



**President's Letter**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the International Labor Organization of the Model United Nations Conference!

My name is Paloma Collazo-Vargas, and I will be your co-chair for this amazing conference! I am a Sophomore from California who is majoring in International Relations and maybe a minor in either Astronomy or Theater. I have a really broad range of things that I like and that's probably why I never have free time. This is my second-time as a chair and hopefully I can impress you with my skills, but either way I am looking forward to this year's conference; I hope that you learn many things from this conference and that you can apply it to the real world!

My name is Summia Tora, and I will be one your chairs this year. I am a freshman from Afghanistan planning to major in Economics and International studies. I have worked in the past in Model UN and It is one my favorite things to do. I have been a part of a study group that focused on studying the structures of the UN; therefore, I am very familiar with the United Nations and its councils. This will be first time chairing for the event and I am looking forward to it!

We are very excited to see in the freezing month of January and can't wait to be floored by your amazing skills! Just an FYI about our committee, ILO is about people who work in any sense and are represented with the best of interests. Many of you may usually associate workers' rights when it comes to migrant workers'. Overall, ILO is an organization that wants equal, fair and secure environments for workers. The topics for this committee are very different, yet similar, from female job opportunities to migrant workers rights. We are pleased to present you these 3 topics and hope that you are excited about them as we are! Please come prepared to ECMUN so that you may fully immerse yourself and if you have any questions regarding ANYTHING, please contact us! We want you guys to be assertive and enjoy this! Good luck and remember, have fun at ECMUN

With the kindest of regards,

Paloma Collazo-Vargas ([pcolla15@earlam.edu](mailto:pcolla15@earlam.edu))  
Summia Tora([stora16@earlham.edu](mailto:stora16@earlham.edu))

### **Committee Background**

The International Labor Organization was established in 1919 as a tripartite by the United Nations agency. ILO is an advocate for social justice in the working world; anything concerning the working person, ILO is there to help and protect them. One of their main missions is to promote rights at work, encourage employment opportunities and enhance social protection. The International Labor Organization is responsible for creating multitudinous frameworks that many countries follow. Since this organization was founded before the United Nations and was under the League Nations, ILO continue to flourish despite the League of Nations shaky stance and expanded its framework on human rights. When the Second World War finished, ILO became a specialized agency in 1946, one of the first, and continued with its mission. The organization has also been awarded with a Nobel Peace Prize. Like any other committee, we address one another with the country that you are assigned, despite this easily being an American-centric issue, we will go over violations of workers internationally.

“Working for social justice is our assessment of the past and our mandate for the future.”  
—Juan Somavia, Director-General

## Topic I: Improving Standards of Living for the Working Poor

### Overview

According to the World Bank, nearly 700 million people in extreme poverty; below the poverty line that is \$1.90. Even though, the number has decreased from 900 million to 700 million, poverty remains to be a major issue that has to be tackled. According to International Labor Organization (ILO) report, in Latin America and the Caribbean, every one out five-laborer lives under poverty with a low wage and bad conditions. Thus, such conditions make the poor vulnerable to hunger, health, and mental issues. United Nations has played a significant role in fighting poverty and developing long-term programs to tackle the problem.

### Historical Background:

Historically, mostly all continents had a very low standard of living, and human civilization lived under poverty. The Renaissance and Enlightenment period were two crucial passages for the Europeans to improve their living standards. Similarly, Our World Data Organization shows that by 1960 prosperity had started to spread in many countries around mostly concentrated in North America and Western Europe. The data chart shows that most of the world in 1988 was divided into rich and poor regions.

Over the course of years, the income equality has decreased, and the world has shifted towards equality, yet 700 million people still live on or below the poverty line of \$1.90. Most of these countries living under the poverty line have historically been a colony or slavery exporting territories. Many of these countries have delved into societal structures that prevent them from utilizing their resources in an efficient way thus trapping the majority of the population into low income, political instability, and war.

Since its formation, the United Nations has worked to fight poverty across less developed countries. United Nations in 2000 set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aimed to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. According to the United Nations MDGs report, in 1990 half of the world population was living under \$1.25 and this dropped to 14 percent in 2015.

