



NMUN • NY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA BACKGROUND GUIDE 2011

WRITTEN BY: Maria Luisa Ortega, Harald Eisenhauer and Sasha Sleiman



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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
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Please consult the FAQ section of nmun.org for answers to your questions. If you do not find a satisfactory answer you may also contact the individuals below for personal assistance. They may answer your question(s) or refer you to the best source for an answer.

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NMUN•NY 2011 Important Dates

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at nmun.org and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

31 January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.
15 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS	<p>The 2011 National Model UN Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 - 21 April – Sheraton New York • 19 - 23 April – New York Marriott Marquis <p>The 2012 National Model UN Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York • 3 - 7 April – New York Marriott Marquis • 30 March - 3 April – New York Marriott Marquis

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 15 MARCH 2011

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 15 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN_Greece).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org.

This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.

Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba_U_of_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

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World Intellectual Property Organization	wipo.sheraton@nmun.org
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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.....	osce.sheraton@nmun.org
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Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.sheraton@nmun.org

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ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.marriott@nmun.org
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United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund.....	unicef.marriott@nmun.org
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African Development Bank	afdb.marriott@nmun.org
Group of 20.....	g20.marriott@nmun.org
Organization of American States	oas.marriott@nmun.org
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.....	osce.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council.....	sc.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council 2.....	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
International Court of Justice.....	icj.marriott@nmun.org
Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue).....	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of the 2011 National Model United Nations! We look forward to serve as your committee directors at the National Model United Nations 2011 and promise to do our best to ensure that it will be a valuable and enjoyable experience for all of you.

Before you proceed with thoroughly studying the information provided in this background guide, please give us the chance to shortly introduce ourselves. Maria Luisa Ortega will be serving as your director at the Sheraton Venue. Maria Luisa is a post-graduate student on International Relations with a focus on Security and Human Rights. She is currently teaching at college level in her hometown, Quito. The Marriott venue's director is Harald Eisenhauer. He is currently studying Political Science at the University of Munich, with a focus on Economics, American History, and European Union Studies.

Your committee, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, is one of the five United Nations regional economic commissions, as will be disclosed in detail below. Its findings and recommendations, on a great variety of issues, are not only of great relevance to the fourteen member states of the region, but in fact have important implications for the entire international community.

Thus, after thorough deliberations, we have agreed to propose the following topics for the committee's agenda:

- I. Women's Control Over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources
- II. Promoting Sustainable Peace and Development in Yemen
- III. Realizing Sustainable and Secure Energy Supplies

Each delegation is required to submit a two-page position paper on these topics. Please refer to the specifications provided below before you start writing.

You, as delegates along with your head delegates and faculty advisors, are expected to work intensely on preparing for the conference. With this guide we will aid you in developing a basic understanding of the topics and give you a starting point for your own research. As delegates, it is ultimately you who will determine the success of your committee. Yet, assuming your best efforts, we are very confident that the conference will be a great success.

We know that preparing for the conference is very demanding and time-consuming, so please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns pertaining to it; we will do our best to resolve them. We look forward to meeting you in New York and wish you all the best until then.

Yours Sincerely,

Sheraton Venue
María Luisa Ortega
Director
ESCWA.Sheraton@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Harald Eisenhauer
Director
ESCWA.Marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2011 NMUN Conference

At the 2011 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

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. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. ***The NMUN Conference 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. 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 incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2010. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 15, 2010 (GMT-5) for delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue.**

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU_Namibia_University of Caprivi)

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Holger Baer, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Brianna Johnston-Hanks, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

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

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue
Holger Baer
Director-General
holger@nmun.org

Marriott Venue
Brianna Johnston-Hanks
Director-General
briannaj@nmun.org

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a *maximum* of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
(Name of College)

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

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

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

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

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable

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

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

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

Committee History for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), has as its purpose to “discuss, promote and coordinate the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of the UN.”¹ In order to fulfill this goal, ECOSOC established a number of subsidiary bodies, in accordance with article 68 of the UN Charter (1945).² Besides its nine functional subsidiary bodies, focused on issues ranging from women’s rights, social development and drug control, ECOSOC also supervised the creation of five regional commissions, one of which is the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).³

ESCWA is active in a region with a somewhat turbulent history, affected by numerous violent and protracted conflicts, social inequality, political unrest, and, moreover, comprised of countries with differing levels of economic and social development. These and other circumstances delayed the creation of a regional economic commission for Western Asia until several decades after the initial proposal for the committee was made, in 1973, when ECOSOC resolution 1818 (LV) on the “Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)” was adopted.⁴

The Establishment of ESCWA

It was in the years following World War II that attempts were made to create regional economic commissions for the reconstruction of war-torn areas. The first bodies, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were founded in 1947.⁵ Equivalent bodies were also created for Latin America and Africa soon thereafter (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 1948 and Economic Commission for Africa in 1958).⁶ Thus, there was a clear trend towards decentralization of the UN’s work on economic and social questions, despite initial skepticism to regional subsidiary UN bodies.⁷ In this regard, the sixteenth session of the General Assembly on December 19, 1961, adopted two complementary resolutions, resolution 1709 (XVI) on the “Decentralization of the Economic and Social Activities of the United Nations and Strengthening of the Regional Economic Commissions” and resolution 1708 (XVI) on “Planning for Economic Development.” The latter, *inter alia*, recommended the establishment of regional development and planning institutes “closely linked to the respective regional economic commissions.”⁸

Due to several armed conflicts, progress was not made for many years on the establishment of a regional commission for area. Thus, the United Nations installed an Economic and Social Office in Beirut in 1963.⁹ The UN Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB) was a joint office of the secretariats of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the UN Industrial Development Organization. But this office proved unable to fulfill the role of a full-fledged commission and was closed soon after the eventual creation of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in 1973, the predecessor of ESCWA.¹⁰ The ECWA was renamed to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in 1985 with ECOSOC resolution 1985/69.¹¹

Mandate and Membership

ECOSOC defined the scope and mandate of ESCWA with the adoption of resolution 1818 (LV) of 1973.¹² According to its mandate, ESCWA shall “[i]nitiate and participate in measures for... economic reconstruction and

¹ Spröte, *ECOSOC - Economic and Social Council*, 2002, p. 110.

² United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*, 1945, Ch. X.

³ Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiary Bodies of the Economic and Social Council*.

⁴ Stoll, *United Nations- Law, policies and practice*, 1995, p. 434–435.

⁵ Szasz and Willisich, *Regional Commissions of the United Nations*, 2001, p. 99.

⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2010.

⁷ Stoll, *United Nations - Law, policies and practice*, 1995, p. 108.

