



## **Oasis International School Model United Nations**

General Assembly

President : Mostafa Magdy  
Vice-President : Lobna ElHaraky

Guiding Package

Topic (1): The increase of global population and its impacts on the resources

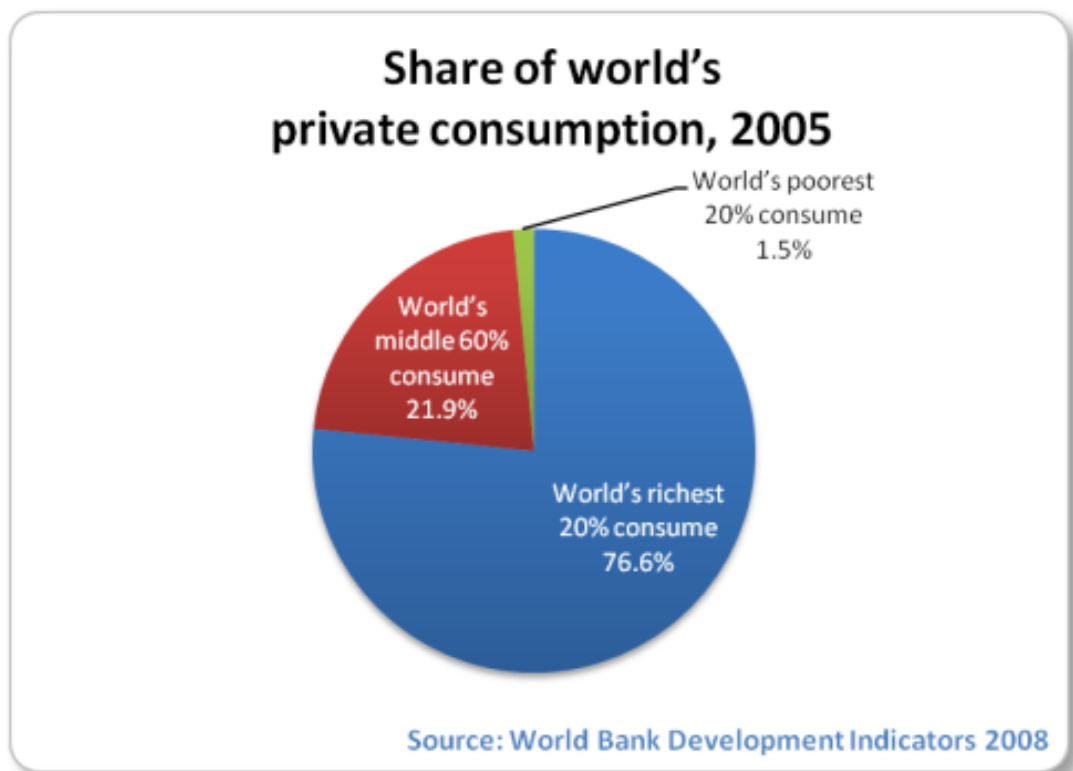
9th Annual OISMUN Conference

## Table of contents

I-Abstract.....	3
II-Introduction.....	4
III-Definition of Key terms.....	5
IV-Background information.....	5
V-Major countries and organizations involved.....	7
VI-UN involvement .....	11
VII-Possible solutions.....	13
VIII-Guiding questions .....	13
IX-Useful links.....	14
X-Bibliography .....	14

## Abstract

The expeditious growth of population throughout the past decades has been a drawback to all humanity; it caused the spread of diseases, economical crises, gender inequality, global warming and massive consumption and waste of resources. Natural resources and energy<sup>1</sup> were always a source of reliance to every human being ever since their existence; yet, people often exploit them. Furthermore, being rich increases the demand on cars, electricity, lands, water and food, in parallel to the production that is based on fossil fertilizers and soils. Likewise, most populations rely on the fossil energy, which improves their production and is highly demanded in the agricultural field. Nevertheless, their negative impacts are conspicuous. Additionally, several ecosystems<sup>2</sup> are leisurely disappearing due to the polluted environment in which they are living.



