

A Background Guide for the  
*Social, Humanitarian and  
Cultural Committee*



Dalton Model United Nations III

*Saturday, April 25, 2015*

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# Dalton Model United Nations

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## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to DMUN III's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee,

Your dais will be composed of two beautiful Dalton DMUN delegates, Alexandra "Aly" Milich and Audrey "Audrey" McDermott. We are very excited for a full day lively debate, collaboration, and (ultimately) comprehensive resolutions. Before we introduce the two topics we may discuss, we'd like to introduce you to the people you'll be spending your Saturday with.

Aly, your moderator, is a graphic design whizz who enjoys spending her time translating doodles written mid-math class into incredibly impressive pieces of art. Though she is a creative genius, she's also incredible at Math. Aly is a fun-loving gal who enjoys receiving notes from delegates in committee that are funny or have drawings in them.

Your chair, Audrey McDermott, is a Junior on the Dalton Model UN team. When not spending her Friday nights away at conferences, she can be found listening to music, binge watching *How To Get Away With Murder*, or cheerleading for the basketball team. She enjoys bad puns, instagramming, and breaking onto roofs in New York City.

If you have any questions about committee, feel free to reach out to the chair at:  
[audrey\\_mcdermott@dalton.org](mailto:audrey_mcdermott@dalton.org)

## Topic A: Right to Privacy

### Statement of the Problem

As technology continues to advance, the right to privacy is frequently violated both internationally and domestically. As a human right, the right to privacy is vital to ensure freedom and equality worldwide. Many governmental organizations take advantage of the relative accessibility of this private information and proceed to establish relationships with various companies. Through information and data sharing, this right is blatantly violated, driving citizens of nations in which this issue is especially prevalent to abstain from using the internet all together.<sup>1</sup>

The premise of the right to privacy is to ensure that individuals are not unrightfully and unlawfully intruded upon in situations that are presented as secure. This includes the right to “data protection,” a concept detailed

in Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, guarding individuals from improper collecting, storing, and sharing of private data.<sup>2</sup>

### Intrusive Corporations

The most frequent violators of this concept tend to be large corporations during the storage and publication of client information with other companies and governments, often without notifying the user.

#### Case study: Google, Inc.

Google, the internet search engine mogul is no exception to these violations. While using their Google Maps street car, Google admits to accessing private information through unencrypted Wi-Fi networks while passing by. The data shared includes, but is not limited to, passwords and emails. In 2013, a lawsuit based on these actions resulted in a mere \$7 million fine to a company that regularly has a revenue of over \$100 million daily. This,

<sup>1</sup> “Privacy and Human Rights: An International Survey of Privacy Laws and Practice,” Global Internet Liberty Campaign, <http://gilc.org/privacy/survey/intro.html>

<sup>2</sup> “European Convention on Human Rights,” European Court of Human Rights, [http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)



*Google's Famous Google Maps Car*

however, was not the first time the corporation ran into trouble in the matter. The street cars have been roaming since 2007 and contain cameras attached to their roofs to film 360-degree images for a newer component of Google Maps called Street View. Subsequently, the program was investigated by European regulators, who then discovered infractions on the Right to Privacy. Claiming to have mistakenly downloaded snippets of “payload data” from Internet users logged onto unprotected wireless networks that were within the cars’ range. As it was their first transgression, the Federal Communications Commission allowed it to pass with a \$25,000

dollar fine, .025% of Google’s daily profits.<sup>3</sup>

## **Intrusive Nations**

Governments also frequently unrightfully monitor the online activity of individuals on a mass scale. Namely in Russia, China, and the North Korea (DPRK), internet surveillance has become, what the UN High Commission for Human Rights describes as “emerging as a dangerous habit rather than an exceptional measure”.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the aforementioned nations, the United States has grown increasingly more active in these actions. In contrast, European nations continue to lobby for privacy protection. The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly gathered to discuss these policies and passed a resolution on November 25, 2014.

