AMBMUN'27

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background Guide

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Welcome Letter

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the 4th Edition of Al Mawakeb Barsha Model United Nations (AMBMUN)! We are very excited to meet you and to be your chairs for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) committee.

We hope this conference gives you the opportunity to step out of your comfort zone, share your ideas, and experience what makes Model United Nations so exciting. Throughout the conference, we will do our best to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable participating, asking questions, and getting involved in the debate.

UNDP focuses on issues surrounding sustainable development, human progress, and improving the lives of people around the world. During the conference, you will have the chance to discuss real-world challenges, hear different perspectives, and work together to come up with practical and creative solutions.

While preparation is important, remember that you do not have to know everything before walking into committee. Be confident in your ideas, listen to others, and do not be afraid to speak up. Some of the best parts of MUN come from the discussions and unexpected ideas that develop during debate.

We are very excited to be your chairs and cannot wait to see the discussions, ideas, and energy you bring to UNDP. We hope you have a memorable conference, meet new people, and leave with experiences that you will carry with you long after AMBMUN comes to an end.
We wish you all the best of luck, and we look forward to seeing you in committee!

Sincerely,
Diana Alsheikhdoora and Ahmed Mulla
Chairs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Committee Brief

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's main agency focused on sustainable development, reducing poverty, and improving people's quality of life. Established in 1965, UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and helps governments and communities respond to social, economic, and environmental challenges. Through its work, UNDP supports countries in addressing development issues and building stronger foundations for long-term progress.

UNDP supports countries by providing resources, policy advice, and technical support to help them achieve long-term development. Its work covers important areas such as poverty reduction, good governance, climate change, crisis response, energy, digital development, and strengthening institutions. By working closely with governments and communities, UNDP helps countries develop approaches that respond to their specific needs and challenges.

UNDP also helps countries work toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting national development plans and encouraging cooperation between governments and communities. Rather than providing temporary solutions, its focus is on helping countries build the knowledge, systems, and resources they need to become more resilient and independent. This allows countries to strengthen their ability to respond to challenges while continuing to make progress toward sustainable development.

In Model United Nations, UNDP gives delegates the opportunity to discuss real-world development challenges and create realistic, long-term solutions. Delegates should consider factors such as funding, national priorities, available resources, and the different needs of countries and regions when developing their proposals.

They should also consider how their solutions can support sustainable development and remain effective over the long term.

Topic: Political Transitions and Sustainable Developement: Addressing The Impact Of Governmental Change On National Stability and Economic Growth

Introduction

A political transition is an event where there is a significant change of power within a government or nation. It may be caused by an election, a change of government, a new constitution, a revolution, or some other form of political change. Political changes may lead to reforms and improved governance, but they might also cause chaos and disorder if not handled properly.

Government changes may affect national stability. Peaceful transitions may help build confidence among citizens, enhance the governance system, and provide opportunities for introducing reforms. Nevertheless, abrupt or contested governmental changes may result from political conflicts, protests against government actions, weak institutions, or violent uprisings. It may become difficult for governments to provide essential services and maintain stability during such events.

Political transitions may also have a strong impact on economic growth. Generally, businesses and investors require stability to make long-term investments.

Political instability may lead to lower investment, slower economic growth, higher levels of unemployment, and disruptions to major infrastructure projects. However, a new government may be able to implement changes that could help boost economic growth through job creation, attracting investments, and solving issues inherited from past administrations.

Thus, the effects of political change differ between countries. Strong countries have good governance structures, free elections, well-defined laws, and mechanisms for the transfer of power, which help them handle political changes effectively. Weak governments and institutions can lead to greater instability and economic problems when political changes occur.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays a significant role in helping nations tackle these issues. The UNDP helps nations strengthen their democracy through better governance practices, more participatory politics, and stronger state institutions.

It also helps nations formulate plans to safeguard economic growth and social development during political transitions. Instead of deciding who should govern a country, the UNDP focuses on helping governments and communities develop their own governance structures. This allows them to achieve peaceful transitions through effective management processes while promoting sustainable economic growth.

