HEIDELBERG NATIONAL MUN

Heidelberg National Model United Nations 2018

General Assembly of the United Nations

Study Guide on “Digitalization and Development”

I. Welcome remark

Honourable Delegates,

We warmly welcome you to the General Assembly at Heidelberg National Model United Nations Conference 2018, held on January 13th and 14th in the wonderful “Neue Aula” in the old town of Heidelberg.

This year, the General Assembly will be debating a highly interesting, complex and modern topic: The future of development assistance in times of digitalization and modern technology. We believe this issue, also recently discussed by the real UN General Assembly in its 72nd session, is broad enough for every country to contribute in debate, but still specific enough to create a sufficiently concrete draft resolution. This present study guide should serve as an introduction and overview for you get to know different facets and major challenges to be tackled. We would nevertheless firmly encourage you to use the suggestions for further research and additionally to get closely acquainted with your country's position. This combination should be best for everyone to take part actively in committee.

We are sure not only the committee sessions, but also the whole conference will be an amazing experience for all of you, with interesting debates, great speeches, and of course meeting delegates from all subjects coming from all over Germany. If not during committee or lunch breaks, then surely at the pub crawl on Saturday evening!

We are especially heartily welcoming all MUN Newcomers in our committee. Don`t be shy, just start talking and debating, and you surely will catch the spirit, feel the groove and quickly be fully in MUN mode!

See you all in January
Best,

Your chairs
Rachel Behring and Jeremy Schmidt

II. Chair Introduction:

Rachel Behring:

Dear delegates,
As one of the chairs of this year's GA at HNMUN 2018 I feel so excited to welcome you to our committee. For sure, you are already just as keen to start the conference as we are. Whether you have only just recently entered the colorful world of MUNs or have already gained some experience as a delegate, my co-chair Jeremy and I, will do our very best to make your experience as rewarding, valuable, interesting, informative, but above all as fun as possible for every single one of you. As for me, I discovered my passion for MUNs while taking up my studies of International Relations at the Technical University of Dresden. After having been involved in the organization of the Dresden Model United Nations 2017, called ElbMUN, and being now prospective Secretary General of ElbMUN 2018, I still believe that there could not be a more creative, insightful and challenging manner to fulfill my passion for world affairs and international politics. Apart from my weakness for MUNs, I am also involved in the work of a student's organization providing support for refugees in Germany, I work for the faculty of international politics of TU Dresden and have a passion for running and basketball.
But even though you should not hesitate to ask me for advice or help before and throughout the conference, at HNMUN the spotlight will be entirely on you delegates.
Let's have an amazing conference together!

Jeremy Schmidt:

Hi everyone!

My name is Jeremy, I'm 22 years old and currently studying medicine in my ninth semester in the wonderful city of Heidelberg, which I can only highly recommend you to visit more detailed in line with your stay here. HNMUN 2018 will be my 17th MUN conference in total and fifth HNMUN in a row, being a member of our MUN club WorldMUN Heidelberg since then and having participated at our WorldMUN-Team twice, and a third time in the upcoming WorldMUN in Panama. I have surely been infected by the MUN spirit and just love the combination of interesting political discussions to getting to know various great students from all kind of origins. I`m sure everyone of you will gain lots of valuable assets in social skills as rhetoric or bargaining as well as content-wise skills in finding international solution and dealing with complex global health issues, and I´m very eager to support you in this experience! In my free time, I love football and basketball, being a huge supporter of Hamburger SV. Also, I'm active as project leader in a German education network concerning organ donation, named "Aufklärung Organspende".
I'm highly anticipating the weekend in January and can only promise to do my best to ensure an intensive, interesting, and most important fun committee in Heidelberg!

III. Committee overview: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. All 193 Member States of the United Nations are represented in this unique forum to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the UN Charter, such as development, peace and security and international law. Therefore, the GA covers six sub-committees, e.g. Specpol, Legal etc., to discuss more certain topics in more detail. Annually in September, all member states meet in the General Assembly Hall in New York City for an all-including session, carrying issues together and finding common solutions with the aim to present a unified answer to the world's major topics.

