I. Regional Organizations

Norway strongly supports increased cooperation between the UN and regional organizations as a means of strengthening overall peace-building efforts. Norway unequivocally supports the UN Charter, Chapter VIII, articles 52, 53, and 54 in relation to regional organizations. Norway’s relationship with the OSCE reaffirms its belief that it is important for the UN to work closely with many regional organizations on issues related to conflict prevention and development co-operation. Norway additionally understands that the UN has become overburdened with peacekeeping operations. In the last decade these operations have significantly increased. Currently the UN has fifteen peacekeeping operations involving over 40,000 military personnel at an annual cost of some 2.7 billion dollars. Since 1948, the UN has provided peacekeepers in fifty-five instances, with a total expenditure of nearly 28 billion dollars. Norway has contributed over 55,000 military personnel to worldwide peacekeeping operations since 1956. Norway believes that regional organizations may be better suited to handle many of these operations, thereby lessening the burden on the UN. European organizational institutions such as NATO, OSCE and the EU have provisions for aiding those European countries such as Bosnia and Kosovo that face violent crisis. Norway embraces the findings and recommendations in the “Brahimi Report” in August 2000 in relation to changing the method and procedure for UN peacekeeping forces. Norway believes the UN should further encourage the strengthening of regional organizations in order to better engage in conflict prevention and resolution. The recent formation of the African Union is one example of a regional organization that the UN should support. Norway feels these regional or “continental” unions may, in many instances, be better suited to resolve direct military conflict and terrorist threats. These organizations possess greater knowledge of local conditions and potential solutions to the problems that arise within their spheres. With the recent rise in civil wars in developing regions the UN may be best served to formulate a committee to discuss new cooperative opportunities with regional organizations. Regardless of whether disputes are resolved through regional organizations or the UN, Norway’s position is to seek the establishment of democracy in every country, and to resolve disputes through negotiations and diplomacy.

II. Palestine

Norway has taken an active role in seeking peace in the Middle East, culminating with the Oslo Accords of 1993. Norway has had a good working relationship with both sides in the conflict, recognizing the grievances of Israel, but also the needs of the Palestinians. Norway supports Resolution 181 (1947) which establishes two independent states within Palestine. Norway also supports Resolutions 242 and 338. Resolution 242 (1967) calls on Israel to return to the Palestinians the land taken during the 1967 war. Resolution 338 called for a cessation of hostilities in the October 1973 war and a return to peace under the auspices of Resolution 242. Norway supports the UN officially recognizing the PLO, and Yassar Arafat as its chairman. However, Norway will not support any military action or terrorism on the part of the PLO or Israel. Norway will never contribute to policies which have aggressive aims. Norway would support a United Nations peacekeeping force in Israel. The nation of Israel was created by UN mandate in 1948, and Norway believes that the UN has a responsibility to oversee the region with whatever means are necessary to maintain peace between the Arabs and Zionists.
III. Iraq

Norway is acutely aware of the current tension between Iraq and the world and the imminent risk of war. Norway supports the UN Charter, Chapter VI, articles 41 and 42, which provide for the UN Security Council to decide what measures not involving the use of armed forces are to be employed against its members nations that pose a threat to international security. It would also support actions taken under Chapter VII if Chapter VI measures are ineffective. While Norway is not in favor of military intervention into sovereign states, we recognize the problem in Iraq and the potential for aggression on Iraq’s part if they possess Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Norway also recognizes the gross human rights violations perpetrated on the citizens of Iraq by Saddam Hussain, and the need to stop those violations. Norway supports UN action in the form of weapons inspection teams sanctioned by the Security Council, and inspection teams from the Humanitarian Aid Coordinator to investigate and document (if found) all human rights violations. Norway believes that negotiations between aggrieved parties can render satisfactory agreements without the need for military force. At this time Norway cannot support direct intervention into Iraq by American Forces without the multilateral support of the United Nations Security Council. Norway supports Resolution 687 (1991), the cease-fire between Iraq-Kuwait, and fully supports all sanctions imposed against Iraq.
COUNTRY: Norway
COMMITTEE: General Assembly First Committee
Delegates: Aiching Chen, Brad Raple, Wichita State University

I. Peace and Disarmament in Afghanistan

For decades, Afghanistan has been devastated by war, leading to thousands of deaths and over a million refugees. Following the ouster of the Taliban regime in November 2001 and the establishment of the new interim government under the Bonn Agreement on December 5th 2001, there is new hope for rebuilding Afghanistan. A number of important steps must be taken, however, before the general election is held in 2004, in order to build a foundation for democracy.

