

**Topic 1: Cyber Surveillance**

The internet is a powerful tool. It makes communicating, spreading news, and accessing information easier. In the past, each country's government has decided what access its citizens should have to the internet. Governments have also chosen whether to use the internet as a tool to oversee citizens. Countries may choose to control and monitor internet activity in an effort to protect their citizens. This practice is known as cyber surveillance.

Some countries use cyber surveillance to control the ability of their citizens to access the internet, or specific information on the internet. For example, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) does not allow citizens to access information that could threaten the government. The government argues that this protects the country's interests.

Other countries choose to use cyber surveillance to monitor their citizens' internet activities. As history has shown, the internet can be used to spread violence. For example, terrorist groups such as ISIS have used social media to recruit members. For another example, bullies have used the internet to anonymously target victims. Governments may take steps to prevent these types of activities. However, some worry that those steps are an invasion of privacy.

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to determine what role the United Nations should play in allowing or preventing cyber surveillance.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How powerful should a government be in controlling its people's internet?
2. How powerful should the United Nations be in telling countries how to regulate its people's internet?
3. How can the United Nations enforce specific internet regulations, if it chooses to do so?
Resources:

   **Description:** A few countries laws regarding their people’s internet policies.

   <http://policyreview.info/articles/analysis/necessary-and-inherent-limits-internet-surveillance>  
   **Description:** Looks and positives and negatives for surveillance

   **Description:** Examination on restricting the internet

   **Description:** The United Nations views of cyber harassment for women.

   <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/06/internet-and-surveillance-UN-makes-the-connection>  
   **Description:** A connection made between free speech and internet surveillance made by the United Nations

   **Description:** A source for why Cyber Surveillance can be seen as a negative thing

   **Description:** This source brings up the dilemma involved in censoring the internet
   **Description:** Demonstrates ramifications for lapse in surveillance

   **Description:** An examination on the reasons and implications for surveillance

    **Description:** Implications for mass surveillance
**Topic 2: Wealth Inequality**

Wealth inequality is a problem for people across the world. Wealth inequality is different from income inequality. Income is the amount of money a person earns. Wealth includes what a person earns and what a person owns, such as a house and savings, minus any debt a person owes. In 2015, 0.7% of the world’s population had control of 45.2% of global wealth. Meanwhile, 71% of the global population controlled just 3% of the world’s wealth. Wealth inequality exists between countries as well. In 2015, countries in North America and Europe had 18% of the world’s population and 67% of total wealth.

The least wealthy citizens often do not have access to the same opportunities as the wealthiest citizens. When wealth inequality is greater, many people (or countries) are not able to reach their full potential. For example, it can be difficult for less wealthy families to buy healthy foods because healthy foods are usually more expensive. This can lead to medical problems. For another example, the least wealthy often cannot pay to go to the best schools. Even when school is free, some of the least wealthy citizens have to leave school to work so their families have enough money to eat. Meanwhile, the wealthiest have a better opportunity to succeed in school and get a good job.

The wealth inequality problem has been difficult to correct. The wealthy usually have more opportunity to influence policy. Therefore, the less wealthy have trouble presenting political solutions to the problem.

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to determine what role the United Nations should play in addressing wealth inequality.
**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can the United Nations address wealth inequality in and among nations while respecting sovereignty?
2. What are the different effects that wealth inequality can have on specific nations and how can the United Nations develop a plan that will help the most nations possible?
3. What are the pros and cons of wealth redistribution? Is this an acceptable way to deal with this issue inside a nation? Between nations?

**Resources:**

   **Description:** Discusses negative and positive wealth inequality affects in different areas such as healthcare, politics, and education

   **Description:** Discusses specific areas of politics such as voting, running for office, and lobbying in the context of economic inequality and how each of these areas are affected with a greater wealth gap

   **Description:** This site gives a lot of statistics compiled from various sources about income inequality. Does not talk about the affects too much, but rather how prevalent wealth inequality has become.

Description: This is the most in depth source covering income inequality and wealth inequality in nations, regions, genders, races and then going a step further and analyzes the data to show what kind of consequences the numbers can have.


Description: Visualizes income inequality and other types of inequality. This is a great resource for creating relationships in different types of inequalities.


Description: Looks at wealth inequality data and what it means for a middle class. Most of the analysis is placed on the middle class and if it is possible for a middle class to emerge on a global scale.


Description: This article is very impactful. It covers income inequality in relation to health. One idea that it talks about is how a study found that a community with inequality, even if average wealth is the same, has a higher rate of crime and a lower life expectancy.


Description: This article does talk about the United States but also talks about other developed nations and ranks them in their wealth inequalities. It also shows how global wealth is distributed among a couple of nations.

Description: This source focuses on income inequality in relationship to quality and length of education. It then goes into the importance of education and the essentials of employment. By doing so, there is a full connection made from wealth/income inequality to unemployment.


Description: This source solely focuses on wealth inequality and makes the relationship between percentages of populations to percentage of world wealth.
Topic 3: Healthy Diet

Healthy diets protect the body against diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Despite health benefits, many people consume unhealthy diets. Unhealthy diets result from not eating enough of certain types of foods, such as fruits and vegetables, or eating too much of other types of foods, such as salt and sugar.

Unhealthy diets lead to malnutrition. Malnutrition is not always easy to see but can have serious consequences. Malnutrition is most harmful to pregnant women and children. If a pregnant woman does not have access to healthy foods, she and her baby may have lasting health problems. If children do not have access to healthy foods, they may suffer long-term developmental issues.

Diets vary worldwide and are shaped by a number of factors, including income, food accessibility, and culture. These factors mean that countries must cooperate in order to promote healthier diets around the globe.

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to determine what role the United Nations should play in promoting healthy diets.

Discussion Questions:
1. How can the United Nations promote the production and consumption of fruits and vegetables around the world?
2. How can the United Nations decrease the amount of salt and sugar that the global population is consuming?
3. How can the United Nations increase international awareness of healthy diets?

Resources:

Description: An article on the World Health Organization’s website explaining
insufficient fruit and vegetable consumption and excessive saturated fat and salt intake


Description: A page on the World Health Organization’s website that lists and explains several statistics regarding diets


Description: The Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, created in 2013, is the process WHO member states created by which noncommunicable diseases will be controlled and prevented.


Description: A brief description of unhealthy diets and how to prevent them


Description: A brief article on the World Health Organization’s website explaining what childhood obesity is


Description: In 2002, the World Health Organization adopted a strategy for improving diets and health worldwide.


Description: A brief definition of an unhealthy diet on the World Health Organization’s website. This page also includes links to other pages about diet on WHO’s website.

**Description:** A detailed article on the World Health Organization’s website explaining why consumption of salt needs to be reduced and how it can be done.


**Description:** A detailed article on the World Health Organization’s website describing the insufficient consumption of fruits and vegetables by much of the global population.


**Description:** A detailed article on the World Health Organization’s website explaining WHO’s agreement to reduce worldwide salt consumption by 30% by 2030 and listing strategies that can be taken to achieve this goal.