



# EMUN

*10<sup>th</sup> Session*

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**Some Special Preparation for this Year's SPECPOL:**

**1. Opening Speech** [To be completely written BEFORE conference]

All delegates will give an opening speech in committee. Opening speeches should be 45-60 seconds long, and outline the delegation's thoughts on how the committee's topics (Focused on Topic 1) should be addressed by the members assembled.

**2. Resolution** [to be worked on BEFORE conference]

Start work on your resolutions before the conference. Lobbying and merging time will only be allotted for quickly merging and getting signatories. You will not have time to write a resolution once the conference has started. For feedback before the conference, kindly email [jahnavikothari@hotmail.com](mailto:jahnavikothari@hotmail.com)

**3. Country Progress Presentation** [to be completely prepared BEFORE the conference]

All delegates will give a presentation in committee. Create a presentation on your country's progress in reaching the MDG Goals. Discuss drawbacks, success stories and best practices. The maximum time allotted for this presentation is 2 minutes for each delegate. You may use a powerpoint/visual aid if required. Although make sure it is emailed to us BEFORE the conference begins. [akshatrajan@gmail.com](mailto:akshatrajan@gmail.com)

**4. Framework of Post 2015 Agenda** [to be worked on DURING the conference]

Your Chairpersons,  
Akshat Rajan, Jahnavi Kothari and Isabela Tara Streeter  
EMUN 2014

## **Agenda 1: Legal Empowerment of Women in Afghanistan**

### **Historical Context of Afghanistan:**

Many Afghani leaders have worked towards emancipating women by lifting restrictions. While most leaders failed, some made fundamental changes. King Amanullah was one such ruler that campaigned for women equality. King Amanullah encouraged that the girl child must receive formal education in school. He believed that women must not feel oppressed under the regime that demanded that they wear the hijab and permitted that women dress in attire that they felt comfortable in. Although King Amanullah made attempts to radicalize Afghani society, it became difficult for the society to adopt these novel reforms granted to women. In the 1970s, when the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) assumed power, they tried to repeat similar reforms to those introduced during King Amanullah's reign. Much attributed to the Democratic Party, women were allowed to work and hold other responsibilities in society other than the usual homemaker status.

### **Current Position of Women in Afghanistan:**

Ever since the new Prime Minister, Hekmatyar took over Afghanistan in 1996; he introduced a clamp on fundamental human rights. The restriction in human rights affected women largely as they were prohibited to work and leave their houses without being accompanied by a brother, father or husband. During the civil war several women were raped and molested. Women however, continue to suffer in what is essentially a patriarchal society in Afghanistan during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. However, since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the legal empowerment of women is improving. The progress in the position of Afghani women has improved under the Karzai Administration. Women are now permitted to carry out activities that they were previously declined (ie. working, driving etc.) Women are now included in the National Assembly and are allowed to assume the role of a governor or minister in the parliament. Women are also encouraged to train as lieutenants. However, the dismal Afghani economy doesn't make it conducive to achieving full employment. Since many men are unemployed, very few women have the opportunity to seek work. Nonetheless, women play an important role in the agricultural sector of the economy. While

progress has been made in the position of women in Afghanistan in urban societies, women in rural regions continue to be oppressed.

Some laws include “Complete ban on women's activity outside the home unless accompanied by a *mahram* (close male relative such as a father, brother or husband) and whipping, beating and verbal abuse of women not clothed in accordance with Taliban rules, or of women unaccompanied by a *mahram*.”<sup>1</sup>

### **What is Legal Empowerment?**

The Commission of Legal Empowerment of the Poor is an independent body of the United Nations Development Programme to work towards improving the situation of the “excluded and poor.” Legal Empowerment is essentially helping the marginalised gain access to basic human rights in order to make them confident in their given socio-economic situation.

Problems that undermine the empowerment of women:

- Lack of employment opportunities for them
- Lack of social security
- Corruption in rural areas that deems men superior to women
- Domestic violence
- Forced marriages
- Poor literacy rates
- Physical abuse
- Lack of state protection
- Poor economic circumstances
- Rural mindsets
- Lack of social freedom
- Forced child marriages

### **Why empower women in Afghanistan?**

Poor literacy rates and an environment plagued by poverty mean that a woman does not have access to job opportunities. While they must continue to fulfill their duties as homemaker, they still require a wage to run their family. The lack of established law and order does not give women access to a platform where they can fight for their rights in case they have faced instances of sexual violence etc. This makes women vulnerable to exploitation and violation of their rights.

Women neither have permission to file for

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<sup>1</sup> "Some of the Restrictions Imposed by Taliban in Afghanistan." *Some of the Restrictions Imposed by Taliban in Afghanistan*. Web. 15 Nov. 2014. <<http://www.rawa.org/rules.htm>>.

divorce nor do they have a say when their husband files for divorce.

