

MUNER '19



STUDY GUIDE

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1. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear delegates, advisors and guests,

It is my major honour to welcome you all to the first annual session of Model United Nations Conference of Erbakır Science High School which will be held in Denizli from November 21st-23rd. I am Pelin Çoban, a senior year high school student and I will be serving as the Secretary General of the MUNER'19.

It was my dream to organize this conference since the beginning, when I attended my first MUN in İzmir. I met so many incredible and inspiring people until then and with this conference I finally got the ability to meet you.

There isn't any word or sentence in this language that can express neither my excitement nor my emotions at this point. I felt so lucky when I got the chance to manage a conference such as MUNER with my friends, our supporting advisors and with everyone who put their hearts and spend their time in every step we take.

We created 7 committees in total and each one of them is well prepared for different tastes to maximize your liking. We have 5 General Assembly committees and 2 Crisis committees which are all completely unique and designed to improve your communication and debating skills. I am sure that you will find what you desire in every committee of MUNER. Your satisfaction is our number one priority and all the teams has worked really hard to make this conference happen. Our only one purpose is to see you writing your resolutions, sending your directives and enjoying the event with the smiles on your face.

As the Secretary General of MUNER'19, I can't wait to see you all in my school in this November. I hope that you will find everything you are looking for in a qualified Model United Nations Conference.

Best regards,

Pelin Çoban

Secretary General

2. LETTER FROM THE UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL

Greetings esteemed delegates,

My name is Tan Savaş Aktaş, I am currently a sophomore student at Bahcesehir High School and I am so thrilled to have the honor of serving as the Under Secretary-General of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Even though MUNER'19 will be my twenty-seventh Model United Nations experience, I am so excited as if I am attending a conference for the first time.

Rapid population growth is one of the reasons behind slow development among OIC members. The issue also draws attention to itself by means of its effects on climate change and global warming.

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you, and I'm looking forward to meeting you in October.

If you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me via tansavo@gmail.com or +905541511077.

Best regards,

Tan Savaş Aktaş

Under Secretary-General of OIC

3. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE (OIC)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an international organisation which was founded in 1969. Objective of the OIC is to strengthen cooperation, solidarity among the Member States and to protect the rights of Islamic world. The organisation defines itself as the collective voice of the Muslim world. OIC also works to protect the interests of Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony around the globe.

As for its history the Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by decision of the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Rabat on 22-25 September 1969, upon the reactions of the Islamic world provoked by the arson attack against Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The name of the Organisation was changed to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the 38th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), which took place in Astana on 28-30 June 2011.

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE AGENDA

“Impacts of high population growth rate on economic and socio-cultural welfare of member states”

The relationship between population growth and economic development has been a matter of debate in economic analysis since at least 1798 when Thomas Malthus argued that population growth would decrease living standards in the long term. The theory was simple: given that there is a fixed quantity of land, population growth will eventually reduce the amount of resources that each individual can consume, eventually resulting in disease, starvation, and war. The way to avoid such unfortunate outcomes was ‘moral restraint’ (refraining from having too many children).

Some believe that with the increase of manpower; economic growth would result in a positive way. Given the fact that most of the member states of OIC have lack of access to infrastructure, this belief would not be realistic speaking of OIC.

The rapid growth in population could result in several negative cases.

1. Socio-cultural impacts

a. How families get affected and affect the rate of investments

At that time, the general view of economists was that high birth rates and rapid population growth in poor countries would prevent capital from saving and investing, thereby placing an obstacle on economic development. They hypothesized that larger families have fewer aggregate resources and fewer resources per child. Larger families therefore spread their resources more thinly to support more children. This leaves less for saving and investing in growth-enhancing activities. It also reduces spending on enhancing the economic potential of each child (e.g. through education and health expenditures). In the aggregate, these household level consequences of high birth rates were believed to exert a significant negative effect on per capita income growth.

Number of children, on the other hand, is another factor that is negatively contributing to economic development. In most of the underdeveloped countries, women are forced to do daily household chores and take care of the children, eventually causing them to be unemployed. Not only will it affect social and cultural welfare of a country, but also the economic growth.

High number of population would also trigger the increase in number of early marriages.

b. Social infrastructure

Rapidly growing population requires large investments in social infrastructure. Due to the shortage of resources, it is not possible to provide educational, health, medical, transport and housing facilities to the entire population.

There is overcrowding everywhere. As a result, the quality of these services goes down. To provide these social infrastructure requires huge investments.

For instance, India is pledged to meet social needs of the people adequately, and for this, the government has to spend a lot on providing basic facilities such as education, housing and medical aid. But rapid increase in population make burden all the more heavy.

2. Economic impacts

a. Median age and the labor force

The **labor force** is the number of people who are [employed](#) plus the [unemployed](#) who are looking for work. The labor pool does not include the jobless who aren't looking for work.

The **median age** of a population is the point at which half the population is older than that age and half is younger.

While developed countries are proved to have higher values of median age, underdeveloped countries seem to have lower values.

The labour force in an economy is the ratio of working population to total population. If we assume 50 years as the average life expectancy in an underdeveloped country, the labour force is in effect the number of people in the age group of 15-50 years. During the demographic transition phase, the birth rate is high and the death rate has declined and due to which the larger percentage of total population is in lower age group of 1-15 years, which is small labour force implies that comparatively there are few persons to participate in productive employment.