---

<sup>1</sup> Such as: fossil fuels

<sup>2</sup> Such as: the aquatic ecosystem

## I. Introduction

Global population is increasing exponentially; however, the resources are roughly satisfying every human being. They correspond to the primary needs of every population. Hence, the world has reached a conflicted situation of an exorbitant consumption of resources in regards to a low fertility. Despite the fine quantity available in various parts of the globe, different populations are threatened to run out of resources in a couple of years. Therefore, when it is time to discuss the decrease of resources, it is crucial to mention the increase of its waste; people consume more than their needs. Besides, developed countries are enlarging their infrastructure that undoubtedly demands more and more resources; whereas, developing countries are currently facing a censorious situation of food and water. Children are dying due to the unhealthy living conditions they endured. In addition, such lack of resources may eventually generate an economical crisis. Employees will start losing their jobs, depriving their children from the right to education. Furthermore, it is a cycle that is endangering the lives of every human being; that is forbidding their security and saturation. Throughout the past years, the UN demonstrated their concern on this global issue by assigning the commission on “population and development”, different population questions. Despite the diverse trials and conferences that are being held by the UN, neither the global population is stopping to increase nor the resources are stopping to diminish. Therefore, this huge world population should start taking actions towards this global crisis rather than causing it; as the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: “Let us unite, seven billion strong, in the name of the global common good.”<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> ANONYMOUS, *Global issues*, available on: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/population/> consulted the 30<sup>th</sup> of July.

## **II. Key terms:**

1. Global population: It represents the number of citizens of every population all around the world
2. Overpopulation: An exceeded amount of citizens in regards to the availability of resources
3. Natural resources: Essential living factors that are made by nature, without any human involvement: air, water, lands...
4. Solar energy: Type of energy that is gained from the sun. It is used in various ways such as heating and generating electricity
5. Fossil energy: Type of energy that is gained from the decomposition of dead organisms in millions of years
6. Malnutrition: Unhealthy or lack of nutrition that in certain cases, may lead to death
7. Sustainability: Efficient use of resources that comes with the coherent thought of the future
8. Ecological overshoot: The case when a human's demand on nature exceeds its supply
9. Ecological footprint: Area of human consumption of resources
10. Ecological crisis: A deteriorated environmental condition(ex: water and air pollution) that corresponds to the human social behavior

For more useful terminologies visit:  
<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/glossary/#Ecologicalfootprint>

## **IV: Background information**

Overpopulation has been a major concern ever since the human mind began looking for ways to fill in its needs. It is majorly caused by the enhanced medical facilities, reduced mortality rate and the depletion of the resources. Technology had a remarkable impact on the population growth, since it led to the discovery of new medical treatments that cure various diseases. Back, in 1347 the world encountered a catastrophe known as "The Black Death". It was the time when the global population

started booming. People were affected by the bubonic plague<sup>4</sup> that was being spread either through the air or through the bite of rats or fleas. Although this plague affected different countries around the world (ex: China, Syria, India and Egypt), it has ravaged Europe, causing the death of 60 % of its population. Since people lived very close in the cities and towns due to the high population rate, the proliferation of the disease was really fast. In addition, since manpower did not exist, towns faced food shortages. The condition was becoming more ravaged daily. At that time humans died because of the lack of medical treatment; however, after few centuries, with the technological advancement, scientists were able to declare that Antibiotics such as streptomycin, gentamicin, as well as respiratory support are needed to treat plague. Finally, 1350 marked the end of the catastrophe.

Later on, global population started regaining its growth. It has increased to the extent that the governments are not capable of providing education, food security and average living standard for all. It is proved that the world will be undergoing an ecological crisis just in a few years. Such ecological crisis is a simple result of the waste of resources caused by human beings as well as the rapid increase of the global amount of the population. The Living Planet report calculates that humans are consuming 30% more resources than the Earth can replenish each year<sup>5</sup>. People tend to consume excessively the resources (water, electricity, food, fossil fuels). Technology has always fascinated us by the continuing advancements in diverse fields and new discoveries that may lead to solutions. Nevertheless, the increase of global population is becoming expeditious in regards to the advanced technology.

