



HoMMUNC

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Chair: Jack Dolgin

Moderator: Michael Scherr

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SOCHUM! My name is Jack Dolgin and I am pleased to be your chair for the 29th Horace Mann Model UN Conference. I am currently a senior at HM and have spent all four years of my high school career involved in our Model UN program. I worked on small committees for a while, but my niche has always been GA's, which is exactly the kind of format you will be in on the Novice Committee. I am also an unrepentant sports fanatic, and if you're curious, I run a TV program at our school called the HM Lions Report that is modeled off of the show SportsCenter on ESPN. It's true, I've never quite had the hand-eye coordination, but my love for public-speaking and team leadership has been longstanding. I hope to get to know you over our one-day stint and share with you my excitement for Model UN.

The issues that are presented to SOCHUM are some of the most pressing issues of the world. Sometimes it will be necessary that you compromise and other times it will be necessary that you stand firm on your countries' beliefs. Over the course of the day, your beliefs and your research will be challenged, and you will be forced to think on your feet. Model UN truly has the power to make us better thinkers, better listeners, and better problem solvers.

As you prepare for the Novice Committee, make sure to read throughout the background guide and conduct additional research. We will begin our committee by going through an overarching summary for how Model UN works, but nonetheless you are expected to come in with extensive knowledge on the topic ahead of time. I want to stress, the committee is designed to first and foremost be a learning experience. Awards are important, but in the grand scheme of things, they are secondary to the skills you will hone on the committee. I hope you walk away with an understanding for Model UN and appreciation for the skills it teaches.

On behalf of our wonderful secretary Michael Scherr, I am excited to see you all on October 26th.

Happy research,
Jack Dolgin
Chairman of the Senior Executive Board

Brief note: We know that many of you in committee are new to Model UN so before we begin debate we'll go over some of the basics and answer any questions you may have. If during actual debate you still have any questions feel free to ask us and we'd be more than happy to help!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES:

HISTORY OF THE ISSUE:

The term “Third World” arose during the Cold War as a means of categorizing countries that remained non-aligned with either NATO or the Communist Block. Since then, the term has been used to group together nations based on their social, political, and economic standings. Third world countries have been predominantly thought of as non-industrialized and extremely poor, many countries in this predicament tend to be located in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as have colonial pasts.

As previously mentioned, a number of Third World countries were former colonies. Subsequently, many of these countries were challenged with nation and institution building on their own for the first time. In the 1980’s a British economist by the name of Peter Bauer offered a new take on the definition of a Third World country. He stated that a Third World Country should be defined as “one with a government that receives western aid.” For the purpose of this committee, we will not be restricting the term “Third World” to the definition created by Mr. Bauer or the more widely accepted definition, rather we are open to any possible new definitions.

Many, such as the Argentine Economist Raúl Prebisch, have

attributed the lack of prosperity in Third World countries to a concept known as the “Dependency Theory.” Prepisch, in his research, found that the wealth of prosperous or “First World” nations was built at the expense of the poorer or “Third World” nations, thus the gap between the two types of nations only grew. From a radical’s perspective such a theory is taken from a Marxist view of the world, and sees globalization as a spreading of capitalism and an exploitation of cheap labor. However, the dominant, and more common, view of the dependency theory is that the world capitalist system relies on the division of labor between wealthy or “core” countries and poor or “peripheral” countries. From this belief, it is derived that over time, the wealthy core countries will exploit their dominance over increasingly marginalized poorer, or peripheral, countries. This theory advocated an “inward development” approach consisting of an increased role for the state in terms of imposing barriers to trade, making inward investment difficult, and promoting nationalization of key industries. While still an incredibly popular historical, sociological, and economic theory, this theory has been made increasingly obscure since the collapse of Communism in the 1990’s. Reason being that the inefficiencies created by state involvement in the economy and growth of corruption in municipalities have been exposed, most notably in African countries including Zimbabwe.

