

General Assembly Position Statement

Armenia

Delegates: Hayden Welk, Alex Weeks

School: Jesuit Highschool New Orleans

Armenia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Armenia has a rampant poverty epidemic among its population. The plan of the Government of Armenia is to "Eradicate extreme poverty and essentially reduce poverty by 2023. To achieve this goal, encouraging education and employment among the poor layer of the population and implementing programmes promoting business will be crucial". The use and need of modern healthcare has been brought to light by the gruesome conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. The policy of the Armenian Government will be to focus on the health of the individual through the direct means of social services.

Armenia's Stance on Election Security

Armenia has had a troubled history with election and overall corruption. The current acting government is doing everything in its power to combat corruption. Due to recent events around the world, Armenian strongly believes that all and any corruption should be condemned and punished by all world powers and the state in which it occurs, to preserve the people's will and democracy.

Armenia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

In the wake of new evidence, The Armenian Government is shifting its energy usage towards more renewable and green methods. The Government is also expanding the nuclear energy sector. Armenia is also working with the government of Iran and Georgia by making a 400KW power air transmission line. With this method, we hope to become "the regional hub of the energy sphere in the region".

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General Assembly Position Statement

Belgium

Delegates: Anna Skerrett, Maxens Casetta

School: Lafayette High School

Belgium's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Belgium understands the importance of healthcare and poverty's impact on the need and availability of quality healthcare. As a country with a large gap between the rich and poor as well as multiple frequently used languages, Belgium believes the ability to communicate effectively with those around you is necessary in improving poverty rates. The ability to speak the same language as those around you is vital to being hired for a reasonably paid job. Not only will job stability help relieve the financial burden healthcare can pose, understanding the language will make understanding the systems in place such as health insurance and government a realistic possibility.

Belgium's Stance on Election Security

Given that Belgium recognizes the huge problems that foreign governments interfering in others' elections produces, we support stronger sanctions against known foreign interferers. Being a potential target of foreign interference, Belgium believes that the role of the UN is to protect election security by punishing countries that have interfered with other countries' elections, such as Russia and China, at an international level. Belgium also supports more diplomatic solutions like an increase in international relations, aided by the UN, in order to solve this foreign interference crisis.

Belgium's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Belgium agrees with the World Energy on the importance of transitioning to renewable energy with a target of 18.3% renewable energy by 2030. However, our large natural gas market and dependence on nuclear energy means we understand first-hand how difficult it can be to transition to renewable energy while maintaining a healthy economy. Nevertheless, we plan on shutting down all nuclear power plants by 2025, and instead, rely on wind power. We encourage other countries to set similar, if not more stringent renewable energy targets.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Brunei

Delegates: Lucy Nguyen, Mia Richard

School: University Lab School

Brunei's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Poverty in Brunei, while minimal, still exists. Around 5% of the population is classified as impoverished. However, the government has already taken steps to resolve this issue, creating a committee to help eradicate poverty. Brunei has minor worries about the poverty rate increasing as oil prices lower and resources are depleted, but for the time being, Brunei currently exists as an example to other countries of how the government can lower poverty rates. They offer free healthcare to all citizens, but their healthcare centers are spread unevenly across the island, leaving unequal access to healthcare. However, except for these minor issues, Brunei is financially stable enough to decrease poverty while building more hospitals to equalize healthcare across the country. Brunei might also want to extend their financial resources to the poorer surrounding countries, decreasing global poverty.

Brunei's Stance on Election Security

Brunei is a monarchy where the sultan has executive power over the state and the government. Brunei does have elections for village-level counsels, but the candidates are all vetted by the government. There are no national-level electoral laws, because there have been no proper elections for more than 50 years. With government pressure along with the lack of elections, it is hard for citizens to have genuine political participation. However, in 2015, the government enacted amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act which established new conflict of interest rule for public officials along with other provisions. The government's Anti-Corruption Bureau has been successful in the past years, even catching two former judges embezzling over \$7 million. Brunei can't really be interfered with since they don't hold any real elections. It would help if Brunei had real elections for at least the village level elections. That way, the citizens would have some genuine political participation. They could also create a system of check and balances to give more power to the branches, and they could hold legitimate elections to give the people more of a voice in the government.

Brunei's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Brunei's economy relies heavily on their oil industry, leading to some concerns about their air pollution. Forest fires in Indonesia also occasionally lead to some haze in the air. Brunei is currently party to hazardous wastes, ozone layer protection, and ship pollution. However, other than this, Brunei mostly relies on fossil fuels for energy, with only 0.05% coming from renewable resources. Recently, Brunei's government has begun to take steps toward renewable energy, hoping that by 2035 at least 10% of its energy will be solar. While this is good for the country's sustainability, some citizens have raised objections to this, as solarizing Brunei will raise costs of energy. As the government tries to solarize the country, the people are still split on the idea of using renewable energy, slowing the process down.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Canada

Delegates: Holly Hillburn, Abbey Shiflett

School: Archbishop Hannan High School

Canada's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Canada is proud to have a public healthcare system to aid citizens with medical expenses that can be debt-inducing otherwise. The provincial and territorial governments are supported by the federal government through the Canada Health Transfer as they assist citizens in paying off any medical bills and debts. The effect that expensive healthcare has on poverty is taken deeply seriously in Canada, and there are no intentions to abandon citizens to be crushed by medical debt and forced into poverty in attempts to pay off their bills. Similarly, Canada is proud to provide cheaper prescription drugs to their citizens as a result of price controls on the pharmaceutical industry. It's important to recognize that expensive healthcare is capable of driving many into poverty, and even more important to find a solution to this problem.

Canada's Stance on Election Security

Canada has made a commitment to honest, fair, and secure elections. Democracy is the deepest fundamental of societal justice, and elections should be subject to the people. Canada views disinformation as one of the biggest modern threats to election security and encourages all democratic countries to make an attempt to stem the consistent and easy flood of disinformation surrounding elections, whether it be about candidates, policies, or the election process. In light of the pandemic, part of ensuring election security is also ensuring all eligible citizens have a way to vote without putting themselves and their families at risk, and Canada urges all countries to consider solutions to guarantee that voters have a convenient and safe way to make their voices heard.

Canada's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Canada intends to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030. Nova Scotia leads with North America's first tidal in-stream turbine. Canada produces 80% of their electricity from non-emitting sources, such as hydro, wind, and solar. Canada is also setting up a Canada Infrastructure Bank, intended to help finance renewable energy and electricity system projects. Concern is being shown for those working in the coal industry, with the Task Force on the Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities. Ultimately, Canada's goal is to achieve clean energy and cut carbon pollution while providing jobs for Canadians within the clean energy industry, which already employed 270,000 in 2018 and is expected to provide even more opportunities.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Costa Rica

Delegates: Nile Batiste, De'Willie Sensley

School: Southern University Laboratory School

Costa Rica's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Our stance on healthcare and poverty is that we fully support combating poverty and providing a universal healthcare for our citizens. We have the best healthcare system in Latin America and ranked in the top 20 for having the best health care system worldwide. Our country has a private and public healthcare system known as Caja for our citizens. Life expectancy rates in Costa Rica on average is 80.10 years. We have birth rates of 1.75 per woman and a death rate of 4.9 people/1,000 population. Poverty is a major issue we have concerns with in our country. 1.1 million people live in poverty in Costa Rica, mostly in the rural areas. In spite of us having a million people living in poverty, we have the lowest poverty rate in Central America. We have taken initiatives to reduce poverty in our country by combining social programs into one to help those in need. We want to help not only the 54,600 families in our country but, others around the world as well.

Costa Rica's Stance on Election Security

Our stance on election security is that we concur with the security and resilience of elections in our country but in other countries as well. Citizens vote every year to elect people to represent their country or city to defend and protect their country's ideas and to make things better for everyone. Having secure elections prevents hackers from accessing the machines and change the votes to make a losing candidate win instead. Without proper security, elections can be rigged and it can make people riot or file lawsuits against a particular state or candidate. For example, think about the 2016 presidential election. U.S. government officials found evidence that the Russians hacked the election to boost Donald Trump's candidacy and damage Hillary Clinton. The Russians made social media accounts that made the American people vote for Trump and hacked the machines to make Trump the winner. They also gained access to the Democratic National Committee's computer network. This event caused controversy for Trump and the American public had divided opinions. We must learn from this mistake to prevent any election hackings from occurring in the future in each of our respective countries.

Costa Rica's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Our stance on energy accessibility and sustainability is that we fully support using renewable energy sources. Costa Rica has a universal access to electricity. Our largest source of energy is hydroelectricity, other sources we use are geothermal energy, biomass, solar power and wind power. We use renewable energy because we are trying to ban fossil fuels due to their harmful effects to the Earth and environment. As you know fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil and coal release carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and contributes to global warming. Due to us using a lot of renewable energy, we have great sustainability of it. We set a record of 300 days using pure clean energy than any other country. Costa Rica would love to send some of our implements to our fellow countries. We want to drastically change the effects of global warming by using inventions on electricity or solar energy. By working together, we can get rid of air pollution and the dramatic increase and vulnerability to rising sea levels and storms.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Croatia

Delegates: Emma DeLee, Emma DeLee

School: Live Oak High School

Croatia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Croatia's poverty line is at a constant decrease and the most recent evidence shows that only 3.6% of the country's population is considered impoverished. Croatia's government provides a social insurance which includes health, pension, unemployment and work accident insurance. Croatia's universal healthcare has been given good remarks and is credited as the 30th best, calculating accessibility and quality, in the world. Considering, they are part of the EU Croatia also abides by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which gives paid treatment for anyone in the EU if they reside in a member country of the EU. Overall, Croatia has the ability to provide for its citizens and does so which is expressed in their high ranking health insurance and low poverty line.

Croatia's Stance on Election Security

Croatia is a relatively new democracy due to their involvement in the Soviet Union that ended in unrest until the latter half of the 1900's. The Constitution of 1990 was the country's first attempt at running as a democracy and the country has done so fairly smoothly since then. Fair, free, and competitive elections have taken place every four years and looks as if it will continue this way. However, the country does recognize some adjustments could only help the credibility of their elections. One such adjustment would be to redefine and possibly expand the scope of the State Election Commission that acts as an oversight for elections. By promoting this institution the country could prove to the public the legitimacy of their vote.

Croatia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Croatia directly borders the Adriatic sea and contains 718 islands along its coast. Due to this it's an obvious conclusion that the largest portion of its energy, ~30%, is made through hydropower. Hydropower is nonrenewable and clean so it will not impact Croatia's environment, however, that can not be said for the other 70% of energy used. 63% of energy usage can be broken down into natural gas, fuel wood, and crude oil which has led to pollution in Croatia, although no impact reports have claimed it to be especially high. Lastly, the final 7% is non-specific renewable energy which reflects a movement of Croatia towards a greener future this is also shown by their attendance in the Paris Climate Agreement, a multi-national initiative meant to bring down non-renewable energy usage and subsequently energy related pollution. Croatia is still striving towards a greener future which one should expect to be found in its growing hydropower industry.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Delegates: Abby Malbreaux, Jacob Leblanc

School: Lafayette High School

Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The DPRK is considered, for many reasons, to be a developing country. Approximately 60 % (15 million) of our population is living in absolute poverty, which is defined as an individual or family unable to make enough for food, shelter, and education. Our healthcare infrastructure is outdated and overworked.. Many refuse to seek treatment or are refused from being treated in hospitals because of overcrowding. 23.5% of our water is contaminated, and 8 million people of the country's 25 million are dependent on public systems of food distribution. We are in dire need of foreign aid for the sake of our citizens.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Election Security

While North Korea has not experienced threats to its own domestic elections, we have observed foreign intervention from global superpowers in nations that are essentially powerless to stop them. Before, we have expressed our distaste for the imperialist tendencies of these countries, and this is no different. We are advocating for any restrictions necessary to stop foreign intervention in any country's elections.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Energy accessibility is a big problem in North Korea. With the majority of the country still "developing", our industries, notably energy, are lagging behind most of the world's. Along with the crippled industry that we have our infrastructure lacks what would be needed to have a stable source of energy. Our country is mostly supported, as of recently, by our coal reserves, and we recognize the need for renewable and sustainable energy sources in the near future.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Delegates: Stephen Adjei, Harrison LaBorde

School: University Lab School

Democratic Republic of the Congo's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Being surrounded by other impoverished and undeveloped countries, The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that no country should be left to rot. With the wealth that countries have accumulated, no country should go without healthcare. Poverty can be the demise of a country. Additionally, lack of healthcare caused by poverty can cause civil unrest and can even lead to violence. The DRC has been at war with poverty for years now, and we are still trying to overcome it with the help of some neighboring countries.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo faces the problems of mass poverty daily. This poverty has led the civilians of the DRC to be submerged in crime and violence every time they step outside their house. However, the DRC is fighting to eliminate poverty from within its borders. Unfortunately, the prices of the DRC's main exports have dropped drastically after 2015, and inflation has become a major problem in the country. Additionally, internal conflicts have been taking up most of the DRC's focus, making it harder to focus on poverty. The poverty crisis in the DRC has effectively limited the distribution of most common resources, including healthcare. The lack of healthcare has caused 30% of children under the age of 5 to be malnourished. The DRC is pushing for better healthcare and reform programs are slowly being implemented in the country. A brighter future lies ahead of the DROC.