Long-term stability in Afghanistan must begin with a strong interim government. The interim government should be fully supported by the international community so it can strengthen security in the country and form durable, democratic institutions. In order to do this, the national government must gain control over the regions of the country that are still controlled by tribal leaders. The interim government needs the support of the world community to persuade tribal leaders to cooperate and participate in a government that is ethnically balanced and inclusive.

To prevent a threat to the government, it is necessary to disarm the warlords and their followers. The international community should provide the people with a sense of security economically and socially, so that they will surrender their weapons. Trading aid and political legitimacy in return for arms is one potential strategy.

Given that Afghanistan does not have much historical experience with democracy, there will be some hurdles to overcome in preparing for elections. The Afghan people need to be educated about what democracy is and about free and fair elections. Citizen education should be a top priority for the international community. Election officials must also be trained to facilitate the election process. In addition, local and national customs need to be taken into account, with truly representative local elected officials, so that the new government will have legitimacy.

The electoral process should be overseen by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, which can provide technical support and assistance and electoral monitoring.

Norway is committed to promoting long-term stability in Afghanistan. It has been working as the chair of the Afghanistan Support Group as with 14 other states since 1997 to support economic development and a sustainable peace and progress in Afghanistan. With the establishment of the interim Afghan government, the Norwegian government and ASG have been committed to helping the country recover; by reestabishing a new interim government, ensuring humanitarian assistance, reconstructing viable political processes, guaranteeing the security and safety of humanitarian personnel, and improving the Human Rights situation.

II. Review of Biological Weapons Verification Measures

Norway has a great concern for the issues of the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, especially regarding the sensitive and pressing issue of biological weapons verifications. The Kingdom of Norway has for years supported the United Nations and its mandates through involvement of Norwegian troops, personnel, and financing. Norway has condemned the use of biological agents as weapons since the Biological Weapons Convention entered into force in 1975, and even before, holding to the principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. Norway strongly believes that disease should never be used as a method of warfare. Nevertheless, it remains apparent that there are in fact certain nations that maintain a supply of biological agents that can be used as weapons. The ideas set forth in the Geneva Protocols and subsequently in
the Biological Weapons Convention must be adhered to, and there must be a degree of effective verification measures in place in order to ensure that this is so.

Norway would like to see the creation and successful implementation of verification measures that would help protect the security of the international community by ensuring that the agreements in the Biological Weapons Convention are being adhered to, while at the same time guaranteeing all countries their sovereignty as well as the protection of their commercial endeavors regarding biological agents. Countries should not be prohibited from exploring the possible medical or scientific aspects of biological agents. However this should not be used as an excuse to violate the Biological Weapons Convention through the production of materials intended to be used as weapons. While there are admittedly some difficulties in determining the intended uses of biological material, it is nonetheless an important task to attempt to strengthen the existing provisions, and to guarantee the legitimate uses of biological agents to the involved countries.

Regarding specific steps toward achieving this, Norway would like to see the implementation of the following. First, the nations which have not yet agreed to the Biological Weapons Convention should do so without delay. The effectiveness, universality, and trust that are needed for success are greatly enhanced when supported by the entire world community. Second, keeping this in mind, many of the issues that are the source of some disagreement are relatively deep seated problems regarding advance notice for inspections, which areas would be subject to inspection, and the nature and scope of inspections. Norway believes that in order to promote the effectiveness of the Biological Weapons Convention, there must be a reasonable balance made between effectiveness and restraint. On one hand, if a nation were able to develop biological weapons because of a weak agreement, the document would fail. Conversely, if other countries are against joining such an agreement due to unreasonable and legitimate threats to their national security, the document would also fail. The key to resolving these two scenarios is through effective and fair verification measures. It is in the interest of the entire world community to limit the spread of biological weapons, and to guard against their possible use in the future. The United Nations is the best forum for this discussion, as there is no other body which has the “unique legitimacy” of the UN.
COUNTRY: Norway  
COMMITTEE: Second Committee  
Delegates: Tony Diab, Nathan Walker; Wichita State University

The Norwegian delegation takes great interest in the issues addressed by the Second Committee. Norway has been a committed member of the international community in pursuing policies that further integration for least-developed countries into the world economy for many years. Norway recognizes the advancements made at recent conferences and endorses international efforts to foster increased market access for least-developed countries. Integration for developing countries into the multilateral trading system will require the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade as well as adherence to the initiatives set forth at the 2002 Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development, with special attention to increases in Official Development Assistance.

I. Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade

The elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade represents a fundamental aspect of the goal of proliferating market access to all least-developed countries, which will in turn play a key role furthering development in these countries. The Norwegian delegation believes that the priorities of the United Nations in addressing the concerns of market access should be: 1) the elimination of quantitative restrictions on industrial imports; 2) increased flexibility regarding origin criteria; 3) fair and neutral methods for determining the valuation of goods; and 4) clarity in licensing procedures. Norway believes that increased market access will yield a more integrated global market. This can best be achieved only when other pressing problems, such as a heavy debt burden, structural weaknesses, and supply constraints, have been dealt with accordingly. An increase in exportable goods through the development of an economic infrastructure is one of the reasons Official Development Assistance plays such an important role in the equation.

The Norwegian delegation takes great interest in the environmental concerns of the international community. In order to ensure that the environment does not suffer in the face of increased trade liberalization, the Norwegian delegation supports international cooperation in the form of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. These agreements, of which a majority of the World Trade Organization members are a part, would avoid unilateral trade restrictions and provide an assurance against protectionism. In addition, it is essential that the global community provides incentives for the production and use of products that are environmentally friendly. By working with the World Trade Organization, and by fostering relationships between the World Trade Organization and other international organizations, it is possible to increase market access and promote free trade throughout the world while avoiding the devastating effects that would result from dismissing environmental concerns.
The Norwegian delegation also believes that the reduction of anti-market sanctions imposed on developing nations is an area of critical importance in the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade. Efforts to restrict the free flow of capital into developing markets places a burden on the least-developed countries’ attempts at liberalization of their economic infrastructure. The inability of firms to move capital and resources into a market due to sanctions and the threat of future actions restricting access to a market make the growth of the economic infrastructure excessively difficult while at the same time increasing the likelihood of continued violations. The political effectiveness of economic sanctions are not as certain as the economic impact, especially when a third party becomes involved, such as corporations. Sanctions involving third parties generally affect not the government targeted by the sanctions but rather the civilian population which constitutes the intended beneficiary of the sanctions.

Elimination of the non-tariff barriers to trade discussed above are favorable to all participants in the global market. Moreover, the liberalization of global markets can be achieved without significant damage to our environment and ecological stability. Although the focus of these efforts is the advancement of least-developed countries, market participants from the entire world benefit from the increased efficiency stemming from free trade. Norway believes that measures to increase the integration in the global economy must begin with the elimination of the non-tariff trade barriers currently employed in opposition to products exported from least-developed countries.

II. International Conference on Financing for Development

The International Conference on Financing for Development, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002, set forth a program for the commitment of financial assistance to developing countries. The Norwegian delegation supports increases in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in accordance with Norway’s Action Plan for Combating Poverty. In this plan, Norway has pledged to increase its current level of ODA from .92% GDP to 1% GDP. In addition, Norway has been a strong advocate of policy coherence, private sector growth and development, zero tariff market access to all products but arms, and debt elimination for countries who have shown a commitment to improve international debt service arrangements. Norway also supports some of the initiatives of institutional stakeholders, specifically, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Norwegian delegation believes that it is in the best interests of the United Nations to support the efforts of these institutions regarding debt reduction and forgiveness. Norway backs the recent proposals of the World Bank and the IMF regarding economic stimulation and increased insulation from financial crises without compromising the benefits of trade and increased market access.

The Norwegian delegation believes that there exists a responsibility on the part of developed nations to assist in the growth, development, and integration of least-developed countries and developing countries, with special attention paid to the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade and the support of policies that help in creating favorable domestic economic conditions which will assist in the development process.
I. Combating the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Africa

Many countries have made impressive progress in human development since World War II, but those achievements are being undermined as countries lose young, productive people to HIV/AIDS. More than 60 million people have been infected with HIV since the epidemic began two decades ago. In 2001, it claimed an estimated three million lives. In the 45 most affected countries, it is projected that, between 2000 and 2020, 68 million people will die as a result of AIDS. In many countries, AIDS is erasing decades of progress with reduced life expectancy. AIDS pushes people deeper into poverty as households lose their breadwinner, livelihoods are compromised and savings are consumed by the cost of health care and funerals. Because of the global scale of this epidemic by the end of 2001, cause the spreading at the rate of almost 14,000 new infections each day. Norway believes it is critical that the UN address this crisis through the 3rd committee.