Member States have equal representation: one nation, one vote. Resolutions passed by the General Assembly serve as recommendations for the international community and require a simple majority to pass. After those by the Security Council, GA resolutions are the widest recognized and thus strongest signals the United Nations sends out into the world and thus, the GA finds itself in the position of being able to actively influence the development of binding international law.

IV. Topic of debate: "Digitalization and Development"

"Like air and drinking water, being digital will be noticed only by its absence, not its presence."

Nicholas Negroponte, Founder of the
One Laptop per Child Association, 1998

a. Introduction

With the rise of digital technology, the world is transforming at a steadily increasing pace. While international cooperation has been the key concept of the United Nations systems since its establishment, the concept of globalization is not the same anymore. Every person living on this earth has been directly or indirectly affected by the internet. The use of smart phone apps gives inhabitants of remote areas access to services such as online banking – something which unthinkable not long ago. Also, people connect with each other through the internet without any regard to geographical distances or political borders. Messages and ideas are spread around the world instantly. At Heidelberg National Model United Nations 2018, the General Assembly will look at a particular aspect of technological development: The effect of technology on development aid.

Today's international development aid system is heavily shaped by the postcolonialism of the cold war. It focuses on existing problems mostly aiming at margining poverty and increasing the health situation, building infrastructure for housing, transportation, and education, and creating a so-called "Good Governance". However, when considering the digital revolution, nearly all these aspects need a rethinking. Only to name a few examples further elaborated in this guide, devices like small drones could deliver food and medicines to rural areas, education apps could decrease the need of traditional schools, and money transfer or micro credits via online banking could ease trading and reduce corruption.

b. History and background

The concept of development assistance

More than half a century ago, the member states of the United Nations committed to promoting *"social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom"* in the preambular of their constitutive document, the UN-Charter. In doing so, they insinuated the need for supporting the

weakest and less developed ones among them and unknowingly laid down the foundations of what would later be known as “development aid”.
The term, used interchangeably with phrases such as development assistance, North-South-politics, development cooperation and foreign aid, refers to all political measures taken to create humane living conditions for all people across the globe. Forms of development cooperation include instruments such as the granting of credits or of non-repayable grants, the preparation, implementation or supervision of infrastructure projects or the vocational training and education of qualified personnel in developing countries. However, formats of development aid are under constant revision as well as it is the term itself. After all, the language applied gives the unfavorable impression that the north is developing the south, whereas it is often pointed out that indeed only the affected regions will eventually be able to help themselves. The term of development “aid” is consequently often tried to be replaced nowadays by development “cooperation”. Being nevertheless often accused of cementing post-colonial structures and everlasting divides between donor and beneficiary countries, the concept of development assistance is continually under pressure of having to innovate and justify itself.

Even though the ambitions of the founding states of the United Nations were so prominently noted down on the very first page of the Charter in 1948, they would not actively come back to their ideas until the 1960ies and 70ies. It was only then when the concept of development aid returned to the center stage of world politics as a byproduct of the cold war between the west and the east. Aiming at binding developing countries to their block and preventing the enemy of extending its reach, major players, all ahead the United States of America, first came to establish development assistance efforts as part of their security policy.

Throughout the decolonialization process, however, with more and more former colonies being newly incorporated into the United Nations system, the concept began to develop an end to itself. The mentioned countries proclaimed the first so called “development decade” and established ambitious goals that were to be reached by applying the concept of “development through growth”. The therein incorporated macroeconomic ideas of a “trickle down economy” and of foreign investments merely having to fill in investment gaps in developing countries proved to be inadequate in praxis. Interestingly, the so called Harrod-Domar-Modell of Development Economics of the time is every so often still used by the World Bank today, even though it was claimed to be unsuited for analyzing long term economic growth by its own developer in 1957.

