ZILINA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2019

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STUDY GUIDE BY NASTARAN A. MOTLAGH

Welcome Letter

Honorable delegates, it with absolute pleasure that I welcome you to the General Assembly of Zilina Model UN 2019. As your Secretary General and your GA president, I have more than 15 Model UN experiences and am looking forward to attending many more. Model UN conferences have helped me set a course for my studies and have been a defining feature of my academic career. I have a lot of faith in what they can accomplish and how they can influence you in a positive and lasting manner.

Based on our conference's structure you will be attending the General Assembly as a full team of delegates, so it is expected of you to share the responsibility while keeping the delegation fully informed on everything that is being researched and presented in your country's name. This year's topic is meant to challenge your country on dealing with contemporary and complicated aspects of the crises. I chose this topic to make sure you all understand how the UNGA works hand in hand with other committees, within its own structure all the while contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Since 2 very important resolutions and reports have already been presented and passed in 2017 and 2018, we will be working on the problems crisis as if the UNGA has NOT met and gathered for the 72nd and 73rs sessions. This means that the final and most valid resolution for our UNGA will be the one from "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" (A/RES/71/240) from 2016 and UNGA's 71st meeting.

This study guide will include a starting point for your research. This study guide will not include your country's position on the issue and will merely provide a general background on the problem at hand. So it is expected that you will take the knowledge that this study guide has provided you with and will continue your research to create a position paper and an opening speech for your country. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions. The deadline for the UNGA position paper is March 24th. Please send them to my mail:

nastaran.alaghemandan@gmail.com

I look forward to meeting you and wish you the best of luck on your research!

Secretary General and UNGA president

Nasi A.Motlagh,

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

"The General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, the only one in which all Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. All 193 Member States of the United Nations, are represented in this unique forum to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the UN Charter, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc. In September, all the Members meet in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session."[1] This is a general definition of what the UNGA is. Let's take a look at its functions and powers. Historically speaking: "Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law."[2]

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS:

"The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority. Each country has one vote. Some Member States in arrear of payment may be granted the right to vote."[3] This should help you understand the most basic connection the UNGA has to other UN bodies and its general presence and value. In detail it can be described as such:

"The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated actions—political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal—which have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world. The landmark Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, reflect the commitment of Member States:

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[1] http://www.un.org/en/ga/ accessed 1.3.2019
[2] http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml accessed 1.3.2019

[3] http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ accessed 1.3.2019

- to reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication;
- to safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law;
- to protect our common environment;
- to meet the special needs of Africa; and
- to strengthen the United Nations.

In September 2015, the Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contained in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 70/1).
According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. In such instances, according to its "Uniting for peace"

resolution of 3 November 1950, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security."[4]

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

"There has been a sustained effort to make the work of the General Assembly more focused and relevant. This was identified as a priority during the fifty-eighth session, and efforts continued at subsequent sessions to streamline the agenda, improve the practices and working methods of the Main Committees, enhance the role of the General Committee, strengthen the role and authority of the President and examine the Assembly's role in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.
During the 69th, 70th and 71st sessions, the Assembly adopted three landmark resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (resolutions 69/321, 70/305 and 71/323), which inter alia provided for informal dialogues to be held with candidates for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations, established an oath of office and a code of ethics for the Presidents of the General Assembly, and provided for informal interactive dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly.
The practice of convening high-level thematic interactive debates is also a direct outcome of the revitalization process. It has become an established practice for the Secretary-General to brief Member States periodically, in informal meetings of the General Assembly, on his recent activities and travels. These briefings have provided a well-received opportunity for exchange between the Secretary-General and Member States." [5]

In Summary I wanted you to be familiarized with the UNGA, briefly with merely quoting 2 official UN pages, as a committee. This means that you must still study your country's

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[4] http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml accessed 1.3.2019

[5] http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml accessed 1.3.2019

relationship and past with the UNGA , in relation to various crises, resolutions, reports etc. to prepare a Position Paper. Yet as you can see the UNGA never works alone and it passes its resolutions in cooperation with other UN committees, for this particular issue the reports and data have been provided by few important committees, one crucial in particular is the UNWTO. Let's briefly meet UNWTO:

"The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts, and is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development worldwide. UNWTO generates market knowledge, promotes competitive and sustainable tourism policies and instruments, fosters tourism education and training, and works to make tourism an effective tool for development through technical assistance projects in over 100 countries around the world.
UNWTO's membership includes 158 countries, 6 Associate Members and over 500 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities."[6]

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[6] http://www2.unwto.org/content/who-we-are-0 accessed 1.3.2019

KEY TERMS AND PHRASES, WORKING DEFINITIONS:

In this section I would like to introduce you to several important terms and phrases that help define the issue.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

"The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it ís important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030."[7]

"On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.
The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection."[8]

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[7] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ accessed on 1/3/2019

[8] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/ accessed on 1/3/2019

POVERTY ERADICATION:

"Poverty cannot be eradicated without addressing the pervasive inequalities in incomes and economic opportunities between and within countries, between rural and urban areas, and between men and women. Reducing such inequalities will need to start with improving access for the poor to productive resources, basic services and social protection." [9]

"The General Assembly, in its 1997 Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (paragraph 27) decided that poverty eradication should be an overriding theme of sustainable development for the coming years. It is one of the fundamental goals of the international community and of the entire United Nations system. "Combating poverty" is the topic of Chapter 3 of Agenda 21. It is also in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

Agenda 21 emphasized that poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. No uniform solution can be found for global application. Rather, country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts, as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment, are crucial for a solution to this problem.

