

**Freshman #11**

TOPIC:Slum Upgrading



# SOCOMUN XXVII

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Sustainable Cities and Communities - Slum Upgrading

My name is Molly, one of the co-chairs for this committee, and I am a senior at SMCHS. This is my fourth year involved in MUN and it has been an amazing program to be involved in! MUN has not only increased my interest in international affairs but has also helped me improve my researching, writing, and speaking skills. Participating in conferences is a great way to become more comfortable collaborating with and speaking in front of others, as well as to increase your understanding of the crises that the international community faces. I have participated in conferences at Georgetown University, UCSB, and London. In addition to MUN, I am involved in Mock Trial and play Lacrosse.

I hope that SOCOMUN is an amazing experience for all of you and that it will encourage you to attend more conferences! We will start committee with debate, in which you will voice your country’s policy and solutions regarding the crisis. Delegates will motion for caucus in order to further collaborate and discuss solutions with others. It is important to be knowledgeable of the topic and your country’s policy before attending the conference. Feel free to email me at [fresh11.socomun@gmail.com](mailto:fresh11.socomun@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

I am Grace Caspino, the legal for this committee, and I am currently a junior in my third year of MUN. I was a secretary for SOCOMUN last year as a sophomore. My freshman year I attended SOCOMUN and won the Commendation award. Throughout my years of MUN, I have won many awards along with multiple Best Delegate awards.

Hello! My name is Katie Redd and I am currently a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. For SOCOMUN 2018, I will be your Secretary and I am very excited to meet everybody and discuss the topic of Slum upgrading. This is my second year in MUN and I am thrilled to hear all about your solutions. I hope that I can share my MUN experience with you at this conference and help you learn and improve!

**Background:**

Slums are often defined as informal living settlements, often within cities, which are characterized by inadequate living conditions and overcrowding. Numerous informal housing settlements lack basic living standards such as sanitation, water, street lighting, storm drainage, waste collection, paved sidewalks, and emergency access roads. Similar to all informal housing settlements, slum residents do not have legal claim to the land upon which their residences are built and the land is often devoid of urban planning and compliance with zoning guidelines. Currently, more than one billion people globally live in slums. More than 90 percent of the current global population growth is occurring within developing countries, with more than 70 million added urban residents annually. By the year 2050, it has been estimated that approximately 6.5 billion individuals will reside within urban areas. Many developing countries are unable to handle this influx in residents, leading to the creation and growth of slum communities. Slums comprise a large working force, with some cities containing up to 60 percent of their employment in the informal housing sector. There are two primary causes of slum development: governance and population growth. Bad governance often increases the rate of growth of slums, particularly when governments do not acknowledge the rights of the urban poor and include them in municipal planning. Some nations cannot respond quickly enough to the swift rate of urbanization, causing new residents to move into informal housing. Other governing bodies adopt a hostile approach to slum residencies, in the belief that providing aid will only increase urbanization and thus augment the growth of slums. This approach is inefficient, because those migrating to urban areas do so for the area’s job opportunities and not due to housing options. As a result, the only viable option to alleviate the crisis of slum growth is slum upgrading. Slum upgrading is the process of steadily improving informal housing areas, while also formalizing them and further integrating them into their urban area. Economic, social, infrastructural aid are often included in the process to give slum residents the same amenities as other citizens. To efficiently improve an informal area, all involved parties must actively cooperate, including slum residents, local and or national governing authorities, business and non-profit community groups, and aid organizations. In addition to providing the basic services necessary to improve the quality of life in slum settlements, regularizing or legalizing the residencies and providing the residents with secure land tenure is imperative in slum upgrading. The right of a group or individual to occupy or utilize a section of land comes with land tenure and can be acquired through ownership or though lease. The sense of confidence and security that comes with land tenure is essential in slum upgrading. When slum residents feel secure in their long-term housing stability, they are more likely to invest in their communities and bring about gradual improvements. Sometimes the land on which slum are built can be physically unsafe. They may lay within areas that are prone to frequent mudslides or even near sites of toxic waste. In those cases, relocation of residents may be imperative. Otherwise, slums are often located near cities and with effective access to job opportunities. The United Nations has developed a list of desired achievements for slum upgrading within the upcoming years, called the United Nations Sustainable Development goals. These goals include improvements such as providing universal access to efficient and safe public transport by the year 2030, the further development of inclusive and sustained development planning within urban areas, and the access to green spaces for all urban residents. These United Nations goals determine the focal points of progress for slum upgrading within plans for future development and represent the urban improvement priorities of the international community. Although the rate of rapid urbanization has taken a toll on the environment, public sanitation and health, and sanitary water provisions, increased urban development has had advantages. The high density of urban areas can not only diminish the use of public resources and the consumption of energy but may also lead to an augmentation of technological advancement and efficiency. Overall, there is a plethora of both benefits and detriments to the high rates of global urbanization. Despite the benefits, slum growth as a result of rapid urban population increase is a crisis within the international community. Delegates should discuss numerous aspects of this slum growth and solutions for increasing the quality of life for the residents of these informal housing communities.

