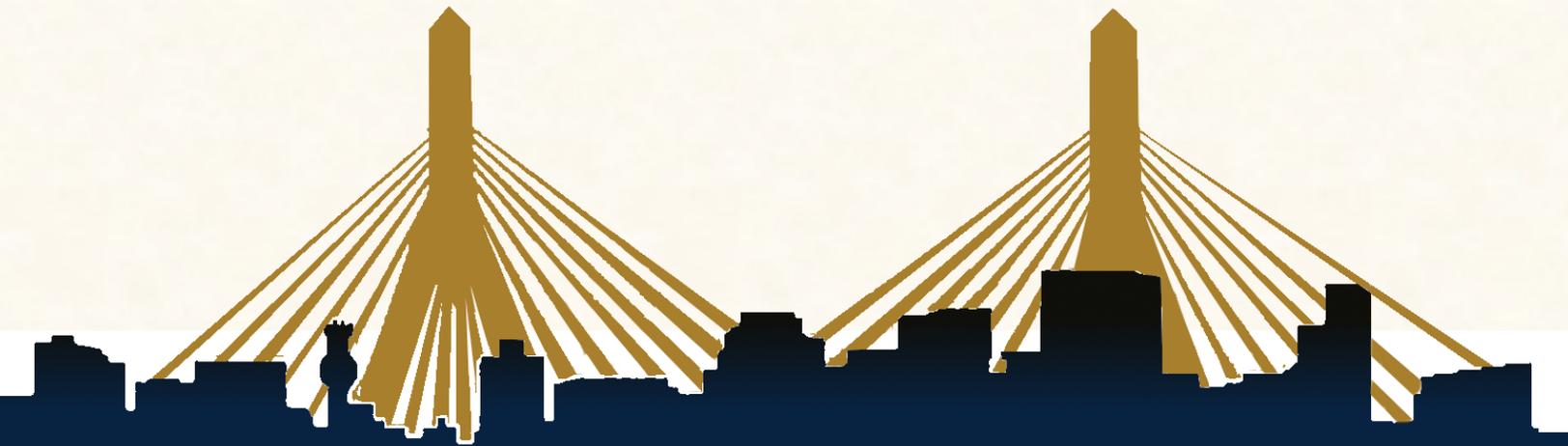




# The Inventors' League

## *Background Guide*



### **EagleMUNC**

Model United Nations  
Conference  
March 20-22, 2020

### **Chair:**

Navar Recinos  
recinosn@bc.edu

### **Website:**

[www.EagleMUNC.org](http://www.EagleMUNC.org)

***EAGLEMUNC***

## **Introduction**

### **Letter from the Chair:**

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to EagleMUNC VIII! My name is Navar Recinos, and I am a Junior at Boston College where I am majoring in Mathematics and minoring in Physics. This is my second year as a member of EagleMUNC and my first year as a chair. Even though this is only my second year, some of my fondest college memories come from being a part of the EagleMUNC family. The conferences are, in my opinion, one of the best events for students to create memories and bond with one another. I hope by the end of the weekend you will all have your own special memories.

Our committee is unique from the rest because delegates will be able to interact with all of the other committees at EagleMUNC VIII. By being part of this committee, you get to gain a complete experience of what the conference has in store. You will be able to see what fellow delegates are doing in their committees and then use that information to push the narrative of our committee and address our own issues. It will truly be a fun and creative experience that I hope you all will remember. I am excited to experience my first year as chair with you all on this time bending adventure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Until then, I can't wait to meet you at the conference.

### **Welcome:**

Welcome scientists, engineers, and inventors! This special assembly of the Inventors' League has been designed to bring the greatest minds in human history together in one room to solve the toughest problems civilization has seen. We welcome your creativity and ingenuity, and trust in your intelligence, the brightest of all time, to ensure the longevity of human civilization.

### **The Inventors' League**

The Inventors' League is a conglomeration of physicists, engineers, chemists, and other prominent minds responsible for the greatest advancements in history in their respective fields. You, a synthesis of these renowned experts, are tasked with representing their brilliant minds and intuitive spirits to help save civilization from heading down an incorrigible path.

The creation of this emergency summit, sponsored by the United Nations, was inspired by recent global events that have sparked great debate among the international community. Recently, the nation of Indonesia suffered from an explosion in its capital of Jakarta that destroyed several blocks of the city.

