

Scenario for the International System Simulation

University-level, Spring 2005

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Introduction

This scenario provides an overview of the issues to be handled in this simulation. Background information for each issue is provided, along with specific negotiation questions. The proposals submitted by country-teams during the simulation should relate to the issues raised by the negotiation questions.

The simulation is set in late 2005. The simulation occurs in the future to encourage you to be creative in developing your own policies and proposals instead of duplicating the real-life events of your country and the international system as they occur. Participants in this negotiation are member-governments of an international organization tasked with pursuing policies that will be acceptable to the whole international community. Individual countries, however, often have unique, and sometimes conflicting, interests about what policies are truly the best for the international community.

Each participating country is expected to engage in rigorous negotiations as they craft, develop, and amend proposals related to the main issues on the agenda for these negotiations. There are 6 general areas of discussion for the participants -- the global economy, environment, terrorism, peacekeeping, refugees, and public health. Each of these issue areas is outlined in more detail below, and country representatives should pay close attention to the Negotiation Questions included in each section. Discussions and proposals throughout the negotiations should relate back to these core questions. (Also, review the Simulation Rules under "Resources" above to get a clear understanding of the process of these negotiations.)

Remember, a good and effective diplomat is not necessarily concerned about the number of proposals that are approved during a round of negotiations. Rather, a diplomat will be considered successful if he or she is able to address key national concerns while also understanding the importance of maintaining strong relationships with other members of the international community. Keep this in mind as you move ahead!

The Global Economy

Debt

Even as globalization links states more closely together, there are large and growing differences in levels of wealth and power among states. Most leaders agree that drastic inequalities in the global economy are problematic, but broad disagreements exist about how severe a problem this is and what, if anything, the international community needs to do about it.

During the late 1940s and the 1950s many countries in the South gained independence from colonial powers. They invested in infrastructure (including electricity, roads, and factories), resources, and human capital (in areas such as education and health care) in an effort to industrialize and become more developed. These states obtained loans from international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank, other states, and private lenders to finance their investment.

Unfortunately, many of these investments have not provided the expected rewards. As a result, states that received these loans have been unable to repay them and face massive debt crises. Once debt crises began, other international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stepped in to provide emergency loans and enforce austerity measures, designed to stabilize economies by reducing government spending. Reduced government spending on domestic programs, in turn, should enable international debt repayment. The end result has been a cycle of new loans and decreased domestic spending in developing countries.

Calls for debt forgiveness (erasing current government deficits) have come from a variety of humanitarian groups including the Jubilee Movement, launched in 1990 and endorsed by the Vatican, which calls for a one-time forgiveness of all debt for the world's poorest countries. Frequent protests against what some believe to be the inhumanity of austerity measures and the negative affects of globalization at world financial meetings (such as at a joint IMF/World Bank meeting in Prague in 2000 and the WTO meetings in Miami in 2003) draw global attention to this issue. These protestors are countered by economists and others who argue that forgiving debt would destabilize international financial trends by creating losses for lenders, encouraging the future non-payment of debt, and discouraging future lending. They also state that austerity measures provide the necessary structure that will allow developing countries to pay back debt more quickly.

Trade

While some see foreign debt as the most pressing issue related to the long-term stability of the global economy, others point to international trade both as the engine of this global economy and as the best means to address economic inequalities among countries. Discussions and debates related to international trade policy focus on the issue of the merits, drawbacks, and alternatives to a free-trade system.

Free-trade advocates support a system in which all states lower existing barriers to trade such as tariffs and quotas. They argue that competition among states will increase the overall efficiency of the global economy by forcing countries to specialize in what they do best, taking advantage of their comparative strengths in the marketplace. As a result, all states will be better off. The World Trade Organization was created to advance this goal. However, many countries find it difficult to compete economically against the wealthy states in this type of system and, as such, some argue that protectionist trade policies should be encouraged in certain circumstances in order to "level the playing field" in the international arena. Protectionist policies include strategies to give preferred or protected status to certain states or fledgling industries in order to give them a change to grow. Critics argue, though, that protectionism fosters inefficiencies and reduces the benefits to all of a free-trade system.