**Possible Solutions:**

Each of the following solutions is beneficial to the topic and process of slum upgrading but should be used mainly to guide you in your research and in forming your own solutions. Delegates should develop solutions that are relevant to your country’s policy for both slum upgrading and urban growth. Do not consider funding as a concern for this committee, since it will be provided and handled by the World Bank and United Nations Fifth Committee.

The process of slum upgrading involves numerous aspects of aid and improvement. Not only must many slum residencies be provided basic municipal services, but slum upgrading includes providing land and housing tenure, ensuring the stability of their geographical locations, and creating a community of cooperation between all involved parties to foster improvement. The majority of aid programs are unsuccessful in including slum residents and other involved parties in the process of improving their communities. Due to this lack of incorporation, the aid programs lack the necessary insight of what specific communities most need. Including slum residents into the planning and improvement process would highlight the precise needs of the community. It is also imperative to provide slum residents with housing tenure, especially to increase their sense of security and involvement within their community. Since housing and land tenure can often be difficult to acquire for new urban residents, they frequently settle upon unsafe or highly undesirable land. If these individuals were provided secure housing tenure to residencies in appropriate and safe locations, the need and desire to live within unsafe slum communities would be minimalized. Since numerous slum communities are already constructed upon unsafe geographical locations, delegates must determine whether accelerating the slum upgrading process warrants the act of providing slum residents with housing tenure for potentially unstable housing. Millions of individuals have established themselves within informal housing communities, which makes the process of housing relocation virtually impossible and ineffective. The international community cannot reasonably eradicate all slum communities, so the most effective process is that of slum upgrading. Delegates shall thus discuss solutions towards improving the conditions and living standards within pre-existing slums, instead of demolishing the slum communities and forcing residents to relocate.

In terms of improving the living conditions within informal housing communities, delegates should develop solutions for the addition of amenities that increase the standard of living for residents. These amenities should include not only standard municipal services, but also access to community and education centers, as well as health clinics and medical care. The United Nations Sustainable Cities and Communities goals emphasizes access to these services as an imperative step to the slum upgrading process. Delegates may develop solutions upon specific technologies to improve the quality of life within slum communities, such as the implementation of bio-latrines. Bio-latrines can be utilized to not only provide access to sanitary water, but also to produce electricity. It serves as a multi-faceted solution, which is an effective type of method for delegates to solve numerous concerns simultaneously. Another solution could be to advance the financial progress and conditions within informal communities through subsidizing street vendors or other professions. In return, the community would receive an economic turnabout and an increase in the number of jobs. There is a plethora of problems related to slum communities, ranging from a lack of housing tenure and access to basic municipal services to poor economic opportunities and unsafe geographical locations. Delegates should create solutions that address numerous aspects of the crisis and are overall effective in increasing the quality of life and conditions within existing slum communities.

**Questions to Consider:**

The following questions do not need to be answered during committee, they are listed for the purpose of aiding you in your research.

1. Which non-government organizations (NGOS) both on a local, national, and international scale have been effective in aiding the process of slum upgrading? Are any of these organizations useful for continuing the process of slum upgrading or starting new community-specific projects?
2. Does your nation take an active role in the process of slum upgrading and what has it done to aid this development in the past?
3. Within your nation, is there a large amount of existing slum communities? Has your nation been active in alleviating slum growth locally and regionally?
4. How should the international community handle slum communities constructed on unsafe geographical locations? Should these communities be destroyed for the safety of their residents, despite the resulting crisis in which they would have to be relocated?
5. How can more slum residents be provided with housing and land tenure, considering the unsafe geographical conditions and lack of legal validation of numerous slum communities?
6. Through what methods can aid programs and organizations include slum residents in the planning and process of slum upgrading? In which ways can these organizations better incorporate all involved members of the community, including the support of local governing bodies and corporations?
7. How can local and regional governing bodies alter their presumptions of slum communities to support the belief that aiding slum communities, instead of neglecting their poor living conditions and isolating them, will be favorable for the entire surrounding population?
8. Are there other specific concerns or needs of slum communities that have not been highlighted by the United Nations Sustainable Cities and Communities Development Goals, or any other international forum for improvement?
9. Which municipal services are most imperative to provide to slum communities and how should the international community make these amenities available on an international scale to slums?

