

Forum: SDG 11

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LibGuide**TOPIC 2: The question of official development assistance for infrastructure in low-income and lower economically developed countries.****I. Introduction to the Topic**

The question of official development assistance for infrastructure in low-income and lower economically developed countries (ODA) can be defined as governmental aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. In other way around, it also tackles how wealthy nations should support the low income nations by providing them with monetary support, resources or assisting with projects such as building schools, roads or hospitals. Since 1969, ODA has been adopted as the gold standard of foreign aid, still remaining as the main source of financing for development aid. OECD countries are responsible for collecting, verifying, and making publicly available ODA data. Depending on the nation's economic status, extent to which humanitarian aid was donated varies worldwide 2023, by countries. For example in 2023, the United States government has donated around 9.6 million US dollars in humanitarian aid worldwide. The European Commission and Germany followed with over 2 billion US dollars, suggesting that thus, largest economies with large GDPs are likely to be the largest donors. This can be analysed through demographics, politics & country governance, and economic data. The goal is to help the nations with lower gdp grow in terms of economy and be independent on its own. This topic is important because this topic is trying to help nations be independent, grow economically and develop the nations infrastructure.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts**ODA**

ODA stands for official development assistance and it is a form of government which supports wealthy countries lending money to less wealthy/developed nations. However, it is not a form of donation. The significance is that with this support, less developed nations are able to grow quicker and more efficiently.

Low income countries

For countries to be considered as a “low income country”, the GNI (gross national income) per capita must be below \$1,135 or less as of 2022. These countries suffer significant economic issues and finance demands, as well as a weak or underdeveloped economy, a low human development index, and inadequate infrastructure. The issue of official development aid for infrastructure in low-income and less developed nations is essential because it addresses the need for financial and other assistance to assist these countries in improving their infrastructure and general economic health. This issue is significant because the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assists low-income nations in a variety of ways, including policy advice, capacity-building programmes, and concessional financial assistance. Wealthier countries and international aid organisations frequently provide financial, political, social, and environmental

development assistance to low-income countries. Some examples of low income countries are republic of Rwanda, Republic of Uganda, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Yemen and many more.

Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development is the creation and improvement of fundamental facilities such as transportation, energy, water, and internet connections in order to boost economic growth and improve quality of life. This idea is significant because it contributes **significantly** to economic development, industrialization, healthier lifestyles, and thriving enterprises. Infrastructure upgrades are critical for any nation's prosperity since they catalyse the development of other economic sectors, resulting in greater health and education. In the context of official development assistance for infrastructure in low-income and less-developed countries, infrastructure development is critical for fostering economic growth, improving living standards, and strengthening community resilience to various stresses such as natural disasters. In such nations, official development aid for infrastructure is aimed at assisting with the construction and improvement of critical infrastructure in order to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty. The term "infrastructure development" is relevant to the topic of "The question of official development assistance for infrastructure in low-income and lower economically developed countries" emphasising the importance of investing in basic physical systems and public goods to foster economic growth, improve quality of life, and strengthen community resilience. In these nations, official development aid for infrastructure attempts to provide the essential support for the development of critical infrastructure, which is critical for their overall success and prosperity.

Financial assistance

Financial assistance is money given to a person, organisation, or government in the form of guarantees, loans, cost-sharing arrangements, subsidies, tax breaks, or welfare payments. Financial aid in the context of public corporations refers to any sort of monetary assistance provided by a firm in the purchase of its own shares or the shares of its holding companies. Helping with the purchase of shares is either permitted or restricted in several nations.

III. Key Stakeholders

OECD

OECD stands for Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development which is an international organisation with 38 different nations that works together to create better policies for better lives. This organisation was founded in 1961 and its main job is to promote global trade and economic advancement. The relevance of this organisation to the topic is that they provide guidelines and standards for the ODA (official development assistance)

ODA

ODA stands for official development assistance and is considered as a government. Their main job is to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. ODA helps with money transfer

from wealthy countries to developing countries. However, ODA is not a donation but instead, it is rather a way to invest in the economic growth of developing nations.

World Bank

World Bank is a global financial organisation that offers loans and grants to less wealthy nations for the purposes of economic development, poverty alleviation, and infrastructure projects. They also offer policy recommendations and technical support. Their main goal is to support less wealthy nations build infrastructures in a more efficient way.

IMF

IMF stands for International Monetary Fund and it is a global institution that offers financial support to underdeveloped and low-income nations alike. They support nations in stabilising their economies and fostering growth by lending money and offering technical assistance. Their main purpose is to promote financial stability for less wealthy countries and also collaborations with other international institutions.