Some support a modified version of a global free-trade system, advocating geographically based regional trade blocs as a means of stimulating economic development. Regional trade agreements such as the European Union and NAFTA have had some success in increasing trade among neighbors and providing economic growth. In January 2004, at the ten year anniversary of NAFTA's inception, World Bank officials released a report saying that while both the United States and Mexico had benefited economically from NAFTA, the benefit to the United States was greater.

Negotiation Questions:

1. Under what conditions, if any, should debt forgiveness be extended to a country or a group of countries?
2. What exceptions, if any, to a general free-trade system will foster the strongest global economy?

Global Environment

An inherent link exists between economic issues and those of the environment. In many ways, tensions exist about the degree to which a state's natural resources should be used (and depleted) to fuel its economic growth. Similarly, debates rage on about what the appropriate balance is between the goal of environmental protection and the economic costs associated with such protections. Given increased awareness that one country's environmental conditions have an impact on the global environment, this debate has reached the international arena.

Advocates of sustainable development maintain that there are environmentally sound approaches to growing a country's, and the world's, economy — that is, that countries can expand their economies without abusing natural resources or harming the local and international environment. As demonstrated by the work of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, supporters of sustainable development argue that economic development that helps to preserve the natural environment is actually more efficient, as it helps to ensure long-term economic, and human, security. The spread of green technologies -- especially advances that employ renewable fuel resources (including solar, wind, and hydropower) -- demonstrate that

sustainable development can be a realistic option.

However, critics, like Oxford University economist Wilfred Beckerman, note that a commitment to sustainable development can be harmful to poorer countries. Approaches to economic growth consistent with sustainable development can be dramatically more expensive than more traditional strategies. While advances, for instance, in the realm of green technologies have made products that rely on renewable fuel sources available, these products are far more costly at present than most products that rely upon so-called dirty fuel sources, like coal and oil. On a larger scale, launching companies or industries that meet the highest levels of environmental standards can be prohibitively expensive to those in the Global South,

Thus, faced with the choice of environmentally harmful investment or none at all, most developing countries will accept long-term environmental degradation in return for short-term economic gains. While most developed countries have enacted regulatory environmental laws, many developing countries of the South have much less restrictive regulations or none at all. In an effort to attract investment, some developing countries have become "pollution havens," where multinational corporations can relocate to escape environmental regulations at home. This undermines efforts of the developing world to preserve the international environment but meets immediate needs of developing countries for investment.

Furthermore, leaders in the developing world note that the "Global North" countries were allowed to build their economies with no regard to the environment or the grave impact ecological impacts of their massive industrialization programs. As such, it seems unjust that today's developing countries – which were for so long colonized and exploited by the industrialized world – are being told that they should not be allowed to employ the same less expensive roads to development and growth that countries like the United States in the past with no regard to environmental consequences.

The fact remains, though, that environmental abuses in one country affect the entire world as the realities of a depleted ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, acid rain, and other phenomena demonstrate. What is less clear is how to effectively balance real economic needs and interests with global environmental concerns.

Negotiation Questions:

1. To what degree should the international community mandate countries to use sustainable development approaches as they work to grow their economies?
2. What specific strategies can and should be used to encourage environmentally sound economic development?

International Terrorism

Terrorism has been a major international security issue for decades. The 1980s saw such as terrorist incidents as the 1983 Beirut, Lebanon truck bombing, the 1985 Air India suitcase bomb, and the 1989 bombing of a French UTA airplane. The 1990s and 2000s have also seen numerous terrorist attacks, including a 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, Irish Republic Army bombings in the United Kingdom, the 1996 Central Bank bombing in Sri Lanka, the 2001 attacks in New York City and Washington, DC, and the 2004 Madrid train bombings. These and other attacks have resulted in thousands of deaths. [List of terrorist incidents.]

There have been several international resolutions aimed at preventing and responding to terrorism. In 1979 the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, in 1997 the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and in 1999 the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Regional resolutions include the 1998 Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, agreed to by the League of Arab States and the UN, and the 1999 Treaty on Cooperation among States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism, agreed to by the Commonwealth of Independent States and the UN. Together, these agreements and others mark the joint efforts of the international community to prevent terrorism. They clearly have not been entirely effective. [List and text of UN Conventions on Terrorism.]