Two decades ago the UNAIDS was created under the Joint United Nations Program to focus on the wide range spread on HIV/AIDS. Both internationally and within countries UNAIDS advocates an expanded response to the epidemic. It identifies analyzes, and encourages sound strategies and approaches for preventing the spread of this disease. Currently UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS are operating in 155 countries. Most of them have set up special working groups that involved donors, nongovernmental organizations and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

United Nations Strategic Plan is a five year process of working through the major challenge of protecting children and young people from HIV/AIDS. Half of the new HIV infections that occur each year are young people under the age of 24.

Domestic spending on HIV/AIDS has increased significantly in many countries including some of the poorest. With an annual budget of $60 million and a staff of 129 professionals UNAIDS is a modest-sized program with a substantial impact. Despite this progress AIDS is now the leading cause of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since the epidemic began, the joint United Nation Programmed on HIV/AIDS estimates that 17.2 million Africans have die from AIDS. In 2001 27.3 million people died from this deadly virus. Approximately 3.5 million Africans became infected in 2001, bringing the total number of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in this region to 28.5 million. The estimated number of children orphaned by AIDS living in the region is 12 million. The 19 countries with the highest HIV prevalence in the world are in the Africa. In Botswana, one in three adults is infected. In at least 15 other African Countries adult prevalence rates exceed 10 percent.

UNAIDS has a five year strategic plan to reduced the spread of this deadly disease. Lack of funding from developed countries, however, may hinder its implementation. UNAIDS currently receives 60 million dollars of United Nations funds plus other out side funds. Norway has many resources available, including education, to help the UNAIDS program and Norway is committed to doing so. Norway has decided to grant 1.6 million U.S. dollars to build the capacity of the regional AIDS Council secretariats and to implement its partners in Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention Program in Ethiopia. The Norwegian minister for international development and human rights Hilde F. Johnson started allocating funds for this project in 1997 as well recruiting volunteers. Norway feel that the funds going towards this cause are not sufficient and that more funds should be given as well more volunteers for educating people in developing nations about the risks and prevention of HIV/AIDS.
II. Human Rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The escalating violence in the past year between Israelis and Palestinians has led to significant violations of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Norway believes it is critical for the 3rd committee to address this issue, as both parties have committed serious offenses. The Israeli military has forcefully entered Palestinian settlement camps in direct retaliation against suicide bombings and other terrorist activities led by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These incursions disrupt the daily lives of the Palestinian people because the Israeli government is trying to guarantee their national security. However, in doing this, Israel has breached the U.N. Resolution 242 that calls for the gradual withdrawal of troops from the Palestinian territories. This ongoing cycle of fighting has repeatedly interrupted the peace process between the two groups, and prevents them from reaching a final settlement.

Norway emphatically supports the protection of human rights for the Palestinian people, and the formation of a future Palestinian state. Palestinians are entitled to the privileges which have been established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights include safe, healthy living and working conditions, rights to medical care, education, social services, and education. Currently, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provides these services for the 3.9 million registered Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. In 2002, Norway supplied $10 million to help fund UNRWA, and plans to continue offering its financial support in the future. We also ask that the United Nations increase international awareness of human rights violations through the creation of a multi-lateral committee to monitor the situation. This committee would be responsible for inspecting the refugee camps.

Norway also appreciates the security interests of Israel which have been challenged by actions of the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors for many years. According to the Declaration of Human Rights, individuals who are not nationals of the country in which they live “shall observe the laws of the State in which they reside”. This addendum document to the Universal Declaration clearly stipulates that Palestinians are under an obligation to abide by Israel’s laws. However, it also gives aliens “the right to be equal before the courts tribunals and...authorities administering justice.” Neither side is complying with these principles. Suicide bombers thwart the law by threatening the safety of Israeli civilians. Israel violates the due process of the law through while making arbitrary arrests and destroying the property of Palestinian residents.

