



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

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NMUN·CHINA

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Message from the Director-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN-China Conference

At the 2012 NMUN-China Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

Delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN-China Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion, as well as how to best construct a position paper. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5x11).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for the whole paper.
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections.
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by e-mail in .pdf or .doc formats by **1 November 2012**. As proof of submission, include yourself as an e-mail recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Cuba_Mars College).

Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Director-General at dirgen.china@nmun.org. If you have any questions, please email the Director-General.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents.
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints.
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations.
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide.
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate.

Sincerely,

Sarah Tulley
Director-General
NMUN-China

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Jupiter

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call

upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

I. International cooperation against the world drug problem

“Drugs destroy lives and communities, undermine sustainable human development and generate crime. Drugs affect all sectors of society in all countries; in particular, drug abuse affects the freedom and development of young people, the world’s most valuable asset. Drugs are a grave threat to health and well-being of all mankind, the independence of States, democracy, the stability of nations, the structure of all societies, and the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families.”¹

Introduction

Around 200,000 people worldwide are killed each year by drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, highlighting the fact that illicit drugs undermine economic and social development and contribute to crime, instability, insecurity, as well as the spread of HIV/AIDS.² All regions of the world are affected by drugs. Increasing global drug trafficking routes pose new challenges in combating the spread and consumption of illicit drugs.³ Illicit drugs are a global phenomenon that is closely connected to transnational (organized) crime and terrorism, which makes them not only an important detrimental factor for human health but also for security of people and UN Member States.⁴ Criminal groups that are active in production and transit regions often undermine state authority and the rule of law by fuelling corruption, compromising elections, and hurting the licit economy.⁵

The *World Drug Report 2012* points out that although the total area under cocoa bush cultivation worldwide fell by 18 percent between 2007 and 2010, new problems in the fight against the spread of illicit drugs have emerged: the production of synthetic drugs is on the rise, which also includes production and consumption of psychoactive substances that are not under international control.⁶

United Nations Drug Control System

As early as 1909 the international community worked together to address the world drug problem. The first international conference was held in Shanghai, China, and resulted in the establishment of a forum for discussion over global drug control.⁷ With the *International Opium Convention* of 1912 drug control became a part of international law and laid the groundwork for the present international drug control regime.⁸ Only one year after the founding of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) highlighting the importance of the fight against the world drug problem by UN Member States.⁹ The CND assists ECOSOC in supervising international drug control treaties and provides advice on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and their precursors.¹⁰

The main body within the UN system to combat the abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs is the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which provides leadership and expertise for the Secretariat and all other UN bodies, as well as Member States, monitors the implementation of drug control conventions, and supports national drug control systems.¹¹ A bulk of the work of the UNODC is carried out by national and regional field offices, which assist and advise national governments in drug control strategies, research, law enforcement, and work on crime-related issues, including transnational organized crime and corruption.¹²

In June 1998, the General Assembly held a special session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem at which the Member States adopted a *Political Declaration* outlining the common responsibility of the international community

¹ United Nations General Assembly 20th Special Session, *Political Declaration*, 1998.

² World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, 2012, p.1.

³ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *Drug Profiles*, n.d.

⁴ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004, p.199f.

⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development on the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, 2012.

⁶ World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, 2012, p.1.

⁷ Bayer and Ghodse, *Evolution of international drug control 1945-1995*, 1999, p.3.

⁸ Bayer and Ghodse, *Evolution of international drug control 1945-1995*, 1999, p.3.

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs*, n.d.

¹⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs*, n.d.

¹¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *About UNODC*, n.d.

¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *About UNODC*, n.d.

to fight this problem. The declaration focuses on strategies to reduce demand including policies to prevent drug use and to reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse.¹³ International cooperation was intended to be enhanced in the following areas: “action plan against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants; measures to counter money laundering; action plan on international cooperation to eradicate of illicit drug crops and on alternative development.”¹⁴ In his 2008 report to review the UNGASS decade the Executive Director of UNODC criticized that public health had receded from the center of attention in the fight against the world drug problem. He argued that the reason for that is that the power of the international conventions has not always been harnessed to give it unequivocal support and called not for national, but for international policies on demand reduction.¹⁵

More recently, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem in 2011 recommending another special session on this issue. *General Assembly resolution 66/183* highlights several issues, among them the continuing illicit production of and trafficking in opium, the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine, and the increasing illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis.¹⁶

International Conventions and Treaties related to Drugs

The *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs* was adopted in 1961 and focuses on limitations of manufacturing, distribution, trade, possession, and use of drugs, excluding the use of drugs for scientific and medical purposes.¹⁷ The importance of treatment and rehabilitation measures undertaken on national level was highlighted in the amending protocol of 1972.¹⁸ Article 36 of the Single Convention requests Member States to penalize within frameworks of their constitutions the “cultivation, production, manufacture, extraction, preparation, possession, offering, offering for sale, distribution, purchase, sale, delivery on terms whatsoever, brokerage, dispatch, dispatch in transit, transport, importation and exportation of drugs.”¹⁹

The *Convention on Psychotropic Substances* was adopted in 1971 following a rise in the use of hallucinogenic drugs.²⁰ The use of hallucinogenic drugs increased after the ban on narcotic drugs under the Single Convention of 1961.²¹ The international community intensified its efforts to fight illicit trafficking with the *United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, adopted in 1988. Measures included in the Convention are: the penalization of the international “possession, purchase, or cultivation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances for personal consumption” (Article 3), the confiscation of drugs and proceeds (Article 5), the extradition of suspects (Article 6) and the provision of “the widest measure of mutual legal assistance” (Article 7) in criminal investigations.²²

Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is a global phenomenon, which includes the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws.²³ It is one of the most lucrative criminal businesses, worth billions of dollars each year.²⁴ It is estimated that illegal profits generate approximately 322 billion dollars a year.²⁵

According to the *World Drug Report 2012* the world’s largest international drug products are cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) excluding “ecstasy”.²⁶ Approximately 430 to 450 tons of heroin flow into the global market annually, the vast majority – some 380 tons – originates exclusively from opium cultivated in

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *UNGAAA – ten years on*, 2008.

¹⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *UNGAAA – ten years on*, 2008.

¹⁵ Commission on Narcotic Drugs: *Making drug control ‘fit for purpose’: Building on the UNGASS decade*, 2008.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/183.

¹⁷ International Narcotics Control Board, *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, 2012.

¹⁸ Single convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

¹⁹ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Article 36.

²⁰ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004.

²¹ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, 2004.

²² Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

²³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking*, n.d.

²⁴ BBC News, *The Global Drugs Trade*, n.d.

²⁵ United Nations, *Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development on the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, 2012.

²⁶ World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, p.1.

Afghanistan.²⁷ Most of it is trafficked worldwide to the markets in Russia and Western Europe with an estimated market value of 33 billion dollars.²⁸ Cocaine from Colombia is trafficked to Mexico or Central America by sea and land to the United States and Canada, as well as Europe; shipments of cocaine from Peru and Bolivia are common on the European market.²⁹

Alternative development

As already pointed out, the illicit drug trade provides criminal groups with vast profits. For farmers in countries like Afghanistan it is the most lucrative trade. To fight this problem, the UNODC promotes alternative development for farmers, which means that farmers are given an economically viable, legal alternative to growing cocoa bush, opium poppy or cannabis plants.³⁰ In 1998 the 20th special session devoted to the world drug problem of the General Assembly agreed on a definition of alternative development:

“A process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular socio-economic characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs.”³¹

There are certain factors that characterize drug crop growing areas: isolation, underdevelopment, poverty as well as lack of markets, ethnic unrest, marginal land, and absence of basic infrastructure.³² Providing farmers in those regions with assistance to alternative crop cultivation is key in combating the spread of illicit crop cultivations. Currently only around 25 percent of all farmers involved in illicit drug crop cultivation have access to development assistance.³³