### **Case Study: The United States**

Since Congress granted the organization broad new powers in 2008, the National Security Agency (NSA) has reportedly overstepped its

<sup>3</sup> “Google to pay \$7 million for privacy violation,” CNN Money, <http://money.cnn.com/2013/03/12/technology/google-privacy-settlement/>

<sup>4</sup> “Online Mass-Surveillance,” United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15200&LangID=E>



legal authority and broken privacy times thousands of times each year. In 2013, Edward Snowden leaked documents detailing scale of government surveillance to the US edition of *The Guardian*. Most of the serious infractions involve in the interception of US emails and telephone calls along with unauthorized surveillance of Americans or foreign intelligence targets, all of which are restricted by statute and executive order. Most notably, President George Bush, previous president of the self-proclaimed “free world” authorized the NSA wiretap of thousands of

Americans in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Since these infractions were publicized, tens of thousands of organizations and people have participated in protests across the country and in 15 countries internationally.<sup>5</sup> Beginning with the leaks of 2013, and propelled by the marches and protests, an international debate about privacy rights have been intensified. The public, supported by a coalition of prominent internet organizations, such as Reddit, Greenpeace, ACLU, Tumblr, BoingBoing, Mozilla, and Amnesty International, have strongly voiced their opinions in favor of surveillance reforms and increased privacy. Eventually, Google, Yahoo, and Facebook, all accomplices of these violations, revealed the information US government authorities had forced them to surrender, which included details pertaining to tens of thousands of accounts.<sup>6</sup> Since these events, these companies, along with Microsoft,

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<sup>5</sup> “NSA broke privacy rules thousands of times per year,” *Washington Post*, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/nsa-broke-privacy-rules-thousands-of-times-per-year-audit-finds/2013/08/15/3310e554-05ca-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/nsa-broke-privacy-rules-thousands-of-times-per-year-audit-finds/2013/08/15/3310e554-05ca-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125_story.html)

<sup>6</sup> “Facebook sued for allegedly intercepting private messages,” *CNET*, <http://www.cnet.com/news/facebook-sued-for-allegedly-intercepting-private-messages/>

strongly back the Government Surveillance Reform push, calling for limitations to be placed on the executive authority of a country's ability to monitor users' information.<sup>7</sup>

### **Case Study: North Korea**

North Korea has been a major perpetrator of their citizens' right to privacy. Named the "world's most oppressed nation" by *The New York Times*, North Korea is one of the most opaque countries in the world. Earning a score of 96 in Freedom House's annual Report on Press Freedom, 100 being the most repressive, the North Korean government definitely practices a large amount of censorship when it comes to releasing public statements. The country functions as an isolated microcosmic society whose power is centralized in a single, familial regime. Since 1948, the Kim dynasty has ruled North Korea for three generations, demonstrating extreme reluctance to let anything, or anyone, in or out of their country. Earning a score of 96 in Freedom House's annual Report on Press Freedom, 100

being the most repressive, the North Korean government definitely practices a large amount of censorship when it comes to releasing public statements both nationally and internationally. According to their report, the Kims own all domestic news outlets, regulating the flow of information within the country. Furthermore, televisions are set up to citizens pre-tuned to government stations while radios must be checked and registered with the police. Similarly, internet access is forbidden to all except regime elites and select university students. A group computer specialists created substitute, entitled "intranet", which is filtered by Korea Computer Center. It is also restricted to elite grade schools, select research institutions, universities, factories, and privileged individuals. The Kim even limits the academics and arts programs offered in the state, ensuring all curriculum is centered around improving the Kim family reputation.<sup>8</sup>

### **International Action**

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<sup>7</sup> "Protesters rally against mass surveillance," The Guardian, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/11/day-fight-back-protest-nsa-mass-surveillance>

<sup>8</sup> "North Korea Exposed: Censorship in the world's most secretive state," Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, <http://cjfe.org/resources/features/north-korea-exposed-censorship-world%E2%80%99s-most-secretive-state>



