

**Committee:** Group of 20

**Issue:** International Development and the BRICS Development Bank

**Student Officer:** Ioanna Syrta

**Position:** Deputy President

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## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ioanna Syrta and I am a student at the 1<sup>st</sup> High School of Themi, Thessaloniki. This will be my first time chairing and it is my honor and pleasure to serve as a Deputy President in the Group of 20. I am sure you that you will have a great time discussing and debating upon all issues of the Agenda.

Before becoming a Student Officer, I had participated in several conferences, as a delegate with great contribution to finding concrete solutions in every issue. This has led me to recognize that the Group of 20 is a committee of paramount importance, as, through it, world leaders of the most powerful and influential countries make significant decisions concerning the world's economic stability, environmental issues and other very interesting topics.

Moreover, this Study Guide will help you in your better understanding of the topic and your research, but you should not only depend on this Study Guide, as you must be aware of your country's policy and legal framework.

Should you have any questions concerning the topic, do not hesitate to contact me through e-mail. My e-mail is as follows: [joannasi350@gmail.com](mailto:joannasi350@gmail.com) . Finally, I hope you will find this Study Guide useful during your research and I wish you good luck!

Kind regards,

Ioanna Syrta

## **TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

International Development has always been the main goal for many international organizations, such as the United Nations. International Development itself covers many aspects of our world's issues, from the classification of countries,

and generally modern societies, to each country's gross domestic product and its residents' income.<sup>1</sup>

Although there are many ways to interpret International Development, there is only one goal fostered by every aspect. The goal is to provide people with better living standards and better living conditions. International development may be linked to economic and human development but its main aim is to guarantee people with a quality life, combat diseases such as malaria, protect human rights, increase literacy in order for people to obtain vocational skills and of course the elimination of poverty and hunger.



**Figure 1: After the MDG agenda, the UN came up with 17 new goals, forming the SDG agenda,**

Furthermore, the New Development Bank (NDB) which was founded by the BRICS, has goals that sometimes are aligned to International Development. Even though, it was founded just a few years ago, the New Development Bank has made its presence crystal clear from the beginning, by conducting several sustainable programs and by promoting efficient infrastructure for its Member States' profit. People often misinterpret the real reason for the NDB's foundation, as it is believed that BRICS often competes with other international financial institutions and intends

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<sup>1</sup>"International Development-Wikipedia." *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_development)

to reform the UN Security Council.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the NDB wants to have close cooperation with global partnerships and other development banks, through the establishment of a global network. Through this network, infrastructure and sustainability will be promoted and as a side effect financial, ecological and social development will be achieved.<sup>3</sup>

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### International/ Global Development

As a widely used connotation, international development has been interpreted in various ways. Most people believe that international development is linked to human development. Another aspect is that international development is a new form of categorization of countries. Finally, global development can also appertain to economic development, such as the gross domestic product (GDP) and the gross national product (GNP) of a country. Despite different meanings, every aspect falls under the same goal, which is to provide people with a better life. Global development must not be confused with development.

### BRICS

The BRICS is an organization, comprised of five members with emerging economies; the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the republic of South Africa. Its members are extremely powerful and influential, as BRICS's member states' population covers the 40% of Earth's population.<sup>4</sup>

### New Development Bank (NDB)

The New Development Bank is a financial institution, founded by the members of the BRICS. Its formation began in 2013, and its treaty was enforced in 2014. BRICS's objective of the NDB is to promote efficient infrastructure, conduct sustainable projects and collaborate with other international financial institutions.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>“BRICS FORUM Call for Reform of UN Security Council Falls Short.” *DAILY MAVERICK*, Peter Fabricius, 5 June 2018, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2018-06-05-call-for-reform-of-un-security-council-falls-short/>

<sup>3</sup>“BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.” *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/politica-externa/mecanismos-inter-regionais/7505-brics-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa>.

## Sustainability

Sustainability is one of the key aspects in global development as it combines economic, social and environmental development. By gaining insight into sustainability, we come to the realization that sustainability is a new method of production that seeks to achieve economic stability. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, sustainability and renewability go hand in hand.

