

COMMITTEE: WSIS+10

TOPIC: BRIDGING DIGITAL DIVIDES

CLAIRE FARRELL

Intro/ Background:

The growing relevance of technology in society has undoubtedly become exceedingly important globally, but the issue of access for developing countries comes into question. The United Nations is fully committed to turning “digital divide” into a digital opportunity, especially for those at risk of being left behind and further marginalized in the global society.⁵

Digital opportunity is the positive move forward or fixing the gap in digital access. Ideally digital opportunity means; the world having full access to information and communication technology (ICT), all homes and persons equipped with such devices (affordably), as well as the population using broadband to stay up to date with current information.¹ “Bridge” is now the common verb when discussing the digital divide, and this verb “bridge” acknowledges the existing gap of technology amongst nations; this involves ideas of social inclusion and equity.³

Past UN Actions:

In the 2007 WSIS Geneva conference three implementation plans about closing this digital divide took action: national; in which individual governments take the lead, regional; involves the UN Regional Commissions and intergovernmental organizations based on a multi-stakeholder approach, and international; involving coordination with the UN group on the Information Society (UNGIS), the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).²

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will acknowledge global interconnectedness and it’s potential to advance societal progress and to help bridge digital divides will help develop knowledge in societies, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).⁴

Bibliography

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- ⁴ United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (2015). With high-level forum, UN General Assembly aims to narrow digital divide. 14 December.
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COMMITTEE: GA 3

TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND COUNTER THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

CLAIRE FARRELL

Intro/ Background:

Drugs are threatening to a majority of States because of consequences such as crime, trafficking, the spread of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, among other serious threats to society. ¹According to the 2004 World Health Organization, 250,000 deaths occurred due to illicit drug use globally. Although this is a large number, this statistic fails to include deaths related to crime and post drug use diseases creating a drug problem the world faces and has faced for many years affecting nearly every country to some degree.

Past UN Actions:

In 1998 the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) convened on the topic of the world drug problem. ²High goals were made for 2008 for the U.N. International Drug Control Programme to develop strategies with an aim to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy.

UNGASS reconvened in 2008 in Vienna to discuss the progress made and agreed on a Political Declaration on Global Drug Control after previous efforts have failed. ³In said declaration UNGASS would hold the next conference in the year 2019; however, drug problems continued specifically affecting Mexico, Colombia, and Guatemala subsequently causing these States to bring this prevailing issue to light at an earlier conference date (2016). ⁴In the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 2016, focus was placed on global concern with public health, drug related crime, substance abuse, as well as significantly decreasing production and trafficking of illicit drugs globally.

Bibliography

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