By the 1960's many more theories and models for development were established, the most common being Rostow's Stages of Growth. The overwhelming majority of these theories came to the same conclusions—foreign aid was needed to help kick start industrialization and economic growth in these countries. Now, as the economic international community looks from the vantage point of 2013, we realize that these theories were incorrect and foreign aid is by no means the “be-all-end-all” to economic development. Having experienced decades of foreign aid and experimentation with different development models, many economies of the Third World are still dependent on foreign nations and are deep in debt with increasing pressure from foreign creditors. Now, there is a large debate as to why Third World countries remain poor after all this time and foreign investment. Many claim that the current methods are not working and foreign aid, thus dependency, should be reduced. In closing, foreign aid has not been the magic wand people hoped it once would be.

CURRENT PROBLEMS:

In developing countries around the world an estimated 1.4 billion people still have no access to electricity, 0.9 billion without safe drinking

water, and 2.6 billion without access to basic sanitation. This problem is only getting worse, over the last few decades, due to higher birthrates than developed countries, global population growth has largely been focused in Third World countries. Accompanied by this expansion, is a migration from rural areas to urban areas that is resulting in the creation of massive slums.

Government also poses a tremendous problem. Many Third World governments are relatively corrupt thus embezzlement of funds is an incredibly large problem. Additionally, development in democratic governance poses its own set of problems. It involves identifying the right project, carrying out feasibility and viability studies and embarking out physical development of the project. Environmental regulation is another hurdle that stands in the way of economic development. Organizations like the International Standard Organization perform air capture analysis in many communities to monitor greenhouse gas emission. While certainly important regulations for the future, the time for such regulation may not be as the country is developing seeing as though it would only slow down the process.

It is a generally well-understood principle that crime rates and economic prosperity have an inverse relationship. As crime goes up, economic prosperity goes down and vice versa. To supplement this theory is the idea that in order to maintain and start economic development in “Third

World” countries, it is necessary that the crime rate be reduced. However, such a step is not easy in many developing countries, which, on average, contain a tremendous amount of people, who are involved in organized crime.¹ Furthering the kinds “complex crimes” negatively impacting developing countries in particular is that of counterfeited currency.²

According to a report done by the International Statistics of Crime and Criminal Justice “crime of counterfeiting currency continues to present a serious danger to national economic, as well as financial losses to consumers.”³ That same report cited a possible solution to this problem as being, “increased education and awareness by merchants and retailers in detecting counterfeit bills, and [increased] law enforcement efforts.”⁴

However, as it has become quite apparent, third world countries have governments that lack the means to engage in such educational endeavors, thus this possible solution is irrelevant.

¹ European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

²European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

³ European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

⁴ European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) has defined bribery as, “understood to mean requesting and/or accepting material or personal benefits, or the promise thereof, in connection with the performance of a public function for an action that may or may not be a violation of the law and/or promising as well as giving material or personal benefits to a public officer in exchange for a requested favor.”⁵ While the majority of countries have a rate of 1 per 100,000 people that engage in corruption, developing countries have on average 10 per 100,000 people who engage in corrupt activities.⁶ Such a high rate of corruption as compliant to the UNCAC definition not only discourages foreign investment into developing third world countries, but also infringes on the ability of government officials to properly oversee necessary infrastructure projects.

As stated in a report by The Global Poverty Project, sanitation refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human waste.⁷ While seemingly obvious, the report reaffirms the health benefits, or

⁵ European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

⁶ European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, Affiliated with the United Nations United Nations, *International Statistics on Crime and Justice*, by Stefan Harrendorf (n.p.: n.p., 2010)

⁷ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

lack thereof, attributed to sanitation.⁸ Cholera, typhoid, infectious hepatitis, polio, cryptosporidiosis, and diarrhea are all specific health problems that are can be easily prevented by increased development in sanitation infrastructure and techniques in developing countries.⁹ Unfortunately, problems associated with lack of sanitation occur in the countries deemed to be “Third World,” and who lack the necessary means to mitigate this issue.¹⁰ While not the “be all end all” solution, foreign economic aid has proven itself effective in mitigating the issue at hand. Economists believe that improved sanitation in developing countries typically yield about USD \$9 worth of economic benefit for every USD \$1 spent.¹¹ The benefits include saving time, reducing direct and indirect health costs, increasing the return on investments in education, and safeguarding water resources.¹² The first element, saving time, should not be underestimated in its contribution to economic benefits in the developing world. People without toilets at home spend a great deal of time each day queuing for public toilets or looking for secluded places to defecate.¹³