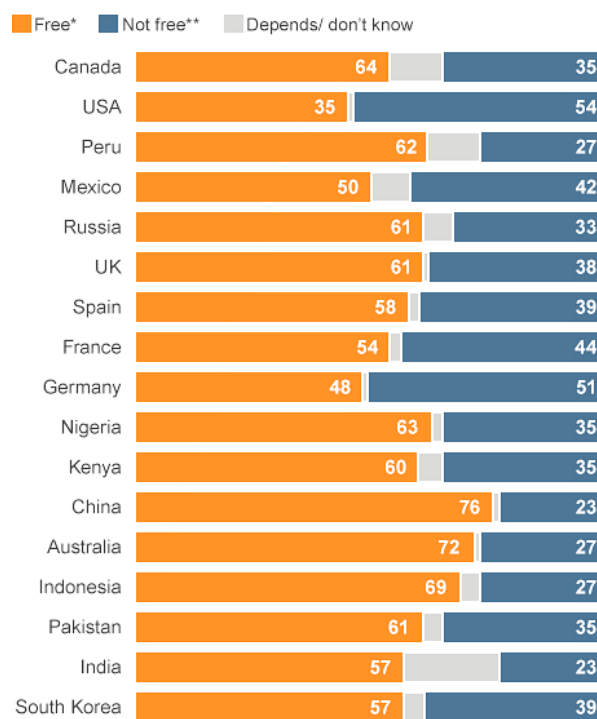


*Intranet Headquarters*

Currently, the United Nations is concerned about the effects of electronic surveillance will have on the international community and takes steps towards recognizing the right to privacy as an inalienable right for all. On the 25th of November 2014, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution urging member states to take affirmative action to protect the right to privacy in the digital age.<sup>9</sup> After 18 draft resolutions, the Third Committee passed “The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age” suggesting member nations review their procedures, practices and legislation on the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, with a view to upholding the right to

privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all relevant obligations under international human rights law. Following the approval, some nations stressed the need for specificity while strengthening the right to privacy, a flaw in the resolutions passed. Others, however, applauded the consensus as a clear international reaction to the national electronic surveillance activities conducted by the United States over the past decade.<sup>10</sup>

Perceptions about freedom from government surveillance



\*"totally free" and "somewhat free" vs \*\*"not very free" and "not at all free"

<sup>9</sup> “The U.N. Acts to Protect the Human Right to Privacy,” American Civil Liberties Union, <https://www.aclu.org/blog/human-rights-national-security/un-acts-protect-human-right-privacy>

<sup>10</sup> “Third Committee Approves ‘Right to Privacy in the Digital Age’”, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2013/gashc4094.doc.htm>



The European Union certified in a court meeting that various search engines, such as Google, must respect users' right to be forgotten, regardless of the location of a search engine's physical server. In response, Google plans to send a group of representatives to explain the company's policy on privacy during meetings in Europe this coming September. Afterwards, they plan to release a statement containing recommendations on how to best move forward while complying with the European Union's requests.<sup>11</sup>

## Bloc Positions

### The United States

As revealed in 2013, the United States has obstructed the Right to Privacy on a mass scale and plans to continue to do so. Nevertheless, the US ambassador still commented on the vital role of the right to privacy and protection during UN discussion on "The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age". That being said, the federal government plans to continue

to use private information to source their attempts to combat terrorism.<sup>12</sup>

### European Nations

As a unit, the European Nations are strong supporters of the right to privacy. In particular, countries such as Austria, Germany, Lichtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland have been extremely involved in advocating for greater respect for the right to privacy. The European Union has also been very proactive in investing possible breaches within corporations, as they did for Google. Many nations have also expressed their outrage about the United States' intrusive behavior and the Edward Snowden leaks.<sup>13</sup>

### Asia

Unlike the European Nations, China and North Korea are strongly opposed to the promotion of the Right to Privacy. They strongly believe that surveillance of private, digital material is an effective way to control their nations and quell potential uprisings. In contrast,