In general terms however, a moving away from this idea could be observed at the end of the first development decade. Eventually the following “basic needs strategy” that focused on the poorest of the LDCs (Least Developed Countries) also had to make way for the neoliberal “Washington consensus” that liberalized the world economy and equally entered the field of development economics: structural adjustment policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

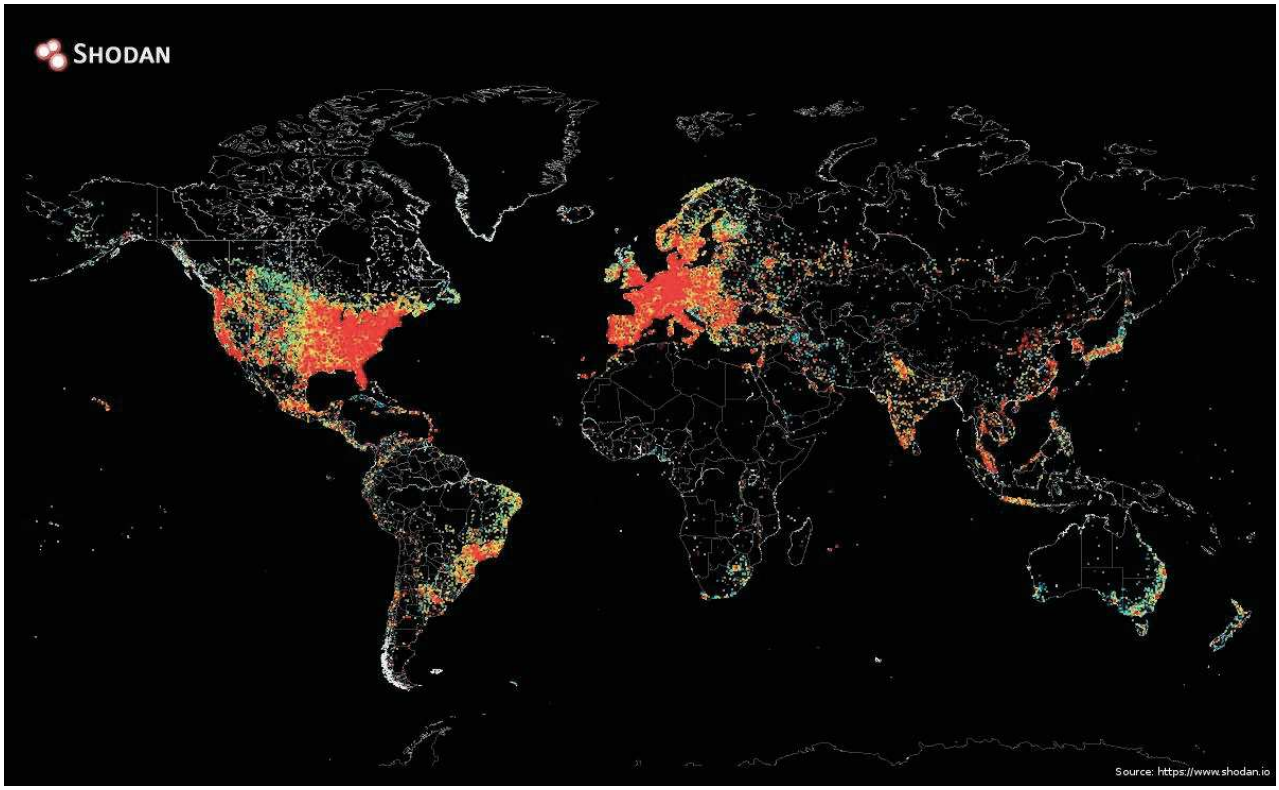
that tied the granting of credits to the fulfilment of conditions dictated by the donor countries were later heavily criticized. Among the critics was the chief economist of the World Bank itself, Joseph Stiglitz, who was first dismissed for his severe criticism, but later acknowledged through a Nobel Prize.

With the turn of the century, development efforts have entered a new phase. New developments were and are considered within the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that, among further objectives, outline the international community's intentions to innovate its development assistance system.