There are several conditions contributing to these volatile circumstances. Lack of cohesion among Palestinian leadership, specifically between Yassir Arafat in the PLO and the Hamas, has been a main factor in the conflict because of their continued policy of targeting civilians. The Palestinian Authority has been reluctant in their ability to punish those who commit such crimes. Norway would support the creation of an international tribunal to evaluate the suicide bombings and other terrorist activities. We also call on the United Nations demand the end of attacks on civilian communities. As Norway’s track record shows through successful mediation in the Oslo Accords, we would like to continue to provide diplomatic backing for all parties involved to have the ability to work out negotiations with the international community.
I. **Review of the Operations of UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees**

United Nations Relief and Works Agencies (UNRWA) currently provides education, health, relief and social services to over 3.9 million registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East. It was established temporarily in 1949 after the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict by the United Nations General Assembly to meet the needs of the refugees, but has continued to save the needs of the 2 generations of Palestine refugees in the Middle East, mainly in Gaza and West Bank.

The Education Program has provided free primary and junior secondary education for refugees. The program also includes vocational training, scholarship opportunities for qualified students, and a teacher training program. Success is marked by its low dropout rate, and it also has a comparatively high rate of enrollment of female students for the region.

The Health Care Program has also been quite successful in providing primary health care to the refugees in the region. The program has been successful for several reasons. Programs such as nutrition and supplementary feeding, assistance with “secondary health care,” and environmental health in refugee camps has contributed reducing the spread of disease in the camps. The decreasing infant mortality rate, reduction of malnutrition, treatment of diarrhea and dehydration, and declining number of polio cases, following an expanded immunization program indicates that the Health Care Program is meeting current needs. The health care program is also the most cost effective of the UNRWA programs.

Relief Services and Social Services have supported the poorest refugees successfully by providing food aid, cash assistance, emergency relief, shelter rehabilitation, poverty alleviation, and community development. The program encourages self-reliance in the refugee community by providing youth leadership, activities, and training.

UNRWA also runs a Microfinance and Micro-enterprise Program that was established after the Gulf War as to address the high unemployment rate within the camps. The program promotes small business development opportunities with new jobs as well as keeping the current businesses in operation. Also, a loan funding program encourages refugees to try new businesses independently. The program still requires more time till the success can be accurately evaluated.

Based on the success of the four programs have exhibited over the past several decades, and the continued needs of the Palestine community, Norway believes the program deserves continued support and more financial resources. Norway has contributed 10 million to UNRWA in 2002 and plans to continue its level of funding in the future. Given the current conditions in the region, Norway finds there are several areas in particular need of funding. These include:

1. The need for building new schools for the Palestine refugee because of the growing need for education and deteriorating buildings.
2. The need for financial contributions for shelters in Ragah to meet the needs of the homeless as they grow in numbers in the region of Ragah as a humanitarian response.
3. A new funding plan for the construction of housing facilities in Gaza so that refugees can get out of the barracks constructed during World War II as an emergency assistance.
4. More investment in the micro Finance Program for a long term plan that would be very beneficial for the region’s self reliance.
5. Help to purchase of additional medical equipment as a humanitarian response.
II. Peace and Stability in Columbia

Colombia is the third most populous country in Latin America. Maintaining peace in Colombia is crucial in maintaining peace in Latin America as a whole since Norway is concerned about the spillover effect with its neighboring nations. Although a tradition of civilian government and free elections exists in Colombian politics, political instability has marked its history. Newly elected President Uribe is currently planning to achieve political stability tough military actions against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rather than negotiations as his successors did. But he is also struggling with a high unemployment rate and other economic problems such as the fiscal deficit and the impact of global financial instability that affect Colombia.

Narco-trafficking has been an additional challenge for the Colombian government. Illicit crop cultivation in Colombia includes coca, opium poppy, and cannabis. Eradication of the illicit crops has been done periodically from the air with U.S. support, but has resulted in planters and small landholders moving further into the forest to secure their fields. Since the profit is great, PLANTE, a national drug plan that was built to solve the drug problem in 1995 has failed due to an inability to match the income that Colombians earn from the illicit drug trafficking.