Indonesia that tends to suffer from tsunamis caused by earthquakes. In 2018, the island of Sulawesi suffered a major earthquake and tsunami. Hundreds of structures were destroyed and it's estimated that 4,340 people died in the event. Indonesia is considered a least developed country (LDC), meaning that in times of need, it relies

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heavily upon the help of more developed nations in the greater international community due to its low socioeconomic development. The nation suffers from poverty, lack of human resources, and economic vulnerability.<sup>1</sup> Due to its status, it struggled to repair the damage from the catastrophe. The Indonesian government feared for another disastrous event and started to work on a way to prevent as much damage for the future. Officials heard of research being done in the United Kingdom where scientists were studying how Black Widow spiders create strong webbing. Specifically, they were studying the chemical reactions that create such a strong material and hoping to duplicate it, with the goal of then applying it to industrial applications. The purpose was to create new building material that can stand against natural disasters and any other harm that may come to buildings. Indonesian researchers believed this to be a key innovation in preventing future damage caused by tsunamis and earthquakes. However, the United Kingdom was not willing to share the data with Indonesia because they felt it would be a waste, as the devastated nation did not have the funds to help contribute to the continued efforts of research. In desperation to discover a solution, the Indonesian government decided to fund their own research. The researchers found what they believed were the main chemicals to create this new material, however, when the chemicals were brought together it caused an explosion that destroyed the lab and the surrounding city blocks.

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<sup>1</sup> “Least Developed Countries (LDCs) | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” United Nations. United Nations. Accessed September 9, 2019. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html>.

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The event has sparked debate over technology and its applications in the modern world. Scientists and world leaders feel that they do not have enough knowledge as a current community to conquer the world's most complex problems. In addition, this crisis raises the concern of whether or not the international community can responsibly share intellectual property despite the unequal access to and distribution of technology among developed and developing nations.

### **Roles & Rules:**

As an individual in this special, emergency summit, you have been specifically chosen to represent the mind of some of the most intelligent humans of all time. A recent technology has been developed by the United Nations in an effort to combat increasing societal and environmental tensions, that is able to collect the journals, notes, and other pieces of data from these minds to analyze and dictate their line of thinking. This synthesis of intellectual patterns can then be implemented into the minds of other intellectuals (yourselves) that have a very similar thought pattern as the inventor you have been chosen to represent.

Throughout the summit, you will be required to visit various other governmental and non-governmental bodies to gather intel and create various inventions to aid the bodies in their endeavors to improve their respective cause. The purpose of these visits is to inspire the next major, necessary technological breakthrough with the hope of purely benefiting the greater international community. In short, your goal is to use your

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intelligence and inventive mind to put society on a path destined towards prosperity, rather than stagnation and failure.

Because this technology may seem counterintuitive to the end goal of the United Nations to maintain peace by limiting the misuse of technology, it is imperative that your activities here are highly discrete. Upon your arrival at the summit, you will enter the secure chambers where the technology, known as the MR.FAST (Memory Restoration For Advancement of Science and Technology), will temporarily, wipe clean your past memories so that you may fully embody the mind of the inventor you have been chosen to represent. When visiting other governmental and non-governmental bodies, it is important that you do not reveal your true identity, mission, or how you have arrived at your current position. Sharing any information other than the final product of your inventions will not only put yourself and the secret operation at risk, but these actions may also jeopardize the safety and security of the entire world. As you enter each assembly throughout critical periods in human history, it is important to remember that you are acting as a guest, and you recognize the limitations of that time period. This will ensure that you are remaining true to the nature of technology at the time while also aiding in the greater efforts to set society on a greater path. In each committee, you, the inventors, are simply spectators, and will only observe the active members of the body. Your only interactions will be with fellow inventors. Essentially, you will gather intel from the assembly or non-governmental body, and return to the special assembly of inventors to develop a new technology or invention that will be useful to the body that you visited.

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Should you succeed in restoring global harmony, your existing identity will be kept. This responsibility should not be taken lightly, as in the wrong hands, this technology can pose a serious threat to international security, peace, and prosperity. On behalf of the entire international community, we thank you for your sacrifice, dedication, and discretion in this unique and extremely important cause.