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<sup>11</sup> "Google Details Problems With Handling Right to Be Forgotten Requests", The New York Times, [http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/07/31/google-details-problems-with-handling-right-to-be-forgotten-requests/?\\_r=0](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/07/31/google-details-problems-with-handling-right-to-be-forgotten-requests/?_r=0)

<sup>12</sup> "Human Rights," U.S. Department of State, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/hr/>

<sup>13</sup> "Protection of Personal Data," European Commission, <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/>

Southeast Asian States are in support of the right to both on and offline. Many of these nations, like European countries, namely Indonesia and Singapore, believe that the government should have certain restrictions regarding the information they have access to.<sup>14</sup>

they ensure cooperation from private sector companies?

- What measures can be taken to restore citizens' confidence in an intrusive nation?
- Should nations be punished if the terms of an international agreement are broken? If so, how and to what extent?

## Middle East

Many Middle Eastern nations oppose the right to online privacy and surveillance programs throughout this region are common. Interestingly, Qatar, however, has national legislation observing and respecting the right to privacy as inalienable.<sup>15</sup>

## Questions to Consider

- Should transparency between people, governments, and private sector companies be improved in the digital age? If so, to what extent should the right to privacy be respected and under what circumstances would breaching this right be acceptable?
- How can SOCHUM monitor transparency in nations? How can

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<sup>14</sup> "Privacy Policy," AltusPage Kirkland, <http://asia.altusgroup.com/disclosures/privacy-policy/>

<sup>15</sup> "Data Protection and Privacy Laws in the Middle East," Latham & Watkins, <http://www.lw.com/thoughtLeadership/data-protection-privacy-laws-middle-east-2013>

## Topic B: Foreign Aid Reform

### Statement of the Problem

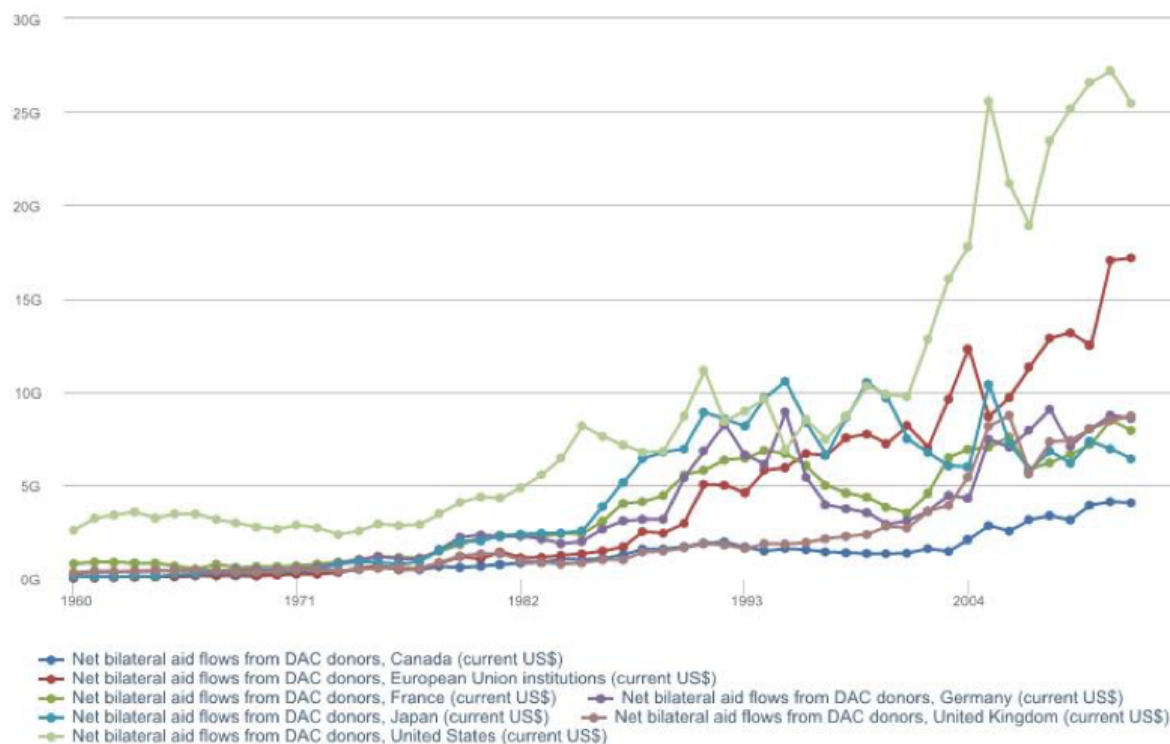
Though most accounts cite the Marshall Plan, a program instituted by the United States, as the first official foreign aid plan, this is not actually the case. The United Kingdom's Parliament passed the first piece of legislature dealing with foreign aid in 1929, which was then expanded with the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945.<sup>16</sup> Since then, the aid process has undergone a long evolutionary process, growing from these humble roots into a bloated, multi-faceted industry. For example the US, the nation arguably most engaged in the distribution of aid, has distributed \$52 billion dollars to Pakistan alone since the 1940s. The bulk of critique surrounding this giant transference of wealth is based in the fact that these efforts are often ineffective. There has been no established consensus on how to improve the current foreign aid practices and provide any guarantees on growth rates. The conversation around foreign aid has