A 2005 report of the UNODC *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation* assesses the effectiveness of alternative development, highlighting best practices, and evaluates the overall impact of alternative development interventions on human development and illicit drug crop reduction in South-East Asia and the Andean Region of South America.³⁴ Although only a few farmers received alternative development – 23 per cent in the Andes and five per cent in Asia – these few were highly successful.³⁵ 5,000 families were supported by alternative development coffee and 1,185 families could live from alternative development oil palm in Peru.³⁶ But turning to alternative development had also positive effects on the environment. It resulted in stabilizing shifting agriculture, checking erosion, enabling sustainable farming, and promoting forestry and agro-forestry.³⁷

Conclusion

Almost all Member States of the United Nations are affected by the multitude of challenges caused by illicit drugs. International cooperation is necessary to fight this problem which has political, economic, social and cultural dimensions. Therefore, international drug control conventions are the cornerstones of the international drug control system. The current Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, points out that drug demand, rehabilitation and

²⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking*, n.d.

²⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking*, n.d.

²⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking*, n.d.

³⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Alternative Development*, 2012.

³¹ United Nations General Assembly, *Measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem*, 1998.

³² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Alternative Development*, 2012.

³³ World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, 2012, p.2

³⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNGASS Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops on Alternative Development*, n.d.

³⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation. Final Synthesis report*, 2007, p.7.

³⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation. Final Synthesis report*, 2007, p.8.

³⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation. Final Synthesis report*, 2007, p.8.

reintegration, alternative development, shared responsibility and fundamental human rights are underscored in the conventions.³⁸

The key to reducing illicit drug crop cultivation and production is alternative development.³⁹ But alternative development has to be supported by other measures, such as eradication and law enforcement. Only when all stakeholders – donors, governments, non-governmental organizations and beneficiaries – cooperate and agree on common measures, successful strategies for alternative development can be implemented.⁴⁰

Delegates should take into consideration how their country is involved in the global spread of illicit drugs and how it is affected by drug production and/or consumption. What measures have been taken on national level to counter these developments? If they have been implemented successfully, can the international community learn from it? On an international level, delegates should consider whether their country has assisted others in the fight against the drug problem or has received such assistance from other countries or organizations.

II. Protection of biodiversity in a changing climate

“What is lost in one country is lost to the world. Individual efforts by communities, regions, nations, and organizations must be brought together so as to ensure that activities around the world are supporting each other rather than counteracting each other. Neither flora nor fauna adhere to human-drawn borders and thus initiatives at each level must be mutually reinforcing and require dialogue and cooperation.”⁴¹

Introduction

The *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) represents the major effort of the international community to develop a global response to combat biodiversity loss. Its three main objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.⁴²

The *World Commission on Environment and Development*, the so called “Earth Summit”, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) adopted the CBD, along with other milestones in global environmental policy such as *Agenda 21* and the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC).⁴³ More than 100 heads of state, 170 government representatives and 2400 representatives from NGOs participated in the Summit.⁴⁴

In 1945, when the United Nations was founded, protection of the environment was not a central issue for the international community, which focused more on peacekeeping, fostering international cooperation, and protection of human rights. The term “environment” is therefore not mentioned in the UN Charter.⁴⁵ However, this changed with the holding of the first UN conference dedicated to the environment, which took place in 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden and resulted in the creation of the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP).⁴⁶ With the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly, the UN Member States outlined the fundamental values essential to development in the 21st century. One of these fundamental values is the respect for nature so that the immeasurable riches provided to mankind by nature can be preserved and passed on to future generations.⁴⁷

Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of they

³⁸ World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, 2012, p.2.

³⁹ World Drug Report 2012, *Preface*, 2012, p.1-2.

⁴⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation. Final Synthesis report*, 2007, p.7.

⁴¹ Djoghlaif, *Statement at the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region*, 2010.

⁴² Convention on Biological Diversity, *The Convention: Introduction*, n.a.

⁴³ Victor, *Recovering Sustainable Development*, 2006, p. 92.

⁴⁴ Victor, *Recovering Sustainable Development*, 2006, p. 92.

⁴⁵ United Nations, *Research Guide: The Environment*, n.a.