### **Historical Background:**

Inventions have been the key to the development of civilization. Without inventors researching and creating new technologies, humanity would still be stuck in the Stone Age. Different inventions enhanced different sections of society. In 1430, the printing press was invented, ultimately aiding in the spread of knowledge by making books, journals, and news more accessible<sup>2</sup>. Rather than having to write out each copy of their texts, authors could now use printing presses to mass produce their works. The spread of information was later improved with the creation of the telephone in 1876 and the radio in 1906. Both allowed for information to be communicated verbally, instantaneously. With the arrival of the Internet in the 1960s, information sharing reached a highpoint and has remained that way for the past 50 years. The Internet has allowed for instantaneous sharing, whether it is text, photos, or recordings. All information is now a few clicks or taps away. While these inventions have helped society with information, they are not the building blocks of society. Three inventions

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<sup>2</sup> “Top 10 Inventions That Changed the World.” LiveScience. Purch. Accessed September 12, 2019. <https://www.livescience.com/33749-top-10-inventions-changed-world.html>.

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that can be considered the foundations of modern society are the internal combustion engine (late 19th century), electricity (late 19th century), and nuclear fission (1939).<sup>3</sup>

The combustion engine greatly improved our modes of transportation by serving as the power source of automobiles, boats, and locomotives. It provided a stronger power source that could make vehicles travel longer and faster. Electricity is without a doubt the most crucial invention to our society today. It is a power source that powers a range of objects in our everyday lives. Whether it's something as small as telephones or something as large as the International Space Station, electricity powers it all. If we were to lose electricity, our society would crumble. The last foundation would be nuclear fission. Nuclear fission is a nuclear reaction where an atom's nucleus splits into smaller nuclei.<sup>4</sup> Nuclear fission is the current method of utilizing nuclear power. A common use of nuclear fission is powering military ships. An issue with nuclear fission is its destructive capabilities, both intentional and accidental. The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the meltdown of Chernobyl are both prevalent examples of disastrous nuclear power.

While the aforementioned inventions are crucial to society, the real heroes are the minds that created them. Dating back to the 6th century BC, Thales of Miletus is considered the first scientist and inventor of mathematics. During his time, the world had mythical explanations for why the world was the way it was. Thales verged away

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<sup>3</sup> Vyas, Kashyap. "19 Great Inventions That Revolutionized History." Interesting Engineering. Interesting Engineering, February 27, 2019. <https://interestingengineering.com/19-great-inventions-that-revolutionized-history>.

<sup>4</sup> Study.com. Study.com. Accessed September 12, 2019. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-nuclear-fission-definition-process-quiz.html>.

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from the common way of thinking and decided to explain natural objects and phenomena using theories and hypotheses. It was due to his new form of thinking that inventors were able to exist and help our society progress. Leonardo Da Vinci in the late 15th century, while mostly known for his artwork, also drew up blueprints for future technology. Da Vinci drafted early sketches of helicopters, tanks, robots, and submarines.<sup>5</sup> Since the technology of his time was incapable of bringing these ideas to life, they were just regarded as pieces of fantasy. However, when the technology to develop the inventions came around, engineers looked at his ideas for inspiration. As mentioned previously, the discovery of electricity was a pivotal point in human history. Benjamin Franklin (18th century), Thomas Edison (late 19th century), and Nikola Tesla (late 19th century) were key inventors in the development of electricity.<sup>6</sup> Franklin is well known for creating a lightning conductor when he flew a kite during a lightning storm. This allowed other inventors/scientists to understand the way electricity can be conducted. It was a stepping stone for Edison, who brought the lightbulb and alkaline batteries, and Tesla who created the modern electric motor and alternating currents. Their discoveries allowed society to create new tools that could push society into a new age.

While some inventors worked on improving society via electricity and transportation, others who were seeking to better understand the human body.

