**Eradication of Extreme Poverty Mini-Simulation: Background Information**

***UN Body in Focus:*** *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

UNDP Facts:

* In 1965, two existing UN bodies (the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund) combined to create the UNDP. Since its creation, the UNDP has been committed to “sustainable human development,” with an overall goal of decreasing international poverty levels.
* UNDP primarily focuses on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, sustainable energy, the environment, and crisis prevention and recovery. Human rights and the empowerment of women are encouraged in all UNDP programs.
* UNDP reports to the General Assembly. It works closely with thirty-three other UN agencies. UNDP is led by an Executive Board, which includes thirty-six member states.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

* In September 2000, the UN hosted a 3-day Millennium Summit which created the Millennium Declaration – a blueprint for international development. The 8 MDGs (1 Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; 2 Achieving universal primary education; 3 Promoting gender equality and empowering women; 4 Reducing child mortality rates; 5 Improving maternal health; 6 Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; 7 Ensuring environmental sustainability; and 8 Developing a global partnership for development) outlined in this blueprint are to be accomplished by 2015.
* All of the MDGs are centered on poverty reduction and eradication. For example, poverty impacts access to education.
* MDG 1: Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
	+ Cut in half the number of people whose income in less than $1.25 a day;
	+ Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people; and
	+ Cut in half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Background on Eradicating Extreme Poverty:

* Between 1990 and 2010, extreme poverty rates were cut in half. However, 1.2 billion people worldwide still live in extreme poverty. One in eight people remain hungry.
* Extreme poverty is found in areas where there is poor education and healthcare, where there is little productive or stable employment, where the environment is in poor condition, and where there is corruption and bad governance.
* Africa: Sub-Saharan Africa faces the greatest struggles with extreme poverty. Africa is the second-fastest growing region in the world and this population boom has led to unemployment and food insecurity.
* Asia: Asia is home to two-thirds of the world’s hungry and malnourished people. The quick growth of populations and cities in Asia, especially in China and India, has led to increased economic disparities between urban and rural areas, socioeconomic classes, and genders. Full and decent work is also remains a problem in Asia.
* Eastern Europe and Central Asia: These areas are on track to accomplish the three aspects of MDG 1. However, the global economic crisis causes concern for the stability of poverty reduction. Weak governance and political turmoil are also threats to this stability.
* Western Europe and other developed nations: These countries provide financial and structural assistance to developing and underdeveloped countries. There is little consistency to contribution (only five nations have reached the target of giving 0.7% of their gross national income for development aid) and dispersal of funds, and little cooperation between nations.

Priorities to be discussed

* Reasons for extreme poverty;
* Ways to reduce and eradicate extreme poverty;
* Ways to accomplish the MDGs;
* What the UN should do to eradicate extreme poverty after the 2015 deadline;
* Responsibility of various nations (developing vs. developed nations).