Limited government presence in the interior, the expansion of illegal drug cultivation, endemic violence, and social inequities contribute to Colombia’s instability. The Plan Colombia implemented by the Pastrana administration to promote peace, combat the narcotics industry, revive the Colombian economy, improve respect for human rights, and strengthen the democratic and social institutions of the country failed to achieve these goals.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCP) has an alternative development project in Colombia. Located in Bogota, more than $20 million has been spent on UNODCP which has benefited more than 10,000 families and eliminated 5,400 hectares of coca.

Norway acknowledges the need to restore peace to Colombia and recognizes the very difficult circumstances in the country. We would like to focus on several key areas to promote stability: International efforts need to address the regional context of the problem. Norway recommends support for a program to discourage the planting of illicit crops by investing in crop substitution programs which offer small landowners sustainable legal income opportunities. It would require an investment by member states of approximately US $210 million. Norway suggests that a committee of experts be formed to study the causes and make recommendations to bring about stability in Colombia with its community-level participation. Norway recommends that the UN provides educational assistance to Colombia to provide civic education and train future political leaders. Working with religious leaders could also promote the peace settlement by strengthening social values. Norway also asks that the body encourage the developed nations to promote foreign investments and development assistance to the nation of Colombia so that the economy of the nation can grow without the illicit narco-trafficking industry.
I. The Treatment and Classification of POWs

The Third Geneva Convention signed in 1949 governs the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs). Article 4 of the Convention states several criteria for the identification of POWs. In the recent war on terrorism, the effectiveness of the Convention in defining POWs is being questioned by some. There have been doubts and debates on whether the Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters, detained in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, qualify for the protections granted by the Third Geneva Convention. To be qualified, these prisoners must be classified as POWs. Instead, they have been classified as "unlawful combatants", fighters who do not play by the accepted rules of war, and therefore do not qualify for the Conventions' protections. Norway believes it is important for the Economic and Social Council Committee to address whether the Geneva Conventions are adequate in identifying POWs or should be updated to account for this more recent category of prisoners, known as "unlawful combatants," and more importantly, whether the Geneva Conventions should be updated to account for the war on terrorism.

Norway has long been a strong advocate for humane treatments of prisoners. We feel that several aspects of the Third Geneva Convention on the treatment of POWs have been ignored with the recent detention of Taliban and Al-Qaeda prisoners. The Taliban fighters meet all criteria listed under Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention. They are POWs and should be treated as such. The Al-Qaeda fighters, however, are different from the Taliban fighters. They do not clearly meet the criteria for POW status. Article 5 of the Third Geneva Convention does, however, provide a mechanism for determination of their status. It states, "Should any doubt arise as to whether persons, having committed a belligerent act and having fallen into the hands of the enemy, belong to any of the categories enumerated in Article 4, such persons shall enjoy the protection of the present Convention until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal."

Norway believes a competent tribunal should be formed in response to the current situation. The "unlawful combatants" should be treated as POWs, until a Tribunal determines their status. The Tribunal would spell out exactly what more limited rights these prisoners ought to have compared to POWs. This Tribunal could also serve as a platform for identification of the status of future prisoners captured in the war on terrorism. Norway feels that under international laws, even "unlawful combatants" deserve to have their rights clearly defined and protected.

II. Micro-Financing and Encouraging Foreign Investment

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) was established to provide for small-scale investments in the poorest countries. UNCDF works to help eradicate poverty through local development programmes and micro finance operations. In 1999, Special Unit for Microfinance (SUM) was established as part of UNCDF to help strengthen it's micro financing capacities. Norway believes that sustainable micro finance is a powerful tool to alleviate poverty. Reliable access to micro finance provides poor and low-income households with the opportunity to increase their incomes. Norway supports SUM's key policy objective: the sustainability of micro finance institutions (MFIs). These institutions utilize experienced practitioners to help develop a range of financial services for the poor. They encourage and promote self-employment by allocating start-up funds for income-generating activities.

Norway serves as a major contributor to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which furthers the fundamental goal of Norwegian development aid by making lasting improvements in the economic, social and political conditions of developing countries. Norway seeks to improve developing countries' economic progress and reduce poverty through financial aid from governments as well as private firms. When
private firms provide small-scale investments (micro financing) directly to the local entrepreneurs, there is less chance for corruption and diversion of funds.

A problem that hinders the progress of micro financing is awareness of how it works and the benefits it offers for development. Norway believes that the UN should provide SUM with sufficient funding to promote the concept of micro financing, especially encouraging private firms to devote additional resources to these types of loans. Norway supports SUM as an international facilitator for micro financing development because of its expertise in micro financing and its integration with the UNDP and UNCDF.