To end the lack of healthcare due to poverty, a coalition must form. If all the willing developed African countries gave aid to underdeveloped countries, the entirety of Africa would be ten times stronger than it is now. Africa would become self-sufficient, as African countries use African resources to fuel Africa. Once this self-sufficient transformation occurs, there should be no lack of healthcare, or poverty, not only in the DRC, but in all of Africa.

Democratic Republic of the Congo's Stance on Election Security

The DRC does not take kindly to the corrupt influence of other countries. The DRC used to be a Belgian colony and has been opposed to direct influence ever since it gained independence from Belgium.

Corruption caused by any country is a major problem not only if the DRC is the victim, but if any country is the victim. To corrupt, a country is equal to taking the rights away from an entire generation of people. Influence on regions of Africa by European countries had left Africa without resources, so a corrupt foreign seize of power has been proven to cause the downfall of nations. Corrupt control of a state by any foreign power is unlawful and unethical.

In order to stop corruption, a third party must be put in place. If a selection of states that were unaffiliated with either side of a corruption based conflict were to give a verdict on who is right, corruption as a whole would end due to the unbiased opinions of others.

Democratic Republic of the Congo's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Renewable energy systems are a major source of the DRC's energy. In fact, 98% of the DRC's energy comes from hydroelectric plants along the Congo and most of the crude oil produced by the DRC goes to exports.

With a little more time, the DRC can convert to entirely renewable hydroelectric energy.

The DRC scarcely relies on fossil fuels, although a reservoir of fossil fuels is currently being added to the DROC. For the region that the DROC is located in, hydroelectric power is the best source of energy, but it can be understood why other countries haven't turned to hydroelectric, or any renewable energy alternatives so far. Additionally, the economic infrastructure of some countries, like Iran, is built on fossil fuels. However, if the appropriate steps are taken, any country could fully convert to renewable energy.

While certain countries are able to supply their own energy for themselves, others are left without energy. In order to avoid leaving these countries without energy, donations must be made. Countries that supply energy to at least 90% of their populations should be encouraged to aid other countries in the supply of energy to that countries population. This would allow every nation to have enough energy to supply at least 90% of its population, which would allow it to help another nation. If this cycle continues, there would be no country without energy.

Sources

To be forwarded tomorrow

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General Assembly Position Statement

Djibouti

Delegates: Matthew Truehart, Emma Sonnier

School: Mandeville High School

Djibouti's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Djibouti has a high poverty rate, at 79%, and is considered a developing country. We also have food insecurity problems and a large immigrant population. Most of our citizens, particularly those in rural areas, do not have access to sufficient healthcare. Our citizens also have high rates of infant and maternal mortality and a low life expectancy. Some of our efforts, like polio vaccination campaigns, hospital modernizations, and traveling medical caravans, have been successful, in part due to the assistance we have received from Turkey, the US, and Russia. As such, Djibouti would welcome any resolution promoting expanded international intervention in developing countries to increase overall health.

Djibouti's Stance on Election Security

Djibouti's elections are considered by the Freedom House to be "not free". All media is state-owned; private journalists are often captured and attacked. Furthermore, turnout is below 20%, in part due to our government's lack of state-run education available to citizens. There are no term limits, and there is only 1 major party - until 2013, every single legislator was from this party. Due to our strategic location by the Indian ocean and Red sea, most countries do not try to pressure us to change our electoral system, and instead, try to strengthen diplomatic ties with us. This has allowed us to keep our president, Ismail Omar Guelleh, in office for over 20 years. Djibouti would oppose any resolution that infringes on the sovereignty of a country's own elections. We would also support any resolution discouraging foreign intervention in election processes, as we do fear that in the case of foreign involvement, the sanctity of our current government would be at stake.

Djibouti's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Djibouti has tremendous potential for energy systems development. On one hand, only 60% of Djiboutians have access to electricity. This is in part due to our outdated electrical infrastructure - only 57% of produced electricity ends up reaching consumers. Also, we have to import 65% of our energy from Ethiopia. However, these numbers could be vastly improved. For example, Djibouti has access to abundant solar radiation and has many opportunities to harvest geothermal energy. Estimates are that our energy production could be tripled through investment in sustainable energy infrastructure. Our government has begun to do this through Project 2035, launched by the government and funded in part by the world bank. We would support any resolutions that encourage the use of these sustainable energy sources or provide aid to developing nations to expand this sustainability initiative.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Egypt

Delegates: Nicholas Gonzales, Alison Agena

School: Archbishop Hannan High School

Egypt's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The country of Egypt has struggled to rebuild its economy following many years of unrest since the recent uprising in 2011. According to the Voa News, one in three Egyptians live in poverty, 32.5 percent live under the poverty line in 2018, and 6.2 percent live in extreme poverty. However, with recent economic reforms under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi have waged war on poverty and poor living conditions. Many of Egypt's future strategy goals are to ensure the protection and support of the country's "most marginalized and vulnerable groups." In 2016, the Egyptian government received a loan from the International Monetary Fund and in recent years Egypt's tourism level improved by 16.5 percent, higher than the global average. This tremendous growth rate of tourism will benefit the war against poverty. There are two sectors of the Egyptian healthcare system: public and private. Due to lack of funding and poor staffing levels, the public healthcare system is considered of low standards with a low government investment. Private healthcare facilities are of high standards.

Egypt's Stance on Election Security

There is much concern and doubt amongst the public on whether the elections in Egypt are free and fair. The current President, however, has been quoted encouraging Egyptians to vote, "Choose whoever you want to vote. In 2005 there was less than 25 percent of voter turnout and election observers alleged government interference.

Egypt's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Egypt lacks diversity in energy and there is a growing demand for energy because of its increasing population growth and recent blackouts in the summer while trying to reduce the country's contributions to climate change. Hydropower (from waterways such as the Nile) is a necessary form of energy for the country. Egypt receives hydroelectric generation from dams, the Aswan High Dam for example. Also, Egypt has a high solar availability due to its hot desert climate and its deserts that make up about 60 percent of Egypt. Egypt has universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuels. According to the Sustainable Energy for All program, 90 percent of Egypt's primary energy consumption comes from fossil fuels. By using the region's renewable energy sources, Egypt plans to overcome the energy crisis. Through proper energy storage technology and a grid extension the conflict with energy in Egypt can be eradicated.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Egypt

Delegates: Alison Agena, Nicholas Gonzales

School: Archbishop Hannan High School

Egypt's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The country of Egypt has struggled to rebuild its economy following many years of unrest since the recent uprising in 2011. According to the Voa News, one in three Egyptians live in poverty, 32.5 percent live under the poverty line in 2018, and 6.2 percent live in extreme poverty. However, with recent economic reforms under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi have waged war on poverty and poor living conditions. Many of Egypt's future strategy goals are to ensure the protection and support of the country's "most marginalized and vulnerable groups." In 2016, the Egyptian government received a loan from the International Monetary Fund and in recent years Egypt's tourism level improved by 16.5 percent, higher than the global average. This tremendous growth rate of tourism will benefit the war against poverty. There are two sectors of the Egyptian healthcare system: public and private. Due to lack of funding and poor staffing levels, the public healthcare system is considered of low standards with a low government investment. Private healthcare facilities are of high standards.

Egypt's Stance on Election Security

There is much concern and doubt amongst the public on whether the elections in Egypt are free and fair. The current President, however, has been quoted encouraging Egyptians to vote, "Choose whoever you want to vote. In 2005 there was less than 25 percent of voter turnout and election observers alleged government interference.

Egypt's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Egypt lacks diversity in energy and there is a growing demand for energy because of its increasing population growth and recent blackouts in the summer while trying to reduce the country's contributions to climate change. Hydropower (from waterways such as the Nile) is a necessary form of energy for the country. Egypt receives hydroelectric generation from dams, the Aswan High Dam for example. Also, Egypt has a high solar availability due to its hot desert climate and its deserts that make up about 60 percent of Egypt. Egypt has universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuels. According to the Sustainable Energy for All program, 90 percent of Egypt's primary energy consumption comes from fossil fuels. By using the region's renewable energy sources, Egypt plans to overcome the energy crisis. Through proper energy storage technology and a grid extension the conflict with energy in Egypt can be eradicated.

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Entry:214

General Assembly Position Statement

Estonia

Delegates: Zoe Heim, Ben So

School: Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Estonia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Estonia does not face immediate danger of poverty or lack of healthcare. However, Estonia believes that countries should work together for the common good such as increasing the availability of healthcare and reducing poverty. We believe there are necessary steps that need to be taken in order to accomplish these things, even if they require money from ourselves and other countries. Especially because of the fact that Estonia is not in immediate danger of poverty or of lacking health care, we have no problem putting forward money to help other countries that are in need of it. We have found that improving women's healthcare, especially prenatal care, can positively affect infant mortality rates in countries that do not have the same access to healthcare that Estonia does. This is why Estonia aims to help other countries that happen to have high rates of infant mortality to get the help that they need. Multiple studies have shown that care before and during pregnancy will improve the mother and child's health. For Example, In the United States, the infant mortality rate over the last century has improved, and over 75% of women enter prenatal care in their first trimester. We believe a similar effect on infant mortality rates can take place in other countries if prenatal care is more widely accessible.

Estonia's Stance on Election Security

Estonia has been increasingly more "e-minded" and has been the world leader in electronic voting. Because any citizen can cast their ballot from their computer, it has saved Estonia 11, 000 working days each election year. We have faced very many challenges along the journey of developing an online voting system, such as being a victim of the 2007 cyber war, but, we have continued innovation and development to ensure the security of our elections. For Example, we have been using encryption, digital signatures, and government-issued smart cards to ensure that our elections are secure. Even though citizens can vote multiple times online, everything is tied to a citizen's online identity and only their last vote counts. We believe that digitizing voting can positively impact election security because it has worked here in Estonia. Especially during this global pandemic, embracing technology to do remote voting is important.

Estonia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Estonia currently has a plan to make energy independent and sustainable by 2050. We plan to completely reorganize our energy system and abandon the usage of unsustainable fossil fuels. Inplace of fossil fuels we plan to be using many different forms of energy like wind, solar, and biofuels. Estonia believes that converting to sustainable forms of energy is one of the most important steps countries can take into ensuring that the future generations can have a good quality of life on earth and that the earth's many different ecosystems can be preserved. For example, coral reefs, mountains, and arctic ecosystems may not survive if the Earth's temperature continues to rise. Because these plants and animals cannot protect themselves, we believe it is our job to protect them and preserve their environment. We believe plans like switching to sustainable energy will accomplish this goal and is the solution to slowing climate change.

