While the UN Security Council will create their own agenda during the two-day conference, there are a number of high-priority security issues the 15-member council could discuss. As the UN is beginning to take more action in the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan, member countries of the Security Council have been encouraged to help provide transportation for 25,000 troops and police officers. The joint UN and African Union peacekeeping mission was finally launched late in October with command and control centers being set up in North Darfur. However, the mission still lacks transportation to enter the region and has not found cooperation from the Sudanese government to suppress the rebel forces. According to the UN News Service, more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 millions others have been left homeless since the US-named genocide began in 2003. More than 4 million Darfurians depend on aid to survive, and various humanitarian organizations have considered pulling their workforce out of Darfur because of the growing violence. Another issue that requires the Security Council’s attention is Iran’s nuclear program and the nearing deadline to cease development of the uranium enrichment program. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana has worked with the Security Council’s five permanent members and Germany in talking with officials in Tehran about stopping the nuclear program.

By Katie Butler
Staff Reporter

Darfur crisis proves pressing issue

See DARFUR page 4
ECOFIN plans to resolve issues in international income, climate change costs

By John Casey
ECOFIN Chair

At this year’s conference, the Economics and Finance Committee, also known as ECOFIN, will be dealing with three current issues in global economics. The first of these is an examination of the global monetary system, more specifically the International Monetary Fund. The second topic is a hot topic of debate among many people in the world: global warming. The committee will decide on what measures need to be taken to deal with the economic costs of the global climate change. The third and final topic is a discussion on the income inequality that exists among people in different countries.

The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, is a system of the World Bank which helps countries suffering from financial strain by providing loans and other assistance. The goal of this aid is to initiate reform of the country’s economic system in order to prevent further crises. Though this system seems harmless and with nothing but good intent, it does unfortunately have its critics.

Some fear corruption in the system, with their true intents being less than honorable. Others state that the Fund has provided support for military dictatorships in the past. Some believe that the system simply doesn’t work (evidenced by the Argentina crisis in 2001). Therefore, the committee will discuss whether or not the system needs adjustment.

While it is still uncertain whether or not global warming actually exists or not, it cannot be denied that it is still having an impact on the global economy. Countries are funding research and implementing measures against it. The most significant paper on the economics of climate change is currently the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (2006). This will likely be used by the delegates as a reference in their deliberations. They should come up with some good procedures for countries to follow in order to combat the (possibly) imminent threat of global warming.

Income inequality is a problem within every country on the planet, as well as among countries themselves. It is a significant problem that hurts the global economy in addition to being harmful to the people who live in the poor countries. Among the possible causes of this inequality are underdevelopment (perhaps because of the country’s citizens) and a history of being subject to exploitation or colonization. It is important to come up with methods to reduce this inequality in order to improve the global economy (by allowing these countries to participate more fully), as well as simply to improve the well-being of the citizens of these poor countries. That is the mission of the committee this weekend.

The ECOFIN Committee has several important issues to deal with this weekend. Though it may be nigh impossible to completely resolve every problem laid before them, especially with such difficult topics as these, one can at least expect them to come up with solutions in order to improve the situation of the global economy.

---

United Nations Children’s Fund to discuss HIV/AIDS

By Carol Weeks
Staff Reporter

When the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) meets at the AMUN conference they will be discussing three important issues facing the world today. These issues include: children and HIV/AIDS, children and the death penalty, and child labor. HIV/AIDS affects people of all ages and areas of the world. The population that is hardest hit by this devastating disease is arguably the children. According to UNICEF 2.3 million children are living with HIV, and over 15 million have lost at least one parent to the disease. UNICEF seeks to rectify the problem by preventing the further spread of the disease and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS. An important aspect of preventing the spread of the disease is educating mothers on the disease and mother to child transmission, and treating infected mothers to prevent mother and child transmission. The many children who have been orphaned by the disease also need quality care and education to help them develop and further prevent the transmission of the disease.