## Sustainable Development

According to the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations; sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>6</sup>

## World Bank Group (WBG)

World Bank Group is an international organization, which provides aid and assistance to LEDCs. Its main aim is to reduce poverty and increase literacy. It is comprised of five other organizations. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the International Development Association (IDA).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### The History of International Development

Historians claim that international development has always been adhered to economic development, but nowadays, people seem to perceive the meaning of international development in a more philosophical way. Dating back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, international development was described as the importance of 'free markets', which had as a side effect the economic and political liberalism. Anti-imperialism was another way to express the meaning of global development. And

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<sup>4</sup> "History of BRICS." *BRICS INFORMATION PORTAL*, <http://infobrics.org/page/history-of-brics/>

<sup>5</sup> "New Development Bank- Wikipedia." *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Development\\_Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Development_Bank)

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

lastly, international development was the efforts that were made in order to bridge the gap between nations and the belief that each country achieve self-determination, without the assistance of other countries.

In the Post-World War 2 society, international development aim was to alleviate and eliminate poverty, and to provide a quality life to the people, who lived in countries that used to be colonies of powerful countries and were completely devastated after the two World Wars.

After trial and tribulation, global development caught people's attention and stressed the significance of some issues, such as the reduction of poverty, the importance of education and the elimination of stereotypes and all forms of discrimination.



**Figure 2: Global financial institutions try to help the poverty-stricken**

### **Factors that prevent international development**

Throughout the years, numerous factors that halt the process if global development have been emerging, such as corruption, globalization and unstable governments.

#### **Corruption**

Many international financial organizations have been blamed for not being completely transparent with their actions. For instance, even though, the World Bank Group has been a donor of financial aid, LEDCs' people have accused the institution of having imperialistic motives. On the other hand, BRICS has made it clear that the organization is interested in helping the LEDCs, through projects, for its members' profit.

### **Globalization**

Nowadays, globalization is all the rage. People are either in favor of it or against it. Nevertheless, it must be noted that globalization is one of the major factors that prevent global development. Without stable governments and stable economic systems, that would be gradually implemented, LEDCs would have little chance of catching up with the rapid development of globalization. That is why, the UN, along with other international organizations, try to promote the understanding that globalization is responsible for the economic gap between nations.

### **Unstable governments**

As widely known, LEDCs lack capable governments and financial systems. That is why, LEDCs often find themselves "suffering from" power vacuums. That way, countries and organizations seize the chance to implement their own governing bodies, in order to fill the "void". It may seem as the ideal solution, but disputes always occur and the victims are always the people.

### **Aims of international development**

After the two World Wars, LEDCs were left with such vulnerabilities that, nowadays, people around the world live under unimaginable conditions. People are not provided with education, enough food or water. Moreover, the buildings are obsolete and uninhabitable. Bearing in mind the aforementioned issues, global organizations seek to increase literacy, eliminate poverty and hunger and promote efficient infrastructure to LEDCs.

### **Education and literacy**

By promoting the educational system in MEDCs and LEDCs, children not only obtain skills that will guarantee them a life out of poverty, but they also contribute in dropping illiteracy rates.

### **Dignity**

Nowadays, global development focuses on providing people with a better life and that entails living with dignity. That is because too many people on our planet live under severe conditions, while it clearly states in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". As the Asian Human Rights Commission has said "Human dignity is the true measure for international development".<sup>7</sup>

### **Efficient infrastructure**

The promotion of efficient infrastructure and the prosecution of sustainable projects would certainly aid the LEDCs, concerning their rapid adaptation and access in various economic activities, but also, the creation of new inhabitable buildings.

### **Reasons behind the creation of the NDB**

Lack of influence and the supervision of equal financial distributions of BRICS's member states in sustainable development programs were some of the reasons behind the foundation of the NDB.

#### **Lack of influence**

Every BRICS's member state is a member in both World Bank Group and New Development. China became a member of the World Bank Group in 1980. Very soon, it became one of the members that contribute the most in WBG's projects and missions. Nevertheless, the members, and especially China, lacked influential power over other nations, and during the BRICS 4<sup>th</sup> summit (2012) conversations started, concerning the foundation of their own Bank. In 2014, the BRICS 5<sup>th</sup> summit took place, and the treaty for setting up the New Development Bank was signed by every member, and was finally enforced with the Fortaleza Declaration, during the 6<sup>th</sup>, in 2014.

#### **Equal financial distribution**

One of the main reasons the New Development Bank was founded, was to allocate equally the funds and to oversee the every member's financial distribution to conducting and taking part in several projects, according to the Fortaleza Declaration.

### **Aims of the New Development Bank**

Apart from achieving goals such as increasing literacy and alleviating poverty, the five members of the BRICS seek to go beyond that. Since NDB's formation in 2014, till now, BRICS's member states have been aiming at promoting efficient infrastructure in MEDCs, but also conducting various sustainable projects. They also wish the establishment of a global network, through which cooperation with other institutions and MDBs can be encouraged.