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Entry:213

General Assembly Position Statement

Eswatini

Delegates: Eva Robichaux, Ella Robichaux

School: University Lab School

Eswatini's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The country of Eswatini struggles greatly with poverty and the disease HIV. More than 58.9% of the population lives below the poverty line, practically living on one US dollar and ninety cents a day. A vast majority of the adults are affected by HIV, 35% of women and 19% of men. 59% of the children in Eswatini lose their parents to HIV. Due to the increased cost of HIV drugs, Eswatini people are unable to seek treatment. Many healthcare organizations have provided some aid to Eswatini, but a larger impact can be made. Eswatini needs the costs of HIV treatment to be lowered so that the people who have HIV below the poverty line can gain access to treatment.

Eswatini has lost well over 70% of their population to HIV. But, many healthcare organizations have jumped in to help this once-thriving country. The main objective of most organizations is to lower the rates of HIV infections and transmission. But, many of the organizations expect the Swazi to be responsible for the costs of testing and treatment. The costs are so high that many of us either don't get treated or we seek our own private treatment. We have been struggling with the HIV epidemic since the 1980s, which peaked in 2016 and 2017. Many of our people have been living with the disease for so long, not even knowing it because they cannot afford to test. We have increased their expanded antiretroviral therapy, but, only about 1% of our country is enrolled and has stayed in the treatment. This country has been suffering too long from the high costs of HIV treatment.

Eswatini is allowing all HIV treatment available to them at a low cost. Later on, when much more of the country is treated and healthy again, the country will pay back the organizations that have helped them in the past with the treatments.

Eswatini's Stance on Election Security

Eswatini is a country plagued by corruption within its government. It has the three traditional branches of government, with the legislative branch consisting of a House and a Senate. However, the executive branch, run by the King and Queen Mother, holds nearly all the power of the country. The King of Eswatini is essentially running an autocratic regime, abusing the power of the monarchy to finance his lavish lifestyle, with little regard for his subjects.

We suffer from our own internal election interference. Political parties are essentially non-existent due to the fear of victimization and imprisonment if you are in opposition to the King. The King of Eswatini dictates who is in his cabinet and usually places his friends and allies in high positions of power. Our government does not punish or imprison members of the government that commit abuses of power. The King of Eswatini views the country as his own personal property, given to him by God. Yet, our people of Eswatini still accept this system of government because of strong cultural ties to the monarchy.

In an effort to combat the corruption of the Eswatini government, the UN can contribute financial and knowledge-based resources to ensure the installation of democratic elections. It can aid in the revision of the Eswatini constitution to allow for the existence and practice of political parties and human rights. It can also contribute to the non-governmental organizations already present in Eswatini that are dedicated to implementing democratic practices.

Eswatini's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Eswatini's sources of energy rely too heavily on products that produce a large carbon footprint. Many of their energy sources include traditional biomass, such as firewood, wood-waste from forests, and bagasse from sugar industries. Recently, more renewable energy sources have been introduced, such as hydropower from water, solar, and wind power. A benefit to utilizing biomass as a source of energy is the repurposing of the byproducts of sugarcane production (bagasse) to produce electricity. It is also very cheap. Another benefit of

using renewable energy, such as hydropower and solar, is the reduction of the country's carbon footprint. A disadvantage to using biomass as a source of energy is the destruction of the farming lands used to produce sugarcane. Sugarcane is grown as a monoculture in Eswatini, meaning farmland used to cultivate it grows only sugarcane. Monocultures, when exposed to infection or rising temperatures, can easily be wiped out. With the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events, such as drought, Eswatini is vulnerable to depletion of its sugarcane reserves, and therefore, one of its primary energy sources.

Eswatini has demonstrated its efforts to combat climate change by developing a national climate change policy. Extreme weather patterns have plagued the country in the form of droughts and high temperatures, which is particularly detrimental to farming communities. Eswatini deviates from the UN's stance on energy because of its monoculture of sugarcane and mining practices. Eswatini has received multiple complaints from the communities around the Maloma mine due to increased environmental pollution. Eswatini derives 16% of its energy from hydroelectricity, derived from damming water sources that originate in the mountains of the country. Solar power is another source of renewable energy but is not a major player in Eswatini's energy lineup.

In order to make energy more accessible to its residents and to come into accordance with the UN renewability, Eswatini should invest more in solar energy avenues. Given only 2% of rural households have access to electricity, Eswatini should partner with different solar companies or entities in order to install solar panels in these communities. The development of the solar energy field will also open up more jobs for the people of Eswatini. It will also decrease Eswatini's reliance on other countries for energy.

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Entry: 188

General Assembly Position Statement

France

Delegates: Jillian Augustine, Olivia Mack

School: St. Joseph's Academy

France's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Of all the countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), France is one of only five whose poverty rate has declined over the past 20 years. France has been able to achieve this through changes in its labor market, namely: reducing the gender wage gap, minimizing structural unemployment among minimally educated citizens and focusing income relief efforts on the lower middle class and close-to-retirement citizens. According to the OECD, France has a Gini Coefficient of 0.301, putting it just above Switzerland and below Canada in income distribution. France has a universal healthcare system that all citizens are required to enroll in and believes healthcare is a responsibility of every government to provide for its citizens. In France, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights determines government action regarding implementation and financing of the healthcare system. Several other agencies oversee product safety, manufacturing, marketing, planning, hospital admissions, healthcare data, patient rights, medical technology, certifying doctors, expanding the system and scanning for possible health threats. COVID-19 gave France, as well as the rest of the world, a slap in the face, and when met with skyrocketing cases and protests violating social distancing procedures, France depended upon its advanced healthcare system and raised healthcare wages. France would support a strategic, nonconventional approach to minimizing wealth inequality and imposing a mandatory universal healthcare system.

France's Stance on Election Security

France studied the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election and used that fiasco to better prepare for its own presidential election in 2017. While the US left election management up to individual states, France was able to nationally manage its election and minimize foreign interference through a uniformed and carefully monitored election. Similarly to the US's 2016 election, soon before the actual election took place, a candidate's emails were leaked, but in France, it was in favor of the candidate who was hacked. This trend and others were analyzed and experts concluded that the source of election interference in France in 2017 was likely the same source that gave the US trouble the previous year. France isn't just concerned with cybersecurity in election hacking, but the increased ties between actual violence and terrorism influencing and threatening elections. That same 2017 election harbored tight physical security after an attack on the capitol the week before polls opened. In France, both cyber-security and physical security have never been far from the minds of politicians or voters for the past 6 years of vicious terrorism, and France would support any resolution that increases election security in both aspects.

France's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

France relies mostly on imports for energy because of its lack of natural resources, like oil and gas, that are traditionally used for energy. To compensate for this lack of fossil fuels, France has developed its other forms of energy to be superb and is second only to the United States in the production of nuclear energy. About 74% of France's energy is nuclear, about 15 is renewable (Solar, Biomass and waste, Wind and Hydro Electricity) and the remaining 11% comes from fossil fuels. While France mostly produces nuclear and renewable energy, it is the second-largest consumer of energy in Europe, and a large portion of that energy consumption is natural gas used to power residential homes. France has been actively working for quite some time to minimize fossil fuels produced and consumed and begin to rely more on renewable energy. So far, France already produces more hydroelectricity than fossil fuels and plans to continue to increase its production. France would support any feasible way to transition the UN, over a period of time, to renewable energy and would be more than willing to supply nuclear energy to even more countries than it already does.

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Entry:206

General Assembly Position Statement

Germany

Delegates: Brinley Pethe, Lily Coats

School: Haynes Academy

Germany's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Germany has the oldest universal healthcare system in the world, and it's been working for over 100 years. Germany's government couldn't imagine millions of people not having access to healthcare, so to ensure that our system is working well, it is continuously reformed. The Federal joint committee (G-BA) is the highest decision making body in the self governing healthcare system. To pay for this care, citizens pay about 8% of their paycheck to non-profit insurance companies of their choice. If one makes at least 72k a year, they can opt out of universal health care and switch to a private company; because of this, 100% of Germans have healthcare. All Germans have access to free medical treatment, funerals, and sickness benefits. Unfortunately, Germany's poverty rate has been rising, since the division of our regions severely divides the upper class from the lower class. We have taken efforts to minimize this, but they regrettably haven't been extremely successful. In 2015, a country wide minimum wage was established, and it has increased ever since.

Germany's Stance on Election Security

Germany strongly believes that strong election security to guard against foreign interference is needed. We believe that we were the victim of cyber attacks from Russia which gathered political information. Additionally, Russia published a few false news items that, in 2017, the German government feared would affect voters' actions. Every nation's voting equipment, election office networks, and voter databases must be protected from any type of cyber attack; foreign nations have no place in another country's elections.

Germany's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Germany strongly believes that sustainable energy needs to be further explored as we stray from nonrenewable sources and that energy should be accessible to all. Our country has a plan called Energiewende, which seeks to utilize renewable energy sources and discontinue the use of nuclear energy by 2022. This would transform our energy system, making it low-carbon and more efficient. In 2016, 330,000 German homes were left without electricity because of an inability to pay bills. This is, of course, much higher than the ideal number: zero. However, it is a decrease of homes from previous years, and electricity will eventually reach every home.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Greece

Delegates: Katherine Fivgas, Katherine Fivgas

School: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Greece's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Greece is a developed country, but some of these issues still prevail due to its severe financial crisis. Sadly, the healthcare systems established in my country are not very efficient; citizens on remote islands have to travel to the mainland to receive care, private doctors will refuse to see patients in public clinics, which limits the access to medical care, and the financial crisis has led to lacking resources and cuts on essential personnel. Poverty has affected healthcare in Greece quite significantly. With the entire nation and government lacking in funds, healthcare has gone down a few care levels. Citizens cannot afford to go to the doctor, and the government cannot afford the resources necessary to provide efficient healthcare.

Greece's Stance on Election Security

Greece does not have a history of interfering in foreign elections. Greece has been a victim of foreign interference, but allies were not involved. Greece did benefit from election interference, but it served some repercussions to the country. The UN can offer more services to supervise and protect elections by placing more restrictions on who is allowed to work with ballots and help organize elections, by putting more military in the area to protect those voting and the people living in that area, and by providing technology for voting that is strong against hacking.

Greece's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Greece is quite well in line with the UNs stance on energy. Greece has many sustainable energy resources- 12% of Greece's energy comes from hydroelectric power plants, and around 50% of Greece's overall energy is provided from sustainable sources. Energy programs Greece has in place are developments in wind and water power while limiting the amount of gas energy used. Greece has benefitted from renewable energy because it helps their environment by bringing in tourists, and it uses resources it is surrounded by, therefore not costing too much money. Greece does face some restrictions on making energy affordable and accessible because of the many small, faraway islands it must provide power to; the financial crisis is also limiting the amount of money that can be spent on bettering the energy programs.

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Entry: 168

General Assembly Position Statement

Guatemala

Delegates: Jemma Wood, Amelia Brooks

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Guatemala's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Representing the Republic of Guatemala, our country is in dire need of assistance as we face issues of healthcare and poverty that plague our nation's very soul; people are crying out for help as their food, healthcare, and basic resources are being taken away from the very leaders who are supposed to help them. 47% of children under the age of 5 suffer from the effects and consequences of little to no food security. 8% of poverty-stricken girls are pregnant between the ages of 15-19, which is double the global average. Guatemala's healthcare system only spends an average of \$97 per person versus the world's average of \$5,600 per person, causing us to rank 78th in global healthcare. The system is not only underfunded, but also disproportionately accessible, as 80% of the doctors are in the capital, yet 50% of the population live in the rural, northern areas of the country. Guatemala has been facing corruption with our leaders in power since 1821, when the nation was founded; the lack of election and voter security helps maintain our rigged democracy, which we can no longer afford to uphold. 74.5% of citizens over 15 is literate, meaning we have the lowest literacy rate is the lowest in Central America. The legal voting age is 18 in Guatemala, and registration is required for people of age and literate. With the lowest literacy rate and 22 different spoken languages, Guatemalan's indigenous voices are downplayed and suppressed. Guatemala is fighting to fix the corruption, the poverty, and our healthcare system.