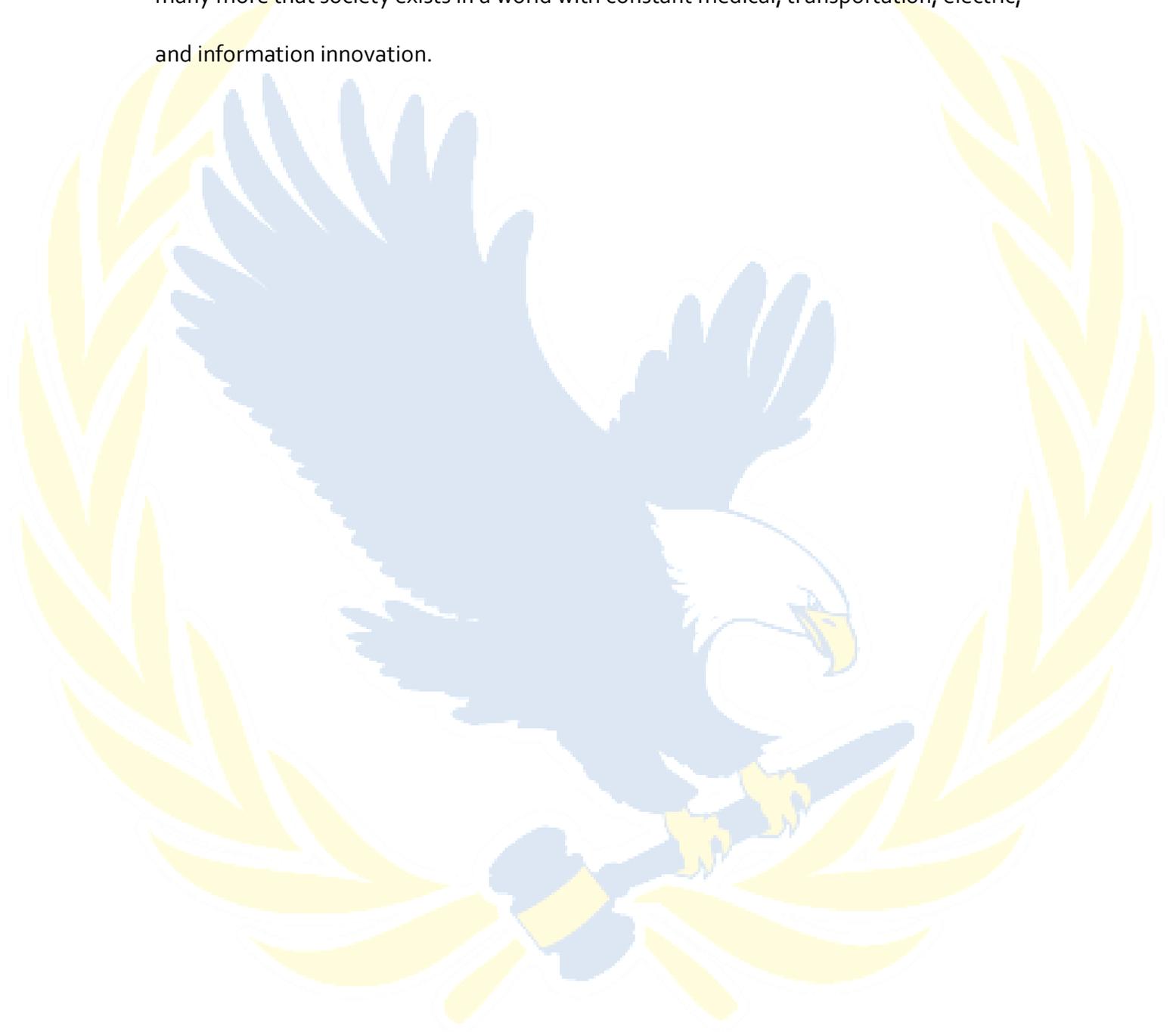
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<sup>5</sup> “Top 21 Greatest Inventors in History and Their Inventions.” Historyly, November 22, 2018. <https://www.historyly.com/historical-figures/greatest-inventors-in-history/>.

<sup>6</sup> “Top 10 Inventors of All Time: .” Biography Online. Accessed September 12, 2019. <https://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/top-10-inventors.html>.

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Rosiland Franklin (20th century) discovered DNA's double helix structure. Her discovery allowed society to understand how DNA functions. It is thanks to these inventors and many more that society exists in a world with constant medical, transportation, electric, and information innovation.



### **Current Issues:**

While technology has greatly improved society over the years, it has also caused some issues along the way. People today debate whether modern technology is benefiting or harming society. Three major topics that are looked at are the dependency on technology, the equal distribution of advanced technology, and environmental concerns based on the technology.

#### **Topic 1: Overdependence on Technology**

Over the years, technology has greatly advanced. Mankind has been able to create things once thought of as only science-fiction. The new technology has been able to help society with day-to-day tasks. They can help with something as small as reminding people what they need to do during their day-today, to great tasks such as producing new products without human input. However, with the rise of technology's involvement in daily life, people start to wonder whether humans are too dependent on technology. People will argue that advancements have improved health and society as a whole, while others say that the technology has taken away jobs. A dependency on technology can also psychologically affect individuals. It can lead to increases in

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anxiety, depression, and impatience. It also decreases the ability to memorize and perform typical daily activities, creating a technology dependence.<sup>7</sup>

Around 56% of Americans have a smartphone.<sup>8</sup> Smartphones have become another limb for most people. to the degree that there is a mental disorder called *nomophobia*, which is a state of stress caused by having no access to or being unable to use one's mobile phone. Smartphones are completely changing societal interactions and norms. Where does humankind draw the line when it comes to technology dependency?