The UN estimates that the global population will rise from 7.3 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, The GFN<sup>7</sup> estimates that by 2030, the world's population will be consuming the equivalent of two earths. Furthermore, the GFN made the

---

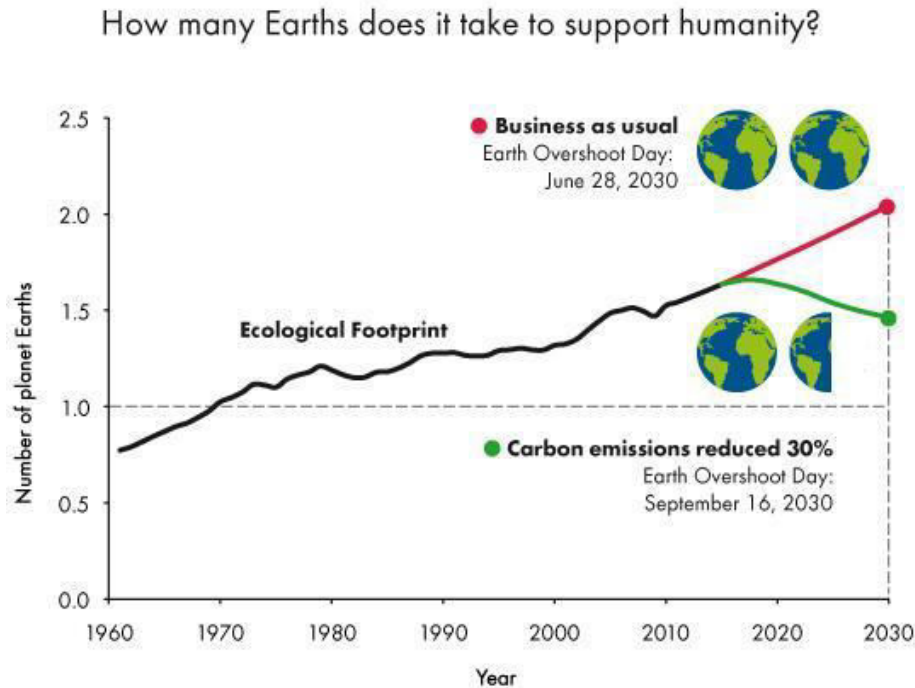
<sup>4</sup> A deadly bacterial infection

<sup>5</sup> The living planet index (LPI) is an indicator of a state's biological diversity  
Anonymous, World is facing a natural resources crisis worse than financial crunch, available on:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/oct/29/climatechange-endangeredhabitats> consulted 2/08/2016

<sup>6</sup> ANONYMOUS, Global population set to hit 9.7 billion people by 2050 despite fall in fertility, available on  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jul/29/un-world-population-prospects-the-2015-revision-9-7-billion-2050-fertility> consulted 2/08/2016

<sup>7</sup> Global Footprint Network

“Earth overshoot day” campaign in order to raise awareness on the issue and to emphasize the urgent need of the establishment of a sustainable development.



This graph represents the development of the ecological footprint and the decrease of 30% of carbon emissions throughout the years.

## V. Major countries and organizations involved:

### Countries involved:

#### The United States of America

With a population around 324.628 million, the United States of America is known to consume about a quarter of the world’s fossil fuel<sup>8</sup> resources<sup>9</sup> and emit around 21% of the world’s carbon dioxide; mainly burning up the coal, oil and natural gas<sup>10</sup>. It is in fact, the largest oil consumer in the world. In addition, the houses are getting bigger and so is

<sup>8</sup> Coal, oil, petrol and natural gas products

<sup>9</sup> Anonymous, *Worldwatch institute*, available on: <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810> consulted the 3/08/2016

<sup>10</sup> Anonymous, *U.S. Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions*, 2014, available on <http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/carbon/> consulted 3/08/2016

the production of cars. Moreover, such developed country is indeed enlarging its infrastructure, which demands the increased consumption of the world's resources on a daily basis. Whereas, it has high unemployment rates, low wages and 8% of public schools exceed their capacities<sup>11</sup>.

### People's Republic of China

China is known to be one of the most industrialized countries with the largest population around 1.393 billion<sup>12</sup>. This massive amount of population has caused food shortages, pollution, poor living conditions and the elimination of resources. People's Republic of China is increasing its energy (petroleum, natural gas) demand in order to satisfy the population needs as well as to ensure the availability of the essential resources for the production. Hence, becoming the first energy consumer in 2011. However, it is also known for its production of coal. The government has put policies that regulate the number of children allowed to a couple, in order to control the overpopulation "One child per family". In fact, it has helped preventing the chinese population of reaching a number of 2 billion.

### Japan

Japan is currently facing demographic challenges due to its overpopulation around 126.266 million<sup>13</sup> is one of the largest net importers of fossil fuels. Despite its huge population, the government encourages having more children. It is now, the third oil consumer, since it is their primary source of energy. Furthermore, it depends on the Middle East for the oil imports; Saudi Arabia being a main supplier.