Guatemala's Stance on Election Security

Guatemala is passionate about improving election security as much as we can. Around the world, fraudulent elections plague and fracture democracies making it a critical to improve elections security. Guatemala has a rough history regarding corruption and failed democracy, meaning it is imperative that we work to improve our security every chance we get. Guatemala's past leaders have been flawed and dishonest, but as we work towards increasing our election security we hope to strive for a more communicative government. The system we currently have in place can be improved by removing literacy requirements and allowing military suffrage. Voter security and vote suppression coincide because voter suppression allows government officials that our people do not truly want in office. Increasing voter security in Guatemala will remove outside bribery and deals and ensure the elected officials were elected only through democracy. Guatemala strives to enhance our voter security system and to reform the methods currently set in place. Everyday, we work to ensure our democracy is direct and forthright.

Guatemala's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Guatemala is the largest energy exporter in Central America, and the energy sector is the main area of foreign direct investment. One of Guatemala's main priorities is providing clean, renewable energy to its citizens. Currently 95% of the population has easy access to electricity. The Rural Electrification Plan has been promoting national electricity coverage especially to rural indigenous communities for decades. The Guatemalan Government has been investing over \$50 million through this plan to rural homes, providing power to tens of thousands of households. Currently 65% of Guatemala's energy is renewable, with the main source being hydropower. This hydropower has improved living conditions for over 1.3 million inhabitants by guaranteeing stable access to sustainable energy, and Guatemala is making strong efforts to drop the price of this electricity by 20% in the next few years. Guatemala's geographic location creates an industry for geothermal energy, from the tapping of its volcanic chain. With the country's energy sector growing rapidly and an expected increase, thousands of jobs are created, to further improve the livelihoods of the Guatemalan people.

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Entry:212

General Assembly Position Statement

Honduras

Delegates: Savannah Cousins, Brooke Richards

School: Mandeville High School

Honduras's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Honduras is the second poorest country in Central America, with 48.3% of the population living under the poverty line (\$3.20/day). This is mainly due to gang violence, which has been affecting the economic, social, and political sectors of the country. Over 200,000 children stopped attending school between 2014-2017 because of the focus on survival rather than education, and also because of the displacement of teachers. Those who live in rural areas usually engage in agriculture, and they don't have access to many resources like clean water or electricity. The country's average middle class is only 11%, and these people live exclusively in urban areas. Honduras suffers from vast income disparity since the rural Hondurans don't have access to better opportunities, education, or living conditions. Unemployment and underemployment rates reached 40% in 2015. Honduras supports measures that reduce crime rates and increase job opportunities, while providing a stable and livable wage.

Honduras's Stance on Election Security

Honduras is not leading in the world when it comes to election security. Before it became a democracy in 1982, its elections of different military leaders were accompanied by cycles of violence, corruption, and unrest. There was a coup in 2009, and the elections that followed were coupled with protests, riots, and military violence. There has been visible fraud present in the elections in the past years, especially in the 2013 and 2017 election where Juan Orlando Hernandez was elected both times. In the latest election, it was found that a large sum out of a stolen \$300 million dollars by a social security institution was used for Hernandez's campaign. However, there are promising signs for Honduras' future: even though there was corruption present in the latest election, the general public showed support for the anti-corruption candidate, Nasralla, who lost to Hernandez. If the public is showing less tolerance for fraud and corruption in the government, the next election is thought to carry on this trend and possibly elect an anti-corruption candidate. The United Nations can help by securing voter boxes, especially in rural areas, and keeping a strict watch over the executive branch while votes are cast and counted.

Honduras's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Honduras, one of the poorest and least developed countries in Central America, faces problems that are associated with energy insecurity. With about half of the 9.7 million inhabitants living in rural areas, 54% of those people completely lack electricity. Energy is not a profitable industry in Honduras, with private sectors unable to compete with the government-owned, monopolized energy company, ECEE. However, Honduras is trying to make sustainability efforts where it can: reduction of farming practices like slash-and-burn and improved stoves are being implemented as much as they can. Firewood is used as the main source of energy in more than 88% of rural households and 29% of urban households, but overuse of this resource has led to health issues and more trees being deforested than replanted. Honduras has more sustainable power plants like hydroelectric and biomass plants (which cost a lot more) rather than thermal power plants, and solar power has become a cost-efficient industry that has been booming in the last few years. The lack of available electricity is exacerbated and continued by the lack of funding present in sustainability projects. Additionally, any efforts made to improve electricity standards are centered in urban areas, leaving the rural population without a way to access these projects due to a lack of money. With increased funding, planning, and efforts, access to sustainable energy would not be too far off in the future to Hondurans.

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Entry: 182

General Assembly Position Statement

Iceland

Delegates: Mason Osborn, Amanda Hux

School: Lafayette High School

Iceland's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Poverty is relatively low compared to other countries in the region

More than the poverty rate, unemployment is also low

Everyone has access to the same form of healthcare, and healthcare is very cost beneficial to the citizens

Iceland's Stance on Election Security

Want to be independent without any foreign meddling

The council usually upholds the result unless there is clear evidence

Establish a neutral council to oversee elections security

If the election deems the election results official and people try to contest, the UN peacekeepers can support the councils decision

Iceland's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

The majority of energy that is used is clean energy because we prioritize the environment

However for transportation, we do use fossil fuels.

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Entry:201

General Assembly Position Statement

India

Delegates: Harshita Pattam, Madeline Marsalone

School: Haynes Academy

India's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

India is, sadly, on the less fortunate side when it comes to healthcare access. According to the CIA World Factbook, almost 21.9% of the Indian population lives below the poverty line. That's almost 300 million people. Because India is so densely packed, there is practically no space for people to move around. People tend to cluster in the urban areas because they need access to the bare minimum, something that the people in the rural communities barely even have access to. 38.9% of the rural communities don't have access to improved sanitation facilities. A luxury in the United States and Europe taken for granted isn't provided for these people. On top of that, it must be remembered that their population is massive; 38.9% covers a whole lot more people than you would expect it to. In the matters of COVID, India is struggling immensely to slow the spread. There have been almost 10.8 million confirmed cases, but due to high population density, loads of people probably haven't been tested. 155,000 people have died from it, but the number could be even higher if they weren't previously diagnosed with COVID. Disease spreads rapidly in India, especially airborne and waterborne diseases. 9% of the rural and 4% of the urban populations don't even have access to clean water. Because of COVID and lack of enough hospitals, children are being forced to not get vaccinated, raising the rates of all the other forgotten diseases. As for the poverty concern, it has struck almost every single area in India. With poverty comes to forced working of children, which is lowering the literacy rate. Only 74.4% of the population is literate. Knowledge about birth control and contraception is also lower as there's only a 53.3% prevalence rate for contraceptives. This lack as well as the lack of proper hospitals in more rural areas has made the IMF a staggering 145 deaths/1,000 live births. The healthcare and poverty crisis has struck India harshly. We hope to work with some more blessed countries in order to hasten the COVID-19 relief and put an end to country-wide poverty.

India's Stance on Election Security

Rather than having issues with other countries interfering with the elections, most of the issues come from within. To start off, the president and vice president are elected by the Lok Sabha (Parliament) members. There is no direct vote involving the people; rather, these parliamentary members are supposed to vote based on the people. However, things don't always work like that. Bribery and corruption is a very prevalent issue in India, and it's clearly evident in the elections. On top of that, they can run as many times as they wish because there is no limit. The idea of checks and balances seems to simply not exist. The Prime Minister, the person who basically has all the power in India, is literally appointed by the President; There is NO vote. Again, there is no term limit. The current PM has been in office since 2014. As for the actual elections, there have been concerns about legitimacy, as paper ballots were used for the longest. It was highly unsuccessful as booth capturing was an issue, a practice where party loyalists would capture a booth and stuff it with pre-filled ballots in favor of their candidate. They have since moved into online booth voting, but it comes with its own concerns. In 2019, a highly knowledgeable expert on electronic voting accused Modi of fabricating the votes. He went on to claim a man had been murdered because he was going to expose the federal government. The man said that the booths could be wirelessly hacked and that Reliance Communications had done it, a business associated with the Ambani name. Ambani is a powerful businessman who probably has more people than we know deep in his pockets. He made loads of claims but was eventually shut down by the government and news company, eternally labelled a fraud. India does not face interference from outside enemies, but it seems there are far worse enemies on the inside. We hope to combat this issue and provide a safer, more secure means of voting.

India's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

The focus on energy accessibility and sustainability in India has increased exponentially in recent years with a goal to establish policies to lead to the deployment of 100 gigawatts of power solar power by 2022. Much in line with the UN's stance that every country should have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, Prime Minister Modi has committed to increased reliance on clean and renewable energy sources and made India the world's largest contender for renewable power that no longer requires fossil-fuel backup. The least sustainable of India's energy sources persists to be expensive coal and oil imports, whereas domestically

generated clean energy has proven to be very sustainable and cost-friendly. Biofuel is still an indeterminable factor as India has not yet solidified a reliable formula to produce biofuel. There is an imbalance in biofuel sources and the pricing of ethanol to make biofuel, so India is still mainly reliable on other clean sources. In 2019, leaders set up a collaborative effort to set up 10,000 microgrids in Indian villages by 2026 to provide clean, renewable electricity to the population. Accessibility to electricity in India has almost doubled, increasing from 43% to 85% over 5 years. In comparison to more developed countries, attaining these advances hasn't been as costly because there is no displacement of a previous, less advanced technology. When providing access to energy to areas that have never had it before, India is able to jump right to providing cleaner energy. The prevalence of renewable energy sources in India has led to a cleaner environment and has opened up many job opportunities for its citizens. If India succeeds with their 2022 goal, as many as 1 million full-time jobs will be created. It is estimated that 70,000 jobs have already been created by the demand for energy sustainability. Still, one of the biggest obstacles still stands to be the high costs of initiating renewable energy sources and providing it to the population.

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Entry: 179

General Assembly Position Statement

Isreal

Delegates: mihir babbar,

School: mandeville high school

Isreal's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Israel became the second to last country to provide health care to all of its citizens, in a group of the developed countries of the world. Their healthcare is funded by a health tax and other government funding. The poverty rate in Israel has around 469,400 families meaning 1.8 million people were under the poverty line in 2018, around 841,000 are children. The percentage rate of poverty is 44.2% of the population.

Isreal's Stance on Election Security

Israel has an amazing tech and security sector, yet very outdated laws when it comes to election security. They try to stop any political disinformation and propaganda but there are still many threats that lurk to disrupt the Israeli election.

Isreal's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Israel is currently going thorough a shift from a oil dependent economy to a more natural gas based economy getting rid of oil and coal. There is an agreement with Egypt that allows Israel to purchase natural gas from them. Electrical production markets are also being opened, renewable energy power plants, which are used for energy conservation.