### Current situation:

Though the statistics of reducing poverty under MDGs has been impressive, it should be noted that the plan failed to reach its goal in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the Borgen Project, almost 800 million people still live in poverty. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) released a report highlighting, "Poverty is a multifaceted reality. It is not simply a lack of adequate income; it is a cruel mix of human deprivation in knowledge, health, dignity and rights, obstacles to participation and lack of voice." This report reveals that the cause of poverty is not as simple as many assume, in reality, poverty is a result of many enfolded social, economics and political problems.

UNDP has adopted different approaches focusing on reducing poverty by creating public policies that help to alleviate the social and economic challenges to the poor families. UNDP aims to bring economic growth for most of the developing countries. UNDP has assisted in identifying and devising plans for the poor countries such as helping Lao PDR with spotting the poorest districts and concentrating its provincial governance and rural development towards developing these areas.

After the MDGs, the United Nation has continued to work for decreasing the poverty rate. UN has launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to achieve nineteen goals by 2030 including goal one that is “Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.” It is predicted by the progress report of SDGs that if the growth rate continues for 10 to 15 years, it is most likely that there will be a 4% decrease in the incidence of poverty by 2030. SDGs focuses on building social protection programs and labor market programs such as skills training and wage subsidies. SDGs is also working on reducing the disaster risk in developing countries to help them develop and maintain the sustainable growth, which will alleviate poverty. According to ILO evidence shows that decent and productive jobs, sustainable enterprises and economic transformation can play a significant role in reducing poverty. International Labor Organization (ILO) believes that the solution to the root problem of poverty can begin by providing full employments and decent work for the poor. Therefore, ILO contribution could be seen in MDGs and currently, in post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which will continue until 2030.

The issue of poverty still continues affecting about 700 million people around the world. Even with the initiation of a second program addressing the problem of poverty.

**Questions to consider:**

1. What were the successes and failures of Millennium Development Goals in addressing the issue of poverty?
2. How are social, economic and political aspects of countries preventing countries from eradicating poverty? What steps is the UN taking or should take to eliminate these barriers?
3. Think about the effectiveness of the Sustainable Development Goals in different poor regions. What steps of SDGs may be successful or unsuccessful in reducing poverty?
4. What other branches other than the United Nations Development Program are working to reduce world poverty?

**Bibliography and Sources to Consider:**

Worldbank.org: Global Poverty Line Update  
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/global-poverty-line-faq>

ECMUN 2017  
International Labor Organization

Globalissues.org: Poverty Around The World  
<http://www.globalissues.org/article/4/poverty-around-the-world>

ILO.org: The real cost of extreme poverty  
[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_532776/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_532776/lang--en/index.htm)

ourworldindata.org : The Visual History of World Poverty  
<https://ourworldindata.org/slides/world-poverty/#/GDP-year-1500>

ourworldindata.org: The Data Chart ( The Visual History of World Poverty)  
<https://ourworldindata.org/slides/world-poverty/#/Global-Income-Distribution-1988>

borgenproject.org: What are the Causes of Global Poverty?  
<http://borgenproject.org/what-causes-global-poverty/>

UN.org: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015  
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20Summary%20web\\_english.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20Summary%20web_english.pdf)

borgenproject.org: Failures of MDGs  
<http://borgenproject.org/mdg-failures/>

bbc.com: UN in deal to fight global poverty  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-33547114>

sustainabledevelopment.un.org: Sustainable Development Goal 1, End poverty in all  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1>

ilo.org: Decent Work, the Key to poverty reduction  
[http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/poverty/WCMS\\_396219/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/poverty/WCMS_396219/lang--en/index.htm)

## Topic II: Female Job Opportunity

### Overview:

Gender Equality has been a struggle that many countries face, especially the dynamics between males and females, these problems persist in forms such as the wage gap to how women are usually treated in male-dominated careers. ILO has made gender equality one of their primary goals, for they believe that it is a fundamental element of human dignity. And so, along with gender equality is gender and employment, this field promotes decent, productive, income opportunities. ILO has been implementing regulations and agendas to promoting employment: concerning with International Labor Standards and Global Employment Agenda, 2008 Social Justice Declaration, etc.

### Historical Background:

Despite the progress that has been made within the last few decades, many women around the world are still not seen as equals when it comes to the workforce. There is a lot of evidence supporting the fact that men are preferred over women and in any sense regarding job opportunities. Historically speaking there has been an inequality between man and woman since the beginning of time, and it wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th century that women have begun to work together and advocate for their rights; there have been waves that campaign for the equality. Despite the efforts, it isn't truly until the following century where things between man and woman are considered "equal." ILO has graphs that show who is more likely to have a job and its percentage, as well how much female gets paid compared to a male.

