



NMUN · KOREA

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY  
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

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## **Message from the Deputy Secretary-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN•Korea Conference**

At the 2013 NMUN•Korea Conference, each delegation or individual delegate submits one position paper for each committee assignment. The position paper reflects the state's overall policy and position within a particular committee. Therefore, the role that a state plays in a given committee should inform the writing of the paper.

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.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN 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. While quotes from UN or state documents are allowed and encouraged if clearly labeled as such, delegates may not use existing material to formulate their own policy within the committee. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. 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.

Position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegates 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. 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 8.5 x 11 inches - US letter size).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 centimeters, 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 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 email in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 November 2013. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD\_Cuba\_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Deputy Secretary-General at [dsg.korea@nmun.org](mailto:dsg.korea@nmun.org).
2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed below. Please note, the email addresses will be active on 1 August.

Committee	Email Address (after 1 August)
General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen)	<a href="mailto:ga.korea@nmun.org">ga.korea@nmun.org</a>
Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC Plen)	<a href="mailto:ecosoc.korea@nmun.org">ecosoc.korea@nmun.org</a>
Security Council (SC)	<a href="mailto:sc.korea@nmun.org">sc.korea@nmun.org</a>
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change CoP (UNFCCC)	<a href="mailto:unfccc.korea@nmun.org">unfccc.korea@nmun.org</a>

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.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff or myself. We are happy to answer any questions you may have, and are looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Hannah Birkenkötter  
Deputy Secretary-General  
NMUN•Korea

## 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.

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*Delegation from*  
**Canada**

*Represented by*  
**University of Jupiter**

### *Position Paper for the 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 Kimberley Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. Canada believes the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourages 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. Canada further calls 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. The delegation of Canada draws attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urges Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in General Assembly resolution 55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberley Process and encourages states to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in General Assembly resolution 58/290. Canada urges Member States to act in accordance with General Assembly resolution 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 Kimberley 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 the Canadian Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. Canada views 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 Change (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations under 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. Canada emphasizes 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

Declaration on Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. Canada calls upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to the Canadian \$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 and calls 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 the General Assembly Second Committee's report to the General Assembly Plenary on Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (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. Canada recommends Member States to 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 and Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement General Assembly resolution 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. Canada urges Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medication 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. Canada emphasizes 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.



## Committee History

The United Nations (UN) were founded in 1945 with the goal of maintaining world peace and promoting international cooperation.<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly (GA), one of six principal organs, is often considered the heart and soul of the UN because of its universal membership, its broad agenda and the sovereign equality of its members reflected in the one-state, one-vote formula.<sup>2</sup> The General Assembly is comprised of all 193 Member States of the UN and provides a forum for multilateral discussion of international issues. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.<sup>3</sup>

### *Functions and Powers*

According to Article 10 of the UN Charter, the GA has the right to “discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter ... and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.”<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the General Assembly can discuss any issue of concern to the international community with the exception of those under active consideration by the Security Council and may make recommendations to UN Member States, the Security Council, or both.<sup>5</sup>

The decisions in the GA are taken by simple majority votes; only decisions on important questions, for example those on admission of new members, require a two-thirds majority.<sup>6</sup> The decisions of the GA are legally non-binding recommendations. However, some documents adopted by the General Assembly convey a strong political message. 70-80% of all resolutions are passed by acclamation, which is considered a stronger affirmation than taking a vote on it.<sup>7</sup> Acclamation means that all Member States agree on the text of the resolution in question; because no vote is taken, these resolutions are also considered “adopted without a vote”. The only binding decisions taken by the GA are on internal matters of the UN: internal governance, budgetary and membership issues.<sup>8</sup>

Beyond those functions, the GA also has a mandate to contribute to the progressive development of international law and its codification.<sup>9</sup> Through the International Law Commission, an expert body that reports directly to the Plenary Assembly, as well as through its Sixth Committee, the GA develops draft texts of multilateral treaties and conventions, which remain only recommendations until they are signed and ratified by a sufficient number of states so that they can enter into force.<sup>10</sup> Some of the most significant documents adopted by the GA are the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948, which is a non-binding resolution, and the two *Covenants on Civil and Political and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* of 1966.

### *Committees and Subsidiary Organs*

The General Assembly established six Main Committees which prepare draft resolutions and decisions for the plenary sessions in their respective field of work: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee), the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee), the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee). These committees discuss the topics in their field and aim to harmonize the various approaches by the Member States.<sup>11</sup> All Member States of the UN are represented in all of the six Main Committees. The Main Committees each submit a separate report to the GA plenary on the issues considered by them and containing the draft resolutions/decisions

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<sup>1</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, art. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 143.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, art. 10.

<sup>5</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook*, 2012, p. 11.

<sup>6</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 149.

<sup>7</sup> Peterson, *The General Assembly*, 2006, p. 72.

<sup>8</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 151.

<sup>9</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, art. 13 (1) (a).

<sup>10</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 151.

