The American School Foundation
Model United Nations

United Nations Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL)

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

The United Nations Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL) is one of the newest committees within the United Nations. It aims to use the most innovative technology available in order to solve issues that are specific to a geolocation. During the 2020 American School Foundation Model United Nations Conference (ASFMUN International), this committee will utilize Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Fintech, and others to develop a project that will solve problems prevalent in Mexico. I, Valeria Lopez, will be chairing this committee and will be assisting all delegates in the development of the lab as well as guiding the conversation on cutting edge technology as well as the problems in Mexico.

The United Nations Technology Innovation Labs at this conference will run differently than other committees since it will focus on the creation of solutions based on problems that affect a certain region. What differentiates this committees is that rather than having member states, the most powerful technology companies, government officials and first world countries unite into creating resolutions.

The topics that we will be discussing in this committee relate to the use of technology nowadays and the impact that it has had on the life of individuals. They revolve on the modern day technology use and how they can be used in order to develop projects that will have a greater impact than a simple small community. Delegates will also get the opportunity to analyze problems in Mexico and find alternatives to the better functioning of the geolocation.

I look forward to meeting all of you at the conference and hope that these issues will inspire us to think outside the box in creating viable solutions. Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions.

Best Regards,
Valeria Lopez
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Disclaimer

This committee will run differently than other traditional Model United Nations committees. In this background guide you will find several lists of steps on how the United Nations Technology Innovation Labs create and develop projects that are enforced in specific geolocations. You will find a list of the most innovative technologies available in the world as well as problems that a specific country face, in this case Mexico. Before the conference, delegates will analyze the problems that the country faces and develop a mock project that could help create the final lab that will run in Mexico. Delegates will then share those ideas during opening speeches which will then be used by the whole committee to further enhance the final resolution, the lab.

During the conference, delegates will discuss as individuals how they can solve different problems Mexico has and develop a lab that could be enforced. By the end of the conference, delegates will have a well developed solution, using the most innovative technology, in order for the government of Mexico to apply it and improve their situation.

During the first day of the conference delegates will discuss the problems that Mexico has as well as its relation to the conscience program that will occur during ASFMUN. Delegates will talk about solutions that could be enforced by the government and how they call for change. Delegates will also discuss about the technology available in the world and the reliability that this has in the creation of solutions. During the second day of the conference, delegates will create a solution to the problems addressed the first day and will plan a lab that could work as a solution.

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Submitting Position Papers

How to submit Position Papers

- Title (Committee, Country_Delegate Name)
- Format: Save as pdf

Outline for Position Papers

Heading

→ Delegate Name
→ Delegation
→ Committee
→ Topic Title

Opening

→ Must include brief introduction of topic and its significance.

Positioning

→ Clear description of country's stance towards the conflict.

Possible Solutions

→ Past actions to resolving the conflict.
→ Involvement with the UN.

Closing

→ Restate significance and ideas presented.

References

→ Include all citations used in research for this paper.

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Lab Design

Stage 1: Pre-Launch

During this stage the location of the lab is identified. This is done in order to set the theme of the lab and what will be its main aims. The problems in the location are analyzed in order to choose some that will be solved through the implementation of the lab. The strategies that could be used in the lab are chosen meaning that a group of technologist determine what are the best technologies that can solve the specific problem. This stage only involves planning on behalf of UNTIL and requires no funding.

Stage 2: Explore

Once the location of the lab is chosen then the committee chosen to address the problem analyzes the extent of need of the lab. This means that the problems that will be solved are chosen and then a thorough investigation takes place on the severity of the problem. To analyze the need of the lab, several factors are taken into consideration such as the financial status of the state and current plans in solving the problem. In this stage the committee chosen by the United Nations Technology Innovation Labs, which involves project managers and technologist, develop a project and start planning what is needed. It is in this stage where the committee needs to find resources in order to start developing the solution and also find partnerships that can help to fund the project. At this point the members of the United Nations Technology Innovation Labs start collaborating with the government of the project in order to make sure that the government and implementers agree with the project and are up to day. The funding that occurs at this point is used internally by UNTIL in order to make sure that salaries of the workers are fulfilled as well as renting the materials and the facilities that are needed in order to develop the project.

