

2011-2012 Agenda Topics And Focus Questions

General Assembly 1

International Maritime Law – Piracy

Focus Question: The growing problem of piracy has severe implications in politics, economics, and international security. What actions should the UN take to appropriately deal with this concern, especially when concerning nations that are unable or unwilling to fight this piracy themselves? Does the better solution lie in direct confrontation or in addressing the underlying causes of the problem?

General Assembly 2

Sovereignty and U.N. Intervention

Focus Question: To what extent can the United Nations require compliance to established U.N. protocols or resolutions from sovereign nations? To what extent do countries have rights of sovereignty over their own natural resources? How can the UN support state rights to sovereignty over natural resources and to what extent should it do so?

Security Council

Process and Structure of Peacekeeping Operations

Focus Question: How can U.N. peacekeepers successfully intervene in nations that are in need of assistance, but publicly denounce it? How might the

U.N Peacekeepers optimize their efficiency? When should the peacekeeping forces be aided by a standing group of rapid deployment peacemaking troops? Does this go against the UN Charter?

Creation of Rapid Deployment Forces

Focus Question: To what extent should the U.N. Security Council consider the composition of R.D.F.s in regards to culturally or ethnically tense regions? How would an entirely Western/European force be more effective than a more locally or regionally composed force?

Security Council Procedure

Focus Question: Should the U.N. modify the permanent members of the Security Council in light of the recent political and economic developments and conflicts? What factors into the decision on which country would be considered?

Conflict in the Korean Peninsula

Conflict in Israel-Palestine

Conflict in Sudan

Conflict in Somalia

Conflict in Afghanistan

Conflict in Iraq

Conflict in Pakistan

Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo

Conflict in Lebanon

Conflict in The Arab Spring

Role of U.N in Regime Changes

Focus Question: To what extent should the U.N. assist and involve itself in regime changes? Should it act as a mediator or use its peacekeeping forces? Consider the following countries:

- Libya
- Egypt
- Tunisia
- Sudan
- Zimbabwe

Committees 1A, 1B, 1C, – Global Security

Ethnic and Religious Conflict

Focus Question: What are some major current issues regarding ethnic and religious conflict and what kind of a threat do the conflicts pose to other nations? How and when should the UN intervene to help address these conflicts and does the U.N. have a right to intervene at all?

Terrorism

Focus Question: What measures should the U.N. take in order to reduce or eliminate terrorism growing in developing nations? To what extent can pre-emptive actions be utilized to suppress terrorism?

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Focus Question: How, when, and to what extent should the U.N. intervene with countries that refuse to follow or violate international weapons protocol?

Illicit Arms Trading

Focus Question: How can or should the U.N. intervene to stop the illicit trade of weapons? Should the UN be involved with the enforcement of trade regulations of weapons?

Committees 2A, 2B, and 2C – Global Economics

Oil Supermajors and Multinational Corporations

Focus Question: How should the U.N. address the influence of multinational corporations, especially oil supermajors, on developed and developing nations? The implications as to how this would affect state-owned oil companies should also be considered.

Free Trade

Focus Question: Should the U.N. promote and aid in free trade or should it support current policies that often lean towards protectionism? What should the U.N.'s role be in trade negotiations? Keep in mind the benefits or drawbacks of free or regulated trade in your specific country.

Green Business

Focus Question: Considering the new 'green' movement and the new business opportunities in this industry, should the U.N. play a role in regulating this new industry? Should the U.N. provide economic benefits for nations and businesses that are more environmentally friendly than others? What should the U.N.'s role be in the drafting and

signing of protocols and environmental agreements?

Developing Nation Economies

Focus Question: To what extent should the U.N. assist and stabilize the economies of developing nations? Should the U.N. create a global economic safety net? How? When should the U.N. cease providing aid and allow nations to continue at their own growth rate?

Committees 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D – Human Rights

Access to Information

Focus Question: Considering forms of media such as newspapers, the internet, and publications in general, under what circumstances, if ever, is it the U.N.'s duty to intervene in issues of government regulation of information?

Human Trafficking

Focus Question: What should the U.N. do to discourage and prevent human trafficking? Furthermore, what should the U.N. do regarding governments that allow or ignore human trafficking within their jurisdiction? Consider the treatment of refugees in areas of strife.

Rights of Women and Children

Focus Question: How can the U.N. advocate for and enforce the rights of women and children in areas where local practices and attitudes cause inequality, discrimination and abuse of women and children? How can the U.N. avoid contradicting the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights through its efforts while respecting societal norms?

Access to Medical Assistance

Focus Question: How can the U.N. provide medical assistance to nations that are hostile towards foreign involvement?

Committees 4A, 4B – Environmental

Climate Change

Focus Question: What should the U.N. do to better address issues of climate change, in light of the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15)? What should the U.N.'s role be in the drafting and signing of protocols and environmental agreements?

Energy Policy

Focus Question: Concerning the growing need for long-term sources of renewable energy, how can developed member-nations assist in the research and development of energy through nuclear fission and fusion? How can these developed member-nations assist in the development of basic renewable energy sources (wind, solar power, etc.) in developing countries?

Note: *A major nuclear fusion program to consider is ITER

Biodiversity

Focus Question: How can the United Nations protect global biodiversity? In what ways can the U.N.

promote preservation of natural species in response to industrialization?

Food Security

Focus Question: What should the U.N. do to address the inefficiencies in food production and distribution? Should the U.N. encourage the production of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) and if not, what stance should they take?

Research Focus Points:

Cropland allocation

Technologies used in producing food

Committees 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D – Health and Human Services

Resource Scarcity

Focus Question: What actions should the U.N. take in order to more effectively and efficiently distribute aid in the form of food and water to lower-income nations that are affected by extreme hunger? Keeping in mind recent events, what should the U.N. do to establish a safe drinking water sources in areas of recent disasters, previous warfare, arid lands, and contaminated water?

Natural Disaster Relief

Focus Question: How should the U.N. encourage bordering or prosperous nations to aid victims of natural disasters? Furthermore, should it be required for a nation to repay debts incurred in the form of aid or relief from another country?

Diseases of Poverty

Focus Question: In what ways should the U.N. attempt to combat and contain epidemics that are the result of poverty such as HIV/AIDS and malaria and eradicate curable diseases such as polio and rabies in developing nations?

Refugee Camp Assistance

Focus Question: To what extent should the U.N. assist the infrastructure of refugee camps in rural and remote areas? Keep in mind of the access to food, water, and sanitation concerns.