<sup>11</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook*, 2012, p. 23.

which are being recommended.<sup>12</sup> The General Assembly Plenary then has an opportunity to address the texts that are submitted to it, and may alter the text. Only matters adopted by the Plenary are considered official resolutions by the UN General Assembly.<sup>13</sup> While it does not happen very often, the General Assembly Plenary may also decide to deal with an issue without prior reference to a committee.<sup>14</sup> For example, at the latest General Assembly Plenary meeting, a total of 63 resolutions were adopted without prior negotiation in a main committee.<sup>15</sup>

In addition, the General Assembly has created more than 30 subsidiary bodies including expert committees, permanent structures like the Committee on the Relations with the Host Country, ad hoc bodies dealing with finite issues, such as the Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, others designed to address specific substantive issues, like the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and others assisting in administration of the UN.<sup>16</sup> The set-up of this high number of subsidiary bodies has made the decision-making of the UN and the General Assembly more complex but it also provides for more issues to be addressed.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Special Sessions and Emergency Special Sessions***

According to Article 20 of the UN Charter, the GA can also meet in “special sessions as occasion may require.”<sup>18</sup> So far, 28 special sessions have taken place and dealt with issues such as HIV/AIDS in 2001 and Population and Development in 1999.<sup>19</sup> These special sessions can be convened by the Secretary-General within 15 days of such a request by the GA, the Security Council, or any Member State with the support of the majority of UN Members.<sup>20</sup>

Since the *Uniting for Peace* resolution was adopted in 1950, the GA can also meet in an emergency special session to be held within 24 hours of a request by the Security Council or, in the case of a deadlocked SC through use of the veto, a request by a majority of UN members.<sup>21</sup> The *Uniting for Peace* resolution was adopted to halt the ongoing violence on the Korean peninsula.<sup>22</sup> Vis-à-vis the Security Council, this resolution “permits the Assembly to do much of what the Council was authorized to do under Chapter VII of the Charter.”<sup>23</sup> Under *Uniting for Peace*, the General Assembly may however only assume the powers of the Security Council and act should there be a “lack of unanimity of the permanent members” and the Council “fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.”<sup>24</sup> To this day, there have been ten Emergency Special Sessions.<sup>25</sup>

### ***Outlook: The 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session (2013-14)***

The 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session is scheduled to open on September 17, 2013, under the presidency of Ambassador John W. Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda.<sup>26</sup> For roughly three weeks, the General Debate will take place; this is where Heads of States and other high-ranking officials address the Plenary Assembly. Three High-level meetings will also take place in September and early October: a High-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities; a High-level meeting on nuclear disarmament; and a High-level dialogue on international migration and development.<sup>27</sup> Next to these issues, the General Assembly will address a wide array of other topics, including the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals.

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<sup>12</sup> Dag Hammarskjöld Library at Uppsala University, *Main Committees*, 2013.

<sup>13</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 161.

<sup>14</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook*, 2012, p. 23.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *67<sup>th</sup> session – resolutions*, 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 161.

<sup>17</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 161.

<sup>18</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, art. 20.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Special Sessions*, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, p. 154.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 377A(V)*, 3 November 1950.

<sup>22</sup> Tomuschat, *Uniting for Peace General Assembly resolution 377 (V)*, 2008.

<sup>23</sup> Woolsey, *The “Uniting for Peace” Resolution of the United Nations*, January 1951, p. 129.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *“Resolution 377(V) on Uniting for peace”*, 3 November 1950.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Emergency Special Session*, 2013.

<sup>26</sup> United Nations News Centre, *General Assembly elects UN Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda as President of 68th session*, 2013.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Schedule of General Assembly plenary and related meetings*, 2013.

## Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2012). *United Nations Handbook 2012-2013*. Wellington: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Manatu Aorere. Retrieved May 10, 2013, from:

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Media-and-publications/Publications/UN-Handbook/offline/UN-Handbook-2012.pdf>.

*This handbook, published annually by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, provides an excellent overview of the UN System, outlining the essential functions of the myriad of bodies that exist within the system. A beginning point for any research that is conducted about the UN, the Handbook is an essential resource for students. It includes a Chapter on the background of the General Assembly, its main functions and subsidiary organs.*

Peterson, M. (2006). *The UN General Assembly*. New York, NY: Routledge.

*This book provides vast background on the history and the processes of the General Assembly. The detailed description of the functions and powers of the General Assembly helps delegates to gain an understanding of the General Assembly's mandate and its possibilities of policy-making. The author also puts forward a critical assessment of the GA and its role in the 21st century.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2013). *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*. Retrieved May 10, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>.

*This Web site is the main gateway to the work of the General Assembly. Delegates will find a wide array of information on the main powers of the General Assembly. In addition, this Web site contains links to several landmark documents that were adopted by the General Assembly, including the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Delegates should acquaint themselves with these documents, as they contain some of the most important commitments made by the international community and some underlying values and principles that continue to inform the work of the General Assembly.*

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## I. Improving the Coordination of Efforts Against Trafficking in Persons

*“Human trafficking is a vicious chain that binds victims to criminals. We must break this chain with the force of human solidarity.”<sup>28</sup>*

### **Introduction**

Human trafficking affects almost every country in the world. According to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012, victims of 136 different nationalities were detected in 118 countries between 2007 and 2010, out of which about 75 % were women and girls, and 27 % were children.<sup>29</sup> In most cases, persons are trafficked with the aim of sexual exploitation; this is especially true for Europe, the Americas and Central Asia, whereas trafficking for forced labor is more common in Africa and the Middle East.<sup>30</sup> Because so few traffickers are convicted, and many victims are too scared to speak out, it is difficult to correctly assess the extent of human trafficking, but conservative estimates believe there to be 2.5 million trafficked persons at any one time.<sup>31</sup> Trafficking in persons is thus a problem of global magnitude that only has a chance of being tackled effectively if concerted efforts are undertaken by the international community. The General Assembly as one of the main organs of the United Nations, with universal membership and a universal mandate, is at the heart of international efforts to combat human trafficking.