⁸ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

⁹ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

¹⁰ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

¹¹ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

¹² The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

¹³ The Global Poverty Project. *Global Poverty Info Bank*.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Other than the conventional methods of aid, what else can be done by developing nations to further the economic prosperity in third world countries?
- What can developing third world nations do in order to encourage foreign investment and aid?
- How can developing nations collaborate with international corporations to create profitable investments?
- What can the international community do to mitigate the corruption in developing nations?
- How can infrastructure improvements and industrialization be done in an environmentally sustainable way?
- How can foreign aid be provided to developing nations so that a dependency is not created on such aid?
- At what point will foreign aid no longer be needed in the development of a nation?
- What goals should the international community strive for in terms of economic development in third world countries?

CHILD LABOR:

HISTORY OF THE ISSUE:

The origins of child labor date back all the way to the Industrial Revolution in about the mid-1800's. During such period children as young as four were employed in production factories with dangerous, and often fatal, working conditions. Later on, in the Victorian Era, many children worked in factories and as chimney sweeps seeing as though they were expected to help work towards the family budget. For example, in 19th century England, one third of all families were without a "breadwinner" thus obliging many children to work from a young age. Additionally, child labor was the predominant, if not the only source of labor, in household enterprises. Many of these children worked in what the International Labor Organization found to be conditions with, "low wages, long hours, and unhealthy and insanitary working conditions."

Out of many industries that exploit child labor, two in particular stand out as the worst offenders of such a human rights violation. First, in 1998 the UNICEF first shined light on the fact that the Cocoa industry

immensely exploits child labor.¹⁴ The UNICEF report also made evident that many of these children are victims of child slavery and trafficking.¹⁵ In 2000 the problem only got worse, cocoa prices had dropped to a 10-year low, and many farmers did not have the means to higher paid employees thus increasing the dependency on child labor.¹⁶ After further realizing this awful situation, the international community made formal accusations that the cocoa industry had profited from child labor and trafficking.¹⁷ Despite, initially, the European Cocoa Association's denial of such charges, the industry later acknowledged the working conditions for children were unsatisfactory and children's rights were at times violated.¹⁸ By 2001, however, a voluntary agreement called the Harkin-Engel Protocol was accepted by the international cocoa and chocolate industry to help ameliorate the worst forms of child labor, as defined by the ILO's Convention 182, in West Africa.¹⁹ This agreement helped to create the International Cocoa Initiative in 2002, which still works to

¹⁴ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

¹⁵ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

¹⁶ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

¹⁷ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

¹⁸ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

¹⁹ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

eliminate some of the worst forms of child labor in the industry.²⁰

Unfortunately, while there has been some progress made, the Harkin-Engel Protocol's 2005 goals have still not been met seeing as though many factories do not operate with conditions in compliance to the protocol.²¹

It was not until 1991 that the Chinese Ministry of Labor first acknowledged that the situation regarding employment of child laborers was a “very serious” issue throughout the country.²² Under much pressure from the international community, the Chinese government put in place a labor law published on July 6, 1994 that prohibited employment of children under 16 years of age.²³ However, the enforcement of such law was/is very difficult due to the use of false identification cards.²⁴ As the AAFLI reported, “according to workers in southeast China the use of counterfeit IDs is fairly common.”²⁵ Many workers admitted to that they were three or four years younger than the

²⁰ *ICI Cocoa*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.cocoainitiative.org>.

²¹ *Cocoa Campaign*. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign>.