⁴⁶ Birnie, *The UN and the Environment*, 1993, p. 334.

⁴⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Millennium Declaration* (A/55/2/L.2), 2000.

are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.”⁴⁸ It aims at reducing the rate of biodiversity loss through measures including the identification and monitoring of biodiversity, conservation of species through management and protection, recovery of threatened and endangered species through reintroduction programs, implementing sustainable development on all levels of government, creation of incentives to compliment conservation and sustainability programs, increasing research and public awareness, technology transfer, and access to genetic resources.⁴⁹ 193 states as well as the European Union are party to the CBD.⁵⁰

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Study (TEEB) of UNEP stresses that the degradation of forests, soils, wetlands, coral reefs, and the depletion of species populations is due to the fact that their value “beyond the immediate and private” is often ignored, especially the negative impacts on “public health, food security, consumer choice and business opportunities.”⁵¹ This reflects the development that international bodies and organizations have started to address the valuation of natural capital when dealing with climate change and changes in the environment. In order to sustain biodiversity and natural capital – thereby contributing to the achievement of the MDGs, the TEEB identifies four strategic areas: halting deforestation and forest degradation, protecting tropical coral reefs, restoring global fisheries, and recognizing the link between ecosystem degradation and rural poverty.⁵²

Climate Change

There have always been changes in the earth’s climate; the plant and animal species that exist now have evolved from evolutionary changes that were influenced by new patterns of temperature and rainfall.⁵³ Nevertheless, plants and animals are less able to adapt to the current dimension of climate change, one of the main reasons being the very rapid phase of climate changes that are occurring.⁵⁴ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that science has proved without a doubt that human activities are the driving changes in the world’s climate.⁵⁵ These human-induced changes include changes to the landscape, pollution from nutrients, introduction of alien invasive species, and over-harvesting of wild animals through hunting or fishing.⁵⁶ In 2011, for the first time since 1990, carbon dioxide emissions decreased globally – by 0.4 per cent to 30.1 billion metric tons which still indicates a rise of 39 per cent above the 1990 level.⁵⁷ These emissions resulting from human activities complement natural levels of greenhouse gases that trap the heat and warm the planet.⁵⁸ It is expected that these changes will result in more frequent and powerful extreme climatic events, such as heat waves, storms, and hurricanes as well as an expanded range of some dangerous “vector-borne diseases”, such as malaria.⁵⁹ Climate change threatens biodiversity, but proper management of biodiversity can reduce the impacts of climate change.⁶⁰

The connection between biodiversity and climate change

The loss of biodiversity and deforestation are the primary causes of climate change.⁶¹ Forests are essential in maintaining the climate on earth: most of the biodiversity lives in forests; they protect watersheds, generate clean drinking water, and diminish carbon dioxide from the air.⁶²

Evidence suggests that biodiversity is already affected by climate change, a process which will continue in the future. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia could lose up to 95 per cent of its living coral by 2050 because of the changes in

⁴⁸ *Convention on Biological Diversity*, Article 2.

⁴⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2005, p. 95-221.

⁵⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *List of Parties*, n.a..

⁵¹ United Nations Environment Programme, TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature, p. 4.

⁵² United Nations Environment Programme, TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature, p. 4.

⁵³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 2.

⁵⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Annual Report 2008*, p. 30.

⁵⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 2.

⁵⁷ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, p. 47-48.

⁵⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 5.

⁵⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 6.

⁶⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p.8.

⁶¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Indicators for Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*, 2007, p. 72.

⁶² Victor, *Restoring the forests*, 2000, p. 127.

ocean temperatures and chemistry.⁶³ Species will also be affected by climate change, including changes in distribution, increased extinction rates, changes in reproduction timings, as well as changes in length or growing season of plants.⁶⁴

There are two methods that address the protection of biodiversity in a changing climate: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation is human interventions to reduce greenhouse gas sources or to enhance carbon sequestration; adaptations to climate change are “adjustments in natural or human systems in response to climate stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.”⁶⁵ The adoption of biodiversity-based adaptive and mitigative strategies can enhance the resilience of ecosystems and reduce the risk of damage to human and natural ecosystems, which can include the following: maintenance and restoration of native ecosystems, protection and enhancement of ecosystem services, management of habitats for endangered species, creation of refuges and buffer zones, or establishment of networks of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine protected areas.⁶⁶ These strategies are implemented by states but to be effective they require the collaboration of all stakeholders in biodiversity to work together.