See UNICEF page 4
DARFUR to be discussed in SOCHUM

By Lacy Tyson  
Staff Reporter

In the Darfur region of Sudan more than two-hundred thousand people are estimated to have been killed while two million people have been displaced.

These numbers do not reflect those killed by malnutrition and disease. The Janjaweed militia has been effectively cutting off water supplies and food from targeted villages, thus causing many tribes to starve. Even though peace missions have been created and this problem has been alleviated a bit; many people are still dying from direct and indirect violence.

Since 2003, the Sudan government, Janjaweed militia, and other armed rebel groups have been fighting. A lot of states in the world view this atrocity as genocide or ethnic cleansing. The victims of this genocide are non-Arab, African tribal groups such as the Fur, the Massaleit, the Zaghawa, the Tunjur, the Birgid, the Dajo, and others. These tribes have been politically and economically marginalized for a long time.

The National Islamic Front regime in Sudan has refused to control the Arab militias who are killing people in Darfur.

In 2005 the regime in Khartoum adopted a policy of systematically destroying the African tribal groups thought to be the civilian base of support for the insurgents. The Janjaweed has been the main instrument in carrying out this policy. Because of policy and statements of the Sudanese government a lot of people believe the Sudanese specifically support and condone this activity. This crisis has gained a lot of attention because the non-Arab, victim tribes are virtually unable to protect themselves from the Janjaweed militia and the National Islamic Front.

On May 5, 2006, the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) was signed and/or supported by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations.

Currently the United Nations are implementing plans for a multidimensional peacekeeping operation in Darfur. With help from permanent members of the Security Council, representatives of Sudan, the AU, and other states and organizations, the United Nations’ Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has formulated a three-phased approach to augment AMIS and a hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force. In June 2007 Sudan fully accepted this force.

On July 30, 2007, with the adoption of Resolution 1556, the UN Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental bodies and individuals, including the Janjaweed, in Sudan. To keep peace the UN is using a three step approach to bolster AMIS and eventually release a peacekeeping force in Darfur. The three phases are: The Light Support Package (LSP), The Heavy Support Package (HSP), and The AU-UN Hybrid Operation. One year after the phases were approved the operation seems to be well underway.

UN humanitarian agencies are assisting 4.2 million people in need of aid because of the Darfur crisis, which makes the UN the largest donor of relief in the world.

In July 2004, Sudan agreed to let UN human rights people into the country to monitor the North-South peace agreement, which is part of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

Have an opinion?

All AMUN participants are invited to submit letters to the editor or articles of their own for publication.

Please send all materials to: modeltimes@gmail.com
DARFUR from page 1

but Solana’s negotiations over the past two years have yielded no effect, a September issue of the Financial Times reported.

Many UN members, namely the EU and the US, fear Iran’s purported peaceful uranium program, which the Iranian government has kept under wraps for two decades, could produce nuclear weapons.

In July and December 2006, the Security Council imposed sanctions on Iran mainly freezing assets and banning visas for those associated with the nuclear program, however, Iran still claims to have a right to develop their uranium program and they continue to refuse facility inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Other sanctions in discussion which will possibly be brought to a vote later this month include an arms embargo on Iran and a naval inspection regime for Iranian vessels.

The Security Council could also address the needs for more humanitarian and peacekeeping involvement in Afghanistan, a country which global-policy.org calls a “failed state” even after UN involvement in recent years.

Following a suicide bombing which killed more than 40 people in northern Afghanistan, the Security Council said, “No terrorist act can reverse the path toward peace, democracy and reconstruction in Afghanistan,” according to the UN News Service.

However, the democratic arm of President Hamid Karzai, victor in the 2004 presidential elections, does not extend beyond Kabul, and the Taliban and other terrorist groups continue to strengthen their forces in the country without involvement from the Afghan government or the UN.

The Model UN Security Council will be submitted one “emergency” topic at some point during the conference.

