their former or current economic status. The toxic power relationships that have previously dominated and still influence international relations are contrary to the goal of this committee. As such, the UNDP must work to promote independence and sustainability in underdeveloped Third World states. It is up to this committee to reassert the importance of national sovereignty in the face of overly-powerful transnational corporations; to increase competition and innovation in the global marketplace, it is important to allow states to function without coercion. As the UNDP, the long-term health of states is of the utmost priority.

Questions to Consider:

1. Is your country a former colonial power/colonial territory?
2. How has your country been impacted by transnational corporations?
3. How diversified is your state's economy?
4. To what extent has your country been impacted by receiving foreign aid?
5. Is your nation a major provider of foreign aid?
6. How will your approach to debate further your homeland's economic goals?

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Rethinking the Third World: Seeing the World Differently. (2010, June 12). Retrieved July 15, 2017, from <http://www.economist.com/node/16329442>

This article discusses the traditional usage of the term “Third World,” proceeding to explain the prospects for economic and political growth in the states that comprise it.

Sullivan, G. (1983). Uneven Development and National Income Inequality in Third World Countries. *Sociological Perspectives*, 26(2), 201-231.

This article discusses the difficulties that the nations of the Third World face when undergoing economic growth, focusing on lopsided development and income inequality.

Topic B: Lack of Data Collection in the Developing World

Introduction:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to uplift struggling Third World nations through the use of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs are a “universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity” (UNDP). These initiatives fund projects such as fighting climate change in Peru to facilitating local economic growth in Iraq (UNDP). While these are crucial to assisting Third World countries in becoming economically self-sufficient, the often unseen side of sustainable development is statistics. Data and statistics help UNDP and nongovernmental agencies get a clearer, more holistic picture of the current state of a country. While annual reports that summarize the economic progress in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) are useful, they can overlook social issues being experienced in a nation and can ultimately harm development. While an integral part of development, data is not regularly collected by the governments of Third World nations, namely because it requires a level of time, organization, and financial resources that can be used elsewhere. Therefore, it often falls to the UNDP and outside organizations such as Oxfam, Conservation International and the World Bank to collect and utilize data to promote sustainable growth.

On the positive end of the spectrum, data and statistics have infinite possibilities as a public resource for development. Data can foster economic growth and job creation; improve efficiency, effectiveness and coverage of public services; increase transparency, accountability and citizen participation; and facilitate better information-sharing with governments (Petrov 2015). However, when data is misreported or misrepresented, it can be used as a tool for

corruption. Less nefariously, not having complete data can mean resources are given to projects that do not need it while other projects are underfunded. Regardless, accurate data and stronger statistical tools are crucial to successful, sustainable development and should be paid closer attention by the committee.

History/Description of Issue:

The 1970s and 80s saw the shift from only using monetary data for assessing development growth to the use of alternative focuses as a means of measuring wellbeing (UNDP). Putting a greater emphasis on employment, economic inequality, and whether people's basic needs are met paved the way for the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the UNDP,

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes. These contrasts can stimulate debate about government policy priorities (UNDP).

The HDI was featured in the first Human Development Report in 1990. Since then the HDI has been the primary choice of measuring the growth of a nation, but it has its limitations.

Discrepancies can arise in places where it is difficult for international bodies such as the UNDP to conduct the kind of full-scale survey that the HDI needs. Reconciling the discrepancies

between the actual data and the estimates of mathematical models is an issue that has continued to vex policy makers.

Historically, one of the biggest roadblocks to a fully-functioning data collection apparatus has been the cost. Conducting and analyzing surveys in individual countries takes a large amount of people to do successfully, and the cost of paying people a salary or even the cost of taking competent officials away from other important tasks can be huge. For example, Myanmar currently has 500 people working on basic statistics countrywide, while Indonesia has 16,000 (Runde 2017). Myanmar doesn't have the economic capital to expend on surveys that Indonesia does, and this in turn hurts development efforts in Myanmar. To even approach the level of data collection that more developed nations have, Myanmar "has to first get 'small data' right i.e. the basic data collection skills across ministries functioning governments need to effectively deliver services" (Runde 2017). It is especially difficult for countries that are new democracies or recently coming out of a time of conflict, however, data remains a crucial step towards healthy and robust development.

Although most developing countries cannot afford data collection, governments may not want to survey their people. Misrepresentation of data can deflect attention away from developing crises in order to keep up appearances. Survey data can be used to expose government lies and uncover truths that were previously hidden. In 2017, around 80 percent of Tanzania's population had been suffering under a food crisis until a Tanzanian think tank found evidence of food shortages. Their findings refuted numerous government denials of a food crisis, with Tanzanian President John Magufuli accusing opposition politicians of creating a "fake"

hunger crisis (Mayoke 2017). Data collection is able to hold politicians and governments accountable and spur them into action to correct their mistakes.

Data can also hold non governmental organizations (NGO), in addition to governments, accountable. NGOs, private entities that work for the public good around the world, are often the source of funding for various development initiatives. Some, like the Red Cross, are instrumental in assisting countries following natural disasters through their powerful fundraising capabilities. However, analysis of surveys, data and other documents by National Public Radio of the Red Cross's response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti showed deep discrepancies between the claims made by the Red Cross and actual results. The Red Cross raised \$500 million USD and said to have provided 130,000 people with new homes. However, the actual number of permanent homes built was six (Sullivan 2015). When the Red Cross hired a consulting group to assess their progress, they found “ the charity's math unreliable when it came to counting people it helped. There was double-counting, undercounting, and in one instance the Red Cross claimed to have helped more people than actually lived there” (Sullivan 2015). Using accurate and reliable data could have allowed the Red Cross to allocate the money they had raised more effectively and efficiently.