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<sup>7</sup>"INDIA: Human Dignity Is the True Measure of Development." *ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION*, 26 July 2006, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AS-180-2006/>

### Sustainable projects and infrastructure

First and foremost, the main aim of the NDB is to not only achieve global but sustainable development, too. Through projects and the promotion of infrastructure, BRICS's member states would aid many MEDCs and LEDCs and it would, also, be very beneficial to their economies.

### Establishing a global network

Although, the BRICS has faced numerous accusations, the five members are ambitious about cooperation with other organizations. They believe that by establishing and implementing an international network, collaboration can be enhanced.<sup>8</sup>

### New Development Bank and its contribution to sustainable and international development

New Development Bank aims to promote efficient infrastructure, conduct sustainable projects, in which BRICS's member states can benefit from. New Development Bank president K.V. Kamath said the following during an interview: "Our focus is on sustainable development and sustainable infrastructure". Moreover the president of the NDB added that 60% of funding will be for renewables.<sup>9</sup>



**Figure 3: A historic moment. The President of NDB, K.V. Kamath (left) and the president of the WBG Jim Yong-Kim (right) signed a memorandum of understanding in 2016**

<sup>8</sup> "Our Work - New Development Bank." *New Development Bank*, <https://www.ndb.int/about-us/essence/our-work/>

<sup>9</sup> "NDB PRESIDENT: 60% OF FUNDING WILL BE FOR RENEWABLES." *New Development Bank*, 21 Nov. 2016, [https://www.ndb.int/president\\_desk/ndb-president-60-funding-will-renewables/](https://www.ndb.int/president_desk/ndb-president-60-funding-will-renewables/)



### Collaboration between the New Development Bank and the World Bank Group

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016, World Bank Group's president Jim Yong-Kim and New Development Bank's president K.V. Kamath signed a memorandum of understanding, in order to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions. Both presidents were extremely pleased to sign such a memorandum. NDB and WBG plan to conduct projects and to promote sustainable infrastructure.

### BRICS tension, mistrust and competition among member states

Even though, the BRICS consists of five members that are in a tremendous economic state, tension, mistrust and competition spread among members. This has been a major factor of BRICS's incapacity to accept new members. A wide range of factors influences the tension between members, such as different policies and economic systems. For instance, both, China and Russia have economic liberalism while the other members impose other financial systems. China, especially, competes with Russia and India. Moreover, South Africa is the most mistrusted member of the BRICS, as it is believed that it does not fulfill the requirements of being a member of the BRICS, due to its economy not being as powerful as the other members'.<sup>10</sup>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### BRICS

The BRICS member states have had a large contribution to sustainable and international development since 2001. Many nations, though, accuse the BRICS of wanting to reform the UN, the IMF and the UN Security Council, as they believe that every member state of the UN must adhere to the norms of the United Nations. The five members of the BRICS have been determined to help our world achieve global and sustainable development. Primarily, their goal was to help MEDCs and LEDCs to implement stable governments and economies. While this goal is still vital to the BRICS, conducting sustainable projects for their benefit is as significant, now.

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<sup>10</sup>Laetitia Mottet. "Cooperation and Competition among the BRICS Countries and Other Emerging Powers." *French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC)*, 2013, <http://www.cefc.com.hk/uf/file/researchpapers/BRICS%20report/BRICS%20report.pdf>

<sup>11</sup>"What We Do." *CHINA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY*, <http://en.cidca.gov.cn/>

## China

Although China is a member of the WBG and the BRICS, it has also its own organization for international development the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) that aims at foreign aid.<sup>11</sup> China is in favor of the BRICS as it encourages cooperation and collaboration between member states and other countries also. China believes that the BRICS can play a significant role in promoting global and sustainable development.

## Russia

Russia, along with Brazil, has the leadership role in the creation and foundation of the BRICS. Due to its tremendous economic state, Russia has had the privilege of taking part and conducting projects. While nations accuse Russia and the BRICS of wanting to reform the UN Security Council, Russia openly states that the NDB is more than willing to cooperate with other financial institutions.<sup>12</sup>

## Turkey<sup>13</sup>

After the disappointing outcome concerning Turkey's entry in the EU, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan became interested in becoming a member of the BRICS. Turkey, then, was denied the right to become a member, but since there have been talks about BRICS wanting to expand the number of members, Turkey may become a member of the BRICS in the near future. Until then, Turkey is still in favor of this organization.