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Entry:194

General Assembly Position Statement

Italy

Delegates: Josh Blake,

School: Lakeshore High School

Italy's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Italy has universal healthcare which is federally provided and it prioritizes national health policies. The country takes care to provide healthcare for all of its citizens and legal foreign residents, with its constitution specifying that the central government should be responsible for such provisions. While Italy is in serious debt and has various problems with poverty, the government is taking strides to prevent this. Italian laws and policies have been proposed in order to aid citizens who are poverty-stricken, and the country has been practicing endeavors to reduce its worrying poverty numbers

Italy's Stance on Election Security

Italy has not had many problems with election security in the past, and doesn't have any particular need for its improvement. Claims have been made about electoral fraud in the past, but these have been easily disproved with evidence. However, as Italy is a UN member nation, it upholds Chapter 7 in the OSAGI office, which ensures elections will be observed in order to sustain fairness between all parties, genders, and races in elections. It also puts in place protections against election fraud.

Italy's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

While the country itself has not been leading any major movements in improving energy accessibility and sustainability, Italy is contributing to sustainable development, with almost 50% of its energy coming from sustainable sources in recent years. Solutions to the growing economic and environmental crises faced by the world are relatively high on the political agenda of Italy, and it is on a path that is contributing to the identification of possible helpful methods of energy accessibility. A course of action is being laid out in order to build an infrastructure of sustainable energy reliance for the future of Italy, and the country is moving towards accessible energy sources that can sustain its needs

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General Assembly Position Statement

Kazakhstan

Delegates: Jack Appleton, Joey Blanchard

School: Catholic High School

Kazakhstan's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Kazakhstan's healthcare system is very lacking, and the citizens are at a high risk of health complications due to poor environmental conditions, especially in the polluted Aral Sea region. The Soviet-inspired healthcare system lacks funding, personnel, and equipment, and nuclear weapons testing has poisoned many Kazakhs and their children. Life expectancy at birth in Kazakhstan is 148th in the world. Kazakhstan needs international assistance if it hopes to develop a successful healthcare system soon.

Kazakhstan's Stance on Election Security

Kazakhstan has struggled with election security and fairness in the past and remains committed to ensuring the integrity of the power placed in the people through the vote. Kazakhstan strives to move past the shroud of authoritarianism left by the legacy of Soviet tyranny and bring the power back to the people as the movement truly intended, and encourages other nations to do the same for the betterment of their people.

Kazakhstan's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Although Kazakhstan has the largest Uranium deposits in the world, the nation is falling far behind in utilizing nuclear power. Kazakhstan needs to develop clean and efficient energy, capability of serving the needs of the entire nation, while also mitigating the severe environmental pollution which have been rife since the Soviet-era. Clean and responsible mining of fuels will ensure that Kazakhstan maintains a clean environment as well as affordable energy. Kazakhstan also encourages other countries to follow in its footsteps and embrace clean energy, especially nuclear.

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Entry: 187

General Assembly Position Statement

Kenya

Delegates: Havilland Forbes,

School: Saint Joseph's Academy

Kenya's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

43% of Kenya's population lives in poverty, and issues such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria challenge these citizens. Kenya's healthcare system is consisted of several systems including public, private and faith based, and NGO. Key issues within Kenya's healthcare system are limited access to health care facilities, lack of health workers, and poor infrastructure. Unfortunately, Kenya's healthcare system is a system where people are able to become insured; however, exorbitant fees and bills pushes citizens into poverty.

Kenya's Stance on Election Security

In the 2017 presidential election, the Supreme Court invalidated the initial election due to the opposition leader Raila Odinga accusations of fraud and questioning its constitutionality. The court explained that the commission in charge of the election "failed, neglected, or refused to conduct the presidential election in a manner consistent with the dictates of the Constitution." (de Freytas-Tamura, Kimiko). The opposition leader claimed hackers used the identity of a murdered official to break into the servers.

Kenya's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Kenya has one of the most developed energy sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya's main use of electricity consists of thermal, hydroelectric, and other renewables. Households with electricity has almost doubled in 5 years. The Kenyan Government proposed a program, Vision 2030, to further develop Kenya as a middle-income country.

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Entry: 198

General Assembly Position Statement

Kyrgyzstan

Delegates: Phillip Dinh, Paul Yeon

School: Haynes Advanced Academy

Kyrgyzstan's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Kyrgyzstan for years has been a fairly poor country compared to other countries. Approximately 32% of the population lives below the poverty line which is \$1.90 a day. To add on to this, 74% of the country's poor live in rural areas.

Kyrgyzstan's reliance on the Soviet's form of economy has led to poor bank infrastructure which makes it difficult for the citizens of Kyrgyzstan to access banks, preventing further economic development.

Kyrgyzstan relies heavily on its agriculture with the agriculture sector making up $\frac{1}{3}$ of the country's GDP; 55% of those that work in agriculture partake in subsistence farming - the practice of farming for personal consumption and the rest is sold. Kyrgyzstan also has gold and coal mines but the country has not taken advantage of these resources.

Kyrgyzstan has a high under-5 mortality rate with 17.5 deaths out of 1,000 children. Kyrgyzstan has a male life expectancy of 70 and a female life expectancy of 76. On June 7th, 2019, the World Bank endorsed a healthcare quality program that would go towards making healthcare in Kyrgyzstan more accessible. Even with the help of this program, Kyrgyzstan still faces major healthcare inefficiencies today.

Kyrgyzstan's Stance on Election Security

Kyrgyzstan has recently taken a proactive approach to election security. The Parliamentary vote-rigging during a 2020 election resulted in widespread protests culminating in the storming of Parliament. Following this, the previous Kyrgyz government largely resigned, while the interim government initiated referendums to create a new presidential system and hold free elections with better security.

These referendums and new elections were considered fair and secure by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The new president is currently working on creating a new constitution that will slowly transition the country away from corruption. In this way, Kyrgyzstan's electoral reform originates largely from within.

Kyrgyzstan, however, is closely associated with Russia, both militarily and economically. Russia has a bad reputation for interfering with elections, and so Kyrgyzstan's association with Russia puts it in doubt.

Kyrgyzstan's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Kyrgyzstan inherited an unsustainable energy model from the Soviet Union. However, it has taken steps to increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy throughout the country. Kyrgyzstan has many mountains and rivers, thus making water power plants an option pursued by the government. This is not purely out of environmentalism but also to decrease the country's reliance on energy imports from countries like China. Given the current tense situation with China, this is only prudent.

In 2008, Kyrgyzstan passed a Law on Renewable Energy. It loosened the renewable energy market to allow for more renewable energy businesses to pop up, especially in water power plants. It also provided guaranteed sale of renewable energy output, thus providing a market with little risk to investors. Still, the country is yet to make full use of water power, and it lacks the tax revenue to always maintain the energy sector, resulting in financial and logistic strains. Therefore, the end result of the renewable energy initiative is yet to be seen.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Latvia

Delegates: Matthew Pellittieri, Molly Compagno

School: Archbishop Hannan High School

Latvia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

We in the Republic of Latvia are a prime example of how poverty affects a healthcare system. Latvia was one of the lowest ranked nations in the EU in terms of healthcare due to our lengthy waiting times, difficulty accessing the latest medicines, price in comparison to the average citizen's income, and geographical distance from the service. Most deaths in Latvia are due to heart attacks, strokes, and cancer. As of 2017, 23.3% of Latvia's population was in poverty and is steadily increasing. If citizens had to forgo three months of their income, 62% would be at risk of falling into poverty. We are the fourth poorest member of the European Union and our health system is very underfunded due to the lack of money coming into our country. We would support any resolution which would allow us to gain the ability to improve our healthcare situation.

Latvia's Stance on Election Security

We in the Republic of Latvia, like our fellow Baltic states, know all too well the impact of foreign interference in our elections. These crimes against democracy, usually carried out by the Russian Federation, inhibit our ability to develop our own identity as a nation, even some thirty years after our departure from the Soviet Union. While Russia has engaged in direct action to alter our elections, such in 2015, the greater issue lies with the Kremlin's efforts to spread disinformation which is disadvantageous not only to our government, but to our people. In early 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic was just beginning, Russia put forth propaganda claiming that the virus had been created in a Latvian lab. Such lies decrease the trust of Latvians in their government and fuel conspiracies which may force leaders of other nations to avoid engaging with our country. Russian media outlets sow discontent in our nation on a regular basis, including with the hacking of a Latvian website on our election day in 2018. We would support any resolution which inhibits the ability of nations, especially the Russian Federation, to damage our democratic processes, as well as the elections of other nations who face similar problems. The Republic of Latvia favors efforts to combat Russian propaganda, increased cybersecurity, and the further examination of this topic so that we may finally be able to escape the long shadow of Russia.

Latvia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

The Republic of Latvia has historically relied on fuelwood for a large portion of its energy. While this is a renewable resource, the process of using this energy source results in unfortunate damage to the environment. We would support resolutions which would allow us to pursue other avenues of providing energy, but we simply cannot abandon the use of fuelwood until alternatives are firmly in place. Further, we have sadly been forced to rely on the Russian Federation for non-renewable sources of energy. This prompts our support of resolutions which would allow us to become as independent of Russia in this field as we are in government and as we hope to be in other aspects of society. In regard to energy accessibility, we have no problems with providing energy to all of our people, and we would support resolutions which seek to bring such energy availability to those nations which have yet to provide energy to all their people. We in the Republic of Latvia have made great strides in energy and will continue to do so to the greatest degree possible for as long we need to.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Liechtenstein

Delegates: David Gutierrez, Seth Daigle

School: Lafayette High School

Liechtenstein's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Liechtenstein believes in and applies the idea of universal healthcare. We also believe that it is an individual's responsibility to get themselves out of poverty, and the government should have little interference.

Liechtenstein's Stance on Election Security

Although Liechtenstein is a constitutional monarchy, we also have a Parliamentary system in which our citizens vote to elect 25 deputies to every four years. As a country, we believe that elections should be kept secure and monitored to ensure that the results of elections reflect the will of the people.

Liechtenstein's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

As a nation with 100% its population having access to electricity, we believe that it is a vital and necessary commodity of the modern world. Efforts should be made to increase the accessibility of this resource around the world. It should also be shared amongst other countries, and power companies should invest their profits into making their energy resources sustainable.

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Entry: 173

General Assembly Position Statement

Mongolia

Delegates: Unmesh Chakravarty, Kenan Imsirovic

School: Haynes Academy

Mongolia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The government of Mongolia mandates free access to primary healthcare for its citizens. However, the physical evidence of primary healthcare services is not entirely evident within its healthcare facilities. Major deficiencies can be found in diagnostic capability, supply of essential medicines, and basic equipment. Although various policies in Mongolia stipulate universal access to primary healthcare, the actual availability of primary healthcare services in health facilities is very low. Furthermore, more than 30% of Mongolia's population is below the poverty line. Through the leadership of the United Nations, Mongolia is open to any remedies out of this predicament, particularly those that provide for the ability for health facilities to service primary healthcare.

Mongolia's Stance on Election Security

Mongolia has had nine parliamentary elections since the abolishment of its former socialist state system. Fortunately, for the past thirty years since a peaceful transition into democracy, Mongolia has developed strong electoral institutions. The government of Mongolia has remained resilient, all while landlocked between the two largest authoritarian countries in the world, Russia and China; however, there is a small lack in transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in its politics, particularly a low representation of women in party leadership positions, low youth voter turnout, and barriers to political participation. Mongolia has a high voter turnout for its elections, with around 60-70% of registered voters. Overall, Mongolia feels rather secure with its elections and electoral procedures.