### **Defining Trafficking in Persons – International Legal Framework**

Transnational organized crime has long been on the United Nations’ agenda. In 2000, the General Assembly adopted the text of the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UNTOC), which entered into force in 2003.<sup>32</sup> Currently ratified by 176 Member States as well as the European Union, it sets out a number of obligations for states to combat transnational organized crime. Three Protocols that each address one specific manifestation of organized crime supplement the UNTOC.<sup>33</sup> Each of these protocols is an international treaty of its own, which means that it has its own set of states that have ratified the protocol and that are Party to it. While each protocol is a treaty of its own, the UNTOC and its three protocols were conceived as a group of texts that complement each other. Therefore, it is not possible to be a party to any of the protocols unless that state is also a party to the UNTOC.<sup>34</sup> In turn, it is possible to be party to the UNTOC, but not to the protocols. One of the three protocols is the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Human Trafficking Protocol; the Protocol)*, which has been ratified by 156 parties and entered into force in 2003.<sup>35</sup>

### **Defining Human Trafficking**

The *Human Trafficking Protocol* defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”<sup>36</sup> Article 3 (b) of the *Protocol* clarifies that the consent of a person is irrelevant to whether or not an action constitutes human trafficking; it is the means that is used in order to achieve the relocation of a person that turns an act into an act of human trafficking. Note that the definition given in article 3 (a) of the *Protocol* distinguishes three elements that need to be reunited: an act of trafficking (e.g. recruitment, transport or receipt of persons); a means of trafficking (e.g. coercive action, abduction, fraud); and the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation is defined as including “at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced

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<sup>28</sup> United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, *Remarks at the General Assembly's high-level meeting on Improving the Coordination of Efforts against Trafficking in Persons*, 2013.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*, p.5.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*, p.11.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Human Trafficking FAQs*, 2013.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto - Introduction*, 2013.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto - Introduction*, 2013.

<sup>34</sup> *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, article 37 (2).

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Treaty Series, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Ratification Status*, 2013.

<sup>36</sup> *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, article 3 (a).

labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”<sup>37</sup> When children, i.e. any person under the age of 18, are object of an act of trafficking for the purpose of exploitation, this constitutes human trafficking within the meaning of the *Protocol* regardless of the means used to relocate the child.<sup>38</sup>

#### *Obligations on parties to the Human Trafficking Protocol*

The *Human Trafficking Protocol* contains a wide range of obligations that all parties to the *Protocol* need to implement. These include: criminalizing all acts of human trafficking through appropriate legislation; providing assistance to and protection of victims of human trafficking, including information on court proceedings, but also medical and psychological assistance; and a range of preventive measures including border control and information exchange.<sup>39</sup>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which is part of the UN Secretariat and serves as a focal point for all states that have ratified the UNTOC and any of the Protocols, has published a legislative guide that spells out the minimum requirements any party must undertake if it wants to comply with its obligations under the UNTOC and its protocols.<sup>40</sup> The guide details that parties to the *Protocol* are under an obligation to adopt comprehensive prevention strategies that deter human trafficking both on the supply as well as on the demand side; this includes a range of social policies that tackle factors believed to contribute to the desire to migrate.<sup>41</sup> At the same time, states must make it more difficult for traffickers to use conventional methods of transport, thus making human trafficking more difficult and less lucrative. It is important to note that most of these measures do not necessarily require legislative measures, but rather political action such as awareness-raising through mass-media campaigns.<sup>42</sup> The *Protocol* does however not spell out any concrete measures that need to be taken.

#### ***Concerted Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and United Nations Action***

Because the *Protocol* remains silent on the concrete measures that must be undertaken in order to prevent human trafficking, other instruments have been developed in a plethora of international fora, including the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and, most importantly, the General Assembly.

#### *General Assembly efforts to combat human trafficking*

In 2010, the General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. The *Global Plan of Action* contains sections on the prevention of human trafficking, victims’ assistance and penalization and prosecution of perpetrators.<sup>43</sup> It also recognized that international coordination was paramount to achieving substantial progress in combating human trafficking and called upon the UNODC to play a central role in collecting and disseminating data on human trafficking and to facilitate information exchange on best practices.<sup>44</sup>

The General Assembly considers the issue of human trafficking through its Third Committee, under the agenda items of human rights protection and advancement of women.<sup>45</sup> One of the major inputs that the General Assembly receives is the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children.<sup>46</sup> Mandated by the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur reports to both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. She is further tasked with taking action on violations committed against trafficked persons

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<sup>37</sup> *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, article 3 (a).

<sup>38</sup> *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, article 3 (c).

