

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Topic: Find ways to counteract poverty due to rapid urban migration in developing countries through industrialization

I. Statement of the Problem:

1. It has been predicted that by 2050, about 86% of the developed world and about 64% of the developing world will live in urban areas ^[1]. The rate of urbanization in Less Developed Countries was 29.2% in 2011, and it is continuously growing. It has been projected that for the next twenty-five years the most rapid rural-urban migration will occur in developing nations. ^[1] For example, in India roughly one in six people in a city lives in a slum due to industrial development ^[8]. Similarly, about 80% of urban dwellers in Bangladesh live in slums for the same reason ^[9].
2. However, as people in Less Developed Countries rapidly migrate to the major cities in their country, the cities often have trouble supporting this rapid growth; about one million people in the world now live in shanty towns ^[2]. Much of the world will be living in poverty if industrialization does not become more efficient ^[3]. If these Less Developed Countries can industrialize, then it would be much easier for their cities to support rapidly growing populations. ^[4]
3. It is necessary for these cities to urbanize in order to better the overall standard of living. There are many different ways to encourage industrialize, as well as several countries that would be very reluctant to industrialize or accept aid from foreign countries. ^[4]

II. History of the Issue:

4. Rapid rural to urban migration has been the common trend around the world for all of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries ^[1]. Both the UNCTAD and UNIDO claim and have proven that industrialization is key in Africa and other major areas of poverty. In the past two decades, the population in urban settlements has increased from 1.5 billion in 1990 to 3.6 billion ^[5]. In the past lustrum, UNIDO has created projects such as 96% of the additional 1.4 billion people in the developing world in 2030 will live in urban areas ^[7].

5. Cities unable to support the incoming population cause shanty towns and other slums to be built on their outskirts^[6]. Another economic effect that is often cited with urbanization (especially in Less Developed Countries) is class segregation. The upper and lower classes grow, whilst the middle class will shrink into nearly nothing; most of the people previously in the middle class will fall into a lower class^[7].

III. Potential Solutions:

6. In terms of resolution writing, delegates should keep the following in mind:

- Monetary aid to struggling cities
- Incentives to stay in rural areas
- City redesigns with rapid growth in mind
- Construction of more cities in countries with rapid rural-urban migration
- Job creation
- Micro-credit programs
- The encouragement of the creation of factories, service related jobs, and/or public housing

IV. Position and Research Tips:

- Focus on if your country is urbanizing and developing
- Is your country's population growing? Why or why not?
- What are possible ways to increase urbanization?
- What are possible ways to lower the poverty rate in your country?
- Would your country support industrialization at all?

V. Useful Web Sources:

- <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WUP2005/2005wup.htm>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/urban_environments/urbanisation_ledcs_rev2.shtml
- <http://www.unido.org/>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

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VII. Note to the Delegates:

Greetings future delegates of UNIDO. My co-chairs and I very much look forward to reading the position papers and hearing the debates and solutions that you come up with. This is an important topic, and we are excited to be your co-chairs. Good luck researching, and I hope that you enjoy it. I wish you the best of luck in your research, your debates, and the writing of your position papers. If you need to contact me, please email me at liamday32@gmail.com

-Liam Day, UNIDO co-chair

Welcome delegates of UNIDO. I'm very eager to see your work and progress throughout the conference. We've chosen this topic since it's a pressing issue that's rapidly increasing in size. We're looking forward to seeing you all at the conference.

-Natalie Kwiatkowski, UNIDO co-chair

-Topic two: Identify possible solutions to lower the amounts of people migrating due to the Brain Drain.

I. Statement of the problem:

1. By October 2001, it was hypothesized that about one third of Africa's skilled professionals had left Africa in order to earn higher wages in More Developed Countries^[5]. This pattern is being repeated in Less Developed Countries all throughout the globe ^[1,8]. Skilled workers from these Less Developed Countries can't get the pay that they want or think that they deserve, so they move to a More Developed Country so that they can get paid better^[2,11].

2. It was found that South Africa and Zimbabwe experience the greatest migration of healthcare professionals while Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US were the greatest beneficiaries of health professional immigration. Other African countries hard hit by the exodus include Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia^[13].

3. The African continent as a whole is losing many highly qualified professionals trained in other fields, which has significant economic ramifications. Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa are currently suffering the worst brain-drains of any country in the world. According to a recent study presented at the National Symposium on Ethiopian Diasporas, Ethiopia has lost 75% of its skilled professionals during the past ten years^[13].

3. However, while this does good for the country the individual goes to, it is often very harmful to the country that the individual left^[8]. It can cause villainization or prejudice against remaining skilled workers in the country, and it can leave a country without the skilled doctors, engineers, and other professionals that it needs^[4]. This is particularly harmful for Less Developed Countries because they are the countries that need skilled workers the most. However, this so-called "Brain-Drain" is more likely to occur in a Less Developed Country than in a More Developed Country^[3].

II. History of the Issue:

4. One of the earliest forms of the brain drain occurred when philosophers of the Byzantine Empire under emperor Justinian moved to the Sassanid Empire en masse after the closing of a major academy in 529 CE. With them, they took many important historical, philosophical, and educational documents

[\[6\]](#).

5. Because of the lack of data, it is difficult to understand the entirety of the brain drain. Results of Brain Drain to the United States in the 1990 census show that 54.3% of all skilled worker migration occurs from developing nations to the United States and other OECD countries. [\[10\]](#)

6. Another major examples of skilled workers leaving home countries to go to more developed countries comes from the anti-semitism in Europe just before World War II. Many scientists, including the now famous Albert Einstein, fled Germany and surrounding countries in order to escape religious persecution. [\[7,9\]](#)

7. Africa is amongst suffers the most from the Brain Drain. Ethiopia, along with eight other Sub-Saharan African countries, who are known to produce a lot of skilled professionals in the medical field are losing the equivalent of US\$2 billion per year due to the skilled professionals seeking employment in wealthier countries [\[13\]](#).

8. It is estimated that between 1980 and 1991, 75% of the skilled workers in Ethiopia left for More Developed Countries. Similar events have taken place in Kenya and Nigeria. This makes rising above poverty a near Herculean task [\[12\]](#).

III. Possible Solutions:

- Encourage more education opportunities
- Possible aid for schools
- Job creation
- Faster industrialization
- Foreign aid to provide incentives to stay in the mother country
- The building of places for skilled professionals to work (hospitals, etc.)

IV. Position and Research Tips:

- Understand your country's migration patterns.
- Focus on if your country is either receiving or losing skilled peoples.
- What has worked or gone wrong in regards to brain drain, rural-urban migration, and urbanization for your country?

- What are ways your country can cut down on migration, especially those who are skilled and educated?
- Key phrases to research: *urbanization, migration, Brain Drain, industrialization, etc.*

V. Useful Web Sources:

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch04_o.html
- <http://www.unido.org/>
- <http://www.cnn.com/>
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VII. Note to Delegates:

Hello delegates,

As your UNIDO chair, I am eager and thrilled to be working with each and every one of you. It is my pleasure to participate in MUNSA and facilitate UNIDO. My fellow co-chairs and I have worked hard to provide a pressing and debatable topic. We chose this topic because this is one of the largest reasons why people migrate, and we know many countries have different stances on it. We are very much looking forward to seeing and hearing from all of you. Thank you and good luck.

#UNIDO #MUNSARocks #StayFresh

-Best of Luck,
Andres Velasquez, UNIDO Co-Chair