Stage 3: Create

This point is where the creation of the lab starts happening. During this stage the companies and partners of UNTIL in charge of creating the lab start working. A prototype of the lab is made and is then presented to the government of the location chosen. The use of the lab is consistently and repeatedly used in order to analyze the efficiency of the lan in the problem solving. The funding in this step is directly used in order to create the prototype as well as running the trials in order to prove that the lab will have an actual impact on the geolocation.

Stage 4: Accelerate

During this stage the lab is ready to be implemented in the geolocation. To do this there is the launching of the pilot program which means that experts in the lab implement the project to see how it is functioning and what are modifications that can be done in order to improve the overall performance. This stage also functions as the testing of the lab as all the machinery used starts working to its full potential. This is done to assure that everything works properly and that there are no flaws present. The government, partner companies, technologists and project managers analyze the lab and validate it in order to start operating and creating impact in the geolocation chosen.

At this point UNTIL only overseas the lab and it is to the government and the implementation programs to test and analyze the operation of the lab. The funding that

occurs at this point is called joint funding which means that their availability of funds in order to modify last minute changes of the lab as well as make sure that any problem is fixed.

Stage 5: Implement

At this point the lab is fully operational. It is managed by the implementation programs and the government and is overseen by UNTIL. The funds available are used to expand and grow the lab.

Cutting Edge Technology

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is defined as the ability for a computer or machine to perform any task associated with humans. Often times artificial intelligence uses certain characteristics that humans have such as reason, meaning, learning from past experiences, and develop them into ideas used by machines.

During the past few years artificial intelligence has risen in many ways as the world today revolves around the use of technology. Artificial intelligence has been used in many fields as it has the ability to replicate human actions in order to make ideas come to life in a more efficient and productive way. In the creation of labs, artificial intelligence can be used to replicate human actions that might be hard to continuously have in place which will further help solve problems a location might have. Artificial intelligence has developed, throughout the last few years, ways in which they can simulate human values and actions in a more accurate way in order to optimize results given by a certain action.

When working with artificial intelligence one should recognize that it has many benefits such as making processes faster and also making them more efficient not only time wise but also economically. One should also consider that Artificial Intelligence has some negative aspects such as machines becoming too independent that it might be hard to control it. To solve this issue, an artificial intelligence specialist should always be checking that there are no flaws in the system and that solutions are solved in a simple way without too much complication, something that AI facilitates. Artificial intelligence also uses machine-learning which is a coding process in which a machine goes learning by previous experiences and data input which predicts the next output in a more accurate way. Machine learning has been able to replicate the human mind and create more reliable algorithms (used in all machines) that make processes much more effective.

Blockchain

Blockchain is a new technology that allows people and companies to make transactions, not only with money, through a network that doesn't require anyone involved other than the two ends of the actions. It is a completely secure network as information is stored in database that are cryptofixed. Blockchain is really simple. Information is stored in a chain of blocks, representing data, held together in a specific order. This storage of data is used by both companies and individuals in a way were they not only make transactions but they can also verify them. When creating a project, blockchain can be used in order to make transparent transactions by having no third parties involved and making sure that

the money that leaves one party is used in one way or another. Blockchain is instantaneous making processes more efficient and it has no authority meaning that no one controls the transactions that are being done.

Internet of things

When talking about the internet of things one can define it as everything that is connected to the internet and is used in order to make different objects communicate. It can be understood as devices that work together in order to facilitate the life of individuals and make life more effective. Devices share different data in order to make every process more time efficient as well as cheaper and in a way way it understands all factors of the situation and makes more rational decisions. By using the internet of things during the creation of different labs, then data can be shared within different machines in order to make processes more reliable, accurate and precise when it comes to fixing the problem they are intended to solve.