### **Topic 2: Equal Distribution of Advanced Technology**

While technology has advanced significantly in the past century, not everyone has the same access to the technology. There is an imbalance that tends to be connected to wealth. The wealthier groups, whether it's a social class or a nation as a whole, tend to have advanced technology. They are able to afford the technology and therefore have it exclusive privileges. Therefore, those who cannot afford the technology are put at a great disadvantage. Comparing nations with advanced technology and those without, it is evident that those without have a variety of social issues. Lifespans are shortened because citizens do not have the same medical advancements as other nations. In addition, less developed countries economies are

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<sup>7</sup> Johansson, Anna. "We Need to Reduce Our Dependence on Technology If We Want to Keep Innovating." *The Next Web*, July 25, 2018. <https://thenextweb.com/contributors/2018/07/25/we-need-to-reduce-our-dependence-on-technology-if-we-want-to-keep-innovating/>.

<sup>8</sup> "Emerging Trends in Psychology: Technology Dependency: CSP Online." *Concordia University, St. Paul Online*, November 14, 2018. <https://online.csp.edu/blog/psychology/technology-dependency>.

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weaker because they cannot mass produce at the same scale developed nations do.

These disadvantaged nations do not have the infrastructure to replicate the technology and cannot afford to buy it. If nothing is done, these nations will continue to be stagnant as the rest of the world improves. It is therefore important to discuss how these nations can be aided. The Global Technology Distribution Council (GTDC), is an industry consortium representing the world's leading tech distributors.<sup>9</sup> Their goal is to expand and support supply-chains that address the fast-changing market.<sup>10</sup> It is up to the GTDC and its members to help close the technology gap between nations by placing hubs in the region to distribute technology. Unfortunately, the GTDC additionally has its own interests, and is not looking to place distributors in these underdeveloped countries. Given that these nations are LDCs, the GTDC does not believe it is worth the capital to place a distributor in these countries.

Not only is there a technological gap, but these new technologies are additionally causing an economic gap. Technology often reduces labor jobs. Blue collared workers often lose their jobs to machines. This "New Industrial Revolution" is relevant in today's age, but whereas the original Industrial Revolution created jobs, the

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<sup>9</sup> Global Technology Distribution Council. "Worldwide Expansion Continues for Global Technology Distribution Council." GlobeNewswire NewsRoom. "GlobeNewswire", August 23, 2018. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/08/23/1555846/0/en/Worldwide-Expansion-Continues-for-Global-Technology-Distribution-Council.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Global Technology Distribution Council. "Worldwide Expansion Continues for Global Technology Distribution Council." GlobeNewswire NewsRoom. "GlobeNewswire", August 23, 2018. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/08/23/1555846/0/en/Worldwide-Expansion-Continues-for-Global-Technology-Distribution-Council.html>.

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new one is reducing jobs.<sup>11</sup> As technology advances, machines become more intelligent and are able to perform increasingly skilled tasks, allowing them to perform tasks faster and more efficiently than humans.

An increase in unemployment often causes a nation's economy to falter. Technology is the key to lessening economic gaps, but at the same time it is part of the problem. That does not concretely indicate technology is a villain in this situation. Nations with technological advancements often use their tools to help less developed countries.. They provide food, shelter, and other necessities to aid them in extremely harsh times. Unfortunately, it does not often last for long, as helping a LDC is a temporary fix. For example, if Togo is having a food crisis, and the United States and United Kingdom provide food to provide stability it is temporary. Eventually, the factors that caused the crisis will return and often the country cannot help itself. If less developed nations were given basic technology as a stepping stone, it would be more beneficial for all parties involved. The issue then returns to encouraging companies and developed nations to see the benefit of distributing their products in these regions.

### **Topic 3: Environmental Concerns**

Modern technology has allowed society to improve while populations increase exponentially. Unfortunately, increases in population require increases in development, causing the land to become more urbanized. With these expansions, the

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<sup>11</sup> University. "Is Technological Innovation Making Society More Unequal?" United Nations University. Accessed September 11, 2019. <https://unu.edu/publications/articles/is-technological-innovation-making-society-more-unequal.html>.