⁸ Malinowski, *Centralization and Decentralization in the United Nations Economic and Social Activities*, 1962, p.521.

⁹ Stoll, *United Nations - Law, policies and practice*, 1995, p. 434.

¹⁰ Szasz and Willisich, *Regional Commissions of the United Nations*, 2001, p. 105.

¹¹ Szasz and Willisich, *Regional Commissions of the United Nations*, 2001, p. 105.

¹² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2008, p.1.

development” of the region and promote internal and external economic relations among its Member States.¹³ Furthermore, ECOSOC determined the Commission’s tasks and functions: ESCWA shall author or sponsor economic and social studies, statistical information as well as advice and assist ECOSOC, the concerned governments, and specialized UN agencies in the economic and social sphere.¹⁴ It is also decreed that ESCWA shall prevent thematic or organizational overlaps with other UN specialized agencies and the UN Development Programme.¹⁵ Institutionally, the Commission may set up its own organization, including rules of procedure, a secretariat, and subsidiary bodies.¹⁶ Moreover, ESCWA is “subject to the general supervision” of ECOSOC and shall submit an annual report on its “activities and plans”.¹⁷

ESCWA is comprised of 14 Member States on and around the Arabian Peninsula.¹⁸ The 14 Member States of ESCWA are: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.¹⁹ The last country to join ESCWA was Sudan in 2008.²⁰ Observers at times hesitate to define Western Asia as a region, as it is characterized by such vast disparities and its presence on two continents, Asia and Africa.²¹ In addition, the Member States of the Commission are heterogeneous in size, population, and economic development. For instance, Bahrain and Qatar have less than one million inhabitants, compared to Egypt’s over 60 million, while the per capita income of Yemen is less than \$ 1,000, whereas Kuwait’s surpasses \$ 15, 000.²² The Member States can be categorized along three broad criteria: Sparsely populated, oil-exporting, desert countries with significant export revenues; densely populated countries with some natural resources and rather diversified economies; and least developed or poor countries.²³

Governance and Activities

The Ministerial Session of UN-ESCWA is the governing body of the Commission.²⁴ The session is held every two years, in accordance with UN-ESCWA resolution 196 (XVII).²⁵ On the other hand, the Advisory Committee, consisting of the Ambassadors stationed in Beirut, from each of the Members of ESCWA, and the Secretariat supervise ongoing activities.²⁶ The Commission has made use of its mandate’s provisions and created seven subsidiary committees.²⁷ These committees deal, respectively, with statistics, social development, energy, water resources, transport, trade and globalization, as well as women issues.²⁸ In addition, ESCWA installed several advisory committees and groups to address the issues of regional coordination, sustainable development, conflicts and instability, technology, involvement of civil society, and technical questions regarding the overall work of the organization.²⁹

With this institutional background, ESCWA undertakes research and analysis on various economic and social topics concerning the region, particularly in the areas in which they have expertise. ESCWA has published a number of noteworthy analyses in recent years.³⁰ These focused on regional cooperation, project planning, social development, but also on more contentious topics such as gender, environment, and poverty.³¹ ESCWA not only serves as a forum for governments within the region but also for rather independent Arab academics which helped to bring

¹³ ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 (LV))*, 1973.

¹⁴ ECOSOC, *Resolution Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 (LV))*, 1973.

¹⁵ ECOSOC, *Resolution Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 (LV))*, 1973.

¹⁶ ECOSOC, *Resolution Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 (LV))*, 1973.

¹⁷ ECOSOC, *Resolution Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 (LV))*, 1973.

¹⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2010.

¹⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2010.

²⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2010.

²¹ Destremau et al., *ESCWA: Striving for Regional Integration*, 2004, p. 1.

²² Destremau et al., *ESCWA: Striving for Regional Integration*, 2004, p. 1.

²³ Destremau et al., *ESCWA: Striving for Regional Integration*, 2004, p. 1.

²⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2010.

²⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Governing Body*, 2010.

²⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2008, p. 6–7.

²⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2008, p. 6

²⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2008, p. 7–10.

²⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA At a Glance*, 2008, p. 11–31.

³⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session*, 2008, p. 23.

³¹ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

more controversial issues on the agenda, such as population, food security, water, and diversification.³² Besides scientific regional studies, ESCWA can also make specific policy recommendations to its members, although this depends on the concerned states' consent.³³

Conclusion

Of all the UN regional commissions, ESCWA has had one of the most challenging and complex political environments to operate within, both working in the context of inter and intra-state conflict and crisis.³⁴ In the 1970s, oil revenue surged in the oil-producing countries, changing their landscape, as many of the regions main cities increasingly transformed into affluent consumer capitals.³⁵ At the same time, Israel developed modern highways and buildings while Palestine, Egypt and Sudan remained impoverished.³⁶ This economic division between Arab countries has dominated the political context in which ESCWA has operated.³⁷ The economic and social tensions of the region have led ESCWA to adopt coping strategies that have slowed down the process of formulating and adopting policy guidelines.³⁸ Moreover, inadequate public services, and the need to rehabilitate the infrastructure in several ESCWA member countries constitute important impediments to the promotion of intraregional trade.³⁹ In this regard, future trade and economic policies adopted by the countries that comprised ESCWA must target the way for overcoming blocks that obstruct the development of intraregional trade and enhancing regional trade integration.⁴⁰

However, in spite of the difficulties and diverse situations facing the countries of Western Asia, ESCWA has managed to build up legitimacy and made a difference, especially in areas such as gender, environment, labor conditions and poverty reduction. The Commission has also worked effectively in introducing difficult issues such as, population, food security, water and diversification, onto official agendas.⁴¹ Some of the major accomplishments of ESCWA have been the development of transport agreements among member countries, the strengthening of the use of renewable energy and management of water resources and the creation of information and communications technology networking in the Arab Region. ESCWA has also devoted efforts towards regional and international trade integration among Western Asian states and the international community.⁴² Furthermore, ESCWA served as a channel between the UN and Western Asia and as mechanism of regional social and economic integration of all ESCWA Member States. In the near future, ESCWA will continue facing economic and social disparity among its members; however, the commission should keep aiming at providing a framework for the formulation of sectorial policies for its countries and as a forum for the integration of the Arab region to the world economy.

³² Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

³³ Stoll, *United Nations - Law, policies and practice*, 1995, p. 436.

³⁴ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 5.

³⁵ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

³⁶ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

³⁷ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

³⁸ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

³⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Assessment of Trade Policy Trends and Implications for the Economic Performance of the ESCWA Region*, 2009, p.40.