Other efforts to combat terrorism include military activities, among them the US-led coalition against Afghanistan in 2001 designed to, according to President Bush, "disrupt the use" of Afghanistan as a base for

al-Qaeda, and the training of military personnel by the US to counter terrorists in Georgia. Also, governments dedicated to fighting terrorism share intelligence reports and lists of known terrorist organizations and work to freeze the assets of these organizations, thereby limiting their ability to organize and carry out attacks. Since September 11, 2001, 145 countries have blocked \$46 million in terrorist-related access. This is in addition to approximately \$64 million blocked by the United States.

However, many terrorist organizations receive support from states. One of the current areas of concern in the global war on terror lies in determining the proper way to respond to states that either sponsor terrorism or provide safe haven to terrorists. According to the US State Department, a state-sponsor of terrorist activity provides logistical, political, and financial support for broadly-recognized terrorist groups. The State Department identified seven state sponsors of terrorism in its 2003 Patterns of Global Terrorism report: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Sudan. In May 2003 President George Bush removed all sanctions against Iraq, effectively removing its status as a state-sponsor of terrorism. The US also recognizes that Libya has taken significant steps towards cooperating in the global war on terrorism, including sharing intelligence and deterring terrorists from operating within state borders. The other five states, however, are believed to continue to actively sponsor terrorism.

There are also numerous states that have been accused of providing safe haven for terrorists. While the governments of these states may not have official ties to terrorist organizations or provide funding, they allow terrorists to reside inside their borders. Lebanon allows such organizations as Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to operate within its borders. The United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, the National Liberation Army, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia reside in Colombia and carry out terrorist attacks within the country. Other states that may provide safe haven to terrorists are Somalia, Yemen, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Often, these states do not have the power to control the activities that are occurring within their borders and may be unable to remove the terrorists or stand up to another state that has control, as is the case with Syrian power over Lebanon.

These two types of state relations with terrorism create a difficult situation for states involved in the global war on terror. The modern international system is organized around the principle of state sovereignty. Sovereignty is defined as the legal right of the governing authority of a state to exercise power within its borders and control over its relations with other states. Thus, there is a disconnect between the rights of some states to protect themselves against terrorism and the rights of other states to control the activities that occur within their borders.

Negotiation Questions:

1. What steps can and should the international community take against terrorist organizations to limit the chances of future terrorist attacks?
2. How should the international community respond to states that are believed to sponsor terrorism or to provide safe haven to terrorists?

Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping

The traditional state-versus-state model of war that dominated the twentieth century has largely been replaced by internal conflicts that revolve around ethnic, political, and territorial dynamics. 2003 saw a total of 37 armed conflicts, with 25 continuing from 2002 and two new conflicts emerging. Sixteen of the conflicts were in Asia, fourteen in Africa and all were internal civil wars. The vast majority of these conflicts are ongoing. An armed conflict is defined as a conflict in which at least 1000 people have been killed. The international community, organized around state-level organizations, has responded slowly and unsystematically to these civil conflicts and has often stood by while brutal campaigns continued unchecked. International peacekeepers, under the command of the United Nations or regional organizations, have been deployed in many situations, although their role in these conflicts is often unclear and their effectiveness questionable.

Sovereignty is central to the issue of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Within the traditional international system, states are considered sovereign entities that have sole control over the activities within their borders. Respect for a state's sovereignty can prevent the international community from taking action to

address situations, even atrocities, in another country. In order to be more effective peacekeepers, members of the international community need to find an appropriate balance between national sovereignty and the right of the international community to intervene in the internal affairs of a state. As such, it is crucial for you to consider what your country's point of view is regarding the "sanctity of state sovereignty." This balance has not been clearly defined, and, until it is established, conflict prevention and resolution efforts of the international community will continue to be applied inconsistently. [Analysis]

One of the primary issues related to conflict resolution is the role of the peacekeeping troops. The United Nations, with its member-states traditionally providing peacekeeping forces, makes a distinction between peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peace enforcing. Peacekeeping is the monitoring of a cease fire agreement, supervising decommissioning of arms, and assisting refugee resettlement. Peacemaking does not refer to the use of member-states' troops but instead concentrates on using diplomacy to persuade parties in conflict to arrange a cease fire and negotiate a peaceful settlement. [Analysis of peacebuilding and peacemaking] Peace enforcement is the use of force against by troops outside the conflict to bring an end to hostilities. While the UN does not engage in peace enforcement, peacekeeping and peacemaking may have limited value in the case of genocide (mass killings of an ethnic or religious group) or politicide (massacres of political opposition.) However, peace enforcement often entails levels of casualties and long-term intervention unacceptable to most states.