Other discussion topics may include the civil war in Iraq, the nuclear programs in North Korea or the Islamic Insurgency in Somalia.

UNICEF from page 3

The issue of children and the death penalty is also important and will be discussed. The death penalty for individuals under the age of 18 is prohibited by international human rights laws. Some states however, still choose to sentence children to death. These countries include: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, and the United States of America. According to Amnesty International the United States of America is the leader in sentencing children to death. The United Nations has addressed this issue by calling on countries to change their laws, but these countries still have not adjusted to international standards of human rights.

UNICEF will also discuss child labor, which is a major cause of concern throughout the world. According to UNICEF 218 million children performed child labor outside of the home in 2004. They also state that estimates of 40-50% of forced labor victims are children. Child labor can negatively affect many aspects of a child’s life including education, health, and overall child development. There are lots of reasons why children are working, but the most common reason is to assist in supporting their families.

Poverty is a leading cause of child labor throughout the world. Children make up the majority of people living in poverty. Poverty is passed down from generation to generation unless something is done to break the pattern. By supporting the poor with education, healthcare, and basic nutrition, the poor will have a better chance to rise above their status and have better opportunities in life.

The United Nations Children’s Fund works hard to promote the needs and rights of women and children throughout the world. They have many programs for dealing with the problem of HIV/AIDS. They also seek to protect the rights of children in regards to child labor and the death penalty for children. It will be interesting to see what, if any decisions, UNICEF will make on these issues in the upcoming AMUN conference.
The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in 1946. The court's role is to settle legal disputes, in accordance with international law, submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by UN organs and specialized agencies. The decisions of the court are legally binding upon both parties in the dispute.

The Model International Court of Justice is composed of fifteen judges represented by students from high schools around the state participating in the conference. The MICJ staff consists of a Coordinator who is responsible for administering the court and assisting the President of the MICJ, an Assistant Coordinator who is responsible for assisting the Coordinator, Applicants who represent the parties that submitted the dispute, and Respondents who represent the parties that agreed to the submission of the dispute. Each of the parties in all of the disputes are given a chance to orally present their positions in the Oral Arguments. Then, the parties have an opportunity to present their rebuttals. Following Oral Arguments and Rebuttals, the judges of the MICJ can question one or both parties in each dispute. Then, the judges meet to deliberate the case. They may choose to vote, and if so a majority approval must be reached. After the deliberations, the judges meet to write the majority opinion. All judges agreeing must sign the document, and any not agreeing can choose to write their own, explaining their reasoning. To conclude the proceedings the President will read the majority opinion, regardless of whether or not he has signed it.

The 2007 MICJ will consist of three cases.

Case one is Kashmir with Pakistan as the applicant and India as the respondent. In early 2004 India and Pakistan began peace talks regarding the dispute over the territory of Kashmir. The territory has been the center of two India-Pakistan wars. The dispute is extremely dangerous, considering both parties have declared themselves nuclear powers. Case two is East Jerusalem with the Palestinian Authority as the applicant and Israel as the respondent. East Jerusalem refers to the part of Jerusalem captured by Jordan in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and subsequently by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing dispute between the state of Israel and the Arab Palestinians. One central question of this conflict is the degree to which Palestinians are willing and able to accept the right of Israel to exist, and are willing to uphold acceptance of this principle. Similarly, another central question is the degree to which Israel feels conditions exist in which it is possible to allow Palestinians to achieve sovereignty. Case three is the Hala'ib Triangle with Sudan as the applicant and Egypt as the respondent. The Hala’ib Triangle is an area of land located on the Red Sea’s African coast, between the borders of Egypt and Sudan. Sovereignty over the land has never been successfully determined, and both Egypt and Sudan claim ownership over the land.
Model Times is a student newspaper published by the Model United Nations of the University of Central Arkansas. The views published are not necessarily those of UCA or the MUN Organization.

All material is subject to respective copyrights.