**Questions to ponder over:**

1. What aspects of the situation in Afghanistan are impeding the empowerment of women? (ie. economic, poverty etc.)
2. What can be done to grant women access to legal forums and aid?
3. What measures can be taken to ensure emotional and psychological support to women?
4. How can the progress in the position of women be made stable?
5. What must be done to uplift the position of women in rural areas?  
(Address other factors: socio-economic, political etc.)

**Important links:**

<http://www.trustededucation.org/resources/life-as-an-afghan-woman/>  
<http://www.af.undp.org/content/afghanistan/en/home/mdgoverview/overview/mdg3/>  
<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/21/afghanistan-rights-setbacks-fan-future-fears>  
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~macne20a/classweb/worldpolitics/final.html>

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/47fdfad5d.html>

<http://www.legalaidreform.org/news/item/676-legal-empowerment-and-the-global-%20development-agenda>



**Agenda 2: Evaluating the Progress of the  
MDGs and  
Charting a Course for the Future**



**Background Information**


The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.


**2013: MDG Acceleration and Beyond 2015**


On 25 September 2013, the President of the UN General Assembly hosted a special event to follow up on efforts made towards


achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the Special Event towards achieving the MDGs, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented to Member States his report entitled “A Life of Dignity for All”. In the outcome document adopted by Member States, world leaders renewed their commitment to meet the MDG’s targets and agreed to hold a high-level Summit in September 2015 to adopt a new set of Goals building on the achievements of the MDGs.


On 23 September 2013, the Secretary-General hosted a high-level forum to catalyze and accelerate further action to achieve the MDGs and enrich the deliberations of the General Assembly and beyond. The forum focused on concrete examples of scaling up success and identifying further opportunities. Additional commitments to boost MDG achievement were announced, bringing the total to more than \$2.5 billion.

Goal 1: 2013 Fact Sheet 


Goal 2: 2013 Fact Sheet 


Goal 3: 2013 Fact Sheet 

Goal 4: 2013 Fact Sheet 

Goal 5: 2013 Fact Sheet 

Goal 6: 2013 Fact Sheet 

Goal 7: [2013 Fact Sheet](#) 

Goal 8: [2013 Fact Sheet](#) 

## **2010 Summit on the Millennium**

### **Development Goals**

The 2010 MDG Summit concluded with the adoption of a global action plan -- Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals -- and the announcement of a number of initiatives against poverty, hunger and disease. In a major push to accelerate progress on women's and children's health, a number of Heads of State and Government from developed and developing countries, along with the private sector, foundations, international organizations, civil society and research organizations, pledged over \$40 billion in resources over the next five years.

### **2008 High-level Event on the MDGs**

Governments, foundations, businesses and civil society groups rallied around the call to action to slash poverty, hunger and disease by 2015, by announcing new commitments to meet the Millennium Development Goals, at a high-level event at UN Headquarters on 25 September 2008. The gathering "exceeded our most optimistic expectations," UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, noting that it generated an estimated \$16 billion, including some \$1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than \$4.5 billion for education and \$3 billion to combat malaria.

### **2005 World Summit**

The 2005 World Summit, held from 14 to 16 September at United Nations Headquarters in New York, brought together more than 170 Heads of State and Government. It was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take bold decisions in the areas of development, security, human rights and reform of the United Nations. The agenda was based on an achievable set of proposals outlined in March 2005 by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report "In Larger Freedom".

### **Millennium Summit**

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - that have

become known as the Millennium Development Goals.

### **UN Millennium Project**

The Millennium Project was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2002 to develop a concrete action plan for the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to reverse the grinding poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people. In 2005, the independent advisory body headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, presented its final recommendations to the Secretary-General in a synthesis volume “Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.”

### **UN Millennium Campaign**

The United Nations Millennium Campaign, started in 2002, supports and inspires people from around the world to take action in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Watch the videos by the Millennium Campaign on poverty, education, women’s empowerment, maternal health and the environment and discover how the lives of ten ordinary people around the world are impacted in profound ways by the level of

progress their countries have made towards achieving the Goals.

### **Information available at:**

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

Websites you must use:

[www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)

[www.undp.org/mdg](http://www.undp.org/mdg)

[www.worldbank.org/mdgs/](http://www.worldbank.org/mdgs/)

[www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/)

[www.who.int/mdg/en/](http://www.who.int/mdg/en/)

<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference-2014/>

Check out the track reports:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/news.shtml>

THIS DOCUMENT IS PROBABLY THE HEART OF ALL YOUR RESEARCH:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>