### Current Situation:

Many of where women's employment opportunities arise in countries that are considered Third World, as shown in the graphs. Historically speaking as well, many may know the history of Feminism in the United States, which began in the late Nineteenth Century, but currently, India is facing a sharp decline in the female labor force. A recent publication done by the International Labor Organization has publicized that India is confronted with a declination of women participating the workforce. So far, there has only been a hypothesis as to why this problem is occurring and the publication states four theories: and increase in attendance of an educational institutional, increased household incomes, a change in female employment and lastly just a lack of opportunities for women. And yet, the first two hypotheses is considered a positive reflection of India's economy it does not truly indicate the problem that India is facing. Much of the evidence for this problem suggests that the cause of this effect is due to the fact that many young women are attending higher education and so they indicate that there is not a lot participation, but for other countries this is not the cause.

For instance, many of the countries in the Middle East have a significant gap between a man and a woman wages and participation. Much of this stems from how religion and the government are fully intertwined and so anything regarding that could go against their

beliefs, is automatically out of the question. Gender equality is a major concern in the Middle East, for it has one of the lowest participation. This is due to not only the social construct that has been established in their society for years but also due to the government failing them in regards to economic and fiscal policies; there are no regulations in being relevant to economic rights. As of now, the nations in the Middle East have not done anything that goes against these facts and continue with their stagnant percentages to women creating job opportunities or even just availability.

**Questions to consider:**

1. Why is there such a sharp contrast on the wage gap for different countries? Does the issue have a economical background or is it more of a cultural ideology?
2. Should there be programs dedicated for female job opportunities? Will that help close of the gap?
3. There are many sections regarding to the violence against women; sexual, psychological and so on, should the workforce have programs in which men should attend to be educated in this sense?
4. Should a female in the workforce be treated differently when it comes to needs that are considered "female-only"? If so, why? If not then why not?
5. There are many factors that weigh in as to why women do not participate in the labor force, but is the reason from institutional problems or is it more of a social construct that many nations have created?

**Bibliography and Recommended Sources:**

"Gender and Employment (EMPLOYMENT)." *Gender and Employment (EMPLOYMENT)*. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

"Gender Equality." *Gender Equality*. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

"Labour Inspection, Gender Equality and Non-discrimination in the Arab States: Guide Book." *Labour Inspection, Gender Equality and Non-discrimination in the Arab States: Guide Book*. 08 July 2014. Web. 17 Oct. 2016.

"Why Is Female Labour Force Participation Declining so Sharply in India?" *Kapsos, Steven; Silberman, Andrea; Bourmpoula, Evangelia*. 11 Aug. 2014. Web. 17 Oct. 2016.

### Topic III: Migrant Workers' Rights and Restrictions

#### Overview:

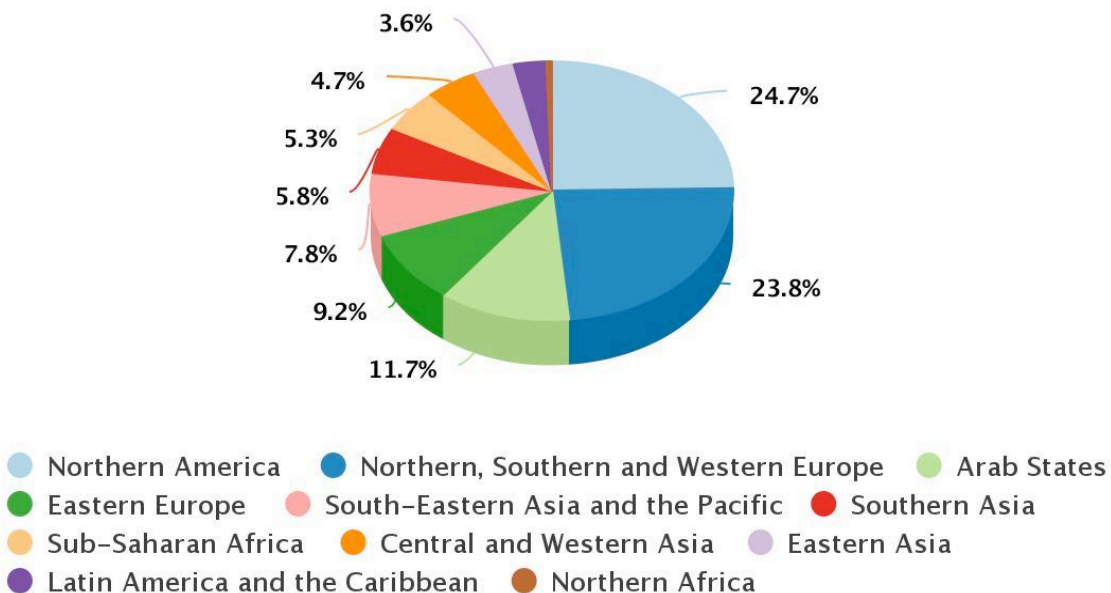
Migrant Workers' Rights have been protected and established on the 18 December 1990 by the United Nations; this would decree that not only would migrant workers would be protected, but their families as well. This multilateral treaty known as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was ratified in 2003 and part of the UN's human rights sectors. As of 2015, only 48 countries have signed the treaty, many of the countries that signed the treaty were countries that have their citizens go abroad.