<sup>39</sup> *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, articles 5-13.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol Thereto*, 2004.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol Thereto*, 2004, p.296-297.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol Thereto*, 2004, p.297.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, 2010.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, 2010, paras. 57, 60.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Third Committee – Documents per agenda item*, 2013.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, *Annual report (A/67/261)*, 2012.

through hearing individual complaints and with undertaking country visits in order to formulate recommendations to prevent and combat trafficking and protect the human rights of its victims in specific countries or regions.<sup>47</sup>

The General Assembly has reiterated numerous times that acts of human trafficking constitute a violation of fundamental human rights. In its latest resolution on human trafficking, the General Assembly emphasized the necessity for all states to sign and ratify all relevant international treaties, including the UNTOC and the *Human Trafficking Protocol* and called upon governments to criminalize all forms of human trafficking.<sup>48</sup> It also called for sufficient funding for the UNODC and called upon states to contribute further resources to combat human trafficking and assist victims.<sup>49</sup> Lastly, the resolution decided to convene a high-level meeting on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which took place in New York City from May 13-14, 2013. The meeting served as a platform to exchange concrete ideas on how to improve coordination on combating human trafficking and was attended by state representatives and non-governmental organizations.<sup>50</sup> In his closing remarks, the President of the General Assembly, Vuk Jeremic, emphasized that more needed to be done with regard to data collection, dissemination and sharing and deplored the dire situation of funding available to tackle human trafficking.<sup>51</sup>

#### *Economic and Social Council and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice efforts*

The Economic and Social Council, through its Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), also addresses the issue of human trafficking on a regular basis and interacts with both the General Assembly and UNODC on the matter. During its 22<sup>nd</sup> session held in Vienna in April 2013, the CCPCJ agreed on a draft text of a resolution on human trafficking which it recommended to the ECOSOC Plenary for adoption.<sup>52</sup> Next to reiterating the importance of universal ratification of all treaties pertaining to human trafficking and furthering implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, the CCPCJ highlighted the issue of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal and called upon UNODC to include such cases into its case database as well as the Working Group on Human Trafficking to further consider this issue.<sup>53</sup>

#### *Working Group on Trafficking in Persons*

All parties to the UNTOC and its Protocols meet annually as the Conference of Parties to improve the capacity of states parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the UNTOC and its Protocols.<sup>54</sup> At its fourth meeting, the Conference of Parties to the UNTOC decided to establish an open-ended interim working group on human trafficking, with the aim to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the *Human Trafficking Protocol*.<sup>55</sup> During its 2011 meeting, the Working Group considered three major items: trafficking of persons with the purpose of organ removal; analyzing the term “abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability” contained in article 3 of the *Protocol*; and improving coordination of efforts to combat human trafficking.<sup>56</sup> With regard to international cooperation, the Working Group recommended that states cooperate more closely when further developing their respective criminal laws, including extradition laws, to apply to human trafficking offenders.<sup>57</sup> It also emphasized the importance of awareness-raising

<sup>47</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children*, 2013.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 67/190 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons*, 2013, paras. 2, 3, 5.

<sup>49</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 67/190 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons*, 2013, paras. 9, 11.

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *General Assembly reviews efforts to combat human trafficking*, 2013.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Closing remarks of the President of the General Assembly at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, 2013.

<sup>52</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Report on the twenty-second session*, 2013, pp.40-43.

<sup>53</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Report on the twenty-second session*, 2013, p.43.

<sup>54</sup> *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, article 32.

<sup>55</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 10 to 12 October 2011*, 2011, para. 1.

<sup>56</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 10 to 12 October 2011*, 2011.

<sup>57</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 10 to 12 October 2011*, 2011, paras. 31-33.

and minimizing supply and demand through increased cooperation with civil society actors in the countries of origin and poverty alleviation measures.<sup>58</sup>

#### *The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

As the main focal point within the UN Secretariat tasked with coordinating efforts against human trafficking, UNODC engages in three main activities: research and awareness-raising; promoting the *Protocol on Human Trafficking* and capacity-building; and promoting inter-agency coordination and partnerships.<sup>59</sup> However, UNODC's activities are currently underfunded.<sup>60</sup> While UNODC will itself try to identify potential sources of funding, additional contributions were called for in the *Global Plan of Action*, encouraging Member States to consider making voluntary contributions and to explore additional sources of funding, including reaching out to the private sector for contributions.<sup>61</sup>

UNODC is also tasked with managing the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. This Trust Fund was established in 2010 through the *Global Plan of Action* with the aim of providing humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in person.<sup>62</sup> The Trust Fund assists victims of human trafficking through financial contributions to organizations around the world that work directly with affected persons. In 2011, the Trust Fund awarded grants of up to US \$25,000 per year for a maximum of three years to grassroots non-governmental organizations such as Hors La Rue (France), Shakti Samuha (Nepal), or the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (USA).<sup>63</sup>

Lastly, UNODC serves as coordinator and member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons which was established by the General Assembly in 2007.<sup>64</sup> The Inter-Agency Coordination Group (ICAT) comprises some sixteen organizations from the UN System, including the International Labor Organization, UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and focuses mostly on policy coordination, especially on the formulation of joint statements and standards for the implementation of measures against human trafficking.<sup>65</sup> Through its work within ICAT, UNODC hopes to achieve a more streamlined response to international trafficking in persons.

