



## **TOPIC 2**

### **Addressing the problem of overpopulation**

**Committee: Future LEGAL**

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## INTRODUCTION

The year is 2050, the Earth's population has just exceeded 9.8 billion. While we have witnessed a rapid population growth in most continents, we have also seen that the population has decreased in Europe and other more economically developed countries, creating an imbalance between overpopulated areas and rich areas with decreasing population. Such conditions will require increased supply of all kinds of resources and strong infrastructures. As population is projected to peak in less than 40 years, this issue calls for immediate solutions.

## GLOBAL SITUATION IN 2050

### Environment

Earth's population is 9.8 billion at the moment. 70% of people are living in cities. 80% more energy is needed than in 2022 and even though more sustainable resources are being used to obtain it, energy related emissions are rapidly growing and caused the global average temperature to increase by 6 degrees over the 28 years. Growing population is linked to growing food demand and there is a need for continuous expanding agricultural land. While in more developed countries, water demand is increasing to match the high demand for manufacturing, electricity and also domestic use, 40% of population currently lives under

severe water stress in river basins, this is mainly the case for North and South Africa as well as South and Central Asia. Even though more people now have access to improved water sources, some key regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, do not.

## Technology

Cryptocurrencies now serve as the main form of transactions, blockchain technology is widely used. New technology such as CRISPR, gene therapies, 3D printed organs and blood vessels, nanoparticles, nanorobotics, is also often used in medicine and effectively cures or minimizes major diseases that spread faster due to overpopulation. With the more common usage of human-like robots, some humans' jobs are getting taken up, leading to increased unemployment. Some other technological advances include self-driving cars, VR glasses that replaced smartphones, brain computer interface or space elevators that have been introduced in China and Japan. Space tourism is slowly gaining popularity, however, it is currently only for rich people.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Scientists predict that the Earth can only carry the capacity of about 11 billion people. The population is now close to 10, the planet is going to reach its projected maximum of 11.2 billion people in 2100. Until then, we will need to focus not only on slowing the rate of population growth, but also finding more sustainable ways to live so that we can maintain a sufficient standard of living for everyone. It is also important to note that the changes in population differ in different parts of the world. While most continents are becoming overpopulated, especially, Asia and Africa, many of the more developed countries, primarily in Europe are actually dealing with depopulation. In such a case, it can be inferred that the average age will be way higher in Europe than anywhere else.

Overpopulation itself is a relatively new phenomenon that only started to become a larger scale problem in the 1950s. As by definition, overpopulation is a term used when a population starts to exceed the resources that are available. As the numbers increase, it is crucial to keep up with the demands for food, water and any other resources. Resources, however, are not the only problem. Due to migration to cities, rural areas will struggle with depopulation and

keeping local agricultural businesses going, while urban areas will struggle with overcrowding, fast disease-spreading, and housing shortage.

### Causes of overpopulation

There are multiple factors that cause overpopulation. Firstly, as our health care continues to improve, mortality rate has eventually decreased, and life expectancy has increased. Secondly, in many less developed countries, contraceptives are underutilized and difficult to access, depriving women of postponing childbearing, and causing larger numbers of babies being born. And lastly, in many parts of the world, young women still lack the opportunity of higher education, which is directly linked to the issues since more educated people tend to have overall less children.

### Effects of overpopulation

The effects of overpopulation are also tremendous. Exhaustion of the Earth's natural resources is the main and most obvious effect. Our population consumes a larger amount of raw materials than the planet is able to generate in the same time span. With fewer resources, the living costs will rise exponentially. Moreover, a large part of the population will likely face unemployment because there will be too many workers for a limited number of vacancies. Both of these factors will probably lead to an increased crime rate. On the other hand, there might also be good outcomes from the situation. For example, the high concentrations of people living in bigger cities may contribute to quicker development of technology to satisfy the needs of our population.