Globalization and Digitalization: The Digital Divide and the need for a reviewed approach to development assistance

The phenomenon of Globalization is a heavily criticized, heatedly discussed and seemingly never conclusively defined concept - but nevertheless it appears to be *the* buzz word of the 21st century. Referring to the term, experts from a vast range of disciplines talk about the internationalization of production methods and the international division of labor. On the other hand, the idea equally includes the development of transnational societal networks and of cosmopolitism as well as the erosion of the nation-state as we know it.
The social theorist and human geographer David Harvey has defined Globalization as the "time-space-compression" which societies all over the world have been able to observe throughout the last decade due to recent advances in communication and transport technologies. This reference to the so called "ICTs", the Information and Communication Technologies, gives us a hint concerning the center piece of the discussion about the need for an innovation of the global development cooperation system. It indicates that the world is shrinking and expanding at the same time, that information and humans travel faster than ever before and that exchange of and access to data is seemingly easier than ever before.

But indeed, the described digitalization process, often also referred to as the "digital revolution" of the 21st century, has not reached the entire human population. It is often heard of the so-called "digital divide" when digital in- and exclusion processes and restricted access to communication technologies are discussed. The mentioned technologies include landline connections, use of the internet and mobile phones as well as mobile and wired broadband connections. The gap separates low and middle-income countries with an often-insufficient supply of digital resources from digitally advanced, mostly western states. Statistical data of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) supports this apprehension: Whereas more than 80 percent of inhabitants of developed countries had access to the internet in 2015, it was merely 35% of the population of developing countries. This equals to almost 4 billion people in developing countries being constantly offline.



The graphic maps every device that's directly connected to the internet in 2014

In this context, the World Bank distinguishes between e-Leaders, e-Tigers and e-Losers according to the stage of development of the digital network and the human resources of a country. While the former group is mostly congruent with the OECD-states, the current “tigers” – symbol for their jump towards a more modern digital infrastructure – include countries such as China, Brazil and India. At the very bottom of the list one can find mostly African states: In 2014, 35 out of the 48 Low Income Countries (LICs) could be found on the African continent, where there was also the lowest density of connections to the world wide web.

But not only between but also within countries one can observe this digital divide – even though the inner divides tend to be more extensive in the case of countries being more affected of the problem of limited access to ICTs from the start. Still, when comparing rural and urban areas, minor elites and the broad population of a country and the access of women and men to ICTs the differences are striking. Language may further exclude from using technologies, with approximately two thirds of the internet’s content and more than half of the 10 million most often used websites being in English. Within LICs the restricted access to ICTs can be mostly ascribed to the absence of electricity supply needed to gain access to the internet, as well as the relatively high costs for this access in the affected areas. Considering the real purchasing power of the income in LICs the cost for 1 GB

of broadband use where twice as high as in developed countries and three times as high for a wired broadband connection. Missing qualified personal for installment of the technologies and high rates of digital illiteracy pose further challenges.

What do those worrisome developments mean for development assistance? Firstly, it will need to be taken into consideration by all actors involved in the process of providing assistance that development may not merely be a result of trade and capital flows but also of access to knowledge. The fact that this access is heavily restricted and that there is a lack of financial resources and of specialized human capital to solve this issue has already been tried to tackle by several internationally operating initiatives.

After all, the member states of the United Nations set themselves the ambitious target of wanting to "significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020". Outcomes of the intents following this agreement have for instance been the establishment of the "Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development" or GAID by former UN-Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2006 as well as more recent approaches, e.g. documented in the 2016 World Bank Report on digital dividends – as opposed to the digital divide – (access: http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/896971468194972881/pdf/102725-PUB-Replacement-PUBLIC.pdf) or the 2009 OECD-Report on "ICTs for development" (access: http://www.oecdilibrary.org/docserver/download/0309091e.pdf?expires=1513444913&id=id&accname=ocid70029272&checksum=DFBF09BCD770174A2C0A4708D7C81AE4).

Those initiatives have in common that they aim at providing solutions to the different problem areas of the digital divide. In order for the General Assembly of HNMUN 2018 to be able to specifically address the issues still pending – to which have not yet been found effective countermeasure – it seems reasonable to outline the current stage of the discussion and the different areas in which action still needs to be taken.

c. The Digital Economy: Opportunities and obstacles for Developing Countries

As stem-engine, the railway and chain production stand for the industrial revolution, online banking, digital payment systems and internet-based business approaches stand for the digital revolution. Like the developments of the industrialization, digitalization has also unleashed a whole new bunch of opportunities for businesses, consumers and governments while at the same time moving at a pace at which it is difficult for every country to adapt properly. Digital economies are commonly based on digital physical infrastructure such as broadband lines and routers and are accessed through devices such as computers and smart phones – digital basics which populations of LIC nevertheless tend to lack.