⁴⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Assessment of Trade Policy Trends and Implications for the Economic Performance of the ESCWA Region*, 2009, p.41.

⁴¹ Jolly and Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

⁴² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Assessment of Trade Policy Trends and Implications for the Economic Performance of the ESCWA Region*, 2009, p.40.

I. Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources

“The economic empowerment of women is critical for the eradication of poverty, for economic growth, and development and for the wellbeing of families and communities.”⁴³

Introduction

Over the past several decades, women's economic empowerment has garnered significant attention and support due to the extraordinary efforts made by women globally in fighting for their rights and for the inclusion of gender issues in the formulation of development and economic policy.⁴⁴ The efforts of the United Nations (UN), in particular, has transformed the discourse on issues related to gender from a welfare-based approach to one that enhances the empowerment of women.⁴⁵ However, this empowerment has not yet been fully achieved. Even though female economic activity in the countries that are part of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has increased gradually in recent decades, it remains low in comparison with the rest of the world.⁴⁶ In this regard, the share of the female population in the labor force represents less than one quarter of the total workforce in almost all ESCWA member countries, resulting in high rates of unemployment.⁴⁷ The existence of gendered barriers to participation is one of the primary factors hindering the economic empowerment of Arab women.⁴⁸ Such barriers fall into two broad categories: 1) social institutions and cultural practices, and 2) access to economic and financial resources.⁴⁹ On the first category of barriers, the patriarchal society and the cultural norms and traditions of the countries of Western Asia hold back the economic empowerment of women. Arab women remain far from having attained economic equality and access to financial resources. The latter is also attributable to the existence of discriminatory laws, the failure to implement non-discriminatory legislation and the lack of awareness by women of their rights in such matters.⁵⁰ Moreover, the situation of women in the Arab region is aggravated by lack of access to and control over economic and financial resources.⁵¹

International Framework

International and regional organizations have, in recent years, attempted to address the issue of women's control over and access to financial resources through a variety of non-binding agreements and suggested best practices. Understanding the international framework already in place for addressing this topic is essential for ESCWA Member States in order to analyze where and how to apply particular international agreements, future international discussions, as well as resources, and research that has already been completed, to their specific regional needs.

Within the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) in 1979, there are two significant articles which pertain directly to women's global economic and employment status and the rights that should be granted accordingly. Article 11, on Employment, lays out ways to eliminate discrimination against women in employment sectors based on rights that state parties should be giving to all women in their country. Article 13, on Economic and Social Benefits, outlines three rights which should be given to women in order to eliminate discrimination against them in economic and social life such as family benefits, access to loans and mortgages, and equal participation in social activities.

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995. The BPfA is an agenda for women's empowerment that aims to remove all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through sharing fully in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making.⁵² The BPfA outlines 6 strategic objectives regarding women and the economy.⁵³ These strategic

⁴³ Zukhang, Sha. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, 2009.

⁴⁴ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 4.

⁴⁵ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.4

⁴⁶ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.4

⁴⁷ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.4

⁴⁸ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.4

⁴⁹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.5

⁵⁰ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.5

⁵¹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.5

⁵² United Nations, *The United Nations Fourth Conference on Women*, 1995.

⁵³ United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

objectives promote women's economic rights, equal access to education and financial resources, highlight the particular needs low-income women's to economic training and information technology, work to eliminate workspace segregation, and promotes equal responsibilities of men and women for balancing home and work environments.⁵⁴ Such objectives, combined with the BPfA's full report on the differences between men and women's access to tools needed to succeed in the workplace and local/regional/global economies gives the United Nations and particularly ESCWA Member States a comprehensive overview on where women stand globally economically.⁵⁵ The latter is beneficial for understanding the needs of women in the region and how to address their economic situation.

The ESCWA Center for Women, one of the main bodies of the Commission, has carried out many initiatives towards the economic empowerment of women and their access to financial resources. In this spirit, the ESCWA Center for Women held in Beirut a Regional Workshop for Arab Parliaments on implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). "The workshop aimed to inform participants about the contents and monitoring body of Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW) and to highlight the role of parliaments in the reporting process to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."⁵⁶ The ESCWA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development to reinforce their joint work on gender issues. Moreover, the Commission signed a MoU with Bahrain's Supreme Council for Women on youth and women issues aimed at the need to give Arab women the empowerment they deserve, as well as providing the opportunities to tap potentials of youths.⁵⁷ Finally, during the 4th Committee on Woman, organized by the ESCWA, the participants agreed that in order to achieve the pivotal role that women deserve in economic and financial issues, new women empowerment policies should be included in national strategic development plans.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) whose main focus and objective is the advancement of women and gender equality.⁵⁸ Founded in 1946, the Commission meets annually to discuss issues pertaining to women's advancement and further equality; each session focusing on one or more specific topics that are most relevant that year.⁵⁹ In 2008 and 2011 the Commission took up issues relating women's economic status and participation through the topics "Financing for Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women" and "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work."⁶⁰

The International Labor Organization (ILO), founded in 1919, is the tripartite UN agency that brings together governments, employers and employees, and works to "promote equal opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work"⁶¹ and has various programs and priorities for the Arab region specifically.⁶² Due to the specific needs of the region, the ILO has prioritized employment creation and development, standards and rights to work, social protection, and social dialogue, as the focus areas for ILO programs in the Arab region.⁶³ One example of a gender specific focus for the ILO in the region is the women's enterprise development which will go hand in hand with the more general entrepreneurial promotions that will be taking place in the region.⁶⁴ The ILO also takes the needs of vulnerable groups such as migrant workers into perspective when analyzing the global economic crisis' effects on the region and how to best build up the strength of the region's economic structure.⁶⁵

⁵⁴ United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995*.

⁵⁵ United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995*.

⁵⁶ ESCWA Center for Women, *ESCWA Holds Regional Workshop on Women for Arab Parliaments*.

⁵⁷ ESCWA Center for Women, *ESCWA, Bahrain Sign MoU*.

⁵⁸ Commission on the Status of Women, *About the Commission*.

⁵⁹ Commission on the Status of Women, *About the Commission*.

⁶⁰ Commission on the Status of Women, *55th session, 2011*.

⁶¹ ESCWA Center for Women, *ESCWA: Bahrain Sign MoU*.

⁶² International Labor Organization, Regional Office for the Arab States, *Decent Work in Arab States*.

⁶³ International Labor Organization, Regional Office for the Arab States, *Decent Work in Arab States*.

⁶⁴ International Labor Organization Regional Office for the Arab States, *Decent Work in Arab States*.

⁶⁵ International Labor Organization Regional Office for the Arab States, *Decent Work in Arab States*.