Existing frameworks

In order to fully implement the provisions of the CBD, states are required to develop National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP).⁶⁷ These plans and strategies can have different formats; it is not necessarily a single document but can also comprise several elements, such as laws and administrative procedures, scientific research agendas, programs and projects, communication, education and public awareness activities, forums for inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder dialogue.⁶⁸ The goal is to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss through measures including the identification and monitoring of biodiversity, conservation of species through management and protection, recovery of threatened and endangered species through reintroduction programs, implementing sustainable development on all levels of government, creation of incentives to compliment conservation and sustainability programs, technology transfer, and access to genetic resources.⁶⁹ A central element of NBSAPs is that all sectors whose activities impact on biodiversity are included in this process (mitigation).⁷⁰ So far, 173 states have developed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.⁷¹

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set specific targets to be reached by 2015, also including targets on biodiversity and climate change. They are part of Goal 7, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, which aims to “Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources” and “Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss”.⁷² Although more and more terrestrial and marine areas are under protection, the rate of extinction is still growing. Since 1990, protected areas have increased in number by 58 percent, and in their extent by 48 percent, but one of the big problems is that the most important terrestrial sites for the only remaining population of one or more highly threatened species remain unprotected.⁷³ “Protected area coverage of these important sites has increased over time. But in terms of proportion, the extent of protected area covering key biodiversity sites as a share of overall conservation land preserves has declined annually since 1950.”⁷⁴

Effective management of protected areas is essential to the successful preservation of these sites. Large parts of global biodiversity are located in developing countries which do not have the financial means to undertake such measures and therefore rely on external funding.⁷⁵ There are already some instruments in place to address this problem. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a major environmental credit program implemented by the

⁶³ World Wildlife Fund Australia, *Impacts of global warming and climate change*, n.a.

⁶⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 9.

⁶⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change. Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2009, p. 75.

⁶⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Climate Change*, 2007, p. 10.

⁶⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, n.a.

⁶⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, n.a.

⁶⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2005, p. 95-221.

⁷⁰ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, n.a.

⁷¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, n.a.

⁷² United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, p. 48-53.

⁷³ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, p. 49-52.

⁷⁴ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, p. 50.

⁷⁵ Deke, *Environmental Policy Instruments for Conserving Global Biodiversity*, 2008, p. 349.

World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNEP in 1991 focusing on climate change, biodiversity, depletion of the ozone layer, and protection of international waters.⁷⁶ Through the GEF, developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) can receive grants and concessional funds for projects regarding environmental protection.⁷⁷

Conclusion

The failure to meet the biodiversity targets for 2010 highlights the need to re-examine international strategies and instruments to combat biodiversity loss. Despite those agreements and public attention, extinction and loss of biodiversity is still spreading. The system in place so far has produced small steps to protect biodiversity but they are not able to counter or even reverse the biodiversity that has already been lost. New efforts need support through capacity-building and financial assistance to bring out substantial benefits.

Several states have put in place strategies to address the protection of biodiversity in a changing climate but implementation on a global level still poses many challenges. How can partnerships be created to foster capacity-building and financial assistance to ensure full implementation of national strategies?

Annotated Bibliography

Bayer & Ghodse. (1999). Evolution of international drug control, 1945-1995. *Bulletin on Narcotics* (Occasional Papers), LI(1-2), 1-17, Retrieved July 27, 2012 from:
citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.134.1075&rep=rep1&type=pdf#page=9
This article outlines the history of the international drug control regime. The authors are experts in the fields of pharmacy and medicine in Europe. For delegates, this provides a helpful source to trace historic developments to the drug control system that is currently in place.