Works Cited

"About Slum Upgrading." About Slum Upgrading | Cities Alliance. N.p., 08 Aug. 2011.

Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

<http://www.citiesalliance.org/About-slum-upgrading>

This website addresses the meaning of what slum upgrading is and on how it is caused. It also discusses how slums develop and gives background information of the causes of them. Its objective is to acknowledge the reader on the background of slum upgrading. This source would be useful in creating the background section.

Kariuki, James, et al. “Researchers: What Ails Kenya Slums Upgrading.” *Business Daily*, 15 Feb. 2018, www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Researchers--What-ails-Kenya-slums-upgrading-efforts/539546-4305582-nxcu8uz/index.html.

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Researchers--What-ails-Kenya-slums-upgrading-efforts/539546-4305582-nxcu8uz/index.html>

This website is useful for creating solutions because it includes some ideas of future actions. For example, the article says to listen to the resident’s ideas of how to improve slums instead of implementing more solutions. Its objective is to provide current news on different Slums around the world. This article can be useful to build on your own ideas and solutions to create a well thought out idea.

"Cities Alliance – About Slum Upgrading : Rozenberg Quarterly." Cities Alliance – About Slum Upgrading : Rozenberg Quarterly. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

<http://rozenbergquarterly.com/cities-alliance-about-slum-upgrading/>

This source explain more about the background of slum upgrading. Its objective is to inform the reader of the severity of this problem and to give solutions. This source could be used for background.

"Sustainable Cities and Communities." ONE. N.p., 30 Sept. 2015. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

<https://www.one.org/international/globalgoals/sustainable-cities-and-communities/>

This source helps to give great resources to other projects that have helped to make sustainable cities and communities. Overall it gives great examples of NGOs and organizations that are helping this problem. This could be helpful for the solutions portion.

“5 Largest Slums in the World.” *The Borgen Project*, 31 Oct. 2015, borgenproject.org/5-largest-slums-world/.

<https://borgenproject.org/5-largest-slums-world/>

This article from the Borgen Project talks about the different areas of the world’s largest slums around the word. Its objective is to provide information of the different slums around the world. This website can be useful when trying to come up with solutions in different areas or used to mention if it is in or close to one’s country.

"Housing & Slum Upgrading." *UN-Habitat*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Apr. 2017.

<https://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/housing-slum-upgrading/>>

This website addresses the positive factors for slum upgrading. Its objective is to spread awareness of this problem and show that if solved, many positive things will happen. This source could be used for background.

"Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities." UNDP. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html>

This source talks about the background for sustainable cities and communities. Overall is gives adequate information on how to solve this problem. This source could be used for background.

“World Statistics Day: A Look at Urbanization.” *World Statistics Day: A Look at Urbanization | Cities Alliance*, 9 Aug. 2011, www.citiesalliance.org/node/2195.

<http://www.citiesalliance.org/node/2195>

This website includes good statistics on the amount of people in slums and numbers of people growing per year. Its objective is to provide people with numbers of slum houses in different areas around the world. The article could be useful to back solutions with accurate numbers and useful information to include in background.

Shiva, Shruti. “Seven Lessons from a Successful Slum Upgrading Project.” *Citiscope*, 27 Feb. 2015, www.citiscope.org/story/2015/seven-lessons-successful-slum-upgrading-project.

<http://www.citiscope.org/story/2015/seven-lessons-successful-slum-upgrading-project>

This news report talks about seven lessons that the author learned from a Slum upgrading project. Its objective is to teach others the successful parts of their project and to share with the world their success. This website will be useful in creating solutions because it shows a real life experience of what worked for somebody and it will make the solution more detailed.

"Goal 11 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations. United Nations, n.d. Web. 02 Apr. 2017.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

This source gives the progress, step by step, of the completion of sustainable cities and communities. Overall it gives many statistics and facts of achieving this goal which are valuable and has no bias. This source would prove useful for background.