

Oldenburg Model United Nations



Committee Guide to the **General Assembly's Third Committee**

Tackling uncontrollable Migration and City Agglomeration Growth

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Welcome Message from the Chairs

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly here, at the Oldenburg Model United Nations 2012 conference! The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Members¹ of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter².

Model United Nation conferences provide you with a genuine and unique framework in which you can discuss and find solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our world. As the delegate of your country, you will represent your country's interest, lobbying and negotiating in debate - and in due course, making sure that your committee drafts a resolution that tackles the problem.

Because this is an international conference, you will meet people from many different nations and cultural backgrounds, which will provide you with a truly international experience - be sure to make the most of it! And remember - **each of you has an incomparably diverse and distinctive background. Take advantage of it.**

The length and the complex nature of the topic may frighten you now. At the conference, you may be overwhelmed by the proficiency and high quality of the debates. But do not worry: you just need to prepare efficiently. If at any point in time you need help, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Stanislaw A. Kaner - 20 years - law-student & passionate MUN-participant for 7 years

I can be contacted by a number of methods, ranging from Skype to carrier pigeon. I am however only giving you one method for now – my email address. If you need something urgently, or have any questions about Star Wars, Linux or Led Zeppelin you should be able to get me at stanislaw.kaner@gmail.com.

Till Sundermeier - 19 years - high school student - first time chair

Dear Delegates I am Till Sundermeier. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this years GA3rd. If you have any questions about the city, the conference or any thing else that seems important to you feel free to contact me any time. My E-Mail adress is t.sundermeier@live. I am looking foreward to a great conference.

Simon Conrad - 19 years - studies Asian and Middle Eastern Studies - second MUN

I am attracted to the concept of MUN since it simulates the magnitude of problems global leaders find themselves in and challenges young citizens to think out of the box. MUN conferences confront participants with the need of alternatives, which adjust the global political, economic and financial systems to the needs of a globalizing society. Should you have any questions contact simon@conradhome.de

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/members/>

² <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter4.shtml>

Uncontrollable Migration and City Agglomerations Growth

Each year millions of women and men leave their homes and cross national borders in pursuit of greater security for themselves and their families. "Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and to live a better life" (UN³, 2006, p. 5). Many migrants are driven by the pursuit of greater salaries and enhanced chances, responding to the demand for their services abroad, but numerous others are forced to migrate because of famine, natural catastrophes, violent conflict, oppression or simply a lack of work in their home country. The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) describes the driving forces in international migration in terms of "3Ds": development, demography and democracy (GCIM, 2005).

The topic includes the non-controllable international migration and the growth of city agglomerations.

Non-controllable international migration

The uncontrollable international migration is usually divided into two big groups as follows:

- not connected with military conflicts (economic migration);
- connected with military conflicts (the problem of refugees).

The first group is less numerous, but the situation of refugees is often dramatic. During the last decade, it is connected with the increase of nationalism in developing countries⁴ and the transforming economies. The flows of refugees are leaving their homes in a hurry and usually without any property to save bare lives or to avoid cruel forms of persecution (Bosnia, Rwanda, Kurdish areas).

The second group of the so-called economic migrants is more numerous, but it usually has a certain background for the first time, even if their situation is of course not easy. The increase of this group is connected to the economic differentiation in world economy and the deepening abyss between the "rich" and "poor" nations and states (World Development Report 2005).

The problem of the world migration of both groups is framed by a series of international agreements:

- the so-called Geneva Convention from 1951⁵,
- the New York Protocol from 1967⁶,
- the Caracas Convention from 1954,
- and many regional agreements.

³ http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/hld/Text/Report%20of%20the%20SG%28June%2006%29_English.pdf

⁴ <http://www.worlddialogue.org/print.php?id=399>

⁵ <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49da0e466.html>

⁶ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/protocolrefugees.pdf>

Since 1951, there also exists the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which ought to control that these people are granted a certain minimum standard. This functions namely for the first group (refugees), since granting shelter to the people who left their homes because of the reasoned danger of life or persecution is a highly ethical claim and attribute of every free and democratic society as well as a legal state.



More complicated is the problematic of the **international economic migration**. The difficulty of getting new jobs in the sphere of the accelerated scientific and technological progress and also the obligations of the free flow of labor in the international integration groupings are complicating the immigration processes.

