

Cerritos Novice Conference 2020

# United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN Habitat)

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**Topic: Development in Slums**

**Director: Kayla Kim**

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October 10th, 2020

To Delegates of CHSMUN Novice 2020

Dear Delegates,  
Welcome to CHSMUN Novice 2020!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2020 online novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host our very first virtual novice conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although this wasn't what we expected, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the online conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2020, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. CHSMUN Novice 2020 will provide a quality experience for beginner delegates to develop their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2020!

Sincerely,

Anjali Mani and Karishma Patel

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Secretary-Generals

**A Note from the Director:**

Delegates,

Hey everyone! My name is Kayla Kim and I am excited to serve as your Director for UN-HABITAT. This is now my sixth year in Model United Nations and it has provided opportunities for me to become confident in my speaking abilities. From attending conferences, I have been able to make life-long memories and friends and I hope you do too. In school, I am a member of Track, California Scholarship Federation, the Lighthouse, and the National Honors Society. Outside of school, I take part in Civil Air Patrol. You can most likely see me in my uniform leading my squadron in various activities on the weekends! I also participate in CyberPatriot, a cybersecurity competition, where I have been able to attend Nationals. In my free time, I really enjoy listening to music, playing archery, and watching YouTube videos. My favorite artists include Lauv, Ruel, and NCT. Whether it be your first conference or your sixth, I encourage you to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions. I look forward to the upcoming conference and I wish you all the best of luck. If you have any questions about the topic or committee, feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

Kayla Kim

Director, UN-HABITAT

**Committee Introduction:**

The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) has existed since 1978 but was revitalized to its current form in 2002 with urbanization. In June 1996, over 171 countries adopted the Habitat Agenda which contains over 100 commitments and 600 recommendations to the global deterioration of shelter and living conditions with urbanization. The Habitat Agenda is the founding document of UN-HABITAT in which it lays out the mandate and goals of sustainable development. It follows closely to Sustainable Development Goal 11 of ensuring shelter for all and improving living conditions. One of the main goals stated in Assembly resolution 55/2 focuses on improving the lives of slum dwellers through the “Cities without Slums” initiative which works to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Through initiating projects and initiatives, the UN-HABITAT plays a critical role in developing many areas through advocacy, policy development, and assistance.

# Topic: Slum Development

## Background:

Globally, one in eight people live in slums today, which equates to an average of one billion people living in slum conditions. The UN-HABITAT defines a “slum household” as a group of individuals living under one roof in an urban area without access to one or more of the following: (1) durable and permanent housing that protects from extreme weather; (2) sufficient living space, meaning no more than three people share the same room; (3) consistent, easy access to safe water at an affordable price; (4) access to sanitation shared by a reasonable number of people; and (5) security of tenure that prevents from forced evictions. When an entire neighborhood is lacking any of the basic needs, that neighborhood is considered to be a slum. Not all slums encounter the same degree of deprivation, and rather it varies across the globe. In less developed countries, slums act as the center in urban poverty and deliver significant challenges to its residents and government. Many of these slums consist of high unemployment and poverty rates due to stigmatization and discrimination against these individuals. Due to not having an associated street address, these individuals are excluded from “full citizenship” within cities and are therefore not included in censuses. Social exclusion and political exclusion are also done to these individuals. Around the globe, approximately 60 percent of cities with a minimum of 300,000 inhabitants are at high risk of natural disasters. Many of these cities contain slums that can be most impacted by cyclones, droughts, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. In addition to this, more than 70% of flood deaths in Mozambique were located in urban areas and impacted many slums. With housing on slopes and being made with waste materials, these slum houses get impacted most directly with natural disasters. Climate change is a large issue impacting the global community and urban communities as well. Currently, cities contribute to 71 to 76 percent of carbon dioxide emissions and utilize more than half of global energy use. The effects of climate change have mostly impacted slums as many are located near factories and highways. Slum-dwellers are vulnerable to the negative health effects of air pollution and are more prone to developing respiratory diseases. In Mumbai, India, one slum known as Dharavi has one million people within one square mile. These tightly packed communities bring the issue of overpopulation, access to safe drinking water, and waste disposal. The overcrowding, lack of basic services, and the spread of disease are alarming within slums. With the issue of insufficient drainage, flooding, and improper disposal of waste, come the issues of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and more. Physical exposure to extreme noise and temperatures impact their physical conditions as well. Evictions are rampant within slums, sometimes illegally displacing 7000 residents at a time. Working to ensure that governments provide a security of tenure is crucial to prevent forced evictions. Ultimately, due to COVID-19, slums are heavily impacted. In Brazil, at least 1.5 million urban residents live in slum settlements and 1 in 4 individuals tested within these slum settlements have tested positive. This is the case impacting all slums across the world. Many residents of slums have reported a 70% income decline since the outbreak. Slums house people working in low wage and informal work, and