been largely confined to the economics of the practice, there are a number of other issues that complicate the debate further.

Aid can come in a myriad of forms. Alongside remittances, foreign direct investment, and portfolio investment, foreign aid is one of the prominent international capital flows in the world economy. To fully understand this economic powerhouse practice, one must first understand the key mechanisms that foreign aid can be used in. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines foreign aid as increased financial flows and technical co-operation. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes have all been excluded from their definition of aid as are transfer payments to private individuals. There has been a steady increase since 1945 as total ODA (Official Development Assistance) has steadily increased. Financial flows from donor nations that do not fall within the OECD's official definition of aid are referred to as Other Official Flows (OOF). The sum of these two cash-streams, ODA

<sup>16</sup> Barder, Owen. 2005. "Reforming Development Assistance: Lessons from the UK Experience." Center for Global Development Working Paper 70.

and OOF is known as Official Development Finance (ODF). preference-giving countries unilaterally determine which



*Graph of Net Bilateral Foreign Aid Flows*

A secondary major source of monetary assistance for developing countries is known as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a system that is similar to an aid-for-trade scheme in which developed countries offer non-reciprocal preferential treatments (such as zero or low duties on imports) to products originating in developing countries. However these

countries and which products are included in their schemes and thus many nations with less established and desirable products can struggle to attract the attention of donors in the foreign aid process.<sup>17</sup>

After the establishment of the UK's Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945 nearly every developed country has established an official aid

<sup>17</sup> WTO. 2015. "Special and Differential Treatment Provisions." WTO.

agency. The United States' Marshall Plan was initially set up as a system to help devastated European nations rebuild their economies after WWII. The US viewed foreign aid as a temporary policy and not necessarily a systematic commitment to the entire world.<sup>18</sup> This view changed when President John F. Kennedy passed the Foreign Assistance Act in 1961 which established the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and separated out aid that was used for military purposes from aid with specifically economic purposes. Some of the more prominent aid agencies developed since the 1960s includes the UK, Norway, Sweden, France, Japan and Germany; ironically many of these nations were former recipients of aid from the Marshall Plan.

## Historical Evolution of Aid

The evolution of foreign aid has had close ties to the evolution of scholarly thought surrounding economic growth. In the early 1940s, the economists Ray Harrod and Evsey Domar independently developed the Harrod-Domar Model of economic growth which implied

that relatively labor-abundant economies - especially those which exist in developing countries- tend to be underdeveloped, in part, due to their lack of physical capital available to promote economic growth. This economic theory led foreign aid practitioners to emphasize development projects that were both based on physical capital and focused on strengthening infrastructure within developing nations such as building roads, bridges, dams etc.