FinTech

Fintech also known as financial technology, is a new technology that aims to improve the productivity and effectiveness of different financial services. Fintech aims to use different softwares and algorithms to accurately guide different companies, consumers and business owners into taking better decisions relying more on data and facts. With the advancements in technology, Fintech has evolved into developing cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and has also emerged itself in different sectors such as education and different nonprofit. When using the Fintech in the creation of a lab it can be used in order to make better economic decisions that can influence in the funding. Fintech also allows companies to decide how their projects, in this case the labs, can create the most impact in a region by using specific data and using the resources in the most effective way possible.

Problems in Mexico

Poverty

One of the most prevalent problems in Mexico is poverty. This social reality of Mexico affects all citizens as people either are deprived of their basic needs or are affected indirectly by the issue. In the conscience program this will be explored through the different modules, as all of them urge one to open their eyes to the real side of Mexico.

Mexico, an underdeveloped country, has suffered a lot when it comes to the distinction between social classes and poverty within its citizens. Poverty is defined as not having the sufficient amount of resources in order to fulfill a person's needs and live a desirable life. Mexico, as an industrialized country, has shifted society from a rural environment to a more urban causing unemployment and a shift is the production and consumption of the country. This has altered the economy as people who made a living out of cattle and agriculture have lost customers because the production of goods became based on industrialization. This also has increased unemployment rates as people who worked in the rural area lost jobs and the overpopulation limits the amounts of jobs available in the cities. This shift to industrialization oftentimes makes the government

forget people living in rural areas leading to the scarcity of resources. The people living in rural areas tend to enter this stage of poverty as they lack economic aid from the government and the consumption rates of their products has decreased and was replaced with big factories and more powerful companies.

As of 2016, 43.6% of the Mexican population lived in property. This takes into consideration that simply one factor of vulnerability is enough for the government to identify someone who belongs in poverty. This action by the government primarily functions as a tool in order to consider every citizen in the country and make sure that no one is left behind. The gap between the rich and the poor is noticeable in Mexico as simply 10% of the whole population has 42% of the whole income in the city. This differentiation in the social classes in Mexico has made other problems more prevalent as inequality triggers actions done by individuals who seek for more opportunities.

Corruption

Corruption is defined as the spreading of information or data, oftentimes inaccurate and incomplete, in order to alter inappropriate actions made by a specific group of people. In Mexico, corruption occurs in many different ways and by all types of people. When it comes to the government corruption can be seen in the way officials are elected. Before the current president of México, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the political party known as the PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) and PAN (Partido Acción Nacional) dominated the country. This means that although elections where happening the president was always chosen beforehand. Then, when the president was governing, people within the government and outside institutions manipulated with money, actions and executions that were being made. This problem started spreading to outside sources which lead to corruption happening all over the place. Police officers started falling under this corruption by accepting bribes from the people who committed an offense. The drug cartels started dominating the country and guiding the actions that were being taken. The whole country fell under this idea of lack of transparency and corruption.

Today, this corruption has increased violence and trust levels in Mexico causing satisfaction levels to decrease. Although this issue started a long time ago, it still happens nowadays and even in greater quantity.

Security

Mexico is often represented in the media as having an unsafe community with a lot of violence. Some of this lack of security in the country has occurred because of the dissatisfaction with the political and social environment of Mexico. Also, in 2006 the president Felipe Calderon declared the drug war against cartels in the country. This war against the drug cartels have caused the deaths of many people as well as some of the security issues. All the drug cartels aim to control the country indirectly in order to satisfy their production and to help their own people. This has caused a lot of problems as they use violence to achieve their goals, which sometimes occurs against civilians. It has also caused political instability as the presence of the drug cartels and the way, corruption levels have increased. The government always tries to battle this ongoing war by fighting the cartels and capturing their leaders.

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