#### **Conclusion**

While considerable achievements have been made over the past decade to combat human trafficking, much remains to be done. Human trafficking mainly takes place through criminal organizations that operate transnationally. This warrants an equally coordinated international response. While UNODC was substantially upgraded in past years, detection of human trafficking, and even more so, criminal prosecution and conviction of traffickers remains low.<sup>66</sup> Member States will therefore have to assess whether data collection and awareness-raising through the UNODC are appropriate tools to tackle human trafficking, or what other action can be undertaken in order to respond to ever-increasing numbers of trafficked persons. When researching this topic, delegates should be aware of the laws their country has put into place to combat human trafficking, and what other measures – be they administrative measures, policy guidelines or public awareness-raising campaigns – their country is undertaking. Delegates should also research whether there are any regional efforts that might serve as examples for global action to improve coordination of measures against human trafficking.

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<sup>58</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 10 to 12 October 2011*, 2011, paras. 41-45.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, 2012, p.4.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, 2012, p.33.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, 2010, para. 61.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, 2010, para. 38.

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, *Hear Their Story – Help us Change Their Lives*, 2013.

<sup>64</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, 2012, p.24.

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, 2012, p.25.

<sup>66</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*, p.5.



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*This resolution is better known as the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The General Assembly tasked the UN Office on Drugs and Crime with data collection and biennial reporting on patterns of flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels through this resolution. It therefore marks one of the most essential efforts of the international community to combat human trafficking. The Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons continues to inform the General Assembly's work on the issue of human trafficking. Delegates should study it carefully and research what their country has done in order to implement this plan.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, March 27). *Resolution 67/190*. Retrieved on May 12, 2013, from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/190](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/190)

*The latest resolution of the General Assembly on the topic is an essential document for delegates to consider for further steps. It points to efforts that have already been taken and outlines potential for further action. It was adopted by acclamation and therefore expresses the broad consensus achieved in the GA on this issue.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2013). *High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. Retrieved on July 16, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/67/issues/trafficking/trafficking.shtml>.

*This Web site contains all documents that were considered by the attendees of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. It also features several statements by state representatives that will be interesting for delegates when researching their country's position on human trafficking. Since this high-level meeting is the latest in a series of efforts by the General Assembly to combat human trafficking, it will be important for delegates to acquaint themselves with the information contained on this Web site.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2004). *United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime and the protocols thereto*. Retrieved on May 12, 2013, from:

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

*This e-book contains the text of the UNTOC and the three additional protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Complete with a foreword by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, it also contains the texts of the General Assembly resolutions that adopted the convention text and opened it for signature. As the Convention and the Protocol form the legal basis of all action against human trafficking, delegates should familiarize themselves with the obligations contained in these texts.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*. Retrieved on May 12, 2013, from: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_2012\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf)

*The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is one of the most important documents for delegates to consider because it presents the latest findings on types and flows of human trafficking on the global, regional and national level. Covering data from the years 2007-2010, it analyzes what steps have been taken so far and points to emerging issues that have to be considered by the General Assembly and other relevant actors.*



## II. Water and Disasters

### *Introduction*

Water is essential to everyday life. The General Assembly recognized in 2010 that access to safe and clean drinking water is a human right “that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.”<sup>67</sup> At the same time, water also poses a threat to life, when it takes the form of storms, floods or other extreme weather events.<sup>68</sup> According to the latest statistics provided by UN Water, an inter-agency platform that brings together various programs and funds as well as Specialized Agencies from the United Nations System involved with water, floods, droughts and windstorms have accounted for 88,5 % of the most disastrous events since 1990, with a death toll of over 11 billion people.<sup>69</sup> 83 % of these events occurred in Asia.<sup>70</sup> At the same time, access to clean drinking water is a concern especially once disasters have struck: proper sanitation facilities can prevent the spread of waterborne disasters such as diarrhea or cholera; they are all the more important to have in a post-disaster environment.<sup>71</sup> Disaster prevention and response to natural disasters has long been an issue of concern within the United Nations System and is dealt with by various agencies, programs and funds as well as the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### *Defining the relationship between water and disasters*

#### *Water-related disasters*

Disaster is defined as “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.”<sup>72</sup> Water-related disasters form a subset of natural hazards and include floods, mudslides, storms and related ocean storm surge, heat waves, cold spells, drought and waterborne diseases.<sup>73</sup> 90 % of all natural hazards are related to water and most are caused by a combination of hazards but can also have another geological or biological origin.<sup>74</sup>

Disasters can be created or accelerated by ill-advised human activity. Climate change and human activity have contributed to an increasing threat of water-related disasters.<sup>75</sup> They can be triggered by earthquakes, such as tsunamis and landslides that dam rivers, breakage of levees and dams, as well as glacier lake outbursts, coastal flooding associated with abnormal or rising sea levels, and epidemics and pest outbreaks associated with too little or too much water.<sup>76</sup> One of the most frequent natural hazards are floods and almost every country is affected by them whereas drought affects more people globally than any other natural hazard.<sup>77</sup>

#### *Effects of water-related disasters*

Common examples of water-related disasters are floods, droughts, over-extraction of groundwater, pollution of rivers, lakes and wetlands, loss of water-based ecosystem services, landslides, debris flows, storm surges and tsunamis.<sup>78</sup> The risk for disaster rises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.<sup>79</sup> Generally, countries with a low GDP and weak governance have a drastically higher mortality risk when disaster strikes than wealthier countries with strong governance.<sup>80</sup> According to the latest World Water Development Report, water-related disasters result both in quantifiable economic loss, such as damage to buildings,

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<sup>67</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 64/292 on the human right to water and sanitation*, 2010.

