

## Sample Position Paper | Southpointe Academy Model United Nations

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**Committee:** Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

**Country:** Nigeria

**Delegate:** Samuel Tung (First name, Last name)

**Topic:** Negative Ramifications of Urbanization

Honourable Dias and Fellow Delegates,

Urbanization, as it is now, is a controversial, but very important force in the development in modern society. Some people (such as working-class citizens of MEDCs) view urbanization as a gateway of opportunity; a way to better the lives of people by centralizing and allowing more open trade and business, and providing more than enough space for housing and infrastructure development, along with other perceived benefits. However, many others can agree urbanization can have detrimental effects towards countries, such as, in Nigeria's case, widespread poverty, an increase in catching a disease, and the harm of the environment around various urban areas. The issue of urbanization is especially pressing as more than half of the world's population live within an urbanized area, which is only set to grow in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Nigeria, as stated before, has faced a series of detrimental effects in relation to urbanization. Urbanization in Nigeria is slowly taking over once-rural areas, limiting how much farmland  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Nigerians rely as a source of income. In fact, there is a strong correlation between urbanization in Nigeria and the number of people in slums. Agriculture, before lots of people moved to cities, was once the strongest industry in Nigeria. Because of the takeover of farmland and rural areas, Nigeria's major industry has since shifted to oil. Many Nigerians have resorted to slums, reducing production of food and increasing crime. With many slums being densely populated, the combination of poor infrastructure encourages the spread of disease, with a denser set of people being able to get infected quicker than sparsely-populated communities. Due to a desire to exploit various unexploited resources (like oil,) lack of education and a lack of political and civil will, many natural regions are lost to economic growth. Despite the fact Nigeria is among the largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 62% of Nigerians are in extreme poverty, meaning only a very small portion of Nigerians are participating in the

economic growth. In general, Nigeria's urbanization has made the country worse than it was. However, the rate of urbanization shows no signs of stopping because there is a "perceived wide gap" of services, job opportunities and quality of infrastructure.

The Delegation of Nigeria strongly believes a combination of education and non-monetary aid will solve the problem of urbanization, both short-term and long-term. Firstly, education is essential in teaching everyone what urbanization is and can help increase the interest of becoming an urban planner. Education should not only teach people what urbanization does, but eventually motivate people to collaborate and find their own smart and affordable ways of curbing the issue, in the event non-monetary aid would not arrive. Non-monetary aid is required to 'do the big stuff' - actions that are out of control from everyday citizens, and require government effort on a national level, such as strengthening the already-subpar infrastructure (which can solve smaller problems, such as disease and crime) and invest in the resources needed to educate the people.

In essence, urbanization, though it may have a positive connotation for some, can have a series of detrimental effects towards others. The Delegation of Nigeria, facing the negative ramifications of urbanization in the past and present, strongly believes urbanization can become something better in the future, if people and governments can actually put effort to collaborate and solve the issue in a smart and affordable way, through education and non-monetary aid.

Thank you.

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