For developing countries, particularly access to digital financial services offers vast opportunities. Through these services, e.g. via mobile phone-based banking apps, financial transactions can be conducted in a cheaper, but equally more secure and transparent way. Many positive examples underline this, the most prominent being the banking app M-Pesa, which has since its launch in Kenya in 2007 enabled more than 15 million customers, meaning more than half the population of the East African state, to transfer money digitally.

Cell phones connect an increasing number of Kenyans with digitally-based financial tools and services.

A look at the Bangladeshi banking app bKash is equally worthwhile since over its servers more than two million transactions are carried out per day. Those apps thus enable people from all social stratums, regardless of how far they may life from the next ATM machine, to transfer money to their families, to business associates, to customers and others. They gain access to credits, insurance and saving accounts and can go online to check the world market prices before selling their goods. Electronic payments may also improve governance by reducing not only costs but also the risk of

corruption. In Afghanistan, police officers net take-home pay increased by 30 % when mobile payments replaced cash which could heavily be ascribed to the reduction in opportunity for skimming.

However, for about 2.5 billion people who do not have any service to banking or financial services yet saving money still literally means storing coins and banknotes at home, while making transactions requires travelling long distances with a package of cash under their arm. And to quote the US Agency for International Development financial inclusion furthermore “means more than having a bank account”. After all, promoting and expanding merchant acceptance is crucial for people who have access to e-commerce so that they may actually be able to buy goods or pay fees via paying electronically. This is due to the risk of having to pay high fees for middle men if electronic money first needs to be handed out in cash while there is no ATM at hand anywhere in the area. In addition, the possible reduction of corruption in private, but also public sectors through transparent money flow seems to support nations on their way to further good governance, of course only if the current officials are interested in such a progress.

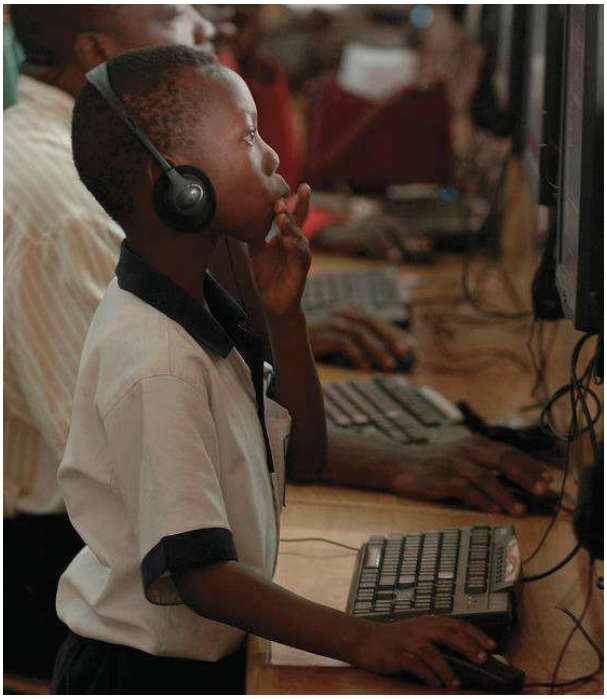
d. Education – more than a need for internet access

When looking back at our time at school in Germany, one realizes that we have indeed experienced a major change in the style of teaching, as well as in the methods and equipment used. From paper work via overhead projectors to power point presentations to the usage of combined data storages all pupils can nowadays access in school and at home, education is today more effective and ecological. Also, it is not bound to libraries, classrooms, or certain material anymore. Instead, the pupils themselves can individually choose the sources of information they find to be appropriate and can hence decide autonomously how to study. When aiming at equal participation in education, it has nonetheless been taken into consideration that the above-mentioned advantages are only accessible when relying on certain pre-conditions:

Firstly, a universal, open, and cheap access to all sources in both the state system and the individual household is necessary. Secondly, teachers, but also parents, need to be “digitally literate” in the sense that they need to be educated about the digital world. Awareness of the many hurdles and threats a free access to the internet can suppose, such as criminality, false information, rip-offs, or addiction are crucial for being able to use the digital infrastructure to one’s advantage. Thirdly, schools and households need precisely the afore mentioned equipment and infrastructure as well as the skilled personal that may be able to use it technically and teach others about it.