Economic Status of Women

Although female economic activity in the Arab region has increased steadily in the last few decades, it remains low when compared with that of the rest of the world.⁶⁶ The vast majority of women in the Arab region remain economically disempowered. Indeed, the economic status of women in Western Asia is still very low primarily because of the gender-barriers posed by the male-dominated and patriarchal society in which they live.⁶⁷ This will only change when Arab women perceive themselves and are perceived by all members of society as equal citizens with the same rights and responsibilities as men.⁶⁸

While there are many areas for improvement in financing better and more effective education for women to become active participants in the labor force, the small investments that have been made in women's education are paying off in the form of increasing women entrepreneurs.⁶⁹ In the ESCWA region, "on average, women comprised 47% of the labor force in female-owned enterprises, compared with 34% in male-owned enterprises."⁷⁰ This is significant because it shows that when there is an investment in women through education or access to entry level jobs and corresponding job advancement, and women are equally able to reach managerial positions like men, more women are then employed in those enterprises. This leads to the creation of more jobs for women and therefore more women controlling their own economic and financial resources. Another huge benefit to women entrepreneurs and women in management positions is that women employers tend to be more sensitive to the needs of their female employees as compared to male owned businesses: "50% of female-owned firms offered family health insurance coverage to workers, compared with 37% of male-owned firms. Moreover, 80% of female employees were given maternity leave upon request in female-owned firms, compared with 72% in male-owned firms" according to the ESCWA report.⁷¹

Despite having significant gains in the region in educating women to the level of being able to undertake managerial positions as well as creating and running businesses, there are still many challenges facing women entrepreneurs. ESCWA's 2009 report highlights five main areas that are challenging the success of women entrepreneurs and where the region can still work to improve: access to credit, market, information, training, and policymakers.⁷² Women entrepreneurs are faced with challenges in these areas due to social notions that businesses owned by women are more risky to finance (access to credit), and limited opportunities to access finances and collateral to grow and compete effectively (access to market).⁷³ Challenges women face in other areas need to be met with increased access to training, information, and policy makers in order for the economic situation of women to get better in ESCWA countries.⁷⁴

Region specific Gender-based Barriers to the Economic Empowerment of Women

The world economic crisis affected the Arab region in many different ways. However, the effects were concentrated primarily in the Gulf region. The countries of the Gulf region developed specific economic policies to address the consequences of the economic crisis.⁷⁵ However, the latter caused some negative results for the entire population. For example, "the most significant of the repercussions was the increase of unemployment rates in the Arab countries, which adopted a policy of financial expansion, in an attempt to stimulate demand, reduce layoffs and increase investments."⁷⁶

In Western Asia, "women were more affected by repercussions of the crisis than men, because the level of unemployment among women is essentially higher than for men."⁷⁷ According to Ms Yaman El Hamaki, Professor

⁶⁶ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 25.

⁶⁷ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009.

⁶⁸ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 34.

⁶⁹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 18.

⁷⁰ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 18.

⁷¹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 18.

⁷² ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 20.

⁷³ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 20.

⁷⁴ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 20.

⁷⁵ ESCWA, *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*, 2009, p. 8.

⁷⁶ ESCWA, *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*, 2009, p. 8.

⁷⁷ ESCWA, *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*, 2009, p. 8.

and Head of the Economy Department at the Trade Faculty in Ein Shams University, the global economic crisis adversely affected women for several specific reasons:

“Increase in laying women off, since redundancies normally fall mostly on weaker groups; contraction, due to the decline of external demand, of the economic sectors that employ women, such as the spinning and weaving industry; significant decline in demand for the products of the informal sector, which employs women workers; lower remittances from workers abroad, on which women rely primarily for supporting their families.”⁷⁸

When all these factors combine, they negatively impact women by reducing their ability to provide for themselves and their children financially and also weaken their access to health and education.⁷⁹

Education and Employment

Education is a key part of the strategies to improve women's conditions and its participation in the economic and social development of the society as a whole.⁸⁰ In this regard, the enhancement of education in Western Asia, discussed in the report of the 52nd session of the CSW, represents an attempt to achieve gender equality and economic empowerment of women.⁸¹ Ensuring women's and girls' right to education at all levels is a basic requirement for empowering women economically and financially.⁸² It also gives women more opportunities to obtain better jobs, and thus improve their quality of life overall. The report affirms the importance of promoting gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing school curricula and educational materials for integrating a comprehensive understanding of the relevance of women in the economic and financial sectors.⁸³ The report also recognizes the significance of providing education and training on the rights of women and girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and economic empowerment of women.⁸⁴ In this spirit, the collaboration of the UN, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting women economic empowerment, through a better access to education, is essential for building gender perspective's policies that will allow women to obtain better job opportunities.⁸⁵ The equal and equitable access for women and men to education is indispensable for constructing the framework for women control over economic resources and access to financial resources.

Regardless of the efforts made by many stakeholders across the UN, civil society and governments, on issues related to women's empowerment, “unemployment rates in the region are high, vulnerable employment is prevalent and the less regulated informal sector accounts for a significant share of the labor force.”⁸⁶ Analysis of the distribution of the female labor force between the public and private sectors indicate that the public sector has been the major employer of women for a considerable time.⁸⁷ The latter due to the fact that the private sector is widely considered hostile to women. In this regard, despite significant increases in the level of women's education in the region in recent years and the narrowing of the gender gap in the sector, “when employment opportunities arise in the private sector, preference is frequently given to men.”⁸⁸ The mismatch between the needs of the labor market and the fields of specialization that women strive for represents one of the significant problems that women face in the Arab world.⁸⁹ The education of women in this region is compounded by a lack of adequate vocational and technological training.⁹⁰ However, in spite of such limitations, primary school enrollment is high in most countries of the region,

⁷⁸ ESCWA, *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*, 2009, p. 8.

⁷⁹ ESCWA, *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*, 2009, p. 8.

⁸⁰ Roudi-Fahimi, Farzaneh and Moghadam, *Empowering Women, Developing Society: Female Education in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2003, p. 1.

⁸¹ Commission on the Status of Women, *Report of the fifty-second session*, 2008, p. 13.

⁸² Commission on the Status of Women, *Report of the fifty-second session*, 2008, p. 13.

⁸³ Commission on the Status of Women, *Report of the fifty-second session*, 2008, p. 25.

⁸⁴ Commission on the Status of Women, *Report of the fifty-second session*, 2008, p. 25.

⁸⁵ Commission on the Status of Women, *Report of the fifty-second session*, 2008, p. 32.