GNI

The total income of all the people living in an economy during a specific time period is known as gross national income, or GNI. It is equivalent to GDP minus primary income that resident units owe non-resident units and primary income that resident units owe non-resident units from the rest of the world. As a substitute for the gross domestic product (GDP), the gross national income (GNI) is used to track and measure a country's wealth over time.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Quality Governance and Practice

The successful implementation of infrastructure projects require quality governance. It includes transparent and responsible decision-making, effective regulatory systems, and conflict resolution. In the lack of strong governance, infrastructure delivery can be hampered, leading to concerns such as corruption and mismanagement. Infrastructure development can cause social and environmental problems, thus it is critical to use inclusive, resilient, and climate-adapted techniques from the start. A fundamental change in decision-making systems can result in more sustainable and inclusive infrastructure, as well as increased social profitability. Adequate land-use planning, improved infrastructure governance, and stakeholder analysis are critical for tackling governance complexity and effective infrastructure development practice.

Economic and social impact

Infrastructure development has a substantial impact on economic growth, poverty alleviation, and social development. However, investment decisions are frequently impacted by short-term political considerations, which can lead to corruption and incompetence. Understanding the role of infrastructure in altering economies and creating better jobs is critical for addressing the economic and social impacts of infrastructure development, particularly in fragile regions.

Climate Change and Resilience

Climate change's influence on infrastructure in developing countries poses new and ongoing concerns. Adapting to and minimising the effects of climate change requires resilient infrastructure. In order to handle the complexity of climate change and resilience in infrastructure development, it is critical to integrate climate-adapted approaches and promote the transformation of existing infrastructure. The impact of climate change on infrastructure is strongly related to global inequality. The OECD emphasises that reducing and controlling the risks of climate change are vital not just for protecting lives and livelihoods but also for reducing rising inequality.

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) must assist to solve global problems like the financial and economic crises, food shortages, and climate change. The funding community has been focused on identifying the most pressing goals to attain, emphasising the importance of strong laws and regulations to guarantee that ODA supports long-term and equitable infrastructure development.

Key Issue 5: Many LEDCs have major infrastructure investment gaps, and securing appropriate funds for infrastructure development is a critical concern. This is especially visible in Africa, where weak roads, rails, and port infrastructure has raised corporate costs and slowed economic progress. Furthermore, less than 10% of African infrastructure projects reach the financial closing stage. The inability to secure offtake agreements and guarantees, as well as poor program delivery due to limited planning and execution capabilities, all contribute to finance and implementation issues.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1960s-1970s:	Key event 2: The concept of official development assistance (ODA) develops as a transfer of money and resources from richer countries to poor countries to help their economic development and welfare.
1970	A resolution was approved from the United Nations General Assembly about wealthy nations to contribute 0.7% of their GNI to official development assistance
1972	In Stockholm, Sweden, a United Nations Conference was hosted which emphasised the importance of international cooperation in addressing environmental concerns in developing nations.
1981	The United Nations General Assembly approved the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which aimed to

encourage long-term economic growth and development in underdeveloped nations.

2000	The United Nations Millennium Summit in New York culminated in the approval of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to reduce poverty and improve health, education, and gender equality in less wealthy nations.
2010-2022	Aid as a share of national income (ODA/GNI) has barely increased over the last decade, rising from 0.31% in 2010 to 0.36% in 2022
2013-2019	There was a general downward trend in the proportion of ODA provided to infrastructure projects.
2021	Key event 1: India, Bangladesh, and Sudan received the largest amounts of ODA
2021	Key event 3: less than one-third of ODA went to countries classified as least developed and/or low income.
2021	The health, humanitarian, and infrastructure sectors received the most ODA.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Inefficient planning

Inefficient planning can result in poorly constructed infrastructure projects that do not satisfy the needs of the local community. This can lead to wasted resources and a lack of sustainable development.

ODA system

Delegates wishing to speak for the resolution can include how ODA has helped the nation's economy, building infrastructure and many more. It is important to consider many perspectives when facing the issues of government development aid for infrastructure in low-income and less developed nations. One potential problem is allocating ODA to infrastructure, which entails balancing recipient nations' needs and priorities with donating countries' aims.

Ledes: LEDCs, or Less Economically Developed Countries, have lower GDP and living standards than MEDCs. These countries frequently face substantial obstacles in infrastructure development, which is critical to economic growth and sustainable development. The issue of government development aid for infrastructure in low-income and lower-income nations is especially pertinent to LEDCs, which frequently lack the finances and capacity to invest in infrastructure projects on their own.

Lack of Funds: Many low-income and less developed countries lack the funds to invest in infrastructure development. This lack of finance might result in inadequate infrastructure, limiting economic growth and progress.