<sup>68</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.05.

<sup>69</sup> UN Water, *Water and disasters factsheet*, 2013.

<sup>70</sup> UN Water, *Water and disasters factsheet*, 2013.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, *Closing Remarks to the Special Thematic Session of the General Assembly on Water and Disasters*, 2013.

<sup>72</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.20.

<sup>73</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.115.

<sup>74</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.115.

<sup>75</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.7.

<sup>76</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.115.

<sup>77</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, 2012, p.117.

<sup>78</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.21.

<sup>79</sup> Hyogo Framework for Action, para. 3.

<sup>80</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.118.

crops and infrastructure, and loss of life and property, and in indirect loss, e.g. loss in productivity and livelihoods, increased investment risks, indebtedness and human health impacts.<sup>81</sup>

### ***International Response to Water-Related Disasters: An Overview of Relevant UN Institutions and Frameworks***

#### *Institutional set-up within the UN system*

The issue of water and disasters is a cross-cutting issue that affects many institutions within the UN system. Disaster relief is debated annually at the General Assembly through its Second Committee.<sup>82</sup> At the same time, it is also discussed at the ECOSOC Plenary meeting during its annual humanitarian affairs segment.<sup>83</sup> Both ECOSOC and the GA are working closely together to coordinate efforts on disaster response, but also prevention. Within the UN Secretariat, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is mainly responsible for emergency response. Within UNOCHA, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination is a mechanism that provides for rapid deployment in the event of a sudden emergency, including water-related disasters.<sup>84</sup>

At the same time, the international community agrees that disaster prevention is as important as the response to a disaster. As early as in 1989, the General Assembly declared the years 1990-2000 as “International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction” and in 1999, mandated the Secretariat to establish an inter-agency coordination mechanism to oversee the implementation of the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*, which is today known as United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).<sup>85</sup> UNISDR is the main focal point within the UN system on all efforts relating to disaster prevention and coordinates the implementation of the *International Strategy* under direct oversight of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.<sup>86</sup>

Another important part of the UN Secretariat providing input on the issue of water is the United Nations Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). Convened in 2004 by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, it is composed of independent experts and serves as a body to give advice to the UN Secretary-General, to give input in global dialogue, and to raise global awareness on the importance of water and sanitation issues.<sup>87</sup> In 2007, the UNSGAB called for the establishment of a High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster. The High-Level Expert Panel (HLEP) was then convened, consisting of 21 individuals from international and non-governmental organizations, in order to evaluate existing recommendations on water and disaster.<sup>88</sup>

#### *Hyogo Framework for Action*

Perhaps the most important international framework for disaster risk reduction, the *Hyogo Framework for Action*’s goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by building the resilience of countries and communities to disasters. It is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reach this goal.<sup>89</sup> The *Hyogo Framework for Action* is a ten-year plan adopted in January 2005 by 168 governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, which had been convened by the General Assembly.<sup>90</sup> The framework identifies challenges posed by disasters, analyzes the objectives, expected outcomes and goals of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, defines priorities for action from 2005 till 2015 and looks at lessons learned. Gaps and challenges were identified in the areas of governance, risk identification including assessment, monitoring and early warning; and knowledge management as well as preparedness for effective response and recovery.<sup>91</sup> The *Hyogo Framework for Action* was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/195, which was adopted without a vote, expressing the international community’s broad consensus on its importance.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.116.

<sup>82</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Second Committee – List of agenda items and their periodicity*, 2013.

<sup>83</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Humanitarian Affairs Segment*, 2013.

<sup>84</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *UNDAC*, 2013.

<sup>85</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 54/219*, 1999.

<sup>86</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Our Mandate*, 2013.

<sup>87</sup> United Nations Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, *Background*, 2012.

<sup>88</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, 2013.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, 2013.

<sup>91</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.9.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 60/195*, 2005.

The *Hyogo Framework for Action* provides five priority areas: 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; 3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; 4. Reduce the underlying risk factors; 5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.<sup>93</sup>

The first priority area presumes that the capacity to manage risks must be enhanced by developing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction as well as measurable indicators to track progress.<sup>94</sup> This includes establishing national mechanisms with designated responsibilities at the national, regional, and local levels as mentioned in General Assembly resolutions 58/215, 58/241, 56/195 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63. Furthermore, existing human resource capacities for disaster risk reduction must be assessed and resources for the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies must be allocated at all levels of administration and budgets on the basis of clearly prioritized actions.<sup>95</sup>

In order for disaster risk reduction to work when necessary, it is important that warning systems are known to the relevant actors, but also to the general public. Therefore, risk maps should be developed and updated periodically and disseminated to decision-makers and the general public.<sup>96</sup> The *Hyogo Framework for Action* recommends to “develop early warning systems that are people centred, in particular systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences, including guidance on how to act upon warnings, and that support effective operations by disaster managers and other decision makers.”<sup>97</sup>