The necessity of these pre-conditions being fulfilled for a more digitally advanced education to be able to develop however depicts the challenges developing nations, but also the entire international community face: Focusing on providing infrastructure and equipment remains crucial, but seems

insufficient without incentives to foster education about these resources. In addition, the mentioned incentives are mainly provided by private companies - with naturally possibly ambivalent interests - instead of governments. The key question developed as well as developing nations are thus facing is how far the influence of states, on the one hand, and companies, one the other hand, shall reach? Where is the line between assistance or instruction and dictation? At what point shall developing nations implement these education programs themselves? Also, might there be a danger of states using their freedom in digital literacy to indoctrinate their population, limit access to certain sources and channel the national education programs towards the state's will?



Boy working at a computer center in Accra, Ghana

As an example, Facebook's initiative "Internet.org/Free Basics" was founded with the declared objective to provide formerly "unconnected" people with internet access for the first time and to introduce them into the digital world. Currently, internet.org is accessible in 65 countries with localized versions and has approximately 50 Million users to date. It provides basic news, services and social networking and business tools, all compromised into up to 150 selected websites reduced to their basic outline. Facebook has succeeded in negotiating with local net providers that the service is free, hence no costs for mobile data are incurred.

However, the project has raised severe criticism in line with the main challenges named in this study guide: First of all, the access is limited to selected websites. Most of these are third-party services of US-companies, leading to a focus on western content in news and social media. Facebook for instance is the only Social Network integrated into the application. In addition, when wishing to open a website apart from the ones offered, payment is instantly required. This means that results of a search engines may be visible, reading the entire articles however, is not. Critics fear this might lead to formation of opinion being based on headlines and superficial captions and may hence make this form of education prone to misleading information.

Local websites need to agree to Facebook's terms and conditions to provide their service and data protection seems non-transparent. Journalists have introduced the drastic term of "digital colonialism" for those practices, stating that "Free Basics" forces users to adapt to western thinking

but prevents them from getting access to those parts of the internet that may offer creative business ideas and other useful information.

All of these aspects combined damage the principle of net neutrality in its entirety and underline the fact that private company's motivation for providing internet access for free is primarily of a commercial nature. As another example for this may serve Google's "Project Loon" which is aiming at providing internet access to developing countries via helium filled balloons floating through the atmosphere. Similar to the case of Facebook's "Internet.org" the societal benefits of the project are undeniable. Still, it appears that both companies' interest in such projects can mostly be ascribed to the opportunity of expanding their user community. Due to their advertising based business model the firms depend on finding new users for personal data and targeted apps. Furthermore, Facebook's "internet.org" has not even been able to increase the number of people new to the internet significantly. The crucial question thus seems to be whether private companies and a liberalized market are actually willing and able to provide the infrastructure so desperately needed in developing countries? On the other hand, who else if not major global players like Google or Facebook could be in a position to act – if states are financially unable and local telecommunication companies find it unprofitable to build common cell towers or install fiber optic cables?

e. Health and Transport

Another important facet of development assistance in times of the technological revolution is the use of unarmed aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly named drones. While most people might associate these objects with the military sector and think of them as the weapon of the future, the positive outcomes of the peaceful use of drones for development have already been visible in some projects. Starting with basic humanitarian missions, it can be stated, that the technological benefits drones present in comparison with planes, helicopters or ground vehicles are vast: They are smaller, easier to handle, more precise, more cost-effective and, at least on the suppliers' side, do not put humans in hazardous situations.

Using drones to alleviate poverty seems limitless and logical. Food, basic life equipment, supply of medicines, vaccines – that on top bring along a cost effectiveness which is scientifically proven – sterile material among other goods, can solve various health issues and directly benefit individuals when brought into a remote area within only a matter of time. This is particularly true for rural regions where appropriate healthcare response usually take far longer, and medics, qualified personnel and infrastructure is not at hand. Drones may thus be able to send the resources needed for improvements to be made. Additionally, drones may be used in disaster relief, where they can fasten both aspects of disaster management, for once informational and visual overview, and secondly first-aid treatment and supply.