work in employment with manual scavenging or small business work. Many slum dwellers are also being forcibly evicted to attempt at slowing the spread. Therefore, action must be taken to slow the spread of coronavirus in slums.

## United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations have been actively involved in assisting sustainable urbanization and improving livelihoods in slums. The UN-HABITAT was created to focus on that aspect and have been working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11. SDG 11 aims to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable”. It specifically highlights the provision of social protection, access to healthcare, and access to safe sanitation. Prior to this, urbanization was still a large issue in 2010, as the United Nations Millennium Declaration recognized the impact it had and the growing numbers of poverty. It specifically works to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, and is mandated to the UN-Habitat. This goal was already achieved in 2013, however, the rates of urbanization have increased exponentially every year, resulting in a growth of slum dwellers. Three Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) principles have been outlined from the UN for slum development which includes “(1) Participatory Urban Profiling; (2) Participatory Action Planning and Program Formulation; and (3) Participatory Pilot Project Implementation”. These guidelines work in collaboration with governments, international organizations, community members, and include a variety of stakeholders. With the adoption of a New Urban Agenda, these principles are clearly outlined for governments to implement. By 2030, it will assist with upgrading slums and providing access to healthcare centers, basic needs, and affordable housing. The World Health Organization has been working to overcome health inequities in these overpopulated urban settings. The UN-HABITAT and WHO have created guidelines stated in the New Urban Agenda to catapult action into educating slum dwellers about health and working with local governments. The United Nations established the World Urban Forum in 2001 to create the first conference regarding urban issues. It works to discuss the dire issues including climate change, urbanization, and impacts on communities. During the ninth forum, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration was formed and signed upon which reaffirms the UN member states and stakeholders’ goals of improving areas for the urban poor. In 1999, the Cities Alliance initiative was launched by the World Bank and UN-Habitat to work toward ensuring prosperity in all urban cities. They work to provide policy development to incorporate an inclusive approach to politics including slum residents. By 2030, the Cities Alliance works to improve the livelihood of 60 million urban poor across 200 cities within 20 countries. Over 609 community savings groups were created and are still active across sub-Saharan Africa. Cities Alliance and local NGOs were able to construct approximately 2.2 million housing units in Brazil. Through implementing developmental programs of water and waste management as well as providing education opportunities, Cities Alliance has been able to improve over 140 cities.

## Bloc Positions:

**Western:** Many countries within the Western bloc work to fund the development of slums in less developed countries. Since 2010, the European Union has provided more than 50 million euros in developing communities all across the world. However, working to eradicate slums within Western countries is also a prevalent issue. Many slums in this region form due to the lack of accessible housing and financial issues. For example, residents of the Roma slums in Europe live in mud huts and have an unemployment rate of 74%. Due to racism from their living conditions, many individuals work in illegal labor conditions. Without opportunities for jobs, many Roma slum dwellers are unable to lift themselves out of poverty and move out of slums. This is the case for many slums in Western countries. Working to provide both affordable housing and improving financial opportunities can assist in improving the livelihoods of those in slums.