---

<sup>11</sup> ANONYMOUS, *School overcrowding*, available on <http://www.fairus.org/issue/school-overcrowding> consulted 3/08/2016

<sup>12</sup> National bureau of statistics of China, *China Population*, available on <http://countrymeters.info/en/China> consulted 3/08/2016

<sup>13</sup> ANONYMOUS, *Japan population*, available on <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/japan-population/> consulted 3/08/2016



### The Russian federation

Russia has a population of around 143.435 million<sup>14</sup>. Energy is a main source of reliance to Russia; it stabilizes and develops their economy. It is the fourth largest electricity producer and has the most increasing bio capacity reserves. Therefore, due to the growing production of resources, Russian population is less dependent on other countries' resources. However, if it fails to use the resources wisely, it will meet the same resource crisis.

### Nigeria

Despite the fact that Nigeria is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest oil producer, it is struggling with its overpopulation of around 170 million, leading to its lack of resources. Moreover, the government is dealing with a crisis on different levels: economical, environmental and social. Nigeria suffers from air pollution, resource depletion, health issues and inadequate fresh water for drinking. Yet, the population does not stop to grow.

### United Arab Emirates

With a population of around 10 million,<sup>15</sup> The United Arab Emirates is one of the countries with the most rapid economy growth due to its reliance on the resources (including minerals and fossil fuels). In 2007, the government had the initiative to collaborate with the global footprint network (GFN) to find efficient solutions for the sustainable use of the resources. Moreover, this collaboration helped the country make sustainable investments and strengthens the relationships between their ministries.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> ANONYMOUS *Russia Population*, available on <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/russia-population/> consulted 4/08/2016

<sup>15</sup> ANONYMOUS *United Arab Emirates population*, available on <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/united-arab-emirates-population/> consulted 4/08/2016

<sup>16</sup> ANONYMOUS, *United Arab Emirates*, available on [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/fr/index.php/GFN/page/uae\\_case\\_story](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/fr/index.php/GFN/page/uae_case_story) consulted 4/08/2016

## India

India has a population of around 1.331<sup>17</sup> billion. Despite the large dependence on imported resources, India meets the difficulty of responding to the rising demands of the population. In fact, it was the fourth largest consumer of petroleum products and oil, back in 2011. Coal is its primary source of energy. Indian primary energy consumption doubled between 1990 and 2011.

## **Organizations involved**

### The Asian forum of parliamentarians on population and development (AFPPD):

The Asian forum of parliamentarians on population and development (AFPPD) was established in 1981 and held in Beijing. It consists of a body of twenty-four national committees that deal with population and development issues. The committee of population and food security, formed in 2002, strives to generate a sustainable environment for the population and ensure the availability of food and water resources. In addition, it tackles poverty, climate change and environmental issues. AFPPD had set a plan of action back in 1996 to raise awareness on the ongoing evidences of food shortage.

### The Food and Agriculture Organization by the United Nations (FAO):

The Food and Agriculture Organization by the United Nations (FAO) estimates that by 2050, global population will reach 9.1 billion. It emphasizes on fighting poverty as well as an increase in the agricultural production. It introduces sustainable employment opportunities in order to improve food security of palestinian farmers on the West Bank.

### The International Energy Agency (IEA):

---

<sup>17</sup>Anonymous, India Population, available on <http://countrymeters.info/en/India> consulted 4/08/2016

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an organization that ensures a reliable and sustainable energy for its member states. It is highly concerned with the economic development, the energy security and environmental awareness.

Moreover, in 1994 the international conference on population and development was held in Cairo and adopted the “Program of Action.” The purpose of this program was to set goals to be achieved by 2015 and that were reinforced by the agreements of other conferences by the UN.

## **VI. UN involvement**

The United Nations has been involved by different ways to help adopt effective solutions to the overpopulation question. In order to find solutions to various questions concerning the developed and the developing countries, the UN population information network (POPIN), UN population division; department of economic and social affairs, with the support of the UN population fund (UNFPA)<sup>18</sup>, adopted the “world population plan of action”. Such plan was primordial in order to set up a better quality of life and rapid socio-economic development. During the conference, it was declared that one of the causes of population growth throughout the past centuries is the decrease of mortality level.