Priority actions on poverty eradication include:
- improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources;
- providing universal access to basic social services;
- progressively developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves;
- empowering people living in poverty and their organizations;
- addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women;
- working with interested donors and recipients to allocate increased shares of ODA to poverty eradication; and
- intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication.

The first Sustainable Development Goal aims to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". Its seven associated targets aims, among others, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty, and implement nationally appropriate social

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[9] http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/overview/fao-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda/poverty-eradication/en/ accessed on 1/3/2019

protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

As recalled by the foreword of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals Report, at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 countries unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration, pledging to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty". This commitment was translated into an inspiring framework of eight goals and, then, into wide-ranging practical steps that have enabled people across the world to improve their lives and their future prospects. The MDGs helped to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, to enable more girls to attend school than ever before and to protect our planet.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the remarkable gains, inequalities have persisted and progress has been uneven. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of Sustainable Development Goals have been committed, as stated in the Declaration of the Agenda, "to build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business"."[10]

ECOTOURISM:

"Eco-tourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness adventures, volunteering, personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destinations where the flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible ecotourism includes programs that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment, and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. Therefore, in addition to evaluating environmental and cultural factors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote recycling, energy efficiency, water re-use, and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of ecotourism.

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[10] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/povertyeradication Accessed on 1/3/2019

Historical, biological and cultural conservation, preservation, sustainable development etc. are some of the fields closely related to Eco-Tourism. Many professionals have been involved in formulating and developing eco-tourism policies. They come from the fields of Geographic Information Systems, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Photography, Marine Biology and Oceanography, National and State Park Management, Environmental Sciences, Women in Development, Historians and Archaeologists, etc. Ecotourism is considered the fastest growing market in the tourism industry, according to the World Tourism Organization with an annual growth rate of 5% worldwide and representing 6% of the world gross domestic product, 11.4% of all consumer spending - not a market to be taken lightly."[11]

These terms and definitions may seem rather long and detailed, but that is exactly why, as your president of GA, I strongly encourage you to pay attention to detail when drafting a position paper and working on overall research. Our work is not with simple one-sentence long definitions, our work is a continuation of what our predecessors have achieved, they have already achieved a lot.

PAST RESOLUTIONS, SUCCESS SO FAR:

"In December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. This important celebration came 50 years after the International Tourist Year on Tourism - Passport to Peace (1967) and fifteen years after the International Year of Ecotourism (2002).
In July 2016, UNWTO submitted to the 71st UNGA the report entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection". The report highlights the role and contribution of sustainable tourism and ecotourism to sustainable development, including the work of the INSTO observatories, and stresses the great potential sustainable tourism provides for implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Based on the report prepared by UNWTO the UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2016 the resolution entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" *(A/RES/71/240)*. The resolution was sponsored for the first time by an impressive total of 59 delegations representing Member States from all regions and development spectrum."[12]

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[11] http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/etour-define.html accessed on 1/3/2019
[12] http://sdt.unwto.org/unga-sustainable-tourism-resolutions accessed on 1/3/2019

CONCLUSION:

Poverty eradication and economic instability have been constant in resolutions within UNGA. All the while protection of the environment and the challenges that the UNGA faces each year with upholding its own standards have been there right next to poverty alleviation. This is how Ecotourism was birthed. HOWEVER:

1. How does ecotourism play into extreme poverty?
2. How have countries tackled economic instability and environmental protection based on their own national standards?
3. How can we apply national and international standards alongside each other?
4. What did previous resolutions achieve and what is left to achieve?

The point of this study guide is to give you a simple but brief introduction into the convoluted issue that we are about to deal with. You are dealing with this crisis up until the resolutions that were passed in the year 2016 and have now the challenge to bring the UNGA into 2019 without looking at what the real representatives have done between 2016 till 2018. Imagine that you have a almost-solved a rubik's cube and someone just asked you to show them how you made it this far and how you plan on going further, in order to solve the Rubik's cube.

Please take this time to look at previous resolutions from every year up until 2016 and understand what your country has achieved or needed to achieve in order to be an upstanding member of the United Nations and help with sustainable development goals; in relation to eradicating poverty and environmental protection. Try and answer the previously listed questions above when writing a position paper. Don't forget to send those by March 24 and try to write it together as a whole delegation; once again this means that your whole team from various committees will be sat together at UNGA so work on this particular PP together.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me and send the PP via email: nastaran.alaghemandan@gmail.com

I'm looking forward to reading all about your research!

Secretary General and UNGA president

Nasi A.Motlagh

IMPORTANT LINKS AND FURTHER READING:

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/

http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/etour-define.html

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/

https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2018_Full_Web-1.pdf

https://bizfluent.com/info-10049313-economic-stability-measured.html

https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-economic-growth-3306014

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/environ.shtml