⁸⁶ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

⁸⁷ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

⁸⁸ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

⁸⁹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

⁹⁰ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

and gender gaps in secondary school enrollment have diminished in several countries.⁹¹ Investment in women education in the region has resulted in well-educated women “who have proved as successful as their male counterparts in owning and running business concerns.”⁹²

Case Study: Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt)

The overall situation of Palestinians is determined by a multifaceted and complicated set of internal and external factors.⁹³ As a result of the ongoing occupation of Palestine, the population faces a number of direct consequences, including physical and emotional stress, limited economic development and political participation at the society level, and ongoing violations of their human rights.⁹⁴ The continuing division of the West Bank and Gaza and the conditioned funding by donors have merged to place even greater stress on the Palestinians, and its women specifically.⁹⁵ A study published by ESCWA on the participation of women in the labor force and the economy finds that participation levels remain low compared with other countries, both within the region and globally.⁹⁶ Furthermore, it identifies disparity between women in the West Bank, who have higher levels of participation compared to those in Gaza who are more affected by the gender gap.⁹⁷ The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the most important employer for women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt).⁹⁸ The PA employs Palestinian women mainly in the service sector and education.⁹⁹ The study also reveals a number of positive developments for women in the education. Data show that access to and participation in education by women is rising.¹⁰⁰ In this regard, “there is a clear correlation between the participation of women in the labor force and education: in Palestine, only 11.1% of illiterate women participate in the labor force, compared with 40% of women with 13 years or more of education.”¹⁰¹

In terms of labor issues, “between 1999 and the end of 2008, the labor participation rate for men fell from 70.7% to 67.3%, while for women it increased from 12.3% to 15.0%.”¹⁰² The rates vary between the West Bank and Gaza: 68.3% for men and 16.7% for women in the West Bank, and 65.4% and 11.7%, respectively, in Gaza.¹⁰³ According to the 2007 census, 67.7% of men aged 15 years and above participate in the labor force, while the corresponding figure for women is only 15.7%.¹⁰⁴ Moreover, in all professions, most workers are male.¹⁰⁵ The gender gap is particularly notable in plant and machine operations which are dominated by men, while women tend to be concentrated in the service sector. Regarding employment, “the unemployment gender gap in the West Bank is considerable, 21.0% for men and 14.9% for women, compared with 45.1% and 42.9%, respectively, in Gaza.”¹⁰⁶

Palestinian women continue to earn less than their male counterparts, with an average daily wage of 60.7 New Israeli Shekels (NIS), compared with 81.3 NIS for men.¹⁰⁷ The NIS is the new currency of Israel introduced in 1986. The gap in Gaza is smaller than in the West Bank. One of the reasons for the latter is that since workers are no longer permitted to enter Israel, where they can earn higher wages, in Gaza wages are, in general, much lower.¹⁰⁸ In addition, many men are employed in the construction industry, where wages tend to be relatively higher, while women are generally employed in the agricultural and service sectors, where wages are typically lower.¹⁰⁹

⁹¹ Roudi-Fahimi, Farzaneh and Valentine M. Moghadam, *Empowering Women, Developing Society: Female Education in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2003, p. 1.

⁹² ESCWA, *Women’s Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p. 6.

⁹³ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁹⁴ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁹⁵ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁹⁶ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁹⁷ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

⁹⁸ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p.5.

⁹⁹ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

¹⁰⁰ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

¹⁰¹ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 5.

¹⁰² ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p.12.

¹⁰³ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p.12.

¹⁰⁴ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p.12.

¹⁰⁵ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p.12.

¹⁰⁶ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 13.

¹⁰⁷ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 24.

¹⁰⁸ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 24.

¹⁰⁹ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 24.

The protracted conflict in Palestine continues to pose significant challenges for women's economic empowerment and access to financial resources. In order to improve the situation of women in Palestine, a gender-aware, inclusive and conducive economic and social policy should be implemented by not only the PA, but also the government of Israel.¹¹⁰ Moreover, measures should be taken to increase awareness of the relationship between gender equality, labor, employment and development in order to integrate a gender perspective into the programmes of domestic institutions.¹¹¹ Finally, important "steps should be taken to facilitate the availability of credit to women, with a particular focus on training and building their capacity in business and economic development."¹¹²

Conclusion

Despite substantial progress in recent years, women in the ESCWA region continue to lag behind the rest of the world in their participation in the labor force, control over economic resources and access to financial resources.¹¹³ With only a very few exceptions, women have not attained decision-making positions in either the private or the public sector and are still viewed as care providers and homemakers.¹¹⁴ Given the status of women in the ESCWA region, it is essential that policy measures be formulated and adopted by each ESCWA member to ensure that women's economic contributions are both recognized and strengthened, in view of its positive impact not only on women, but on the economy and society at large.¹¹⁵

A recent proposal being circulated within ESCWA was to create a tripartite approach under the combined aegis of Government, civil society and international organizations.¹¹⁶ At the Government level, work should focus on generating reliable gender-disaggregated statistics with the support of specialized international organizations; promoting social policies that would enable women to achieve a balance between employment and care responsibilities, using the educational system to improve the image of women as active agents of change, production and development; abolishing all legislation that discriminates against women, adopting gender-responsive budgets, and involving women in the political sphere of the country.¹¹⁷ At the civil society level, actions should aim to provide women with business development services, and further promote the development of financial institutions that would extend credit to small and medium sized enterprises run by women.¹¹⁸ The political will from governments within the region is imperative to bring the required changes to fruition. Capacity and knowledge within civil society is also needed for ensuring that the economic opportunities available to women no longer lag behind their capabilities.¹¹⁹ Moreover, the acknowledgment of women about their rights in the economic and social spheres represents a great step towards achieving gender equality in the economic and financial sector.

In this regard, the key questions on women's control over the economic resources and access to financial resources in Western Asia is how can gender-based barriers be overcome in each Member State of the ESCWA? And how can these changes transform women into a productive member of the economic and financial sector? What kind of education policies should be implemented in order to provide women with the basis for achieving economic and financial independence, removing gender-stereotyped division of roles, and demanding equal working conditions to men? How can governments increase universal awareness of the importance of women as agents of change, production and development? What is needed for governments to move beyond merely ratifying international conventions on women issues and actually implement them? Is your government willing to introduce legislation to ensure equality between men and women in access to decent work and provide the necessary tools for implementing such legislations?

¹¹⁰ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 24.

¹¹¹ ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 24.

¹¹² ESCWA, *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*, 2009, p. 25.

¹¹³ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.6.

¹¹⁴ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.6.

¹¹⁵ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.34.

¹¹⁶ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.36.

¹¹⁷ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.7.

¹¹⁸ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.7.