#### Historical Background:

The International Labor Organization has stated that as of 2013, 150 million migrants are in the global workforce. ILO defines migrant workers as any person, "moving to another country or region to better their material or social conditions and improve the prospect for themselves or their family" The status of migrant workers began to form around the time of the Second World War, as many people fled their countries to find work in usually western nations such as the United States. In fact, the United States has a very long history concerning the rights and regulations of migrant workers; many may know the Bracero Program that was established during World War II, where the U.S. and Mexico signed many laws and agreements in which will bring over Mexicans to the U.S. legally and work in the agriculture industry. This program lasted for 22 years, and a massive influx of Mexican came, 4.5 million, many were guaranteed basic human rights and necessities with pay, but would not be negotiable in any sense.

#### Distribution of migrant workers around the world

##### Women and Men





**Current Situation:**

The root of the problem for many migrant workers stems from not only from the government that they are “working for,” but the environment in which they are residing. One of the biggest challenges that migrant workers face is the being exploited because the majority of the workers are illegal they cannot report any harsh treatment for fear of losing their job. This is a huge problem in the United States and Qatar. In the U.S., because the majority of the workers are illegal, when it comes to paying and working conditions they are the worst, many do not receive the full benefits of being a worker, whether it be overtime, sick pay or disability. For Qatar, they have had migrant workers work in dangerous conditions, hundreds of foreign workers have died due to the conditions. In recent news, hundreds have died in a construction accident that was undergoing for the 2022 World Cup. Due to the recent news, the UN and Amnesty International have petitioned to have Qatar abolish their regulatory kalafa system, the cause of the endangerment of the workers. This has made Qatar try to amend their modern-day slavery system.

So far what ILO has done is help forge policies that will maximize the benefits of labor migration, but nothing that has been set yet, although ILO is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, help to protect labor rights and to promote a safe and secure environment for workers. ILO has also been providing in setting a plan that is strategically set up as a framework for many countries to follow.

**Questions to consider:**

1. Sometimes advocacy is not enough to regulate safe conditions for migrant workers, what other methods can be used to help bring awareness?
2. Why do you believe there is such a significant mistreatment against migrant workers? What could be done to avoid that?
3. Many Western countries did not sign the multilateral treaty, why do you believe that was the case?
4. Are there ways that either ILO or the UN can do to regulate their laws legally on other countries, or will that infringe many countries rights to sovereignty?

**Bibliography and Recommended Sources:**

"ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers." Full Report:. 15 Dec. 2015. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

"International Cooperation Is Essential to Promote Migrant Domestic Workers' Rights." Labour Migration:. 27 May 2016. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

"Labour Migration (Labour Migration)." Labour Migration (Labour Migration). Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

"New ILO Figures Show 150 Million Migrants in the Global Workforce." International Migrants Day:. 16 Dec. 2015. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.

ECMUN 2017  
International Labor Organization

"Challenges Faced by Migrant Workers." Work. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.  
Siebel, By Michael. "Top 10 of 2014 - Issue #7: Exploitation of Migrant Workers in Asia."  
Migrationpolicy.org. 11 Dec. 2014. Web. 16 Oct. 2016.