Mongolia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Mongolia has access to a vast amount of renewable energy resources which boost energy security, reduce pollution, meet global climate commitments, and expand the economy through regional electricity export. The electricity output from Mongolia's solar and wind resources alone could reach up to 15,000 terawatt-hours per year, the equivalent to more than 18 million tonnes of avoided coal. Mongolia's total renewable energy is 2.6 terawatts, and these numbers are expected to grow in the coming decades as Mongolia utilizes the vast solar and wind resources from the Gobi Desert. Hydropower is also another large, renewable sector of Mongolia's energy, providing for about 7% of Mongolia's power capacity and expecting to be 30% by 2030. Mongolia is at a very good standing in terms of energy accessibility and sustainability and is open to sharing its abundant renewable energy resources and electricity with its fellow countries in the United Nations.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Norway

Delegates: Sophia Horridge, Kathy Hu

School: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Norway's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Norway has one of the most successful and efficient healthcare programs in the world. The basis of Norway's success is taxation, which allows healthcare to be available to everyone, including low-income workers, and legal immigrants living in Norway for six months are permitted to Norway's healthcare. Norwegian healthcare is provided by the national government and supervised by the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision and other agencies, but municipalities manage the healthcare system. While \$6647 per person is spent on healthcare, those using healthcare have to pay a maximum of 2040 krone, or around \$210, to receive an "exemption card," granting them free healthcare for the rest of the year. Also, because Norway is a part of the European Economic Area (EAA), whenever Norwegians with the European Health Insurance Card travel or live abroad, they are granted the healthcare benefits attributed to their country. However, residents can choose private insurance instead of the public system, which costs around 508 kroner, or \$56, per month, but is affordable because their jobs cover 91% of the cost.

Though none of Norway's population is below the poverty line, there is a "Qualification Program" instated by the government to assist those without jobs or risk poverty, which in turn, most likely do not have healthcare. This program gives those people the benefits they need and helps train and prepare them for jobs.

Overall, we are open to aiding other countries that are struggling with administering healthcare to their residents and can provide the resources and knowledge needed.

Norway's Stance on Election Security

Norway has implemented new procedures and regulations to ensure election security, such as counting every ballot manually as well as electronically to ensure the results of the parliamentary elections are secure. Votes are also counted both by the municipality and the country- this helps voters feel safe and assured about the decisions they made. The Norwegian Directorate of Elections has overseen adjustments to current routines and updates to technical security measures, such as improving the IT infrastructure for counting ballots. The Constitution and the Representation of the People Act of 2002 regulate the elections while local committees joined with The National Electoral Committee manage the conduct of elections, and although corruption is not a significant problem in Norway, provisions of the penal code criminalizing corrupt acts are always upheld. E-voting trials were held during the elections of 2011 and 2013 but ended due to the fear of voting results being disclosed to the public and the unsuccessful turnout from the elections. The 2013 trial also faced criticism and doubt about voting security, and the entire system had to be rewritten for safety. In addition, problems were expressed, including voting in "uncontrolled environments," and 0.75% of all the voters voting twice, once online and once with a paper ballot.

One of Norway's allies is the United States of America, who is known to interfere with foreign elections and support the groups that promote American views and whose success would benefit the US. Norway is also allied with France and Russia, the two of which also participated in election interference before.

Norway would support any ideas about supervising and protecting elections, such as enlisting the help of IT professionals during online voting or passing laws regarding the interference of other countries.

Norway's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Norway is a leading country in energy use, with 100% of its population having access to electricity, of which around 97% is renewable energy and the other 3% are from fossil fuels and other renewable energy sources. One of Norway's main exports is energy in the European market, including natural gas, petroleum, oil, and renewable energy, and Norway is dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability. Norway's most prominent energy source comes from hydroelectric plants. An example of this is the company Ocean Sun, which creates modules that float on the ocean's surface; this thin and flexible technology is made of silicon and can stand the North Sea's swells and surges. Norway also prioritizes individual electricity use, which is why they equip each home with a meter that accumulates and stores solar energy. If any solar energy goes unused, residents can sell their energy back to companies.

Norway is sustaining energy use by increasing electric cars' availability: we had a goal that by 2017, we would have 50,000 vehicles on the road in two years. We quickly exceeded this goal and now have over 200,000 electric cars in the country.

As fossil fuel use decreases globally, Norway would like to lessen its export of oil and gas and spend more money toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming a low-carbon society. In addition, Norway is open to helping other countries switch their energy source to hydroelectricity, which would help balance supply and demand and ensure electricity security by acting as a backup source of energy for other countries in the market.

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Entry: 170

General Assembly Position Statement

Poland

Delegates: Lauren Gachassin, Maudry Anne Nichols

School: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Poland's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Poland has a somewhat small poverty rate, compared to other countries in the world. As of 2020, 8 out of 10,000 people in Poland are homeless, a relatively small figure compared to other European countries. Poland implemented the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, similar to the USA's food stamp program to combat poverty. Efforts to reduce poverty are in continuation and heavily funded by citizens' taxes. Healthcare in Poland, on the other hand, is relatively similar to other European countries with a public universal healthcare system. Over 91% of Poland citizens are covered by insurance and 71% of citizens reported to be in good health.

Poland's Stance on Election Security

Corruption in elections and politics is a major problem in Poland. Warsaw Business Journal stated that "83% of surveyed Polish citizens think that corruption is a major problem for their country, particularly prevalent among politicians (62 percent) and in the health-care sector (53 percent). A growing number of citizens (57%) is concerned that there is no political will to fight corruption." This shows how Poland citizens know how unfair their politics have been. During the recent election, many other places have called out Poland on their corruption, such as the European Union. Poland's recent election resulted in the victory of the far-right candidate, which has casual social upheaval within the country as many accuse election fraud of being behind the result.

Poland's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Poland's stance on energy accessibility and sustainability is best described as apathetic. The Polish government does not care for renewable energy and other eco-friendly energy sources. Poland has one of the world's biggest coal industries, while also making coal their main source of income. Currently, less than 1% of Poland's energy comes from renewable energy sources, while the other 99% is nonrenewable energy. Poland has some of the highest air pollution rates in all of Europe. However, Poland has recently stated that they want to maintain 100% renewable energy by 2040.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Portugal

Delegates: Anil Cacodcar, Emma Gombos

School: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Portugal's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Though Portugal is a developed country, it is still afflicted with certain issues relating to poverty and healthcare. According to the World Bank, 0.4% of Portugal's population, or about 42,000 citizens—the majority of which are elderly people or children—survives on less than \$1.90 a day. Portugal has one of the world's highest developed healthcare systems. The country offers both private insurance along with an efficient, state-run, single-payer National Health System that covers free healthcare for all citizens and expats. Basic treatment is covered fully—including physician checkups, most generic prescriptions, and minor surgeries—but citizens do incur minor costs for certain specialists and surgeries. Nevertheless, the cost of such treatments is heavily regulated by the Ministry of Health to prevent price gouging and unfair rates. Essential healthcare services are readily available to all Portuguese people, even those in poverty. While public healthcare remains a necessary and beneficial safety net, private healthcare exists as an alternative for those willing to spend a bit more on medical services for better quality. In January of 2014, the country launched a €10 million program focused on educating at-risk groups about healthy eating habits, an important step in acknowledging the impact of poverty on healthcare, as many who live below the poverty line are more likely to be obese or overweight. Additionally, the program also offers mental health resources to the impoverished, an increasingly important issue in Portugal.

Portugal's Stance on Election Security

Within the reasonable extent of global knowledge, neither the Portuguese government nor its citizens have interfered in foreign elections or have plans to do so in the future, as the Portuguese agenda is relatively inconsequential in the grand scheme of international affairs. On the flip side, Portugal has also never been the victim of election interference. However, Portugal is allied with many countries, including the United States and France, that have a history of interference in foreign elections. As a result of the country's small size, Portugal has opted for a unique system for remote voting, where election officials travel to local homes to give and collect ballots. This system has quelled nearly all doubts in election security, bolstering confidence in a strong democratic authority. As more people vote each year, election systems should adapt to process more information and move into the twenty-first century. To ensure that elections remain secure and efficient, Portugal believes that a mix of technology and secure in-person communication should be used for voting. Because Portugal is not a major international power, it stands only to lose much from election interference. Portugal believes that small satellite nations should band together to protect each other in the face of neocolonialism by means of election manipulation. Another way that the U.N. can offer services to protect elections is through managing the spread of misinformation through social media.

Portugal's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Portugal's location on the Iberian Peninsula affords it an excellent vantage point for securing energy commerce, with its Port of Sines serving as one of the most important links between the consumer populations of Europe to the oil-producing states of Africa and South America. Renewable energy comprises 56% of Portugal's energy consumption, as the country aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, striving to harvest 80% of its energy from renewable resources, such as wind farms. Portugal's abundant supply of sunshine and plentiful winds—especially in the Alentejo region—make it an ideal place for renewable energy industries, with Portugal being a net exporter of renewable energy. Due to the efficient and inexpensive nature of wind energy, Portugal's energy prices—once one of the highest in Europe—have appreciably declined, making energy more accessible to citizens. Portugal believes that wind farms—especially those offshore and in sparsely populated areas—are the solution to providing accessible and clean energy. In Portugal, wind farms have given electricity access to rural communities without linkages to the main power grid. Portugal also relies heavily on biofuels and fossil fuels, using about 5,000,000 ktoe of these resources as energy in 2018. However, the consumption of these resources has a negative impact on the world's environment, as they are nonrenewable. Many in Portugal view the proprietorship of energy resources by private companies, such as Energias de Portugal (EDP), as a roadblock to equitable energy access.

Sources

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General Assembly Position Statement

Russia

Delegates: Andrew Meche,

School: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Russia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Russia is a firm believer in a citizen's right to health. Since 1996, the right of a citizen to have healthcare has been enshrined in our constitution. Russia believes that every nation should guarantee its citizens healthcare through the state.

Russia's Stance on Election Security

Russia believes that election security is a top priority- Russia works within itself to ensure all elections are totally not fraudulent, and that President Putin is able to cruise to victory without cheating by his opponents. Russia believes that other nations must find it within themselves to secure their nation's security in their elections.

Russia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Russia longs to sustain the world order as one of the hegemonic powers of OPEC and the oil industry. Russia firmly believes in the long term feasibility and sustainability of coal and oil as energy sources, and believes that as a global community we should endeavor to expand the industries. As a result, we will block all attempts to ban fossil fuels, and will only vote for resolutions to expand them. Russia does, however, have a large source of Hydroelectric power and Nuclear energy, and we would be receptive to limited expansions of such energy sources as the foundation for the world's future solutions to energy issues.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Saudi Arabia

Delegates: Michelle Edavettal, Sophie Powell

School: Lafayette High School

Saudi Arabia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Saudi Arabia is a developed country, yet we still have issues providing affordable and reliable healthcare to all our citizens. Our move towards privatized healthcare is still in its infancy. We are dealing with issues such as finding qualified doctors and keeping costs as low as we can. Healthcare would be out of reach for some with privatized healthcare, with 60% of urban Saudis unable to own their homes outright. But, we have a poverty rate of 12.7, which is the lowest in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia's Stance on Election Security

Saudi Arabia has never had a problem with foreign interference in its elections because we are a monarchy. One of our allies, China, has been tied to the interference of US elections.

Saudi Arabia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Saudi Arabia aligns with the United Nations' stance on energy in that we think every country should have access to affordable, sustainable energy. We are one of the top producers of oil but we wish to slowly start to increase our renewable energy use. Saudi Arabia is located in one of the best places for the mass use of solar energy and we already have plans in place to so that one day solar energy might be our main source of energy. Our deserts give us plenty of space to place as many solar panels as we need. The European Commission Institute for Energy reported 0.3% of the light falling on our deserts could power all of Europe. By 2032, we want to install 41 Gw of solar power capacity. It is hard to make the transfer from using fossil fuels to renewable energy mostly in part that our economy is heavily dependent on oil. Saudi Arabia contains 17% of the known petroleum reserves. The oil and gas sector accounts for around 50% of our GDP.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Singapore

Delegates: Maggie Lai, Emi Monceaux

School: Lafayette High School

Singapore's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Singapore has one of the best healthcare systems in the world, with universal health care coverage. It also spends per capita a fraction of what the United States and other comparable national health care systems spend. Our system relies on three programs: MediShield Life, MediSave, and Medifund. MediShield Life is a mandatory universal basic health insurance for all citizens and permanent residents that protects against large health bills; MediSave is a national savings method that helps to cover out-of-pocket payments that are not covered by MediShield; and MediFund is the government's safety net for patients whose bills remain extensive even after MediSave. While this system does rely on market forces to keep medical spending down, there is also heavy governmental influence--many of our hospitals are public, and the government uses bulk-spending on drugs to keep prices low. Unfortunately, Singapore also has very unequal wealth distribution, despite being one of the most developed countries in the world. We have the world's highest concentration of millionaires, but increasing numbers of elderly people struggle to make ends meet and it is difficult for young people to find entry-level jobs. The government works to alleviate these problems by heavily subsidizing education to make it affordable for low-income families and by extending the eligibility of ComCare, a program which provides assistance to people who are either unemployed or unable to work. The biggest difficulty in pinpointing poverty in Singapore is that there is no defined poverty line, and that poverty often goes unseen. We believe that Singapore, much like the rest of the world, needs to stop ignoring human welfare problems and instead confront issues of poverty, healthcare, and income disparity head-on.

