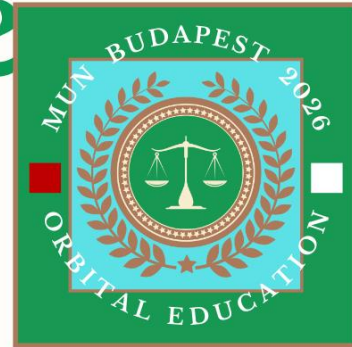


# Sustainable Population Growth



## *Ice Breakers*

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The Chairs of the advanced committee opened the session with an interesting series of engaging ice breakers, which included competitive “spaghetti + marshmallow” tower building, resulting in humorous chaos and tension. This was then followed by the famous “two truths and a lie”, unmasking the delegates personalities.

## *Opening Speeches*

The delegate of Australia opened the conference by taking the opportunity to discuss the seminal issue of population control, believing as a nation that protecting vulnerable populations whilst ensuring sustainable governance was their main goal in the conference. They outlined their recent benevolent actions, such as having allocated 20 thousand visas for humanitarian intake or having made 185 thousand places for immigrants, demonstrating their supposed stated commitment for human rights.



This was followed by China, who, on the topic of population dynamics, connected to necessary sustainability. The Republic of China linked this said sustainability with respect for human rights, which in turn advocates for voluntary family planning.

Throughout the delegates speeches, an important weight was placed on mutual collaboration and respect, and especially an access to healthcare and education, all whilst promoting individuality.

France also passionately emphasized the need not only for short-term solutionism, but rather for long term stability that, for example, battle fragile healthcare systems. The Republic of France “firmly believes that development which comes at the cost of human rights cannot be called development”. Sustainable progress can only be achieved through empowerment as opposed to force.

Other representatives of countries like Germany, underscored the need for the preservation of human dignity, of humans as individuals. They also underscored their strengthened partnership with UNFPA's Humanitarian Thematic Fund for emergency response. Moreover, countries like India also heavily spotlighted the necessity for individualist, voluntary approaches and solutions which do not “trample” active development, advocating for rights-based voluntary approaches that respect state sovereignty.

Moving on to another global superpower, Russia offered a more profound approach, criticizing the way individuals are reduced to numbers and patterns, ignoring how behind every figure there's a person, a family, a story. The Russian Federation advises for voluntary, rights-based, nationally driven approaches like the Maternity Capital Program. The delegate of Russia claimed that autonomy means a natural increase in responsibility and therefore development. The United Kingdom also posed an important question: “Can sustainability truly exist if there is also a violation of human rights present?” As a longstanding supporter of UN Population Fund, noted that when women are empowered, population growth stabilizes naturally, whilst strongly rejecting coercive population control measures. In addition, the United States expressed their desire to shape underpopulated countries facing demographic pressure, believing that falling fertility rates are connected to the strain of childbearing in today's society, calling for collective responsibility.



## **Topics Discussion**

As the committee delved into controversial topics such as poverty population issues and abortion, tensions arose and delegates began to put one another on the spotlight, testing their abilities of improvisation, debate, and factual knowledge of their corresponding countries. Within the topic of abortion and reproductive rights, the United States was put on the spot, tested on their ethics and arguments. 43% of states in the country have banned abortion, with the corresponding delegate explaining this is due to differing ethical and religious belief, reflecting historical division between progressives and conservatives, ones they choose to respect state to state. Russia, in turn chose to intervene, questioning the overturning of Roe vs Wade and the fact that liberals within certain states now have limited rights; in relation to the United States' arguments.



Furthermore, Germany acknowledged that abortion is illegal, but “non punishable in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy”. They also explicitly recognized and emphasized that abortion does in fact have several health risks tied to it, yet as a nation, aim to continue to reduce this. In response to delegates’ concerns, they aim to deploy more police officers in areas they deem “most unsafe”.



Once again, Russia put another country on the spot, France, questioning its intentions with international relations. The delegate of France, however, explained how it does not aim to impose strategies on other countries, avoiding interfering with pre-existing sovereignty and established procedures.

Moreover, exploring demographic issues and population decline, Russia brought to light issues regarding its ageing workforce and population decline, influencing “economic stability and cohesion”, asking the committee to consider these issues. In terms of poverty, India focused on education to prevent certain issues like rape, for example, which led to Russia questioning how mere questioning could prevent rape in itself. India later added that education wasn’t the sole prevention plan for such problems.

Within the topic of poverty, especially in regard to developing countries, a great quantity of delegates emphasized autonomy, as well as women’s autonomy specifically. Most vouched for an education-based, and international, collaborative rapport.

After having taken a break and having regained their energies, the delegates met again to debate the topic of immigration. The delegation of the United States strongly emphasized the way they believe illegal immigration only harms their society, which can, however, be altered through processes like family visas. The United States, nevertheless, acknowledges the fact that their country is made up of 14.4% of immigrants, which boosts the labour force. Russia, Germany, and France strongly debated this, bringing into question the treatment of deported immigrants, the conditions of the immigrants’ country of origin, and the complex visa processes. The United States firmly explained how illicit acts such as illegal immigration pose a threat to their national security, something which they do not take lightly. Here, all delegates managed to keep composure and respect, despite rising tensions.

Both the delegate of France and the delegate of Russia cross-examined the representative of India regarding issues related to emigration (both factors affecting the country of origin and the host countries-the way they treat immigrants). The delegate of India proceeded to explain the way financial incentives like pensions, will be placed in aim to increase the attractiveness of the country to promote qualified individuals to stay, rather than emigrating for economic reasons. Australia took the stage next, powerfully emphasizing their interests in immigrants, the way their country is improved by them. As France explains, Australia seems to be very “pro-immigrants”. Nevertheless, Australia unfortunately had to acknowledge the fact that with an increasing number of immigrants, they seem to be losing their culture, meaning a limit was placed in the number of immigrants. India later inquired about growing racism rates, to which the Australian delegate informed there are school programs established to battle this.