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<sup>12</sup>“What Is Russia’s Role in the BRICS?” *POST-WESTERN WORLD*, Oliver Stuenkel, 24 Apr. 2013, <https://www.postwesternworld.com/2013/04/24/what-is-russias-role-in-the-brics/>

<sup>13</sup>“BRICS Talks Turkey: Erdogan’s Wish to Join Group Cannot Be Fulfilled Now, Expert Says.” *TASS*, 30 July 2018, <https://tass.com/world/1015343>

<sup>14</sup>SHANNON EBRAHIM. “BRICS Hit Back at USA.” *BUSINESS REPORT*, 27 July 2018, <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/brics/brics-hit-back-at-usa-16270880>

<sup>15</sup>“BRICS Countries Deplore North Korean Nuclear Test, Oppose Protectionism: Draft Communique.” *Reuters*, 4 Sept. 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-brics/brics-countries-deplore-north-korean-nuclear-test-oppose-protectionism-draft-communique-idUSKCN1BF0NE>

### United States

The US is clearly opposed to the BRICS, as it has been apparent to every member of the UN, that the BRICS has the intention to change the formation the UN Security Council. On the other hand, BRICS claims that the US is reducing the effectiveness of the United Nations and grabbed the chance to confront U.S.A., during the 10<sup>th</sup> summit of the BRICS. <sup>14</sup>

### DPR Korea

Although many would believe that DPRK would be a certain member of the BRICS, it is not. In fact, after the sixth nuclear test, which the most powerful one, conducted by DPRK, BRICS executive members heavily criticized this action, and since then DPRK and BRICS relationship has been taken the toll. <sup>15</sup>

### European Union<sup>16</sup>

The European Union is a significant donor of development and humanitarian aid to developing and least developed countries. The Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development bears the responsibility of delivering humanitarian aid to world's poorest countries. As the member states of the EU are also members of the UN and the WBG, the European Union is able to cooperate with other institutions. Moreover, the EU does not wish to compete with the NDB but to collaborate in order to conduct sustainable projects to aid the LEDCs.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
4 July, 1944	Creation of the World Bank Group
26 June, 1945	Establishment of the United Nations
2000	Formation of the Millennium Development Goals

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<sup>16</sup> "International Cooperation and Development." *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/international-cooperation-and-development\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/international-cooperation-and-development_en).

2001	Creation of the term "BRIC"
2002	UN Millennium Campaign
14-16 September, 2005	World Summit for the MDG agenda
2008	High-level event on the MDGs
16 June, 2009	First official summit of the BRIC
2010	Summit on the MDG agenda
2010	South Africa's entry in the BRIC, which is now named BRICS
2012	4 <sup>th</sup> summit of the BRICS, where the members considered setting up their own bank
2013	MDG Acceleration and Beyond 2015
2013	5 <sup>th</sup> summit of the BRICS, where the treaty for the creation of the New Development Bank was signed
2014	6 <sup>th</sup> summit of the BRICS, where the treaty, known as Fortaleza Declaration, was imposed
2015	End of the MDG agenda, and formation of the SDG agenda
25 September, 2015	Formation of a new UN resolution: "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
9 September, 2016	Meeting of the presidents of the WBG and the NDB, where they signed a memorandum of understanding

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### The Millennium Convention

The Millennium Convention, 2000, presented the eight millennium development goals which were the following:

- eliminate hunger and poverty,
- achieve basic education on a global scale,
- eliminate all forms of inequality and strengthen women's rights,

- reduce child mortality,
- improve maternal health,
- combat HIV/ AIDS and other diseases,
- guarantee environmental sustainability,
- found a new organization, the "Global Partnership for Development".<sup>17</sup>

The Millennium Convention was the first convention to try to cover the needs of LEDCs, in order to achieve global development. Although, most of the goals were accomplished, 2015 was drawing to an end and so was the Millennium Convention. Former UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon was passionate about achieving more goals, a fact which led to the formation of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda (SDG agenda).

### **The Resolution: "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**

This resolution was structured on the 25<sup>th</sup> September in 2015 and it covers aspects such as: the eradication of poverty, the promotion of gender equality, the significance of democracy, climate change, safe access to water, quality education, the boost of economic development, peace and justice as well as others.