In general, drones can be deployed in all geographical regions, under nearly all weather and environmental conditions, and can potentially transport any item that might be needed. They can be controlled from small bases with flexible locations. Surely capacity is limited, and technical failures are possible and worrisome, but nevertheless it is hard not to be confident that these systems will steadily become more sophisticated at the long run.

When recognizing the mentioned opportunities and benefits the usage of drones might hold, it has to be questioned why the non-military, and in our case especially the humanitarian use of drones is indeed not very common and widely accepted yet, especially when considering successful approaches like “Ziplines” outlined below. Moreover, nearly all hitherto projects were planned and primarily implemented by private western companies - either the same that also build the used UAVs, or initiatives who specifically focus on the humanitarian use of drones. This initiative by companies may generally be perceived as a positive sign, showing the will and profit, which can be made. Still, most of the settings, in which drones are useful, need these companies’ engagement to go hand in hand with governmental support and organisational frame conditions. Especially when wishing to use UAVs as a long-term solution for supplying rural regions in developing countries, long-term structures and a legal framework needs to be implemented. This would also lower the scepticism by the local population, who may associate drones primarily with military weapons at the first sight.
An example for a successful cooperation between a western company with expertise and innovation, the US company “ziplines” and a government of a developing country willing to cooperate and present a functioning framework, the supply of blood products via drones in Rwanda should be pointed out. The small vehicles, called zips, drop their blood products via parachute, instead of landing, to minimize the number of people that need to be trained on how to interact with a drone. All the hospitals need is someone who can send an order, and pick up the blood when it lands. Local hospitals in rural regions can finally deal with intensive problems themselves, a transport to Rwandas capital Kigali is expensive and has already cost many lives of people who could not be treated fast enough. In seven minutes, a blood product can be transported from order to delivery, a sensational number. Saving many lives already, the project will be enlarged to the whole country soon.

A Zipline drone carrying blood to Gakoma Hospital takes off from Zipline headquarters on July 22, 2017

At the lookout for a case study in disaster response, one inevitably stumbles upon the role of drones in response to the terrifying earthquake, cholera epidemic and hurricane in Haiti in 2011 and 2012, where the International Organisation for Migration successfully utilized UAVs to give help coordinators crucial information, especially an overview of the damage. They were also used for the monitoring of camps, flood areas or of intact facilities.

Right now, there are no United Nations resolutions with legally binding decisions, and most member states themselves have not found an overall strategy or policy on this recent technology. And finally, the international community needs an overall political strategy on the use of UAVs, on which national states, private companies or NGOs can rely on in order to build proper national laws and incentives. As an example, the use of UAVs during the MONUSCO stabilizing mission in Congo was not based on Congolese or UN law as Rwandas cooperation with Ziplines was, it was a case-by-case decision. Also, those UAVs were operated by civilians, not by official UN peacekeepers or government organisations. Questions of responsibility, independency and influence by western companies arise. Will the products delivered by these drones be merely such produced in the western world? Who will be in control of these deliveries, can one trust the technological literacy in developing countries, where UAVs are an entirely new technology?

Directly associated with the need for a legal framework is the question of data protection. While monitoring, surveying and possibly close-ups sensible private data of identities, facilities and movements are being collected. A few questions consequently arise: Most importantly, what data is even allowed to be collected, where does humanitarian aid start and privacy end; furthermore, to whom belongs this data, where and how should it be stored and to whom is this data allowed to be sent. All these questions remain fully undecided up to know. The possibility arises of a misuse of data, making financial profit of using this data for different projects or selling it.