Singapore's Stance on Election Security

Singapore has had a history of conflict with other countries interfering with its governing system, from British colonialism to its brief merge with Malaysia. As such, we stand firmly against foreign intervention in elections--even that of the United Nations. When Singapore gained independence from Great Britain in 1959, it had extremely high unemployment rates and a struggling post-colonial economy. Joining the Federation of Malaysia also did not produce economic growth for our country, and actually resulted in heightened political tensions between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Since separation from Malaysia in 1965, the People's Action Party has molded Singapore into the wealthy and successful country that it is today with minimal foreign intervention. The People's Action Party has remained in power for decades, a clear sign that Singaporeans (who have a nearly 100% voting rate) support the PAP's ability to govern and maintain the welfare of the people, regardless of claims of an unfair electoral system. A country's government should have the ability to govern its people without interference from foreign influences, who cannot prevent bias from entering their perceptions of another country's elections. UN actions to interfere with elections may be in the interest of preventing unfair elections, but they are undeniably connected to the national interests of the countries within the UN and mirror the imperialist sentiments of powerful countries in the Security Council extending their influence into less powerful countries. Singapore would not be as successful as it is today if its elections had been interfered with, and we would like to allow other countries the freedom to have their own governments without unwelcome intervention.

Singapore's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Singapore imports almost all of its energy resources, and despite the small size of the country, it ranks in the top 20% of countries for total energy consumption. Our dependency on other countries to continue exporting energy resources such as oil and natural gas to us is balanced by the fact that we are also one of the world's largest exporters of refined petroleum, with the world's largest bunkering port. We are very reliant on petroleum both as an energy resource and as an export, but we are transitioning towards using more natural gas, with plans to rely exclusively on it by 2024. We also aim to become a regional LNG (liquefied natural gas) trading hub. Although Singapore recognizes the need to transition to renewable resources, solar energy is one of our only cost-effective options and currently makes up a very small portion of our energy use (less than 1 percent), even after significant increases in the numbers of solar panels in the last four years. Finally, we also derive a very small amount of energy from municipal waste through waste-to-energy incineration plants. We hope to increase use of renewable energy sources and natural gas (as an alternative to oil).

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General Assembly Position Statement

Somalia

Delegates: Paola Alarcon, Kavia Mallik

School: Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Somalia's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Civil war and famine have raised mortality rates and poverty. Seventy three percent of the population lives in poverty and on less than two dollars a day. Food insecurity has affected more than two million people. Somalia ranks 6th in maternal mortality rates, 2nd in infant mortality rates, and 233/235 in life expectancy: 55.32 years, and the physician density is 0.02 physicians/ 1000 population. Only 25% of Somali people have access to essential health service. The Somali federal government supports focusing on rebuilding state institutions, improving economic resilience, and reducing poverty. The Somali Ministry of Health supports establishing national health standards with regard to governmental and private healthcare providers, partnered UN agencies and NGOs. There is the goal of free health services to all citizens, including in rural areas.

Somalia's Stance on Election Security

Somalia's president is indirectly elected by the Federal Parliament by two-thirds majority vote, clan-based electoral colleges of 101 delegates vote for each seat in the House of the People, and seats in the Upper House are voted on by state assemblies. In February of 2020, President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo signed legislation in February 2020 giving all citizens the right to vote in parliamentary elections. In September, this direct election plan was scrapped, and President Mohamed and five regional leaders agreed on a revised election procedure based on the 2016 Somali parliamentary election. Tension between different regional groups means that delaying elections to accommodate changes to the electoral process could cause violence and protest from the different groups. Somalia supports efforts to adequately prepare elections with less risk so as to reduce any insecurities in the electoral process and avoid violent responses. Fair, efficient, and secure elections are needed to handle political instability present in Somalia.

Somalia's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

In Somalia, only about 16% of the population has electricity. This is because of the high electricity tariffs, generation losses due to poor infrastructure, shortage of qualified employees, political instability, and many other concerning factors. The most common source of energy that is produced comes from charcoal, especially in the urban areas. In rural areas, the main source of energy produced is firewood. The most common source of energy that is produced is oil and petroleum that is imported from other countries. From 2010 to 2015, the amount of charcoal produced nearly doubled, causing an increase in forest resources, which later led to desertification. Forest used to cover about 60 percent of the land in 1985. In 2001, it only covered about 10 percent of the land. There is an urgent need for alternative energy production sources, such as animal wastes and biofuels from crops, however, not enough significant progress has been made yet.

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General Assembly Position Statement

South Africa

Delegates: Rakshitha Rajasekaran, Faiza Filali

School: Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

South Africa's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

South Africa is considered a developed country in terms of their infrastructure. However, massive social and economic problems cause South Africa to stay on the developing countries list. Although there are good and effective health care programs in South Africa, most are limited to the private sector. Nursing mothers and children under the age of six do receive free healthcare in public hospitals, but that does not excuse all other demographics to be excluded. The biggest connection between poverty and healthcare in South Africa is the vast amount of people who experienced inequality during the apartheid system. After the apartheid system came to an end, reforms and policies were made. However, the changes to the healthcare system were and are not enough to bring South Africa in "developed country" status.

South Africa's Stance on Election Security

South Africa does not have a history of meddling in foreign relations. However, it has most definitely been a victim of such foreign interference (apartheid system). Many of South Africa's allies have been involved in the foreign interference in the hopes of helping South Africa resist and protect themselves against it. The allies neither suffered nor gained from the foreign interference faced by South Africa, although South Africans themselves were greatly impacted by the social and economic consequences. The best way for the UN to give more supervision and protection to South African elections would be to send delegates of their own to oversee election procedures, along with South Africa's standard officers. Therefore, if there is any wrongdoing, there is someone unbiased present in a position to report it.

South Africa's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

South Africa is pushing for more involvement in sustainable energy movements, but since South Africa is still a developing country, it is not fully committed to transferring to solely renewable energy sources. South Africa's primary source of energy is still coal, but biomass as a source of energy also constitutes a small portion of total energy production. Since South Africa is still in its developing stages, there are no revolutionary energy programs started by it. South Africa has not used enough renewable energy in order to determine whether its effects are beneficial or detrimental. Biomass is coming to become more and more a part of energy production, so biofuels seem to be a good alternative to fossil fuels. South Africa's main source of energy, coal, continues to be relied on heavily, but coal as a fossil fuel has harmful effects to the environment. Since the private sector of the country, the wealthy class, is extremely small compared to the public sector, poverty rates are increasing, and healthcare is declining renewable energy is not accessible or affordable to a majority of the population.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Spain

Delegates: Max Ross, Liam Majeau

School: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Spain's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Spain's public healthcare system, the SNS, is of remarkably high quality. It provides free universal healthcare to all permanent residents and citizens of Spain, and when compared to private healthcare, this public system is no better or worse off. The pride Spain takes in its ability to take care of its citizens is indescribable. This does not mean that the Spanish healthcare system is without any shortcomings. Over a quarter of the Spanish population is at risk of poverty, and Spain does have the highest youth unemployment rate in western Europe. Poverty is the worst in rural areas. However, Spain is recovering from the recession of 2008. Nevertheless, no matter how poor a citizen is—thanks to the SNS—free healthcare is still readily available.

Spain's Stance on Election Security

Spain believes in the purity of the democratic process. The people should be allowed to vote for who they want to represent them—someone they believe will act with the country's best interests at heart. Our elections are secure, and no fear of voter fraud or foreign influence has ever been apparent within our country. If our allies have indulged in influencing a foreign election, it would have been without our knowledge. Ultimately, there is nothing that can be done. If a larger country usurps a smaller one, there is a limited amount of responsibility the UN can actually take. In terms of actions, the UN can only raise sanctions or send armies made up of many donations, mainly from the primary countries influencing the elections in the first place.

Spain's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Spain has felt the threat of global warming for the past fifty years, with a twenty-five percent decrease in rainfall since then. This threat has inspired Spain to search for a more renewable, environmentally friendly energy source. Spain now strives to decarbonize our economy in an attempt to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. In order to do this, Spain has begun to use solar power in addition to its already-sizeable wind power sector. On average, the people of Spain do have access to energy, but obviously, not every citizen does. Spain is a world leader in renewable energy, and this is largely due to the fact that if nothing is done in the next fifty years, Spain's average temperature could rise 36.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Spain sees no downside to using renewable energy and feels it is the best way to combat growing changes in the environment as well as more easily provide energy to less developed, poorer parts of the country.

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Entry: 175

General Assembly Position Statement

Switzerland

Delegates: Ellie Pryor, Vivian Dille

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Switzerland's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Switzerland prides herself on her exceptional healthcare system. It is a strong belief of ours that healthcare is a human right, and that no person should be denied good healthcare. It is for this reason that Switzerland supports measures to provide healthcare to those in poverty-stricken countries. We know that, while good healthcare programs are not cheap, it is a small price to pay to ensure all people are given the healthcare they need. We believe healthcare should be an international priority and lack of healthcare should be an international issue.

Switzerland's Stance on Election Security

Democracy is vital part of many nations and as such should be defended and protected by all. Switzerland has seen firsthand the dangers of unsecure elections, and as such supports measures to protect free, secure elections. We believe that measures should be taken to guard against foreign meddling in democratic elections both at home and abroad. We value our own democracy and believe the democracy of other nations should be defended against those who would see it done away with. We believe democracy should be defended on an international level and that democracy should be kept safe.

Switzerland's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Switzerland is deeply concerned with the negative impacts of overusing fossil fuel energy. We have seen the devastation fossil fuels have wrought on the environment and know the cost of such fuel far outweighs the benefits. We realize that fossil fuels have many benefits as a resource, but strongly believe that a shift away from fossil fuels would reveal many benefits for the world as a whole in the future. We know from personal experience that the shift from fossil fuels to renewable and sustainable energy sources may be slow but is still possible. Hydropower and biomass energy are effective, sustainable options that can replace fossil fuels as a major energy source. Switzerland strongly believes that the shift from nonrenewable, non-sustainable resources to ones that are renewable and sustainable should be an international movement.

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Entry: 196

General Assembly Position Statement

Thailand

Delegates: Amanda Meaux, Brooke Peltier

School: Archbishop Hannan High School

Thailand's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Thailand offers free or discounted healthcare to university students except for Saturdays. This is part of the initiative to reduce poverty rates and increase access to healthcare in Thailand starting in 2000. Offering free healthcare to a portion of the population is one way that Thailand can reduce the overall cost of healthcare without making it completely free. By making it free to university students, Thailand helps to make one of the groups of people most commonly in debt, less in debt.

Thailand's Stance on Election Security

Thailand is secure when it comes to elections. The Election Commission in Thailand oversees the electoral process in government elections to ensure security. However, in recent years this system has proven to be less helpful than intended. Recently, accusations of vote-buying and blackmailing have been relatively common.