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amount of pollution increases. Additionally, new factories and vehicles add smog to the atmosphere and with the increase in population, waste increases. However, new advancements in technology also help improve the environment.

In regards to energy, new advancements in automotives allow for cars to be more fuel efficient and emit less smog. Since 1977, there has been a 70-80 percent reduction of emission of volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide.<sup>12</sup> With the introduction of fuel cells and single-cycle gas turbines, emissions can be greatly reduced, but there are issues attributed to these technologies. While these new ideas may be beneficial for areas such as transportation, it is not as effective when it comes to powering generators.

An additional area impacted by technology is water. Due to urbanization and new farming techniques, bodies of water have developed nitrogen deposits that can kill the aquatic vegetation. This impacts the whole aquatic ecosystem due to the lack of plants to feed off of. However, geographic information systems (GIS) are now being used to detect the sources of runoff. Using GIS technologies, scientists can halt runoff and project future nitrogen threats.

While the chemicals emitted from the technology can be harmful, often the technology itself can be harmful. Technotrash, or electronic waste, is any broken or unwanted electrical or electronic device.<sup>13</sup> When technology is disposed of like any

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<sup>12</sup> Austin, David, and Molly K. Macauley. "Cutting Through Environmental Issues: Technology as a Double-Edged Sword." Brookings. Brookings, July 28, 2016. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/cutting-through-environmental-issues-technology-as-a-double-edged-sword/>.

<sup>13</sup> "Green Computing - Environmental Issues - The Carnegie Cyber Academy." Green Computing - Environmental Issues - The Carnegie Cyber Academy - An Online Safety site and Games for Kids.

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other piece of waste, it is deposited at a landfill. Most of the materials used to build new tech is non-biodegradable so these devices sit there as the chemicals they contain may leak into the ground. Technology is a double-edge sword for the environment. While it can be used to heal the environment, it is also simultaneously can harm it.



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Accessed September 11, 2019.  
<http://www.carnegiecyberacademy.com/facultyPages/environment/issues.html>.

### **Bloc Positions:**

By default, many of you will be compelled to work with other scientists that are in the same field as you. While it is beneficial for, for instance, physicists to debate and work together on problems pertaining to mechanics, it is also greatly encouraged by the United Nations that inventors work with others from different fields than their own. This may take the form of various different blocs and invention teams. Some invention teams may form by inventors from the same time period, as they share a similar understanding for the culture and technology available to them in that time period.

Another group may be formed by inventors who share a similar political view. While all inventors within the summit should be working towards saving humanity from its impending demise, some scientists may find it easier to work with each other if they feel that they share a particular passion for resolving specific long lasting issues in society. For example, inventors passionate about correcting climate change and humanity's negative impact on the environment may work together to resolve the Cape Town water crisis, or even prevent a complete environmental collapse in COP 59.

Delegates may also find that what binds them together is a combination of the

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categories above. For example, scientists that have lived through devastating wars may be able to aid in the New Zealand Wars or even help prevent the Cold War from escalating to a nuclear third world war in the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party. Scientists may also work together in the spirit of collaboration.

Delegates should certainly be conscientious when collaborating with others. Due to discontinuities of the lifespan of each inventor in this summit, there may be technological differences amongst inventors that could become problematic when attempting to solve problems. For instance, one scientist may come from a period where there was no electricity, so it may become potentially difficult for certain inventors from that time period to understand how to use more advanced technology that exists in the future. Nonetheless, the ultimate goal of this summit is to put the brightest minds of every era in time in the same room to collaborate and learn from each other, in order to create a more promising future for all of humanity. Although you will be representing a scientist other than yourself, take delight in working with scientists from different eras and fields of study. Remember, it is when you can collaborate and surpass obstacles and differences that you may be able to create a lasting, positive mark on humanity.

**Questions to Consider**

1. Is our dependence on technology harmful or beneficial? Is it harmful in some ways, but beneficial in others?
2. How should regulations on technology use be created and handled? Should they be universal, or specific to certain fields?
3. Should the technology be handed to those who need it or should they be taught how to produce it themselves? What are the benefits and drawbacks of both?
4. Some may say that it can be harmful to withhold certain technologies, so how can this be addressed?
5. Should we attempt to make technology that can reverse damage done or will easier access to more powerful/influential technology cause more damage than intended good?

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