The third priority is closely connected to this people-centered approach of effective early warning systems. If people are well informed about disaster prevention, the risk or impact of disasters can be substantially reduced. The *Hyogo Framework* lists several key activities on how to accomplish information management and education, e.g. providing easily understandable information to risks and protection especially to citizens in high risk areas or promoting the use, application and affordability of recent information, communication space-based technologies and related services.<sup>98</sup> The fourth priority addresses underlying risk factors and deals with environmental and natural resource management, social and economic development practices as well as land-use planning and other technical measures. Regarding water-related disasters, such measures include - among others - integrated flood management and the appropriate management of fragile ecosystems.<sup>99</sup> The fifth priority stresses that it is important to have operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems in place that prepare for and guarantee a quick and effective disaster response in situations that exceed regional and national coping capacities.<sup>100</sup>

### ***Connecting Disaster Prevention to Water-related Disasters – Six Urgent Imperatives***

While the disaster risk reduction priorities outlined in the *Hyogo Framework* are not exclusively linked to water, the High-Level Expert Panel on water and disaster (HLEP) made this link in its final report published in 2009. In the report, it defined six urgent imperatives that address specific challenges connected to water-related disasters.<sup>101</sup> The imperatives are presented below. While the first four imperatives address disaster risk reduction and preventive action, the last two imperatives relate to rapid response and emergency relief. All six imperatives tie water-related disasters to the wider context of disaster prevention and response.

#### ***Galvanize and mobilize before disaster strikes***

In order to mobilize people, the HLEP recommends to become active on the local and national level. It suggests that local governments and associations draw up programs for capacity development, greater awareness of water-related

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<sup>93</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.14.

<sup>94</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.9.

<sup>95</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.16.

<sup>96</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para. 17 (i)(a).

<sup>97</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para. 17 (ii)(d)

<sup>98</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para. 18(i)

<sup>99</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.19

<sup>100</sup> World Conference on Disaster Reduction, *Hyogo Framework for Action*, para.20.

<sup>101</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009.

hazard risks, most vulnerable groups and educational programs specifically for young people.<sup>102</sup> Organizations on the regional level should dedicate resources to analyze and carry out support programs and conduct international review meetings.<sup>103</sup>

#### *Prioritize systems to forecast, inform, alert and evacuate*

In order for warning systems to reach people, they must be linked to operational on-ground response groups and cell phone networks.<sup>104</sup> On the global level, databases, manuals and best practices for early warning systems can help with sharing experiences between countries.<sup>105</sup> According to the HLEP, early warning systems are “the set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.”<sup>106</sup> Effective early warning systems are paramount to effective disaster risk reduction.

#### *Incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as integral to development planning*

Adaptation strategies are used to adjust natural or human systems in response to climatic stimuli or their effects which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.<sup>107</sup> Measures to implement can include guidelines and practices to enhance the water resistance of buildings or networks of national, regional and international hydrological and climate institutes to promote the dissemination of knowledge regarding appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies.<sup>108</sup>

#### *Improved disaster response*

In order to improve disaster response, the HLEP points at the role of regional organizations but also how the UN Secretariat, namely the UN Secretary-General, can assist in coordination efforts. Disasters, especially water-related disasters, often cross national borders. Therefore, it is helpful when neighboring countries design mechanisms to help each other sharing information and experiences conduct disaster preparedness drills, and dispatch human resources and urgent supplies when needed.<sup>109</sup> UN regional organizations can, with the assistance of the UN Secretary-General, facilitate the proposed actions by Member States.<sup>110</sup>

#### *Provide safe water and toilets quickly when disaster/conflict strikes*

Contaminated or inadequate water supplies can cause outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera. Lack of basic sanitation in combination with malnutrition and overcrowding in the aftermath of conflict or disasters can often lead to catastrophic outbreaks of gastroenteritis caused by cholera and other diseases.<sup>111</sup> It is therefore essential to have plans on how to ensure safe drinking water and basic sanitation before disaster strikes. Civil society, the military, the water and health sectors should agree on a plan and existing handbooks must be appraised.<sup>112</sup>

#### ***Conclusion: Mainstreaming water-related disasters into the general disaster risk reduction agenda***

While it is clear that water-related disasters have increased over the past years, the latest UNISDR report on consultations on the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction, a preparatory document for a follow-up plan to the *Hyogo Framework*, does not mention water even once.<sup>113</sup> At the same time, the topic did receive renewed attention when the UNSGAB, at the initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, hosted a Special Thematic Session on March 6, 2013, on Water and Disasters. This meeting was convened “to raise awareness on risks and challenges, share experiences and good practices, and discuss global action on water and disasters.”<sup>114</sup> While many

<sup>102</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.9, 17.

<sup>103</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.9.

<sup>104</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.9.

<sup>105</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.18.

<sup>106</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.20.

<sup>107</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.20.

<sup>108</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.11.

<sup>109</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.17.

<sup>110</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.17.

<sup>111</sup> World Water Assessment Programme, *World Water Development Report 4*, 2012, p.118.

<sup>112</sup> High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, *Water and Disaster*, 2009, p.11.

<sup>113</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Synthesis Report: Consultations on a Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)*, 2013.

<sup>114</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *The United Nations special thematic session on water and disasters*, 2013.



representatives of Member States were present at the meeting, it did not produce a policy outcome; states did not commit to any action. At the same time, 2013 witnessed several severe floods and droughts, which are only further evidence of water-related disasters and the importance of acknowledging them in the context of general disaster risk reduction.