Environmental Impact: Infrastructure development can have a huge environmental impact, resulting in deforestation, biodiversity loss, and higher greenhouse gas emissions. It is critical to assess the environmental impact of infrastructure developments and implement mitigation strategies.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Delegates must consider their country's interests and priorities, as well as the potential influence of their suggested solutions on other countries when creating a resolution from their country's perspective. It is critical to speak with other delegations in order to gain their support for the resolution and resolve any issues or objections they may have. Delegates must also endeavour to utilise concise and clear wording, as well as include a heading, preambulatory clauses, and operative clauses in the resolution. Finally, delegates must be willing to negotiate and compromise with other delegations in order to reach an agreement that is acceptable to all parties concerned.

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IX: Additional Resources

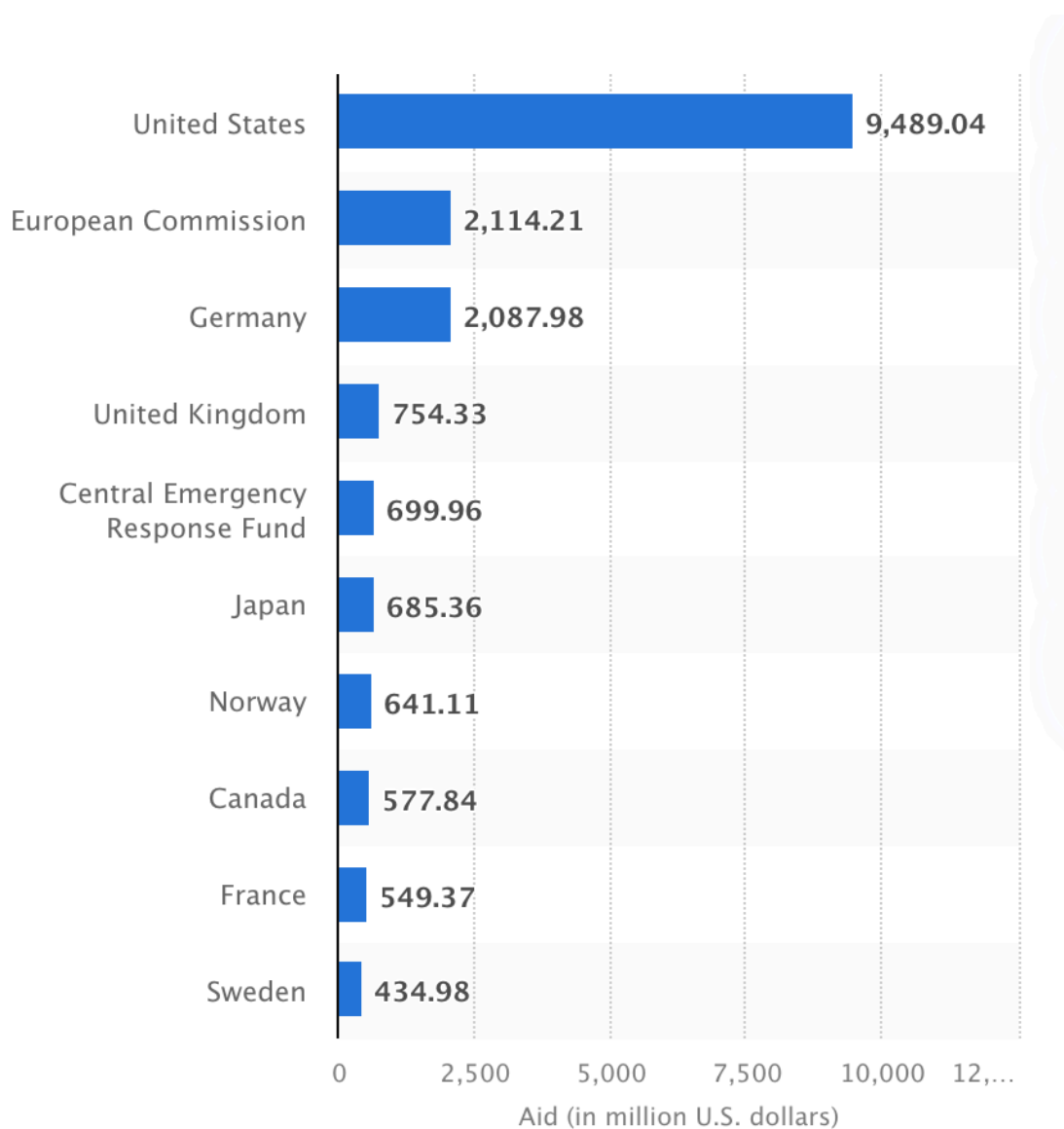
If there are any relevant maps, images or data that will help your delegates better understand the issue, include those in this section.

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[Largest donors of humanitarian aid worldwide in 2023 in million USD, by countries](#)