Currently it takes between three and six months for peacekeeping forces to be fully deployed following a conflict. During this time residual violence may erupt. To speed up deployment, the UN has begun to create a standby arrangement whereby states keep their troops in standby mode in their home country so that they can be deployed quickly. Currently there are 80 states working to reach rapid deployment level, but only two states that are in full standby mode. The role of third-party forces, and their level of involvement in existing conflicts, needs to be examined and a set of guidelines agreed to on this issue. As you discuss this issue, consider what military forces or support capacity your country have available to provide for peacekeeping missions.

United Nations member-states have traditionally been the main provider of peacekeeping forces, yet there has been disagreement about the funding of these missions as well as the leadership of forces. Some members have been reluctant, and have even refused, to provide support for UN missions and have resisted putting their national armed forces under the command of the diverse and multinational United Nations leadership. One alternative is the use of regional peacekeeping forces, trained and supported through international cooperative agreements. For example, the United States has been active in supporting the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program, which would train a response force in Africa composed of regional troops. Also, in February 2004 Indonesia released a proposal to build a regional peacekeeping force as part of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Security Concept. While this would have potential advantages in terms of greater consensus among the states providing the troops, broader support, and greater chance of crisis resolution, critics contend that regional forces may not always be neutral in these conflicts, and that the end result of their deployment may be to increase conflict rather than stop it.

Negotiation Questions:

1. What guidelines should dictate when it is appropriate for the international community to commit peacekeeping forces to a specific situation?
2. To what degree should peacekeeping or peacemaking forces be the responsibility of individual states, or should they be the responsibility of an international or regional organizations?

Refugees and IDPs

The concept of human rights has been debated for millennia, yet there is still no universally accepted and enforceable definition. Currently, each state maintains its own definition and therefore vary greatly based on cultural, social, religious, economic and political norms. The difficulty in assuring that rights are guaranteed lies with defining what the rights are and who is entitled to them. Complicating this question is the issue of whether non-citizens such as refugees have guaranteed rights. The number of international refugees grows every year, with many refugee populations approaching permanent status as residents in the countries where they take refuge due to unresolved crises in their homelands. The UN High Commissioner of

Refugees estimates that there were more than 20 million refugees around the world in 2003. In the vast majority of host countries these refugees have no rights at all and it is often only through the intervention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that they receive humanitarian aid.

The plight of international refugees is a persistent dilemma. According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country..." Countries that have well-protected and policed borders, particularly wealthier states, are able to be more selective than others about the refugees they accept and generally set and enforce strict limits. Thus, most refugees are located in very poor states which are unable to provide support to them or absorb them into society. Modest amounts of aid are provided to refugees through the UNHCR, but it is barely enough to provide basic services to the millions of refugees forced to flee their home countries.

In addition, the UNHCR has no authority over "internally displaced persons" (IDPs), who have fled their hometowns but remain within their own state borders. As described by the Global IDP Project, these are people who have left their homes either due to conflict, fear of conflict, or human rights violations. If these displaced individuals are unable or are prevented (by military force, geographic location, or other measures) from leaving their home countries, there is no permanent international agency to care for them or provide aid. By definition, IDPs are not refugees, and -- given the sanctity of state sovereignty in the international system -- IDPs remain the responsibility of their home state. Efforts to assist them can and have been seen as violations of state sovereignty.

Thousands of IDPs were left to fend for themselves during the armed conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s, and thousands more have emerged in such countries as Sudan, Indonesia, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, the UNHCR is assisting 6.3 million of the 20-25 million IDPs. The most threatening situation is in the Darfur region of Sudan, where there are an estimated 4 million IDPs and where IDPs have been subject to mass murder, rape, and arson. An estimated 30,000 to 50,000 people have been killed both in IDP camps and when they tried to return to their homes, but the international community has been divided regarding the proper course of action, if any. Despite a January 2005 peace agreement among warring factions in Sudan, this remains a volatile and dangerous area.