### **The Fortaleza Declaration<sup>18</sup>**

The Fortaleza Declaration was signed in 2014 by the five members of the BRICS. Its main goal was the foundation of the New Development Bank. Moreover, nowadays, it oversees the equal budget distribution from every member of the BRICS. According to the Fortaleza Declaration, sustainable projects needed to be conducted and efficient infrastructure to be promoted, because through such actions the BRICS's members could benefit from.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

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<sup>17</sup>"United Nations Millennium Development Goals." *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

<sup>18</sup> "Fortaleza Declaration from 6th BRICS Summi... ..  
Currentaffairs.gktoday.in/Fortaleza-Declaration-6th-Brics-Summit-07201414088.Html © GKToday." *GKTODAY*, 17 July 2014, <https://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/fortaleza-declaration-6th-brics-summit-07201414088.html>

## Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, the United Nations signed the Millennium Declaration. This Declaration includes eight Millennium Goals, that were expected to be achieved by the end of 2015. It was the first ever convention to try and meet the development needs on an international scale. It must be noted that MGDs do not depend on national benefits, but they are relevant to each country's individual interests.

As previously mentioned, the United Nations Millennium Declaration includes eight goals. Apart from the 8<sup>th</sup>, the first seven present various global issues that the UN wants to resolve, while the last one demonstrates the doable way of facing up to these problems, which led to the foundation of a new organization, the "Global Partnership for Development".



**Figure 4: The eight Millennium Goals**

The United Nations Millennium Convention successfully guided international development efforts, with progress in some of the eight goals. For example, by the end of 2015, poverty dramatically decreased by 50%. Furthermore, people in less economically developed countries (LEDCs) had access to drinking water. Also, the disease of malaria was on the verge of its elimination and finally children were given the proper education, a fact which played a significant role in combating illiteracy in developing and least developed countries.

## Sustainable Development Goals

Although the Convention turned out to be successful, people still believed that the Millennium Convention lacked efficient infrastructure and was missing out on other problems that were still preventing international development. As the Millennium Convention was drawing to an end, former Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon wanted to take immediate steps, in order to achieve more goals of

the Millennium Convention. After the MGD agenda, its successor known as SDG (Sustainable Development Goals), came up with 17 new Sustainable Development Goals.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, a new UN resolution, on the issue of sustainable development, was formed and was named "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". This resolution was implemented by the member states in 2016. It is one of the most significant resolutions, as it draws people's attention to issues such as poverty, inequality, democracy, climate change etc.<sup>19</sup>

### World Bank Group

The WBG, since its foundation in 1944, has offered 117 billion US dollars to developing countries, a fact which makes it one of the most helpful organizations in the world. Despite its great contribution, people in least developed countries have accused the WBG of being imperialistic and enforcing financial systems that are too powerful for such countries, and that way these countries are more devastated and vulnerable.<sup>20</sup>

### United Nations Campaigns and Projects

Since 2002 till 2013, the United Nations has accumulated, through campaigns and projects, wealth over 18.5 billion US dollars, that was given to cover the needs of people in developing and least developed countries.<sup>21</sup>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There is a fair number of factors that prevent international development from being achieved. For instance, globalization that automatically leads to the economic gap between nations and the imperialistic motives of numerous countries and

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<sup>19</sup> "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." *United Nations*, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>20</sup> "World Bank Group - Wikipedia." *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Bank\\_Group#Criticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank_Group#Criticism).

<sup>21</sup> "Campaigns - United Nations." *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/campaigns/>

organizations, wanting to exploit the vulnerabilities of LEDCs. These factors have been discouraging and deterring towards the promotion of global development.

### **Raising awareness**

One solution would be raising awareness. This could be achieved by stressing issues, such as poverty, gender inequality and illiteracy, in social media, as people nowadays spend most of their time surfing the internet. Moreover, global organizations could organize campaigns and projects, concerning the vitality of international development. This way, public understanding would be increased. Finally, an ideal solution, would be stressing international development issues in schools, to inform and sensitize the students.

### **Cooperation**

Competition between global financial institutions is a serious issue that needs to be overcome, if world leaders wish to achieve global development. Organizations should not antagonize each other because it is crucial and vital for LEDCs not to be the bone of contention between powerful countries and organizations.

### **Stable governments and economies**

The implementation of stable governments and financial systems, without the assistance of other countries, is of immense importance for LEDCs, because that way, they can face up to the problems and overcome them, without being depended on other countries.

### **Regulation of international relationships**

It would be extremely beneficial for LEDCs to regulate their relationships with international organizations and powerful countries. That means, that the countries, themselves, will decide whether to accept help and guidance from other countries. Their decisions, must be accepted and respected by every nation.

### **Reduction of corruption**

The most significant solution would be decreasing corruption in the actions of organizations and especially international financial institutions' actions. Organizations need to increase the transparency of their motives and actions, in order for them to get rid of false accusations.



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