III. Improving Access to Health Care for Women

Women have long played an integral role in human society. They carry the burdens of child bearing and motherhood. Men and women both influence society and its development. Society would not function properly, given the absence of either gender. Therefore, a crisis faced by either gender would mean a crisis in the ability of a society to function properly. Statistics indicate that 70% of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty are female. There are twice as many women as men among the world's 900 million illiterates. A lack of proper education and health care results in an individual's susceptibility to diseases and a decrease in the quality of life. Given their house keeping and child bearing status, women are more likely than men to be exposed to such degradations. Within certain countries, there are inequalities in health care to women. Research shows that it is more difficult for women to receive access to health care than men, and even if they do receive access to health care, it is often inadequate. Women are not given the proper education and health care, despite the fact that they should have the same rights to such services as men.

The status of women in society and issue of health inequalities have been addressed in many world conferences and organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO). The Beijing Conference on Women in 1995, the Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion held in Jakarta in 1997, and the Women 2000, a follow up to the Beijing Conference, have made profound improvements upon women's health care worldwide. They discussed the importance of women and the need for a non gender-biased society. Yet, health care inequalities and women's risk for diseases such as HIV/AIDS are still prevalent in many countries. The action plans of these conferences need to be fully implemented.

Norway believes in free health care and education to all. We feel that women and men, alike, are crucial parts of a society and should be treated as such. Norway believes much more can be accomplished toward improving women's health, such as improving pre-natal care and educational opportunities, and reducing gender inequalities in health care systems. Norway requests increased funding to UNFPA for pre-natal care research and development. Furthermore, Norway encourages the development of a committee to assist providing greater educational opportunities to the female population around the world. Norway recommends increased funding to the Women's Health and Development programme in WHO (WHD), which would utilize its expertise in integrating gender into WHO programmes to provide for effective health care to women. Even though the goal toward improving women's health faces numerous obstacles, Norway believes that by focusing on overcoming a few obstacles at a time, we will be a little closer to achieving our goal.
According to the World Population Prospects 2001 the projected world population will reach 9.3 billion people by 2050. There is clearly a global crisis in the availability of contraceptive and reproductive services. Access to reproductive health services is very difficult or nonexistent in many regions of the world. Many family planning centers are not available nor do they offer adequate rape crisis services. Improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care provides many benefits to women, as well as society as a whole and can also help alleviate the global population crisis.

Norway takes an active roll in reproductive health for women by strengthening the position of women in society, Norway believes that in order to ensure quality reproductive health for women, basic health and sex education should be provided through family planning centers and making contraceptives and especially condoms available. Although these past efforts have been helpful (family planning, education and condoms) there is still a major issue that has not been addressed; rape. In developing countries rape crisis help is nearly non-existent. According to the UNFPA “Every minute 190 women face an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy.” Rape is a huge factor in unwanted pregnancies, many women are forced into marriage because they become pregnant through rape. Such education and services can help a multitude of social and economic issues by reducing unplanned or unwanted pregnancies and by providing clean, safe family planning facilities.

According to the UNFPA State of World Population 2002 “Since 1969, the UNFPA has been the largest multilateral source of population assistance, providing some 6 billion dollars for population programmes.” Family planning programmes accounted for almost one third of the global decline in fertility between 1972 and 1994.

The first step to develop an efficient system for women in reproductive and educational services is by providing such facilities. The UNFPA estimates that family planning information and services are not available to approximately 350 million women worldwide. Providing such facilities would provide reproductive and health services, rape crisis services, and counseling. The UN should first focus on the worst areas, the countries where women are most at risk such as areas of southern Africa and the Horn of Africa. Several approaches ought to be combined to improve reproductive education these include: family planning, oral contraceptives, condoms, and the morning after pill (for girls raped). The second step would be the establishment of a “girl’s club” incorporated under such a facility providing sports and club enrichment programs as a way to help young women build self esteem and develop healthy lifestyles. A local bus service would safely transport the young women to and from home. Relieving the minds of families worried about kidnapping and rapes that could occur in some communities. Such facilities could also provide jobs for local women and provide reproductive health services, build a stronger community within these areas and thus start the process of bettering the lives of their families. This in turn will help overcome the major problem being addressed: the global population crisis.