¹¹⁹ ESCWA, *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources*, 2009, p.7.

II. Promoting Sustainable Peace and Development in Yemen

*We are...committed to helping Yemen achieve a future that builds upon the extraordinary talents of its people and the richness of its history...I am convinced that the people of Yemen can do more than overcome the threats that they face – they can build a future of greater peace and opportunity for their children.*¹²⁰

Introduction

Western Asia is a region full of significant disparities in terms of development, wealth, stability, and freedom. Yemen, by most accounts the poorest country in the region, is particularly vulnerable.¹²¹ While current headlines from and about Yemen typically seem to focus on the security implications of secessionist movements or terrorism, the country is in fact plagued by several structural economic and social impediments to development.¹²² The following paragraphs will thus provide background on Yemen's problems, analyze the role of the international community, and explore potential avenues towards sustainable peace and development in Yemen.

Yemen today

The Republic of Yemen, situated on the south end of the Arabian Peninsula, is a country with more than 23 million inhabitants.¹²³ In ancient history it was a country of relative wealth, in fact, it was known at the time as being part of "Felix Arabia" (Happy Arabia).¹²⁴ Under British colonial rule (1839-1967), Yemen existed in the form of two separate states, which, after their independence in the 1960s, became independent states, one in the north and one in the south.¹²⁵ The relationship of the two Yemeni states had been characterized by hostilities and border disputes. Since the southern Yemeni state had adopted a socialist orientation, this difficult relationship partly has been a consequence of the Cold War. In 1990, the two states agreed on the establishment of a unified Yemen.¹²⁶ Yet, despite formal unification, secessionist tendencies and violent unrest continued throughout the past twenty years.

A Fragile state

Yemen in the 21st century is characterized by persistent poverty, weak public services, secessionist and extremist violence, as well as socially and economically unsustainable macro-economic foundations.¹²⁷ An assessment by the World Bank from 2010 that living conditions are "difficult" becomes manifest when considering the following indicators.¹²⁸ Yemen, for instance, is among the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category, representing the poorest and weakest UN Member States.¹²⁹ As an LDC, Yemen suffers from extreme poverty, a structurally weak economy, and a general lack of capacity for sustainable development.¹³⁰ Recent studies find that 55% of Yemenis live below the poverty line and 35 % are undernourished; while 75 % of the rural population is without access to basic health services and 30% without access to clean water.¹³¹ Unemployment reached 35 % in 2003, the year with

¹²⁰ U.S. President Barack Obama, *Letter to the President of the Republic of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh*, 2010. Quoted in: Office of the Press Secretary, *Statement by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer*, September 20, 2010.

¹²¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. c; Hill, *Avoiding Freefall*, 2010, p. 4.

¹²² Many recent news articles and scholarly analyses concentrate on Yemen's security problems. For example, see: Graff, *Poverty, Development, and Violent Extremism in Weak States*, 2010; Holmes, *Is Yemen in the Middle of Another Undeclared War?*, 2010; International Crisis Group, *Yemen: Defusing the Saada Time Bomb*, 2009; Steinberg, *Der Jemen vor dem Staatszerfall?*, 2010.

¹²³ The World Factbook, *Yemen*, 2010.

¹²⁴ Wedeen, *Peripheral visions*, 2008, pp. 25–28.

¹²⁵ Ragab, *Jemen*, 2002.

¹²⁶ The World Factbook, *Yemen*, 2010.

¹²⁷ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹²⁸ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹²⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. c.

¹³⁰ United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, *The Least Developed Countries Report*, 2009, p. iii.

¹³¹ These figures are cited by C. Graff in Corinne Graff, *Poverty, Development, and Violent Extremism in Weak States*, 2010, pp. 63–69.

the most recent reliable figures; unemployed youth represent half of the absolute figure.¹³² Moreover, in a 2006 review of Yemeni economic and social policies, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) finds that the proportion of homes provided with electricity and sanitation were only 40 and 24 %, respectively.¹³³ The national coverage rate of education services and health services continued to decline to 68 and 50%, respectively.¹³⁴

Those and other indicators are expected to worsen by the pressures from population growth and demographic trends.¹³⁵ Yemen's population has more than doubled since 1980 and the population growth rate, though declining, remains as high as 3 %, being among the highest rates in international comparison.¹³⁶ A high growth rate of urbanization, at almost 5 % annually, poses severe problems to Yemen's development, too; even more so as about half of the urban population lives in poverty.¹³⁷ Yemen also is affected by the "youth bulge" phenomenon, meaning the state has an extremely large and fast-growing segment of young people among the population.¹³⁸ One of the many negative effects of a "youth bulge" is that overall economic productivity becomes significantly reduced, because more young people mean an increasing share of dependents in the dependency ratio.¹³⁹

Weak Political and Economic Governance

The Yemeni state is generally regarded as "incapable of providing welfare, protection, or education to the population."¹⁴⁰ Apart from these policy shortcomings, the institutional perspective shows that governance is structurally weak in Yemen.¹⁴¹ While in the early 1990s, Yemen was regarded as a regional role model for democratic participation and political liberalization, these trends have since been partially reversed.¹⁴² Political institutions today are overshadowed by informal power structures, elections are rigged, and the authorities increasingly rely on repressive methods.¹⁴³ Nevertheless, Yemen is still characterized as a relatively liberal authoritarian system, albeit without much promise for democratic reform.¹⁴⁴ Moreover, the Yemeni government is economically vulnerable because of its dependence on volatile and unsustainable oil export revenues, which are still the "country's principal source of revenue."¹⁴⁵ From an economic perspective, Yemen is facing problems as well.¹⁴⁶ Concerns are most often voiced about unsustainable water consumption, diminishing oil resources, wide-spread corruption and a large informal economy, a persistent fiscal and monetary crisis, and dire predictions of weak or no economic growth.¹⁴⁷ Furthermore, looking at weak governance, ESCWA in 2005 concluded that "[f]inancial and administrative corruption remains widespread, something that hinders any attempt at development or evolution."¹⁴⁸

¹³² The World Factbook, *Yemen*, 2010; United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, pp. 108–110 (the cited unemployment figures are from 2003). The "absence of reliable data on employment information" has also been noted by the World Bank. See The World Bank, *Yemen Quarterly Economic Review*, 2010, p. 4.

¹³³ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 22.

¹³⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 22.

¹³⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, pp. 34–37.

¹³⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, pp. 34–37. The total fertility rate is estimated to average at 4.8 children born per woman. The World Factbook, *Yemen*, 2010.

¹³⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, pp. 34–37; United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, p. 119 (endnote 19).

¹³⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, p. 36.