Negotiation Questions:

1. Should the international community be doing more to protect refugees and, if so, what should be done?
2. Can and should the international community become involved in addressing the needs of internally displaced peoples (IDPs)? What can or should be done?

Public Health

In the past, communicable diseases were generally contained in the immediate region of the infected people. Now, due in large part to the interconnectivity caused by globalization, virulent and deadly diseases can spread almost anywhere. Also, due to poor health services and infrastructure in developing states, treatable diseases such as tuberculosis and preventable diseases such as AIDS run rampant. Cultural and religious restraints as well as political and economic factors such as patent protection combine to make the delivery of health care for the prevention and treatment of diseases difficult and costly.

Currently, many new and reemerging diseases threaten specific regions of the world. For example, the avian influenza in Hong Kong and West Nile encephalitis in the US threaten to spread to nearby countries if not contained. Also, new forms of treatable diseases have emerged, such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, that are resistant to existing medications. These diseases can spread quickly as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) did in 2003. The SARS outbreak began in China, but quickly spread throughout Southeast Asia and then to North America. China was reluctant to share information about the disease and the scale of infection, worsening the crisis and leading to international criticism of the Chinese government. When countries do not provide reliable data on infection rates, responding to such threats is harmfully delayed. Given the near certainty of future outbreaks which can become epidemics, this is seen by some as an urgent issue.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which have already been established as a pandemic, continue to elude attempts to find a cure. Globally, an estimated 37.8 million people are living with HIV as of the end of 2003. Twenty five million of those people are in sub-Saharan Africa. Fifteen million children have been orphaned due to AIDS deaths and 2.9 million people died from AIDS in 2003. Modest improvements that had been made in reducing the rate of transmission have all but been erased. The above statistics are available from the 2004 UN AIDS Report. It is important to note, however, that these statistics are estimates by the United Nations and World Health Organization, as some governments are unwilling to provide any information regarding the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in their country.

Preventing the spread of HIV, both within the adult population and via pregnancy, is integral to limiting the damaging effects that HIV and AIDS have had on life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa. However, there are very strongly held and very different beliefs as to the best way to advocate prevention. One such method of prevention is the distribution of condoms. Condoms lower the transmission rate of HIV to near zero, however many governments do not allow the distribution of condoms due to cultural and religious beliefs. Abstinence and education are two other means for preventing the spread of HIV. Clearly, abstinence results in a transmission rate of zero. However, in many societies women do not have access to education nor do they have the social standing to insist on abstinence. Prevention programs, meant to educate the public, are reaching fewer than 20 percent of the population. Only 10 percent of people with HIV know they are infected. As a result, transmission rates remain high, with an estimated 4.8 million people contracting HIV in 2003.

As transmission rates remain high and the struggle continues over the best way in which to prevent transmission, it is important to also consider how to make antiretroviral medicines available to people who have contracted HIV and AIDS. Large scale efforts over the past several years have led to a dramatic reduction in the cost of antiretrovirals. In 2000 the world market price for one year of antiretrovirals was between US\$10000 and US\$12000. By early 2002 the price had dropped to about US\$300 per year. Many pharmaceutical companies, such as Bristol-Myers Squibb provide their antiretroviral drugs in Africa for free or at very low cost. However, the drugs often are not reaching the individuals who need them. Less than one in ten people who need antiretroviral treatments receive them.

The UN 2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic identifies women and adolescent girls as two groups in need of special consideration regarding treatment and care. Women and girls are considered at high risk for contracting HIV and face numerous obstacles in their communities to receiving treatment, including gender imbalance, the threat of violence if found to be HIV positive, and the general inability to take action to protect themselves. Women constitute 57 percent of HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa. In attempting to increase access to antiretroviral treatment in underdeveloped areas, considering the even more difficult plight of women and girls is especially important.

Negotiation Questions:

1. What efforts should be taken to effectively prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases?
2. What approach will be most effective to combat the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and how can this approach be implemented throughout the world?