With its universal membership, the General Assembly is ideally placed to address the issue of water and disasters. When researching their topic, delegates should consider the following questions: How can preventive efforts and emergency response efforts be better connected? How can the issue of water-related disasters be highlighted and introduced in the post-2015 follow-up to the *Hyogo Framework for Action*? Is your country affected by water-related disasters, and what actions did your country undertake so far to implement risk reduction strategies? What response tools are available, and are there any regional mechanisms that have proven effective?

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*This Web site provides information on the UN General Assembly's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). UNISDR is part of the UN Secretariat and coordinates all efforts within the UN System on disaster reduction. It is under the direct oversight of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. Its work is reported to the UN General Assembly annually. Delegates should acquaint themselves with the work of UNISDR, its many reports and actions it has undertaken and continues to do in the field of disaster prevention. As the organ to which UNISDR is responsible to, delegates in the GA should take good care in evaluating the work that has been done by UNISDR.*

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*The Hyogo Framework for Action is a ten-year action plan that was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. It is the main framework that addresses disaster prevention. Delegates should fully acquaint themselves with the commitments made by the international community in the Hyogo Framework and research what their country has done to implement the action lines inscribed in this document.*



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# **Rules of Procedure**

## **United Nations General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen)**

### ***Introduction***

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the United Nations General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen) (hereinafter referred to as “the Plenary”) and shall be considered adopted by the Plenary prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director and the Assistant Director are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Plenary, which can be any Member of the Secretariat or their designate.

### **I. SESSIONS**

#### ***Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment***

The Plenary shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

#### ***Rule 2 - Place of sessions***

The Plenary shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

### **II. AGENDA**

#### ***Rule 3 - Provisional agenda***

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Deputy Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Plenary at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

#### ***Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda***

The agenda provided by the Deputy Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

*The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Plenary not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night's meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.*

#### ***Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda***

During a session, the Plenary may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Plenary so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Plenary decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a commission has reported on the question concerned.

*For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Deputy Secretary-General, or his or her designate, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Plenary to*

*be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

***Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum***

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

### III. SECRETARIAT

***Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General***

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Plenary.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Plenary and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

***Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat***

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Plenary, and shall distribute documents of the Plenary to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Plenary may require.

***Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat***

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Plenary concerning any question under consideration.

***Rule 10 - Selection of the President***

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Plenary for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

***Rule 11 - Replacement of the President***

If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

### IV. LANGUAGE

***Rule 12 - Official and working language***

English shall be the official and working language of the Plenary.

***Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)***

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

*This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.*

### V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

***Rule 14 – Quorum***

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Plenary are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Plenary shall be required for any decision to be taken.

*For purposes of this rule, members of the Plenary means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.*

**Rule 15 - General powers of the President**

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Plenary, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Plenary and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Plenary the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

*Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference and is limited to entertaining motions.*

**Rule 16 – Authority of the Plenary**

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Plenary.

**Rule 17 – Voting rights on procedural matters**

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a majority of the members present and voting in order to pass.

*For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). There is no possibility to abstain on procedural votes.*

**Rule 18 - Points of order**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

*Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.*

**Rule 19 - Speeches**

No representative may address the Plenary without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

*In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the President at his/her discretion. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not*

*be entertained by the President.*

**Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers**

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Plenary, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Plenary.

*The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Plenary. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Plenary and the President should not act on her/his own motion.*

**Rule 21 - Right of reply**

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

*For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Plenary by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.*

**Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

**Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Plenary shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

*As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Plenary's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Plenary.*

**Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

**Rule 25 - Closure of debate**

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Plenary favors the closure of debate, the Plenary shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

**Rule 26 - Order of motions**

Subject to rule 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all

proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

***Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments***

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Plenary [sponsors]. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Plenary unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Plenary for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

*For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Plenary by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Plenary. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Plenary and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.*

***Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions***

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

***Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic***

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Plenary, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

## VI. VOTING

***Rule 30 - Voting rights***

Each member of the Plenary shall have one vote.

*This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.*

***Rule 31 - Request for a vote***

A proposal or motion before the Plenary for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Plenary may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

*For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the*



*President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.*

**Rule 32 - Majority required**

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Plenary shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

*All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain on substantive votes.*

**Rule 33 - Method of voting**

1. The Plenary shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

*Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass must, on the second time through, respond with either a yes or no vote. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.*

2. When the Plenary votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Plenary shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

**Rule 34 - Explanations of vote**

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

*All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.*

**Rule 35 - Conduct during voting**

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

*For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication amongst delegates, and if any delegate leaves the committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Plenary has convened voting procedure.*

***Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments***

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

*For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

***Rule 37 - Amendments***

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

*An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambulatory clauses.*

***Rule 38 - Voting on amendments***

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

*For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

***Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals***

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Plenary decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

***Rule 40 - The President shall not vote***

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

## VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE PLENARY

***Rule 41 - Participation of non-Member States***

The Plenary shall invite any State it wishes to hear to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A sub-committee or sessional body of the Plenary shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

*If the Plenary considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Plenary according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For*

*educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Plenary is no longer required.*

***Rule 42 - Participation of national liberation movements***

The Plenary may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

***Rule 43 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies***

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Plenary and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Plenary or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

***Rule 44 - Participation of non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations***

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Plenary on the recommendation of the Secretariat, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Plenary on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.