Thailand's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

To enhance energy security, Thailand is working to reduce the independence on energy produced from natural gas. This has proven to be helpful. In recent years, the energy accessibility rates have gone up significantly. Starting at about 82% in 200, levels of accessibility have risen to almost 100% as of 2018.

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Entry:204

General Assembly Position Statement

The Netherlands

Delegates: Lauren Lacy,

School: Dutchtown High School

The Netherlands's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The Netherlands are not considered a developing country, it's considered a developed country. The Netherlands healthcare system is universal meaning everyone has access to it. This system is managed by the government and supplemented by private insurers. Everyone who lives or works in the Netherlands is required to have a minimum of basic insurance. The average cost of basic health insurance is about €1,400 or \$1,615 annually. 99% of the population is covered by health insurance under this system, but the costs are very very high. Structural reforms account for 8% of the poverty rate. The funds come from taxpayers and those who don't make as much struggle to keep up with payments. The healthcare programs are picky and choosy, some healthcare plans offer some things while what they don't offer you have to pay out of pocket.

As of 2019 the poverty rate in the Netherlands is 13%. The Netherlands' poverty numbers have been on the rise because more and more people have been coming into the country to get away from the war in Syria. The Dutch government has created a couple of programs to aid the refugees such as education programs for refugee children. The Dutch also businesses to hire from the refugee population to help lift them out of poverty. The poverty line in the Netherlands is about €1,040 a month for an individual person and about €1,960 for a family of 4. Anywhere from €1,174 to €2,213 is the bare minimum for necessities of life.

The Netherlands's Stance on Election Security

The Netherlands don't have a history of interfering in other countries' elections. The country tries to have good relations with every country, so hacking and changing election results wouldn't help that. While they had never been a victim of election interference, they've been potential targets and have had a couple of their allies suspect the Russians have tried to alter election results to benefit themselves(Russia). For a while the Dutch had been using EVM(electronic voting machines) but the use of them were banned in 2006 because there were/are some serious concerns and doubts about the safety, accuracy, reliability and verification through the machines. The Dutch no longer use EVMs but they still use counting technology to help decrease the time it takes to count votes. In 2016 when the Russians hacked the American election and later the French election, the Dutch feared the same would happen to them so in 2017 when the next general election came around they counted all the votes by hand rather than electronic counters. Because the Dutch government feared what happened to the US and France would happen to them, the government took precautions like counting the votes by hand instead of using the electronic counters. During the time of the allegations that the 2016 election was rigged, the dutch helped by becoming a secret ally to help uncover the truth. The UN could step up security and help put measures in place for events that could happen and investigate even if they don't think the threat is credible, as well as including suggestions to help combat and deter hacking elections.

The Netherlands's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Over the last 10 years the Netherlands has been working to increase renewable energy consumption. In recent years the Netherlands mostly generated power from renewable sources such as wind, solar energy and biomass. The government has been working to move away from non renewable sources such as oil, coal and natural gas. Respectively 42% of energy use has come from natural gas and 37% of oil and 11% of coal. In the same year 27% of electricity generation came from coal and 52% came from gas. The Climate Act sets targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 49% by 2030 and by 95% by 2050. While the country hasn't been suffering they are very dependent on fossil fuels and non renewable energy resources, it's taking a little bit longer to transition to renewable energy sources. The Dutch government has implemented some of the world's most sustainable modes of transportation for example the Royal Schiphol Group that partnered with Eneco to convert their four airports to 100% wind energy. The government has also built a waste to chemistry plant that will convert 360,000 tons of waste into 220,000 tons of green methanol. This was the first facility in Europe to eliminate 300,000 tons of CO2 emissions. They also have plans to have 100% emission free busses and remove all gas and diesel vehicles from the road. There is a money restriction that hinders the transition slightly. It's quite expensive to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Even though the Dutch are moving forward with their switch to renewable energy the cost is hindering them from transitioning as quickly as they would like to.

Entry:209

General Assembly Position Statement

The Philippines

Delegates: Lucy Pellegrin, Molly King

School: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

The Philippines's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

To try and improve the healthcare system in the Philippines, President Duterte signed the Universal Healthcare Act in February of 2019. The universal healthcare act provides access to the full spectrum of healthcare by enrolling citizens in the National Insurance Program and granting health coverage to all. 16.6% of people in The Philippines live below the poverty line. Many of these people rely on agriculture, which does not always produce a solid income.

The Philippines's Stance on Election Security

The Philippines deal with lots of violence during elections. In 2004, they experienced nearly 400 deaths, all on election day. To try and reduce this, the Philippines introduced electronic vote-counting machines, to involve fewer people in this process. After this creation, they have become one of the countries at the forefront of election technology adaption.

The Philippines's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

The Philippines has a 98% access rate to electricity within the capital region. In rural areas, however, this number is much lower and this leads to the country is highly dependent on coal power and large-scale transmission lines to meet its growing demand for electricity. This approach has resulted in higher electricity rates, urban and rural inequality in electricity distribution, and a huge environmental impact, although the system reliability is risky.

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Entry: 169

General Assembly Position Statement

Turkey

Delegates: Corbitt Driskell, Thomas Rhymes

School: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Turkey's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Turkey is committed to eradicating poverty for all people everywhere by 2030. By 2030 Turkey seeks to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. As well as to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. Therefore Turkey is open to resolutions to help eradicate poverty and to ensure the health of our people.

Turkey's Stance on Election Security

As is seen by the attempted coup in 2016 to overthrow the "elected" government, election security is of the utmost importance to the Turkish population. We hope to find that other nations are able to find the security that our population feels we have missed. Turkey is committed to provide investigative support to any allied country who feels that their elections have been interfered with by foreign nations.

Turkey's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

By 2030 Turkey seeks to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, and to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. As such Turkey is eager and willing to support resolutions in favor of the further development of energy accessibility and sustainability.

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General Assembly Position Statement

United Arab Emirates

Delegates: Cameron Dilney, Cameron Dilney

School: Zachary High School

United Arab Emirates's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The UAE has an effective universal healthcare system and has one of the highest well-being stats of its citizens in the world. The UAE doesn't experience much poverty either. We are happy to donate to other countries in order to improve their healthcare systems to be like ours as well as funding research organizations that help find cures for diseases like AIDS, Tuberculosis, Covid-19, and Malaria.

United Arab Emirates's Stance on Election Security

The UAE's heads of state and cabinet members are appointed by the seven emirates of the UAE. In addition, half of the legislative system is appointed by the emirates, and the other half is elected by the people, and they are elected by individual, not political party. Therefore, while we support attempts to make elections more transparent, we have little care for these matters.

United Arab Emirates's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Our energy is dominant on one energy source, oil, and we need alternative energy sources that can help bolster the world's economy.

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Entry: 171

General Assembly Position Statement

United States

Delegates: Lena Selph, Lillian Mack

School: Lafayette High School

United States's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

The United States of America strongly believes that Healthcare and poverty are two issues that go hand in hand and especially affect minorities and people of a lower socioeconomic status disproportionately compared to others. The connections between poverty, race and healthcare have become very prevalent in our society today. Because people of color are more likely to be impoverished due to years of oppression and discrimination, they are consequently more likely to suffer from preventable illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Additionally, the stigma surrounding mental illness in these communities is extremely prevalent due to generational factors. One in eight American adults has a substance abuse problem, many of which are a result of mental illness and the stigma surrounding it. A quarter to a third of the homeless population in the US have some form of mental illness that was not addressed, ultimately contributing to the position that many of them are in. Not to mention the overlap between people of color and the homeless population. While only making up 13 percent of the population, African Americans account for 40 percent of the homeless community. Additionally, people of color are more likely to face discrimination in the healthcare setting, adding to life threatening risks that could easily be resolved. More education among people and healthcare providers is necessary to improve the current state of health related service. Any policy initiatives that help minorities and people in the lower income bracket will be supported by the United States.

United States's Stance on Election Security

The United States is in strong support of heightened security during election periods to ensure no foreign interference. We also strongly believe in rumor control to prevent other countries and our own people from spreading misinformation.

United States's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

The United States strongly supports all action taken to increase energy availability across all corners of the Earth. 13 percent of the world do not have access to electricity. This not only potentially hinders the wellbeing of each country's people, but also the innovation that could be occurring in these places to better our world in general. With the lack of safe electricity, also comes health risks, such as heat stroke and reduced access to medication.

Climate change is a real issue that is affecting our world, and energy sustainability is one way that we can combat it. Introducing cleaner energy methods into mainstream use will substantially benefit all nations over time.

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General Assembly Position Statement

Venezuela

Delegates: Carson Cooper, Nick Ducote

School: Lakeshore High School

Venezuela's Stance on Healthcare and Poverty

Venezuela's government has provided outstanding social services to Venezuelans for years. Among these incredible programs is our world-class government-funded healthcare, which provides every Venezuelan with the healthcare to which they are entitled and need and eliminates any opportunity for the oppression by corporatist healthcare elites that far too many still suffer from today. In an attempt to impose totalitarian control of the Western Hemisphere's economy, the United States has placed destructive sanctions upon the amazing people of Venezuela. These sanctions are contrary to the very founding of the United Nations and have caused our incredible healthcare system to suffocate. Millions of Venezuelans are left without care due to the years of blatant economic sabotage from the United States, and the continuation of such illegal actions will prolong the suffering of the undeserving, innocent citizens of Venezuela. Lastly, the glaring problem of income inequality, which has been perpetuated by the disastrous capitalist ideology of developed countries, has forced the Venezuelan people into an inescapable nightmare. In order to end poverty and restore the health care system, global efforts should not focus on harmful sanctions, but on multilaterally supporting the ideas of self determination and national sovereignty on an international level.

Venezuela's Stance on Election Security

Venezuela recognizes the importance of secure elections and their impact on the safety and prosperity of a nation. We have firsthand experience with attempts to overthrow a rightfully elected president, as President Nicolas Maduro and his government are under attack by insurgents led by the United States of America by way of Juan Guaido. These rebels refuse to acknowledge the decision of the people of Venezuela to be led by Maduro and have even attempted to take President Maduro's life. The United States of America would rather kill the leader of the amazing citizens of Venezuela than accept the fact that Venezuelans chose to remain governed under the superior economic ideology of socialism. This attempted revolt is still occurring today, two years after President Maduro was elected by the people of Venezuela. Venezuela has been unable to move toward any sort of recovery from our current economic conditions due to the United States' insistence on overthrowing President Maduro and the decision of the Venezuelans. No nation should be subject to the horrors of superpowers seeking to rule them from afar, and Venezuela remains committed to ensuring that every nation is able to conduct elections in which the people choose their leaders without disruptions or attempted revolts by larger countries determined to enforce their outdated imperialist ideologies upon nations simply wishing to live amongst themselves in peace.

Venezuela's Stance on Energy Accessibility and Sustainability

Venezuela fully understands the importance and complexity of the sustainable energy problem. With regards to climate change, Venezuela recognizes the dangers and is working rigorously to reduce emissions and work multilaterally on an international level. Since getting involved with the Paris Climate Agreements in 2015, Venezuela has remained committed to the goal of diversifying its energy sector. However, Venezuela firmly believes that the burden of the climate crisis should not fall onto vulnerable countries like itself. Developing countries across South America and Africa rely on petroleum products to get by, while global hegemony like the United States do not acknowledge the devastation they bring upon the environment. Illegal sanctions from the United States have destroyed the Venezuelan way of life and have made it impossible to fight proactively against climate change. With this, Venezuela recommends that major offenders and world powers like the United States should bear the bulk of the responsibility when it comes to climate change. They should be the ones monetarily supporting the world and leading by example. Additionally, Venezuela supports the idea of national sovereignty, and maintains that countries need freedom from brutal sanctions and outside interference in order to create innovative solutions in the energy sector.