Although this subtopic is not directly connected to internet connection, it shows similar problems: The western world has the technology and the knowledge on proper usage, people in the developing nations have the urgent need for help, but lack education and structure. How far shall private companies be allowed to implement their ideas, or how engaged shall governments of developing nations be to enable their own population and economy to generate their own projects in fear of too much influence?

f. Conclusion

When looking at the outcomes of the “digital revolution” described in this Study Guide one cannot avoid but noticing the ambivalence in the fruits of this development – particularly for low- and middle-income-countries. A rather grey picture is painted when one decides to look at all the disadvantages of the digitalized era: a digital economy that excludes those who do not have the infrastructure to use it, a presumable “digital colonialism” that imposes western perspectives on entire populations – and provides only restricted access to the hidden treasures of the World Wide Web – or even channels opinions in a certain way. On the other hand, digital innovations may hold unknown opportunities for developing countries: Online banking could provide African farmers with access to microcredits and mobile phone apps could teach Asian cab drivers on how to reduce costs by reducing fuel. Online learning platforms could innovate entire education systems and drones could get medicine, vaccines, or blood supplies to remote areas within minutes.

It seems that only with a proactive and dedicated intervention by the international community will the advantages of the digitalization eventually outweigh its shortcomings. Therefore, the member states of the United Nations will need to discuss key questions concerning the relationship between digitalization and development in order to ensure that all benefits may be equally distributed among them. It will need to be sorted out which players will be responsible for implementing digital infrastructure in developing countries – and to which extend: What kind of responsibility lies on the shoulders of governments? Who should support them if they do not see themselves in the position to act properly? Should markets be generally liberalized as to create incentives for private companies to invest in certain areas? Will the gains they make eventually benefit everybody and is their action necessary to provide at least minimum standards? Or will the exploit their position at the disadvantage of those most in need? How big should the influence of western, industrialized

countries be? Will their actions in development aid further deepen the digital divide and undermine the developing countries' autonomy? Or will developing countries on the contrary benefit from the resources and the knowledge that industrialized countries may be able to provide?

All those pressing questions will need to be discussed by the General Assembly. Answers will not be easy to find, discussions might steadily heat up and the vote on a final draft resolution will possibly not be unanimous. But during the course of discussions, compromises might also be found, and it is up to all delegates to work together towards a sustainable solution.

For sure, this will result in an unforgettable experience for all of us at HNMUN 2018.

IV. References and further research

Committee info:
http://www.un.org/en/ga/
http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.html
UN Charta: http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/

Historic and current UN Policy:

Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development
(also known as **Global Alliance for ICT and Development** or **GAID**) is a subgroup or continuation of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force. GAID was launched by the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2006, at the end of his tenure (see Wikipedia)

General information on your country:
CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Auswärtiges Amt: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Aussenpolitik/Laender/Laender_Uebersicht_node.html (only German)
Official websites of your country

Citation:
Speech by Nicholas Negroponte, founder of “One Laptop per Child”:
https://www.wired.com/1998/12/negroponte-55/

History and Background:

Nuscheler, Franz (2006): Entwicklungspolitik. Schriftenreihe Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung. 6. Auflage. Bonn.

German-language standard work that gives a general overview on the topic of development assistance in general, also picks up more recent developments such as globalization and digitalization

http://www.bpb.de/izpb/9082/deutschlands-entwicklungspolitik-im-internationalen-vergleich?p=all

Article about development assistance in general, and the German approach in particular

http://www.businessinsider.com/this-world-map-shows-every-device-connected-to-the-internet-2014-9?IR=T

Picture: Map on internet access

Digital Economy:

OECD Development Centre Working Paper No. 334 Dev/Doc/WKP (2016) 6, online access: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/4adffb24-en.pdf?expires=1513542863&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=B68C17B8B8EF8EBEDA5A76A4476ECA44

> Working paper of the Organization of Econ Development about how to harness the digital economy for developing countries

http://blogs.worldbank.org/ic4d/how-can-developing-countries-make-most-digital-revolution

https://blogs.worldbank.org/ic4d/operationalizing-wdr

http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/ict/overview

> Blog entries of different authors writing in the name of the World Bank about how development countries might take advantage of the digitalization process
>
> Picture: Boy working at an Internet computer center in Accra, Ghana, June 15, 2006. Photo: Jonathan Ernst / World Bank, Photo ID: JE-GH060615_3890-2 World Bank

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All sources were last reviewed on the 17th of December 2017.