BBC News. (n.d.). *The global drugs trade*. Retrieved July 27, 2012 from:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2000/drugs_trade/default.stm
This information portal by the BBC focuses on the global flow of drug trade indicating countries of production, trafficking and users on a world map. It includes country studies for each of these areas as well as an overview of debates about global drug trade in the international community. Delegates should also refer to the Drugs factfile section which provides a short overview of the different types of drugs in the global trade.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs. (2008). *Making drug control 'fit for purpose': Building on the UNGASS decade. Report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a contribution to the review of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly*. Retrieved August 8, 2012, from:
<http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-Session51/CND-UNGASS-CRPs/ECN72008CRP17.pdf>
This report is a very useful source for delegates because it reviews the performance of the international drug control system. The evaluation outlines successes and failures of the measures that have been implemented after the special session in 1998. Delegates should take into consideration the recommendations in the report and whether those have been implemented by their countries.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances. (1971). Retrieved July 24th, 2012 from:
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1971_en.pdf
The Convention bans drugs that were not banned by the Single Convention in 1961, such as amphetamines, benzodiazepines and psychedelics. 175 states are parties to the treaty, several of them have implemented the convention by passing laws on national level. Delegates should consider whether their country has passed such laws.

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. (n.d.). *Drug Profiles*. Retrieved July 24, 2012, from:
<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-profiles>

⁷⁶ Oberthür, *The Kyoto Protocol: International Climate Policy for the 21st Century*, 1999, p. 60.

⁷⁷ Moore, *Encyclopedia of the United Nations*, 2002, p. 129.

This Web Site provides a scientific overview on the drugs controlled by the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the UN Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The database on best practice examples is a great resource for delegates to learn about successfully implemented measures against the drug problem.

International Narcotics Control Board. (2012). *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, Retrieved July 27, 2012 from:

https://www.incb.org/incb/en/convention_1961.html

This Web Site by the INCB provides background information on the Single Convention. It outlines its main goals and recommendations. Therefore it is a helpful resource for delegates to start their research on the global drug control regime.

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. (1961). Retrieved July 12, 2012 from:

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1961_en.pdf

The goal of the Single Convention is to outlaw all production of narcotic drugs for non-medical and non-scientific purposes. States parties to the Convention are required to put these goals into national legislation.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2004). *Uncivil Society: Crime, Illicit Drugs and Terrorism*, In Basic Facts about the United Nations (pp. 199-204). New York

From this book delegates can get an overview into the multiplicity of UN related topics including the organs and agencies involved in policy-making in this area. This particular section provides a short overview on UN bodies dealing with illicit drugs.

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, June 26). *Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development on the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*. Retrieved July 27, 2012 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml>

The thematic debate on drugs and crime as a threat to development of the General Assembly brought together Member States, international organizations and civil society. The debate emphasized the importance of a comprehensive approach to effectively fight against organized crime and drugs. A particular focus of this debate was the connection between drugs and crime and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations General Assembly 20th Special Session. (1998). *Political Declaration of the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Drug Control (A/RES/S-20/2)*. Retrieved July 24, 2012, from:

<http://www.un.org/ga/20special/poldecla.htm>

The Political Declaration of the General Assembly from 1998 is one of the milestones addressing the world drug problem in the UN context. It sets specific goals to reduce supply and demand and requests Member States to report on their efforts in meeting these goals. The overall aim of the declaration is to enhance international cooperation in countering the global drug problem.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *About UNODC*. Retrieved July 12, from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>

This Web Site provides a basic overview of all the areas of work of the UNODC, such as corruption and drug prevention. It also outlines the mandate of the UNODC and provides access to publications on drug related issues. This Web Site is a good starting point for delegate's research on the UN's approach towards the world drug problem.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Alternative Development*. Retrieved July 12, 2012, from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html?ref=menuside>

This Web Site provides a detailed presentation about alternative development including a list of all publications by the UN on that issue. It outlines in detail the different stages of the alternative development process including illicit crop cultivation and alternative products. The section on alternative development projects currently being implemented around the world is especially helpful for delegates since it provides a practical example of how the policies on alternative development are carried out.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007). *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation. Final Synthesis report*. Retrieved August 10, 2012, from:

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf

This evaluation report is a very helpful resource for delegates it analyzes several alternative development projects that have been carried out in Asia and Latin America. It provides information whether these projects were successfully implemented looking at various thematic areas such as gender roles, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Delegates should pay specific attention on the section about lessons learned and recommendations.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (n.d.). *Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Mandate and functions*. Retrieved July 12, from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/commissions/CND/01-its-mandate-and-functions.html>

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is responsible for reviewing the global drug control situation, considering the interrelated issues of prevention of drug abuse as well as analyzing trafficking of illicit drugs. Even though it was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) it is also responsible for monitoring the outcome of the 1998 Special Session of the General Assembly Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Drug trafficking*. Retrieved July 12, 2012, from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>

This Web Site by the UNODC provides several maps showing the global drug flows from producers to suppliers and users. It also includes information on the legal framework on drug trafficking globally and in regions mostly affected by production and drug flows. The section on horizontal initiatives provides helpful information on possible measures to counter the global drug flow.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2008). *UNGASS – ten years on. Progress in opium and coca control but goals remain elusive; demand reduction rises higher on global agenda*. Retrieved August 9, 2012, from:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2008/ungass_E_PRINT.pdf

This publication provides a short but comprehensive analysis of the goals of the 1998 Special Session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. It outlines areas in which success has been achieved but also stresses new emerging issues. It concludes that focusing on demand reduction is becoming more important in strategies to counter the global drug problem.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012). *World Drug Report 2012*. Retrieved July 12, 2012, from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2012.html>

The World Drug Report is the major international publication on issues related to worldwide illicit drug production, trade and consumption. It is published annually and compiled by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime based in Vienna, Austria.

II. Protection of biodiversity in a changing climate

Birnie, P. (1993). The UN and the Environment. In: Roberts/Kingsbury. United Nations, Divided World, 2nd ed., pp. 327-383. New York: Oxford University Press.

This article is an excellent starting point for delegates to research this topic. It gives a brief introduction into the history of environmental programs within the framework of the United Nations. It specifically analyzes the possibilities of the main bodies of the UN regarding actions against environmental problems. This article also points out all basic environmental agreements and gives a short analysis of their strengths and weaknesses.

Convention on Biological Diversity. Retrieved September 2, 2012 from: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the key international instruments for the protection of biodiversity and is one of the outcomes of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It represents the major effort of the international community to develop a global response to combat biodiversity loss. Its three main objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising of the utilization of genetic resources

Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.a.) *The Convention: Introduction*, Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://www.cbd.int/intro/>

This Web Site is a great starting point for delegates to research. It provides detailed information on the different areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity such as marine and coastal biodiversity or agricultural biodiversity. It also outlines the cross-cutting issues of the CBD, e.g. climate change and biodiversity and biodiversity for development. Delegates should pay particular attention to the section explaining how the CBD operates.

Deke (2008). *Environmental Policy Instruments for Conserving Global Biodiversity*, 2008.

Scientific aspects of biodiversity and how they can be used to preserve biodiversity are addressed in this book. Also the functions, effects, and mechanisms of the Global Environment Facility to establish and manage protected areas are analyzed. The author argues that neither of those instruments are effective enough to preserve global biodiversity on a global level.

Djoghla. (2010). *Statement at the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region*, 2010. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from: http://treaties.un.org/doc/source/events/PD/biological_diversity.pdf

The former Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Ahmed Djoghla, gave this statement in 2010. He addresses the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region on the connection of climate change and the need to protect biodiversity. The speech puts particular emphasis on the responsibilities of states to protect biodiversity.

Oberthür. (1999). *The Kyoto Protocol: International Climate Policy for the 21st Century*, 1999.

This book gives a detailed overview of the events and international development that led to the Kyoto Protocol. It analyzes the negotiations and the positions of the drivers and the critics of this agreement. The consequences of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol are outlined regarding their impact on economic, political, and legal issues.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 2005.

