

Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

It fills us with great joy to know that you will be joining us in this year's TJMUN. With that said, we hope you to find this debate meaningful and helpful in your everyday life. In fact we want you to not just turn in a resolution paper, but for every one of you to participate and contribute to our world today.

Ignorance is a huge problem that has been consistently present until our days, but to be able to eradicate this problem we must be informed and educated about the problems that may affect us each and every day despite how far away from our borders they may seem. By informing or giving your own point of view of different topics, we might just be able to take a big step towards making a difference.

Therefore we invite you to see this event as a chance to become familiar with the issues implemented in this committee. Our committee encourages all participants to be open to suggestions from other delegates, and to defend their position on different in order to further develop your debating and negotiating skills. It is also important for delegates to come out of their comfort zones, now that each and every one of your delegations has a standing point and an important one to be shared with the other delegates. Getting out of your comfort zone will allow you to communicate and learn new things as well.

We'd like to encourage you to start researching the topics to be discussed; study and be prepared with different participation points, rules of the debate, and review the guide on how to make an appropriate position paper so that you can be ready at the time of the debate.

We are glad to give you a warm welcome to this engaging committee.

Sincerely,

Paulina González and Isabel Eguiarte

Background Topic A: Inclusive and quality education in Latin America

Introduction

In this committee you will discuss one of the main problems that is, and has been a big issue to the world today, quality of education. As delegates, your duty in this committee is to find viable and well thought solutions to help eradicate this problem, which has been present in Latin America for many years.

Topic outline

Education is, and will be for many years, one of the main priorities for Latin American countries, and must remain so, if those nations wish to accomplish their goals of a better economy and social welfare. Statistics from the World Fund show that every year approximately “22.2 million children and adolescents in Latin America are at risk of dropping out of school or not attending. Additionally, 92% of Latin American children begin primary school, but in Brazil, for example only 41% reach secondary school, while only 35% of Mexican children reach that level of education.” (<https://worldfund.org/en/about-us/education-gap.html>, 2013)

“According to experts, the quality of a country’s education system has a direct and significant impact on its economic growth.” (Noah Berger and Peter Fisher, 2013) In the same sense, education quality is directly relates to teacher’s preparation. Compared to other countries with exceptional primary education, Latin America has a low quality level process to select their teachers. In comparison, “Korea allows only the top 5% of university graduates to become professors, in Finland only the top 10% graduates get to teach, and Singapore only allows the top 30% to attempt becoming a teacher. The situation in Latin America is completely the opposite. In Mexico, more than 70% of teachers fail the National Teacher Examination and, in Brazil, less than one third of teachers pass high school.” (<http://www.smhc-cpre.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/how-the-worlds-best-performing-school-systems-come-out-on-top-sept-072.pdf>, 2007)

As a result of the lack of high quality education, “people that are now entering the labor force lacking the necessary skills to find a formal job and participate in an increasingly competitive, information-rich, and globalized economy”. “According to industry analysts, there are already 150,000 information and technology (ICT) jobs that are unfilled because there are no qualified workers to fill them.” Likewise, jobs that require unskilled, manual labor are quickly being replaced by automation.

Unfortunately in Latin American nations, the education gap mirrors the wide income gap between rich and poor. For instance, in Brazil children in the bottom quintile of income distribution complete eight years of school in average, while children in the top quintile complete more than ten years. This has a high negative impact on the lower social class of the population, since they have no other choice but to attend underperforming public schools.

Essence of the debate

In order for all members to get a similar overview of what the aims of this committee are, we will provide specific discussion points that we encourage you to analyze and discuss. **Quality Education:** the importance of quality education for all, and what effect it has on the population in the long run. You will discuss why it is important, its benefits, and how it has affected the economic developed of countries and how it has helped boost their economy.

Dropout Rates

Analyze causes and effects of high number of student dropouts. Development of methods and strategies to help them stay in school, while considering how dropping out of school or having a low quality education can affect recent graduates from to entering the labor force.

Teacher quality

Ways to improve teacher quality so that there is not a chain effect in the lack of education between teachers and students.

Investment gap

The wide gap between the investment in public and private schools, and how it reflects the performance of the students, which prevents a country from having a good educational development.

Questions to consider

- What level of cooperation is needed to tackle the problems of education in Latin America? And, how will the committee respond if the lack of cooperation from member states deepens the education problem in others?
- How will this committee carry out the possible solutions, considering the fact that not all the delegations have the economic possibility to apply them?
- How will delegations deal with the fact that some countries base their decisions on sovereignty and may not accept some proposed solutions?

References and recommended websites

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Topic B: Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for America:

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is essential to global advancement in the twenty-first century. In developing countries, it is crucial for the improvement of education, provision of clean water, sanitation and health care, helping to reduce poverty and infant mortality. Furthermore, it promotes gender equality and economic growth.

It's of vital importance to understand what these types of energy actually imply. Fundamental economic activities rely upon a steady supply of energy, as well as an adequate and stable distribution system. For energy to be sustainable, it must come from a renewable source and generate a persistent stream of power. Electricity, transportation, and technology are indispensable for economic development, if energy satisfies these requirements, it can be considered modern. Consequently paving the road to upgrade living standards, social interaction, and meet basic human needs.

Despite the fact that over the last few decades the number of people without access to energy in Latin America has decreased meaningfully, in 2010 6% of people in Latin America (29 million) lacked energy security. (World Energy Outlook, 2012)

According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, more than \$270 billion have been invested globally in these types of energy. Although there's still much to do, many governments show a growing interest in finding new and cleaner methods to produce energy, while making it accessible to the population, and fomenting a "no waste attitude" towards this resource. Therefore is vital for delegations to work together and apply all actions needed to overcome challenges within the energy sector. There is no doubt that private investment is key for the acceleration of this transition, nonetheless, money alone won't be enough.

It is vital to bring together set of integrated actions, where technology providers, project developers, energy utilities, businesses and organizations, must be designed and implemented in order to ensure access to energy for everybody in Latin America. Let us not forget about the economic and social benefits these types of energy can provide. Another important thing to keep in mind is that every advanced economy has been built upon secure access to energy.

Not all the solutions are yet available, and those that are may not be apparent. Figuring them out will be difficult yet rewarding, because transforming the world's energy supply systems towards an equitable and sustainable future will eradicate energy poverty, incorporate renewable energy sources, and enhance prosperity.

Questions to consider:

- What has been the most crucial advancement made in the last few years?
- How can governments and agencies work together in order to find solutions at an international and local scale?
- Various forms of financing are required, how are the necessary funds going to be gathered?
- Why would the private sector invest on this? How can you attract them?
- What has been your country's biggest contribution to the topic?

References and recommended websites:

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