Current Status:

As the world has transitioned into an age where technology rules the going-ons of everyday life, the dependency on numbers and data has only grown. This is not to say that focusing solely on the figures presented in the Human Development Index is the best method of interpreting levels of development across the world, in fact it is the opposite. In areas where crises are still growing, such as Syria during the height of its civil war, collecting adequate

information about the citizenry may prove a challenge. Not only would humanitarian organizations be at risk when investigating, there is potential for the government in place to skew the data they provide, if providing any at all.

The best way to describe the current status of this issue is to identify several key international organizations that are currently aiding countries worldwide, whether with economic development or medical/care supplies. Already mentioned above, the Red Cross and its affiliates are very active in providing humanitarian support to impoverished and downtrodden regions of the world. While the Red Cross as an institution operates in the United States, facets and sister programs of the Red Cross have been in operation since 1863. The International Committee of the Red Cross is dedicated towards raising awareness of current laws in place regarding humanitarian law, as well as working to help victims of any armed conflict or violence. Another facet of the Red Cross is the International Federation (IFRC), which “works to alleviate suffering through a range of activities, such as: organizing and coordinating international disaster relief operations, providing assistance to refugees outside conflict areas, promoting national disaster preparedness programs and helping national societies to improve the services they deliver to vulnerable people in their local communities” (Red Cross).

Trade systems and having access to a reliable monetary system is another way to stabilize the world economy, which is necessary in order to help developing nations grow out of economic inequality and raise quality of life for its citizenry. Established in 1945, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) promotes the growth of international trade and regulates policy regarding exchanges and transactions between countries. IMF works with the World Trade Organization (WTO), which presides over trade disputes and encourages a fair international system of trade-

“The work of the IMF and the WTO is complementary. A sound international financial system is needed to support vibrant international trade, while smoothly flowing trade helps reduce the risk of payments imbalances and financial crisis. The two institutions work together to ensure a strong system of international trade and payments that is open to all countries. Such a system is critical for enabling economic growth, raising living standards, and reducing poverty around the globe.” (IMF)

It is impossible to say all countries around the globe are growing more equal in terms of quality of life, as surprise weather disasters and sudden outbreaks of violence can irrevocably change a country’s system of operating and care for its population. What is possible to say, however, is that many ‘first-world’ nations and organizations are attempting to raise standards for all countries not yet at their levels of sustainability and economic growth.

Bloc Positions:*United States, Canada, and European Union*

Though this issue clearly cannot be described as simply as a Western v. non-Western question, the economic inequality underlying it is rooted in a history of colonialism. The US, EU (still including the United Kingdom, for the moment) and Canada, due to their ubiquitous position in international relations, are deeply familiar with the power relations that have led to dichotomies in technology and data infrastructure in the developing world. These countries have been active in encouraging economic development around the globe; the US has long favored increased competition by entering into foreign marketplaces. American organizations such as the

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are perfectly positioned to provide guidance on developing systems to collect data adapted to the Information Age.

The EU, as a multinational body, has had to work hard to collect and share data within and between its member states, making it a valuable point of reference for all developing nations. The UK, through the Commonwealth of Nations (of which Canada is part) and other alliances, is also a valuable example of a nation capable of advanced data collection. As former colonial powers, many EU member states maintain information-based links to their former territories that have the potential to develop emerging economies.

Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA, Latin America, and Asia

Despite being a diverse, complex, and overall dissimilar bloc, these countries have a common interest in enhancing their data collection to promote economic growth and independence. In addition, they are linked in most cases by their status as former colonies, meaning that they are significantly more likely to have received economic aid than to have given it.

The nations of Sub-Saharan Africa are expanding rapidly in both GDP and population, but these exciting changes have not come without growing pains. As such, it is important to develop a network of data exchanges allowing for more advanced monitoring of healthcare, sanitation, energy, education, and agriculture, among other fields. Farther north in the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, similar domains are in desperate need of technological development. MENA is in particular need of data collection in conflict zones, especially as it concerns terrorism and online radicalization. More advanced data collection in this regard would

significantly further international security, as both the Western world and MENA would benefit from stronger information networks.

Both Latin America and Asia also require increased monitoring in all aforementioned domains, but they also have unique needs due to the presence of enormously powerful regional economies. Brazil and China have become powerhouses in their respective regions, with their influence going far beyond their national borders. They will have to work especially fast to keep pace with developing economies' growing pains. That said, they are in a position to act as leaders, both supplying aid to their neighbors and receiving some themselves from more industrialized nations. Economic and technological inequality within national borders is a challenge that must be kept in mind; local disparities inhibit overall growth and make it generally unsustainable.

Committee Mission:

The UNDP strives for economic development as its primary goal, and this cannot be accomplished in the 21st century without developing strategies for collecting advanced financial data. As a multinational body, this committee cannot allow the top few countries capable of supplying aid to dominate the conversation; economic development should encourage independence rather than exploitation. This is particularly important as it relates to setting up networks with which to share data, since it is tempting to perpetuate unhealthy power dynamics over promoting self-determination and national sovereignty. The UNDP must make sure that the aid for setting up data collection infrastructure in developing nations allows for sustainable, organic growth.

Questions to Consider:

1. Does your country have a history of technological innovation?
2. In what fields does your country have particular need of data collection?
3. Is your country more likely to give or receive aid?
4. What are your country's greatest economic strengths and weaknesses?
5. Does your country have a technological infrastructure adapted to the 21st century? Where does it need improvement?

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"The IMF and the World Trade Organization." *IMF*,

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This page helps to describe the role of the WTO and the IMF in aiding humanitarian efforts and provided a very precise quote relevant to the topic at hand.