This handbook is an authoritative guide on the application of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Providing both a detailed description of the agreed upon provisions as well as citations of COP and UN-related decisions on the practical applications of those provisions, the CBD is best understood by cross-referencing this publication. It is an excellent source for delegates in understanding the various processes and programs of the CBD and how the Convention is practically implemented.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2007). *Biodiversity and Climate Change*. Retrieved September 2, 2012 from: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2007/ibd-2007-booklet-01-en.pdf>

This paper outlines the inter-linkages between biodiversity and climate change and is therefore a valuable resource for delegates. Next to specific examples how biodiversity is affected by climate change, this paper also provides examples for strategies to deal with the effects of climate change on biodiversity. Very helpful for delegates is the list and brief summary of all international conventions dealing with this issue.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2009). *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change.*

Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change. Retrieved September 2, 2012 from: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf>

The CBD Technical Series offers a wide range of technical background documents for policymakers. This particular document provides detailed information on the connection between climate change and biodiversity. It is a very helpful resource for delegates because it provides specific suggestions for strategies to deal with this problem, such as tools for impact, risk and vulnerability assessments.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, Retrieved September 9, 2012 from: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity on national level. This Web Site provides access to detailed information on all NBSAPs that have been implemented so far. Delegates can learn whether and how their country has adopted strategies on the topic of biodiversity in a changing climate.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2007). *Indicators for Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*.
This report outlines the indicators for sustainable development and how they are applied is. A special focus lies on the relationship with the MDG indicators, in particular MDG7 (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability). Indicators for sustainable development are defined and described for several specific areas.

United Nations Development Programme. (2008). Annual Report 2008, Retrieved September 2, 2012 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/UNDP-in-action/2012/English/UNDP-AnnualReport_ENGLISH.pdf
Each year the United Nations Development Programme issues a report which analyzes the current development of countries worldwide. It specifically focuses on capacity development and the achievement of the MDGs. This report from 2008 reflects capacity building regarding environment and sustainable development through the Global Environment Facility.

United Nations Environment Programme. (2009). TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers – Summary: Responding to the Value of Nature. Wesseling.
This report offers a strong, comprehensive introduction to the economic implications of biodiversity loss and protection, with specific emphasis on translating economic gains and losses into national and international policies. It therefore provides a new and interesting angle for delegates to address this question.

United Nations General Assembly. (2000). United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2). New York. Retrieved September 12, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>
Nearly all actions by programs and bodies within the United Nations are focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and goals are increasingly being approached in an integrated matter – like the role of environmental sustainability in reducing poverty and hunger. Although the Millennium Development Goals are straightforward in their stated objectives, the Millennium Declaration provides a more thorough account of the international community's goals for the new millennium: both explicit and general.

United Nations. (n.a.). *Research Guide: The Environment*. Retrieved September 2, 2012 from: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specenv.htm>
This UN Web Site offers access to all principal environmental bodies and treaty-based bodies on environmental issues, e.g. UNEP and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It outlines their mandate and tasks and access to their documents making it a valuable resource for delegates.

United Nations. (2012). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>
The MDG report analyzes the progress towards the achievement of the MDGs for each of the targets. From this report, delegates are provided with a long-term view on development of these policies. It puts particular emphasis on issues that still lack process but also point out where strategies have been implemented successfully.

Victor. (2006). Recovering Sustainable Development. *Foreign Affairs*, 85(1), 91-103.
The Director of the Program on Energy and Sustainable Development at Stanford University discusses problems and criticism about global environmental policy both from the perspective of developing and developed countries. The current implementation of the MDGs is criticized. He proposes a bottom-up approach in order to achieve the MDGs.

Victor. & Ausubel. (2000). Restoring the forests. *Foreign Affairs*, 79 (6), 127-144.
The author analyzes obstacles of reforestation and provides several ideas to conquer the problem of deforestation. He stresses that binding international environmental treaties can only work effectively if they include detailed commitments to which governments can comply. However in the field of forests he outlines that each country and region needs different approaches and therefore proposes non-binding but clear and quantitative measurable goals for reforestation agreements.