Balancing political change and continuity is an issue that needs to be addressed. Governments should allow people to demand change and new leadership without compromising national institutions, economic stability, or essential public services.

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The sustainability of a nation does not depend solely on its political leaders; it also relies on having strong institutions that are resilient enough to support sustained growth, even during periods of government change.

History

Political change has played an important role in the progress of nations. After World War II ended in 1945, there were major changes in governments around the world. Some nations became independent from their colonizers, while others were overthrown by revolutionaries or through military coups d'état. Some countries also transitioned from dictatorship to democracy. However, these changes did not always lead to lasting peace because of issues such as weak governments, corruption, and political conflicts.

During the 1950s and 1960s, many countries had recently gained independence, yet they struggled to establish strong political systems and stable economies. Disputes between politicians and changes in leadership often led to violence, economic instability, and a loss of trust among citizens. These issues made it difficult for governments to provide basic services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

The Arab Spring is a significant case study for understanding how political change can affect national stability and economic development. In 2011, protests began in Tunisia and then spread throughout other countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The people wanted better living conditions, more job opportunities, less corruption, and greater political freedom. While these demonstrations resulted in changes in governments and administrations, many nations continued to experience financial problems, political conflicts, and instability.

As time passed, these issues continued to become more important for the international community in promoting political stability and sustainable development. In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These goals focus on reducing poverty, improving education and healthcare, creating jobs, and building peaceful societies. SDG 8 focuses on decent employment and sustainable development, while SDG 16 focuses on peace, justice, and good governance, according to the United Nations.

Analysis

Currently, some effects of political changes can last for years, even after a new administration takes charge. Changes in leadership may lead to a lack of continuity in government programs, delays in implementing reforms, and difficulties in maintaining consistency in development strategies. This is particularly severe for nations dealing with poverty, conflict, debt, and weak government institutions.

The continuation of development projects is another important issue. Infrastructure development, educational programs, healthcare services, and job creation are usually long-term projects that take many years to plan and complete. If governments change, these projects might be canceled, postponed, or replaced with other priorities. This can waste resources and hinder future growth.

Political transitions may impact a nation's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. National priorities may shift frequently, which can hinder efforts to reduce poverty, improve access to quality education, provide decent employment opportunities, and decrease inequality. Therefore, countries require stable development plans that remain consistent regardless of who is in charge.

The UNDP plays an important role in helping nations continue their development programs while going through political transitions. It is involved in strengthening government administration, supporting the policymaking process, improving justice systems, and enhancing citizens' access to services to help governments achieve the SDGs. The UNDP can also provide technical support to help nations create sustainable action plans that remain effective regardless of changes in government.

Therefore, its primary concern is to protect development progress during times of political change. Countries should have systems that allow new governments to introduce their own priorities while still maintaining important programs that benefit their citizens. This can reduce disruption during political transitions and help maintain progress despite changes in government.

Questions to Be Answered in Your Resolution:

1- How can countries manage political transitions peacefully while maintaining national stability and avoiding disruptions to essential government services?

2- What strategies can protect economic growth, investment, employment, and development projects during periods of governmental change?

3- How can countries strengthen institutions and ensure that long-term development policies continue despite changes in political leadership?

4- What role should UNDP play in supporting countries experiencing political transitions, particularly through governance, institutional reform, and sustainable development programmes?

5- How can the international community support countries undergoing political transitions while respecting national sovereignty and ensuring that external assistance contributes to long-term stability and sustainable development?

Starter Resources:

1) UNDP – Governance in Transitions

2) UNDP – Strategic Plan 2026–2029

3) UNDP – Evaluation of Support to Electoral Capacities and Institutional Processes

4) World Bank – Worldwide Governance Indicators

5) IMF – Macroeconomic Challenges of Fragility and Policies for Stability and Growth

6) OECD – States of Fragility 2025

7) World Bank – The Arab Spring: An Opportunity for Change

Matrix

Tunisia- Egypt- Syria- France- Morocco-Jordan- Ukraine- Algeria- Lebanon- Somalia- Iraq- Nigeria- South Africa- Germany- Armenia- Ethiopia- Japan- Kenya- Venezuela- Brazil- China- USA- Philippines- Romania- UK

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