¹³⁹ The dependency ratio describes the proportion of the dependent (typically children, youth, and pensioners) to the productive (typically the active labor force) part of an economy. United Nations Development Programme, *Arab Human Development Report*, 2009, p. 36.

¹⁴⁰ Wedeen, *Peripheral visions*, 2008, p. 1.

¹⁴¹ Wedeen, *Peripheral visions*, 2008, p. 2-3.

¹⁴² Phillips, *Yemen's democracy experiment*, 2008.

¹⁴³ Albrecht, *Jemen*, 2006, p. 270. Worth monitoring is the current dispute over delayed general elections, for instance. Former Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul-Kareem al-Iryani, is quoted saying, "[i]f we cannot guarantee free and fair elections next year, we will not see democracy in my lifetime and a light will go out in the region." Hill, *Democracy on Hold in Yemen*, 2010.

¹⁴⁴ Phillips, *Yemen's democracy experiment*, 2008.

¹⁴⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, h.

¹⁴⁶ Hill, *Avoiding Freefall*, 2010.

¹⁴⁷ Caton, *Yemen: not on the verge of collapse*, 2010.

¹⁴⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 22.

Another evidence of weak governance is the fact that the “central government’s presence in rural Yemen is hardly perceptible.”¹⁴⁹

Stability at Risk

The weak institutional setup of the Yemeni government is adding to its security and stability problems, three of which are most pressing: First, there is growing threat from terrorist organizations – most notoriously al-Qaeda – which are “tapping into grassroots anger about corruption and economic mismanagement.”¹⁵⁰ Social and economic insufficiencies, separatism and violent unrest, as well as the lack of prospects for improvement for the growing share of young people of Yemen’s society are considered contributing factors for the terrorist threat.¹⁵¹ Foreign observers seem to concentrate mostly on these terrorism-related issues, especially since a Nigerian citizen recruited by terrorists in Yemen attempted to bomb an airplane in the United States in December 2009.¹⁵² Potentially more threatening is the second factor causing instability: the armed rebellion in the province of Sa’dah which has been destabilizing northern Yemen since 2004.¹⁵³ This conflict has been interrupted by a number of fragile ceasefire agreements; the current settlement ended the sixth bout of open fighting and has been in force since February 2010.¹⁵⁴ At present this conflict, which until recently involved Yemen’s northern neighbor Saudi Arabia, seems frozen –although, the government accused the rebels of more than 600 ceasefire violations.¹⁵⁵ The third, most threatening, risk to stability is the secessionist movement in the south of Yemen. This conflict has its origins in the unification of Yemen in 1990, which resulted in a brief but violent civil war in 1994. Though this conflict has so far not yet re-escalated into wide-spread violence (influential southern leaders prefer peaceful means), support for the cause is growing, as is the anger about the central government in Sana’a.¹⁵⁶

A catalyzing factor for instability is the fact that Yemen is ranking among the “most heavily armed societies” in the world, with the number of privately owned weapons estimated as high as 60 million, or almost three times the number of citizens.¹⁵⁷ This wide-spread possession of weapons, in combination with regular outbreaks of secessionist or extremist violence, adds to the overall instability of Yemen. As a consequence of the aforementioned social, economic, and security problems a growing number of observers today describe Yemen as a failed or failing state.¹⁵⁸

Avenues towards sustainable peace and development

Starting in the early 1990s, the government of unified Yemen recognized the fundamental problems facing the country and devised policies to overcome them. In 1995 it implemented a comprehensive program of “economic, financial, and administrative reform under the auspices and supervision of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.”¹⁵⁹ However, the measures included in this program – albeit showing some progress in macro-economic stability – did not directly translate into significant advancements in living standards or overall human development.¹⁶⁰ As a consequence of the less-than-desired results, a more comprehensive and balanced approach, the “Strategic Vision for Yemen, 2001-2025”, had been developed in 2001.¹⁶¹ The overall goal was to achieve the

¹⁴⁹ Graff, *Poverty, Development, and Violent Extremism in Weak States*, 2010, p. 66.

¹⁵⁰ Hill, *What is Happening in Yemen?*, 2010, p. 113.

¹⁵¹ Graff, *Poverty, Development, and Violent Extremism in Weak States*, 2010, p. 66-72.

¹⁵² Hill, *What is Happening in Yemen?*, 2010.

¹⁵³ International Crisis Group, *Yemen: Defusing the Saada Time Bomb*, 2009.

¹⁵⁴ Holmes, *Is Yemen in the Middle of Another Undeclared War?*, 2010.

¹⁵⁵ Hill, *What is Happening in Yemen?*, 2010, p. 109; Holmes, *Yemen in the Middle of Another Undeclared War?*, 2010.

¹⁵⁶ Hill, *What is Happening in Yemen?*, 2010, pp. 110–111.

¹⁵⁷ Wedeen, *Peripheral visions*, 2008, p. 1.

¹⁵⁸ See for example Worth, *Is Yemen the Next Afghanistan?*, 2010; Graff, *What You Should Know About Yemen*, 2010; Steinberg, *Der Jemen vor dem Staatszerfall?*, 2010. It is noteworthy however that some regard the recent reports about Yemen failing as exaggerated. For example, see Caton, *Yemen: not on the verge of collapse*, 2010; International Crisis Group, *Yemen: Defusing the Saada Time Bomb*, 2009, p. 28. L. Wedeen in her 2008 study even argues that a weak central state is a fundamental characteristic of the Yemeni society and not evidence of the state’s collapse. Wedeen, *Peripheral visions*, 2008.

¹⁵⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 17.

¹⁶⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 17.

¹⁶¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 17; Government of Yemen, *Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025*, 2005.