## PARTIES INVOLVED AND THEIR VIEWS

### P5 countries

#### **United States of America**

In 2040, there was a civil war between democrats and republicans. After their victory, democrats started to grow more liberal and communist while the republican nationalism started to fade away. As of now, the communist government is in favor of abortions, laws

against guns and has implemented universal healthcare. USA is currently the third largest economy in the world and is beginning to shift away from capitalism

### **China**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. China is the largest economy in the world and is very advanced in terms of human genetic modification which is legal in the country.

### **Russian federation**

Since the revolution of 2033 that was triggered by Putin's death, democracy has been established in Russia. Russia is now the sixth largest economy.

### **France**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. France is now the 12<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

### **United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. The UK is now the 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

### **Other member states**

#### **India**

India has faced the biggest growth in population, making it the most populated state in the world and climbing up to being the 2nd largest economy in the world, however, this calls for reformations in the eg. health care system that the government will have to deal with, furthermore, the country is one of those most affected by the global rise in temperatures

#### **Nigeria**

Nigeria has reached the top three most populated countries in the world and is mostly struggling with water supply and overcrowding in urban areas. It is now the 14th largest economy.

#### **Germany**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Germany is now the 9<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

#### **Austria**

There were no significant changes in ideology nor the economic situation since the year 2022.

#### **Italy**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Italy is now the 21<sup>st</sup> largest economy in the world.

#### **Japan**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Japan is now the 8<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. Japan is one of the nations that legalized genetic modification of humans.

#### **South Korea**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. South Korea is now the 18<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. South Korea is one of the nations that legalized genetic modification of humans.

#### **Brazil**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Brazil is now the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

#### **Pakistan**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Pakistanis now the 16<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

#### **Bangladesh**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Bangladesh is now the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the world.

#### **Indonesia**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Indonesia's economy has been boosted substantially, it is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

### **Switzerland**

There were no significant changes in ideology nor the economic situation since the year 2022.

### **Mexico**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Mexico is now the 7<sup>st</sup> largest economy in the world.

### **Vietnam**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. Vietnam is now the 20<sup>st</sup> largest economy in the world.

### **The Philippines**

There were no significant changes in ideology since the year 2022. The Philippines are now the 19<sup>st</sup> largest economy in the world.

## **PREVIOUS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Perhaps the most famous program for reducing population growth was the one-child policy implemented in late 1970s in China. However, China faced several hardships caused by the policy, such as creating a majority of older people in the population and a gender imbalance, as boys were more desirable in the rural areas because they would inherit the family property.

In the past, several countries in South Asia, for example Bangladesh, have launched a special family planning program that would slow down population growth in the country in the 1960s. The program consisted of three main points, the first one being enabling more women to pursue higher education. This way, more women could focus on their careers and have fewer children later in life. The second point was improving the health care system. This lowered the chances of children dying at a young age and parents then did not feel the need to have as many of them. The last point was making contraception available, especially in the rural areas. These measures proved to be quite effective, while in 1960 an average Bangladeshi woman had seven children, in 2019 the average dropped to two. It also changed

the demographics and boosted the economy of the country as child mortality was reduced and more children had the opportunity to study and contribute to society.

When thinking of ways to prevent further growth of population, we should take into consideration legalizing abortions around the globe and promoting birth control. Restricting marriage age could also potentially increase the age when parents have children and having fewer in result. Other ways to manage overpopulation will need to concern the scarcity of resources and the capacity of our systems. It is necessary to continue finding ways of obtaining energy sustainably. To match the high food demand, the agricultural production sector has to be reformed, just like the supplying system. In the case of water, a good example of improving the supply efficiency is improving the designs of rainwater harvesting systems and implementing them where they are needed.

## QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

How can further rapid growth of population be prevented?

How will the imbalance between overcrowded areas and areas with decreasing population be dealt with?

In what ways can sufficient food and water supply be ensured around the planet.

Will other ways of obtaining sustainable resources to fulfill the increasing demands need to be found?

How can we ensure that overpopulation does not lower the global living standard?

What measures will need to be taken in order to maintain life in rural/urban areas?

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