The population division serves UN bodies<sup>19</sup> to engage the world population policies and prospects. It also supports the international conference on population and development (ICPD) and prepares the demographic estimates for all countries annually. The 2015 revision of world population prospects is available on the link below:

[https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key\\_findings\\_wpp\\_2015.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf)

In 1990, the United Nations fund for population activities (UNFPA) had the initiative to face the big population growth and the resource

---

<sup>18</sup> Responsible of publishing annual reports concerning population issues

<sup>19</sup> Ex: Population and development commission

challenge. Therefore, they set the millennium goals to be achieved in 2000 to ensure sustainable development strategies.

In 1974, industrial countries wanted to control the population growth. In addition, the Bucharest UN population conference was established in order to discuss the evolution of population policies.

The UN's high-level panel released a report on global overpopulation and resource sustainability;

“[a]s the world's population looks set to grow to nearly 9 billion by 2040 from 7 billion now, and the number of middle-class consumers increases by 3 billion over the next 20 years, the demand for resources will rise exponentially.

Even by 2030, the world will need at least 50 percent more food, 45 percent more energy and 30 percent more water...at a time when a changing environment is creating new limits to supply.”<sup>20</sup>

*“...it urged governments to agree on a set of sustainable development goals which would complement the eight Millennium Development Goals to 2015 and create a framework for action after 2015.*

*They should work with international organizations to create an "evergreen revolution," which would at least double productivity while reducing resource use and avoiding further biodiversity losses”*

## **VII. Possible solutions**

In order to decrease the negative impacts caused by overpopulation on the environment, educational measures must be taken. Every citizen must be aware of the significance of the issue to start taking action;

Poverty should be faced and fought by the government within countries;

---

<sup>20</sup>Marcus Roberts, A new UN report on our Impending Overpopulation, available on <http://www.mercatornet.com/demography/articles/10244/> consulted 4/08/2016

All countries must start putting up laws and applying severe punishments for those who don't respect and apply the law;

Last but certainly not least; developed countries should sustain the resources by using the exact needed amount and not exceeding it.

### **VIII. Guiding questions**

1. How are the products and resources we consume produced?
2. What are the impacts of the resources on the society and the environment?
3. What are the impacts of overpopulation on societies?
4. What are the fundamental rights of every citizen?
5. How does the demand on the resources affect its prices?
6. How does the consumption habits change in regards to the environment?
7. How significant is the role of media in the overpopulation issue?
8. Which consumption patterns the developed countries should follow?
9. Which kinds of energy should be replaced or avoided?
10. What other impacts (different than resource consumption) does overpopulation has on the environment?
11. Which are the efficient and qualified strategies that should be followed by the developing countries in order to control overpopulation?
12. What is your country's position regarding the issue?

## IX. Useful links

- <http://www.everythingconnects.org/overpopulation-effects.html>
- <http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-of-overpopulation.php>
- <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/other/10/index.shtml>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51063#.V6TIP4sdJFI>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2011/oct/31/six-natural-resources-population>
- <http://quasar.unibas.ch/~fisker/401/oil/oil.html>

## X. Bibliography

- Dennis Dimick, As World's Population Booms, Will Its Resources Be Enough for Us?, available on: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140920-population-11billion-demographics-anthropocene/> consulted 30/07/2016
- Anonymous, World is facing a natural resources crisis worse than financial crunch, available on: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/oct/29/climatechange-endangeredhabitats> consulted 2/08/2016
- Anonymous, World footprint, Available on [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world\\_footprint/](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world_footprint/) consulted 2/08/2016
- Anonymous, The state of consumption today, available on: <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810> consulted 2/08/2016
- Anup Shah, stress on the environment, society and resources?, available on <http://www.globalissues.org/article/214/stress-on-the-environment-society-and-resources> consulted 3/08/2016
- Anonymous, global issues, available on: <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/population/> consulted 3/08/2016

- Marcus Roberts, A new UN report on our Impending Overpopulation, available on <http://www.mercatornet.com/demography/articles/10244/> consulted 4/08/2016
- Anonymous, India Population, available on <http://countrymeters.info/en/India> consulted 4/08/2016
- Anonymous, Black Death, available on: <http://www.history.com/topics/black-death> consulted 20/9/2016
- Jatin M Vyas, MedlinePlus, trusted medical information for you, available on: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000596.htm> consulted 20/9/2016