²² United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

²³ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

²⁴ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

²⁵ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

16 years certified on their ID cards.²⁶ China has furthered their efforts by becoming a party to the ILO convention number 59, concerning minimum age for admission to employment in Industry and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.²⁷ China did not, however, ratify the ILO Convention number 138, which concerned minimum age for admission to employment.²⁸ According to the Xinhua News Service, China has set up 2,763 courts to deal with cases involving juvenile delinquency and violation of children's rights as well as 17 provincial committees to deal with the protection of children.²⁹ While it would appear that China has made great progress on the surface, such an appearance is a deception seeing as though China remains one of the world's worst offenders of child labor.

CURRENT ISSUES:

Nearly one in six children aged 5-14 are engaged in child labor in the world.³⁰ Child labor is not only harmful and exploitative, but many

²⁶ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

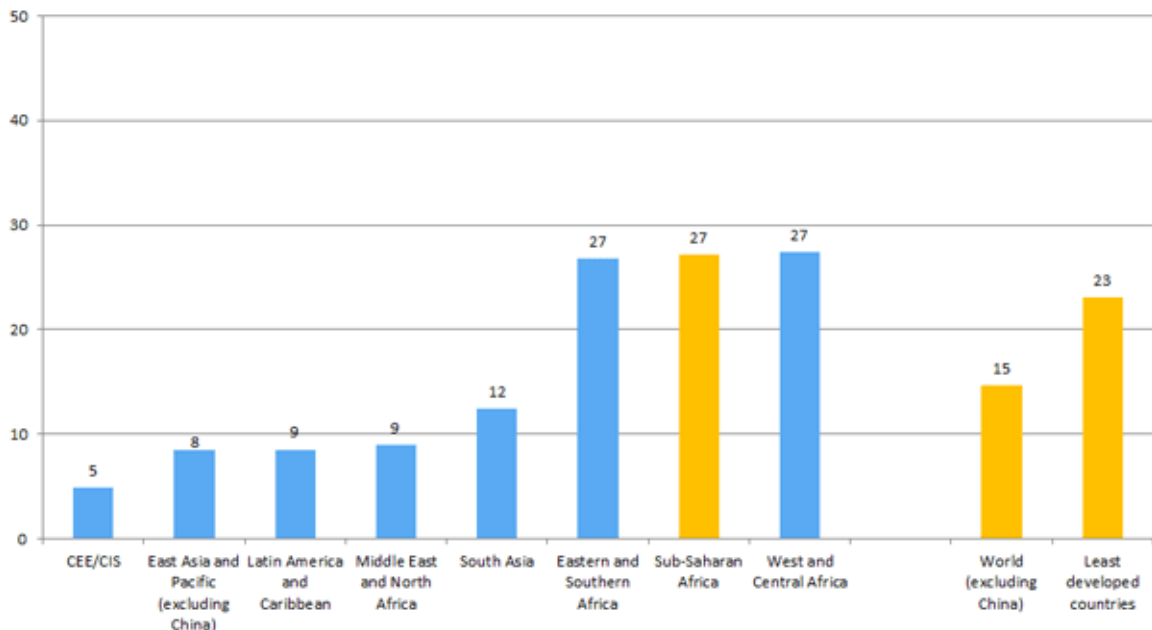
²⁷ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

²⁸ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

²⁹ United States Department of Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/china.htm>.

³⁰ Childinfo.org. Last modified January 2013. Accessed July 14, 2013.

children are put to work in ways that interfere with their education and physical as well as mental development.³¹ Here is a chart of the percentage of children aged 5-14 engaged in child labor at the time of the survey, by region:



Source: UNICEF global databases, 2012. Based on DHS, MICS and other national surveys, 2002-2011

As made clear by the chart above there is a direct correlation between the economic prosperity of a region and the extent to which child labor exists in that region. There are many causes of child labor including poverty, limited access to education, repression of workers' rights, and limited or

<http://www.childinfo.org/labour.html>.