Even if there is valid on the European territory the Declaration on the Territorial Asylum accepted by the Board of Ministers of the Council of Europe in November 1977, which includes among the reasons of granting an asylum, besides the reasons of the fear of persecution because of the “racial, religious, national and political opinion reasons”, also belonging to a “certain social group”, almost all European countries grant the asylum to economic migrants only in a very selective way because of the historical, political, economic or other reasons. Generally, there is pushed forward the

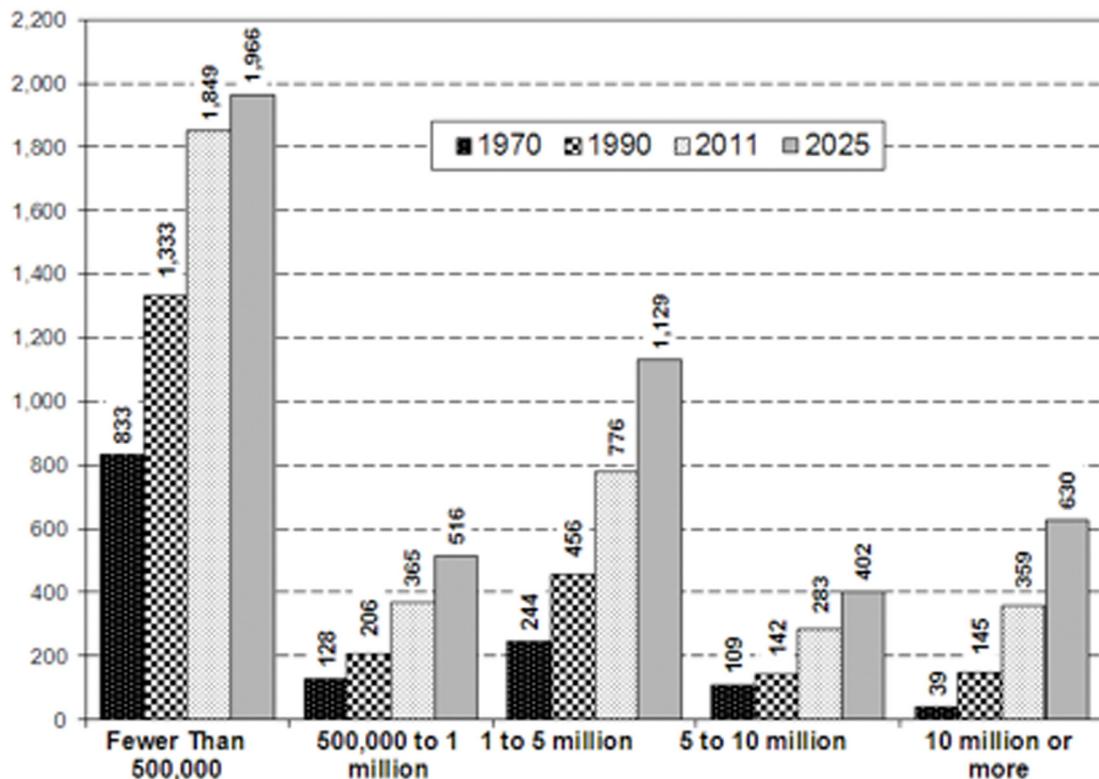


trend of decreasing the immigration quotas, and that not only in Europe, but also in the traditional immigrant countries like the USA, Australia or Canada. This situation is solved by the immigrants still more often by the **illegal means**.

The majority of such migrants end in big cities, where the possibility of identification is more difficult. The deepening social differences inside the new country are then leading to the analogical de-population of rural areas and the uncontrollable growth of the centres and the big city **agglomerations**.

City agglomerations

The agglomerations of 10–15 million inhabitants, which were unthinkable even 25 years ago, are now common. According to the U.N. estimate, by the end of the century 60% of the world population lived in cities and minimally 30 cities had more than 5 million inhabitants, while the most quickly growing agglomeration, Mexico City, reached the population of 24–26 million. The extreme growing of the cities is also visible in the following graphic.