**Latin America and Caribbean:** Since 2000, the number of slum inhabitants has increased by 55 million and continues to rise with high urbanization rates. Latin America and the Caribbean have been working on initiatives on improving housing structures, through public housing. Slums within these areas lack opportunities for social and economic equality. In San Paolo, Brazil, slums are rampant and have low education rates. Over 70% of the population has one to eight years of schooling whereas residents of formal urban areas have 12 or more. This correlates with high unemployment ratings which reach up to 49% and an increased rate of violence. In Bolivia, an estimated 58% of the population resides in slums. Many children from these areas continue to work in child labor of agriculture and hard labor. This creates an endless cycle of poverty with the lack of education, and unsteady work conditions and is not only in Bolivia, however, is applied to slums within the entirety of the bloc. With improvements in education and economic conditions, slums in this region can be decreased.

**African:** With Africa's urban population being estimated to triple in the next half a century, it is essential to upgrade pre existing slums and work to improve future slums. With the arid and dry weather, many slums are prone to accidental fires. Working to improve the building conditions as well as access to healthcare is of importance. Many countries such as Morocco and Algeria have plans to develop their governmental strategies of urban development. Previously, African nations have been unable to develop slums with rampant diseases of HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, and terrorist activity spanning throughout their nations. As a result slums such as Kibera formed, and face issues of only 20% of the population having access to electricity and no access to healthcare services. Without proper living conditions, many slum dwellers in the African bloc are susceptible to diseases of tuberculosis, dengue fever, and malaria. Working to develop large scale improvement plans are of importance, regarding access to living and medical conditions.

**Asian-Pacific:** An estimated 64% of people who live in slums are from the Asian-Pacific Bloc. Poverty rates are lowest within large cities and therefore, impact many of the slum dwellers. With the fast rates of urbanization, an increase in urban planning and development is crucial to prevent more individuals from falling into urban poverty. With many natural disasters and the

effects of climate change, this region has been prone to floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, is located in Mumbai, India, and is home to an estimated one million people. Slum residents share one toilet for approximately 500 residents, and face a constant threat of eviction. The land that the Dharavi slum is located on is in India's most expensive city and is looking toward redevelopment by eradicating the slums. Jakarta's Tambora slum is also one of the most densely populated places with an average of four people per one square meter. Small fires occur multiple times monthly as a result of poor construction of houses. With overpopulation in mind, improved and affordable housing and sanitation is necessary to assist in the development of slums within this region.

## Basic Solutions:

When planning development in slums, it is crucial to be detail-oriented in recognizing the multifaceted issues that come with improving the livelihoods of its residents. This includes proper sanitization methods, access to clean water, providing tenure to prevent evictions, education, and more. Both long term and short term solutions should be created to address these issues.

Education is a valuable resource that many children in slums do not have the opportunity to get due to working to support their families from a young age. Therefore, some programs such as the SCALE-UP Program provide for an opportunity to have night classes in designated epicenters of a slum. Topics for classes range from business development, entrepreneurship, and personal finance education. Classes also include improving health services through proper education in waste management and proper sanitation measures. Volunteers also provide childcare services which allows for many of the women and girls to attend. This organization also provides training in the production of saleable items such as embroidery and clothing. Tourists often buy these items and therefore, it allows for the children to be able to grow in their education and gain economic empowerment. It has been able to improve the livelihoods of over 15,000 children in a Yerwada slum with economic empowerment and education.

The aforementioned solution is a general solution and therefore does face issues in regards to scalability. For example, it is limited to slums within certain regions of the Middle East and India. In addition, many educational programs do not actively incorporate women as some countries deem them inferior. When working to address particular issues, delegates must take into consideration scalability and accessibility and how to improve solutions to incorporate all residents in slums.

## Questions to Consider:

1. What is the current situation in your country with regard to urbanization and slums?
2. What rights should slum dwellers have?
3. How can more effective ways for slum development be created?
4. Are there any programs or frameworks that your country has implemented?

5. What can be done on an international, regional, and local level to provide improved access to basic services in slums?
6. How does COVID-19 affect slums? What has your country done to slow the spread of coronavirus and other illnesses within these highly populated areas?

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