³¹ Childinfo.org. Last modified January 2013. Accessed July 14, 2013.
<http://www.childinfo.org/labour.html>.

ineffective prohibitions on child labor.³² Poverty creates a situation where poor children and their families need to rely on child labor to attain basic necessities.³³ According to a 2005 UN statistic nearly 1/4th of the world's population live in extreme poverty and intensified poverty in developing regions make children there more likely to fall victim to child labor.³⁴ Lack of access to compulsory education also increases the chances of child labor in that it limits the opportunities for children and incentivizes their families to put them to work since they are not in school.³⁵ As mentioned previously when describing the labor situation in China, many existing laws and regulations with regard to child labor are essentially ignored and are not enforced.³⁶ The inefficiencies of such regulations do not only lie in their failure to be enforced, but rather in the laws and regulations themselves.³⁷ For instance, Bangladesh's primary child labor regulation specifies a minimum age for work, but sets no regulations on

³² Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³³ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³⁴ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³⁵ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³⁶ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³⁷ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

domestic or agriculture work.³⁸

Exposure to global markets may also at times have negative effects on the development of child labor regulation.³⁹ As many large corporations expand internationally countries often compete for jobs, investment, and industry.⁴⁰ This competition greatly slows child labor reform by encouraging corporations and governments to acquire low labor costs by resisting international employment standards, thus exploiting child labor.⁴¹ Additionally, international free trade rules essentially prohibit of consideration and regulation of child labor or workers' rights.⁴² Economic activities on behalf of developing governments also may agitate the child labor situation. For example in Malawi, the country spends roughly 40% of its GDP to repay foreign creditors, while only 15% of the GDP is spent on programs that could possibly reduce child labor, such as healthcare and education.⁴³

³⁸ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

³⁹ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁰ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴¹ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴² Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴³ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

Corruption of these governments also decreases the efficacy of regulation enforcement thus making many regulations ineffective.⁴⁴ Finally, many countries lack the economic means to establish enforcement clauses in various regulatory pieces of legislation.⁴⁵

The ability of workers to unionize thus create core labor standards, including child labor regulation, is an essential component to establishing meaningful change in child labor trends. Resistance to workers' abilities to organize make it more difficult to improve labor standards and living standards in order to engender a positive trend in child labor.⁴⁶ For example in 2010, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, 5,000 workers were fired and 2,500 workers were arrested for their involvement in unions.⁴⁷

When leaders from developed countries argue for "free trade" they are essentially arguing for fewer trade barriers, thus lowering the cost of moving goods from one country to another.⁴⁸ In principle, this idea seems

⁴⁴ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁵ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁶ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁷ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁸ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

all good and well, possessing on positive effects on the global economy. However, such blanketed de-regulation is one of the largest causes of child labor.⁴⁹ In 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a report entitled *List of Good Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*.⁵⁰ In this report 128 products from 70 countries were listed all of which were the products of child or forced labor.⁵¹ As few examples of items on this list are: cut flowers from Columbia, coffee from Guatemala, Kenya, and other countries, vanilla from Madagascar, shrimp from Thailand, cashews from India, and bananas from Ecuador.⁵² By advocating for “free trade” and purchasing products like, but not limited to, the ones mentioned, a nation would essentially be indirectly supporting child labor, thus encouraging it to exist.⁵³

Currently, international bodies have also been ineffective in deteriorating at child labor. For instance the WTO (World Trade Organization) has the objective of helping “trade flow as freely as

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁴⁹ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵⁰ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵¹ Causes of Child Labor. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵² International Trade Issues. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵³ International Trade Issues. Accessed July 14, 2013.

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

possible” and eliminating measures that “restrict the free market.”⁵⁴ Such a policy, advocates for the same “blanketed” de-regulation that encourages child labor.⁵⁵ Further proving the inefficacy of the WTO is the fact that no WTO rule or regulation as any provisions on labor standards or child labor, and the organization has no intentions of ever establishing such a standard.⁵⁶

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How can the international community strike a balance between stopping child labor without infringing on free trade?
- What can be done to better enforce both international and national regulations on child labor?
- How can poorer nations establish compulsory educational systems without having to go too deep into debt?
- What can be done to alleviate some countries of their existing debt thus enabling them to focus their GDP spending on programs that will reduce child labor?

⁵⁴ International Trade Issues. Accessed July 14, 2013.
http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵⁵ International Trade Issues. Accessed July 14, 2013.
http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

⁵⁶ International Trade Issues. Accessed July 14, 2013.
http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/causes.html.