As economic theories shifted in the mid-1950s, so did the focus of development practitioners. Robert Solow's Neoclassical Growth Model, in which he posited that nations could harness economic growth by increasing the productivity of labor and capital through technical change, resulted in developmental practitioners focusing their efforts on increasing productivity through the implementation of aid programs that focused on education, health and research. Thus, systematic humanitarian aid was initially popularized only when presented as a potential source of promoting economic growth.

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<sup>18</sup> Edwards, Sebastien. 2014. "Economic Development and the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid: A Historical Perspective." Center for Economic and Policy Research.



*Robert Solow*

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the scholarly consensus in development economies shifted towards emphasizing the importance of trade and investment liberalization. Economists such as Anne Krueger and Jagdish Bhagwati recommended that donor nations begin to condition their aid flows to economic openness. This recommendation led to the implementation of programs that included trade-for-aid initiatives as well as GSP for WTO members. Further momentum was gained as

various international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank began to tie their financial assistance to trade and investment liberalization as well.

The most recent trend in the development paradigm has been a more holistic view of development. Inspired by the work of Jeffrey Sachs, the UN has put forth the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which sets out to halve extreme poverty, halt the spread of HIV/AIDs, and provide universal primary education amongst other goals by the end of 2015.<sup>19</sup>

## Flaws in the Current Aid System

While the benefits of foreign aid have certainly been seen in the international community, so have the detriments. Often, foreign aid is given to nations with underlying agreements that inherently impose on a country's customs and culture rather than work with it. This can be seen in many ways including widening wealth gaps, favoring males over female, or instituting types of government that intrinsically

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<sup>19</sup> United Nations. 2015. "Millennium Development Goals." UN.



oppose the established form in the recipient nation. Minorities are often put at a disadvantage in the socioeconomic spectrum of a country as projects put forth by governments with this aid can easily neglect these groups. One way that this can be mitigated in the future would be to tie assistance in the form of aid to an overall public expenditure program of the recipient country that supplies equal benefits for all public citizens. Donors can combat this through working with governments to ensure that the aid flow is being used for purposes that strengthens equal opportunities between all minorities and sects of citizens regardless of race, gender, or religious affiliation.

Additionally, the one size fits all mentality that many donor nations and bodies have adopted needs to quickly be adapted to a more case-by-case basis that is based in a thorough understanding of the social and cultural implications of each nation. Various aid mechanisms will be effective to varying degrees in different nations. For example, “country ownership” policies may work in countries with more

established and stable governments, but donors should work to give aid outside government entities with shorter commitments.<sup>20</sup> Foreign aid should correspond with nations furthest away from reaching the MDGs, yet this is often not the case as ulterior motives can become the central motivation for aid donation.

## Bloc Positions

Nations should adopt individual policies that most accurately reflect their past involvement in the foreign aid sphere.

## Questions to Consider

- How does foreign aid effect good governance?
- What is the role of foreign aid in humanitarian crisis? How do we improve the humanitarian and social functions of foreign aid?
- How can the UN encourage environmental consciousness while simultaneously promoting economic growth?
- What is the optimal balance between donor control of how

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<sup>20</sup> “Reforming Foreign Aid Practices: What countries ownership is and what donors can do to support it” Global Economic Governance [http://www.globaleconomicgovernance.org/sites/geg/files/Reforming%20Foreign%20Aid%20PB%202008.p df!](http://www.globaleconomicgovernance.org/sites/geg/files/Reforming%20Foreign%20Aid%20PB%202008.pdf)



foreign aid money is spent and the development priorities of the recipient country?

- What role do environmental concerns play for foreign aid projects?
- How can international organizations help to improve the distribution of aid?
- Is there a way to mitigate the perverse incentives that foreign aid creates for some countries? If so, what should donor and recipient countries do about this?
- Is it possible to reduce the geopolitics around aid? If so, how?