To overcome the demographic transition stage, it is essential for less developed countries to bring down their fertility rate. Thus, we can conclude that labour force increases with the increase in population.

MEDIAN AGES IN LESS ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED (LEDC) COUNTRIES	
Niger	15.4 years
Uganda	15.8 years
Mali	15.8 years
Angola	15.9 years
Malawi	16.5 years

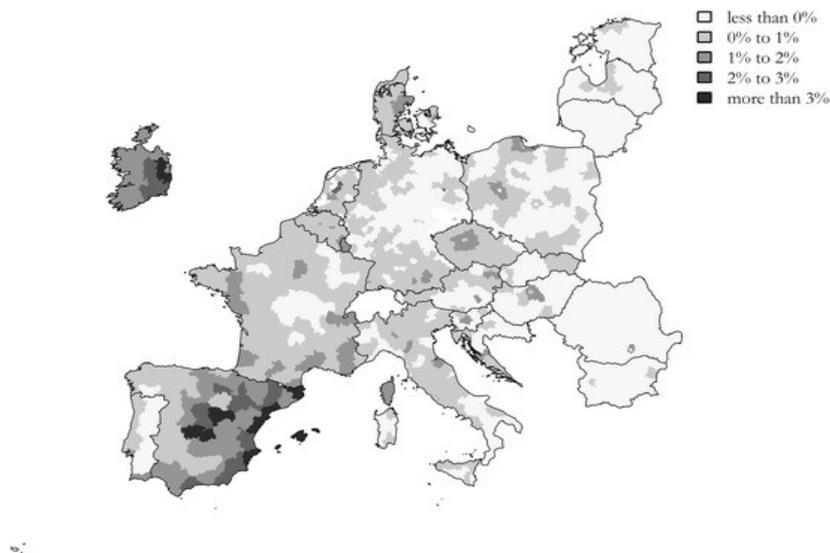
MEDIAN AGES IN MORE ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED (MEDC) COUNTRIES	
Japan	47.3 years
Germany	47.1 years
Italy	45.5 years
Greece	44.5 years
Slovenia	44.5 years

b. Urbanisation

With rapidly growing population, it becomes difficult to manage the adjustments that accompany economic and social change. Urbanisation in underdeveloped countries creates such problems as housing, power, water, transport, etc. Besides, growing population threatens permanent environmental damage through urbanisation in some rural areas.

That being said, the rapid growth in population can also cause migration (to resource-rich areas) which can lead to many problems such as but not limited to: internal conflicts, sexual exploitation, forced labor and forced marriage.

Population growth in 20 European countries, 2000–2008, average annual rate



c. Overuse of resources

Rapid population growth tends to overuse the country's natural resources. This is particularly the case where the majority of people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. With rapidly rising population, agricultural holdings become smaller and unremunerative to cultivate. There is no possibility of increasing farm production through the use of new land (extensive cultivation).

Consequently, many households continue to live in poverty. In fact, rapid population growth leads to the overuse of land, thereby endangering the welfare of future generations. Even in countries where natural resources are untapped such as Brazil and other Latin American countries, rapidly increasing population makes it difficult to invest in roads, public services, drainage and other agricultural infrastructure needed to tap such resources.

d. Agricultural development

In less developed countries, mostly people live in rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture and if the population increases the land-man ratio disturbed. Per capita availability of land for cultivation declined from 1.1 acre in 1911 to 0.6 acre in 1971 in our country which makes the size of holdings very small. The small size of holdings makes adoption of modern technology means of irrigation and mechanization impossible.

This also leads to the occurrence of disguised unemployment and underemployment in the agricultural sector. It leads to congestion and moreover to reduction in land available for farming as well as for building houses, factories, hospitals, shopping centres, educational institutions,

roads and railway tracks etc. Thus, the growth of population retards agricultural development and creates many other problems.

e. Employment

A fast growth in population means a large number of persons coming to the labour market for whom it may not be possible to provide employment. In fact, in underdeveloped countries, the number of job seekers is expanding so fast that despite all efforts towards planned development, it has not been possible to provide employment to all. Unemployment, underemployment and disguised employment are common features in these countries. The rapidly rising population makes it almost impossible for economically backward countries to solve their problem of unemployment.



5. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Should women be more integrated into economy by reducing number of children?
- Are women supposed to do only household chores? If they were to take part in more wide types of jobs, would the impacts of population rise decrease?
- Should one-child policy be exercised? If yes, which member countries of OIC should adopt one-child policy?
- How can the member states enhance their social infrastructure?
- Should OIC members apply for loans from the World Bank Group (WBG) or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to strengthen their infrastructure?
- In what ways median age can affect a country's economy?
- What measures need to be taken to overcome the low median age crisis in member states of OIC?

- Would the impacts of urbanisation on environment disturb the members of OIC?
- What measures should be taken to prevent the descend in agriculture sector?
- With the population growth, the employees get younger thus their experience are lower than the initial employees. Which ways does it harm the economy? What can be done to keep its impacts insignificant?
- In some specific countries and states, water and such resources are limited per capita. Should this policy be exercised?

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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“A large population has many negative effects. It’s not always ‘the more the merrier’.”