The graphic shows total population by city size class (millions).⁷

Nowadays, managing of these mega-cities, with respect to hygiene and health care, education system, city transport etc., is already extremely difficult. Many cities in the developing world are changing into huge slums, which present a “timed bombs” in the sense of environment, but also life style and massing up of the economic and psychological tensions because it is getting harder to secure the human rights of every individual.⁸

Furthermore this vision is underlined by the fact that in 2011 the United Nations Population Fund released a report that states that at the end of 2007 more than half of the world's population lived in cities. At roughly the same time, another agency of the United Nations (UN-Habitat) issued a report highlighting the slums and deplorable living conditions in cities in developing countries and estimating that there will be more than a billion slum dwellers, largely in developing countries. In addition to that, it states that most of the refugees in the cities are poorer than the inhabitants of agrarian areas.⁹ To illustrate this problem it is a recommendation to watch the following videoclip on youtube:



@ https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sc4HxPxNrZ0

⁷ http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Analytical-Figures/Fig_4.htm

⁸ Copyright © United Nations, 2011 - Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2011

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Seeing the problem of the refugees much earlier in history the United Nations established the „U.N. Office of the High Commissary for Refugees (UNHCR)“ in 1951. This office was designed to control migration and assure that every migrant has a certain minimum as living standard. But the problem with this office is, that it takes only care of the military refugees and not of the economic ones. Due to that fact and due to the fact that most of the refugees are economic refugees the UNHCR does not limit the problem of city agglomeration.¹⁰ That fact is also the reason why there are so many people living under so poor conditions as you see in the chart.¹¹

Region	Number of urban poor (in millions) "\$1/day"	Number of urban poor (in millions) "\$2/day"	Headcount Index (%) "\$1/day"	Headcount Index (%) "\$2/day"	Urban Share of the Poor \$1.08/day	Urban Share of the Poor \$2.15/day	Urban Share of the population
EAP	16	126	2.2	17.7	6.7	15.1	38.8
China	4	53	0.8	10.7	2.2	9.5	37.7
ECA	2	32	0.8	10.7	33.4	49.9	63.5
LAC	38	111	9.5	27.5	59.0	65.6	76.2
MNA	1	20	0.7	12.4	19.9	29.3	55.8
SAS	135	297	34.6	76.2	24.9	25.2	27.8
India	116	236	39.3	80.1	26.0	26.0	28.1
SSA	99	168	40.4	68.5	30.2	31.1	35.2
Total	291	752	13.2	34.0	24.6	26.4	42.3

In order to tackle some of the problems there are strategies of Urban Development. These strategies ask for guidelines which should help to plan economic and social development, area plans, district plans, etc.. Additionally to that it is the order to set principle goals.¹²

A report of the Secretary-General however sees a promising aspect in the international migration. The report states that international migration triggers a relationship to development. Potential migrants can help to transform their native countries and with that, they might help to solve some of the problems.¹³

As you might have already noticed, the topic is holistic in its characteristics and possible approaches. This is something you have to keep in mind when trying to understand the topic. In order to address this large issue, here are some questions to get you started: How important are immigrants to your state? What sort of access/rights do they have in your country? What sort of reforms should take place so that people benefit from living outside the cities? What are the roots of city-agglomerations and what can be done about it? Contact us if you have any questions or concerns before or during the conference. Our email addresses are on page 5.

⁹ Copyright © United Nations, 2011 - Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2011

¹⁰ <http://www.agriculturejournals.cz/publicFiles/01583.pdf>

¹¹ [iles/growth/image/Urban%20Poverty%20estimates.JPG](http://www.growth/image/Urban%20Poverty%20estimates.JPG)

¹² http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/august_2004/kotter_august_2004.htm

¹³ https://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/hld/Text/Migration_Excerpt_from_Foreword.pdf

Reminders for Conference Preparation

This committee has a challenging, contentious, but exciting topic. In order to be well-prepared to tackle the topic, follow these tips:

- **Make sure** that you thoroughly research all aspects to your topic: this includes past behavior of the UN, recent events related to the issue, agreement or contention from the academic world, and practical approaches.
- **Read** over the *Rules of Procedure*; know them. If you are new to MUN, remember to read over the Rules of Procedure carefully. There will be time to review these before the conference starts, but it will be better if you are already familiarized with them beforehand.
- **Realize** that no one expects you to know absolutely everything: you are allowed to make educated guesses about your countries position or even say you don't know (but in this case, try to find out).
- **Remember** to consider the holistic nature of the committee when doing your research.

If you have any doubts, do not hesitate to contact us. We are all equally able to help you with any concerns you may have with the rules of procedure or the committee in general.

Yours sincerely,



Stanislaw A. Kaner



Till Sundermeier

Simon Conrad

Who managed to read until here should contact the chair and collect his prize!