“level of mid-income countries by 2025.”¹⁶² But when looking at present annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates of about 4 % (1998-2008 average), there clearly is a gap between vision and reality since the Strategic Vision prescribes a 9 % GDP growth rate.¹⁶³

In response to shortcomings of these approaches from the 1990s, the government of Yemen has enacted a number of multi-year development plans, of which the latest has been the Third Development Plan for Poverty Reduction for the period 2006-2010.¹⁶⁴ One fundamental goal of this plan is to diversify Yemen’s economy, which is dominated by the oil sector.¹⁶⁵ Despite the gradual depletion of oil reserves and volatile export revenues, the oil industries are directly and indirectly accounting for 27% of GDP and 90% of merchandise exports.¹⁶⁶ The World Bank (2010) acknowledges that “significant progress has been made” in regards to the strategy, as the non-hydrocarbon growth rate reached 5.5% annually over 2004-2008.¹⁶⁷ In regards to infrastructure improvements, the World Bank also identifies successful programs on road-building and market access facilitation.¹⁶⁸

The Ten Points Reform Plan¹⁶⁹

A recent and ambitious new plan for reform has been the “Ten Point” plan, which has been put forward by a group of reformers, including the President’s son and a cabinet member.¹⁷⁰ The plan sets out an agenda to create jobs, improve public services such as water and power, and foster the rule of law.¹⁷¹ It has been endorsed by government officials both within the country and abroad.¹⁷² The authors of the plan hope to accomplish a set of visible goals along clear benchmarks, all within merely two years. A task force of public servants, instituted by the government, is currently working towards the realization of the plan. Although a final assessment might still be too early, one observer, David MacDonald from *Yemen Today*, sees “considerable momentum”.¹⁷³ Peter Alexander Albrecht, from the Danish Institute for International Studies, on the other hand finds that “there has not been a lot of movement by [Yemen’s President Ali Abdullah] Saleh on the Plan’s points” and that the “hard choices are, as yet, not being made.”¹⁷⁴ It remains thus to be seen, how much this Ten Point plan can achieve. ESCWA could supervise the progress or even contribute to it.

International support for Yemen’s development: “Friends of Yemen”

In January 2010 international partners of Yemen started the latest initiative to assist Yemen’s government. At the meeting in London the “Friends of Yemen” group was established, which includes the Group of Eight (G-8) countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Union.¹⁷⁵ The goal of this process is to improve coordination of international support (though it was not a donor conference) and to more closely involve Yemen’s neighbor countries, especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council.¹⁷⁶ The “Friends of Yemen” have installed two working groups – on the economy and the rule of law – which presented first recommendations in September 2010 on the occasion of the UN General Assembly session meeting in New York.¹⁷⁷ The process, which started in London, exemplifies a renewed focus on a more comprehensive and continued approach towards improved international engagement for Yemen,¹⁷⁸

¹⁶² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 17.

¹⁶³ The World Bank, *Yemen, Rep. at a glance*, 2009; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. 17.

¹⁶⁴ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹⁶⁵ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹⁶⁶ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹⁶⁷ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹⁶⁸ The World Bank, *Yemen Country Brief*, 2010.

¹⁶⁹ MacDonald. *The Path to Reform*, 2010.

¹⁷⁰ MacDonald. *The Path to Reform*, 2010.

¹⁷¹ Albrecht. *Think Twice Before Engaging in Yemen*, 2010, p. 3.

¹⁷² MacDonald. *The Path to Reform*, 2010, p. 48.

¹⁷³ MacDonald. *The Path to Reform*, 2010, p. 48.

¹⁷⁴ Albrecht. *Think Twice Before Engaging in Yemen*, 2010, p. 3.

¹⁷⁵ Federal Foreign Office of Germany, *Stability in Yemen*, 2010.

¹⁷⁶ Federal Foreign Office of Germany, *Stability in Yemen*, 2010.

¹⁷⁷ Friends of Yemen. *Joint Statement from the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Yemen on Friday 24 September 2010*, 2010.

¹⁷⁸ Hill, *What is Happening in Yemen?*, 2010, pp. 106-107.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and Yemen

In the past decade, Yemen has repeatedly been on the agenda of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). For instance in 2006, the 24th Ministerial Session reviewed Yemen's progress regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.¹⁷⁹ Topics like narcotics and shortcomings in the flow of development assistance were critically debated, and apparently not all present delegates were in full agreement with the ESCWA secretariat's report on the matter.¹⁸⁰ In 2006, the secretariat of ESCWA published another, more comprehensive, review of Yemen's development policies titled *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen in the Implementation of the new Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries During the Period 2001-2005*, which has been oft-cited in recent research on Yemen.¹⁸¹ In 2008 at the 25th Ministerial Session (which took place in Sana'a), ESCWA noted its satisfaction with Yemen's sustainable development efforts and decided to explore the possibility of scaled-up support by the Commission.¹⁸² For the 2010 26th Ministerial Session, the ESCWA secretariat reported on the follow-up activities pursuant to this resolution and referred to a number of new measures in regard to Yemen.¹⁸³

Conclusion: Issues and questions to consider

Yemen is an important topic for ESCWA. In fact, the Commission in 2006 even stated that “[b]ecause Yemen is the only least developed country (LDC) in the ... region, ESCWA feels that it is particularly important” to remain seized of the matter.¹⁸⁴ Yet which questions are most pressing for the upcoming session? The following questions might serve as a general guide for research.

Yemen has many domestic problems, from a widespread narcotics trade to dwindling water resources to violent unrest. Which topics are the most pressing and how should they be tackled? Since many of the problems already have been addressed in numerous internal and external action programs or development plans, how much progress can be seen towards solving these problems? The “Friends of Yemen” have called for more involvement of Yemen's neighboring countries. How can the neighbors of Yemen become more supportive and which measures might be considered? Looking at the “Friends of Yemen” approach itself, which lessons can be drawn from the recommendations of its working groups? And in regards to foreign support in general, what recommendations can ESCWA make to the “Friends of Yemen”, the Gulf Cooperation Council, or other foreign actors?

¹⁷⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Twenty-Fourth Session*, 2006, pp. 27–28.

¹⁸⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Twenty-Fourth Session*, 2006, pp. 27–28.

¹⁸¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006.

¹⁸² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session*, 2008, p. 16.

¹⁸³ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission*, 2010, pp. 13–14.

¹⁸⁴ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen*, 2006, p. c.

III. Realizing Sustainable and Secure Energy Supplies in the Region

“The world needs more energy and it needs cleaner, low carbon energy. We are moving quickly in order to deliver concrete results as soon as possible”¹⁸⁵

Introduction

The Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia are often seen as laggards when compared to international efforts to achieve sustainable and secure energy supplies. The six ESCWA members of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (which are also represented in the Gulf Cooperation Council) alone hold approximately 40% of proven global oil and 23.6% of proven global gas reserves.¹⁸⁶ The entire ESCWA region “enjoys immense fossil energy resources,” holding an estimated 57% of proven global oil reserves.¹⁸⁷ This wealth in fossil fuel resources traditionally has been a strong motivator to neglect investments in sustainable and clean energy sources.¹⁸⁸ Accordingly, especially oil-rich ESCWA countries are among the top contributors to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the world (in per-capita terms), a consequence of the unrestricted and extensive consumption of fossil fuels.¹⁸⁹

But the situation for ESCWA countries is changing. Rapidly increasing energy demand – fueled by demographic growth, ongoing industrialization, more need for electricity for desalinated water production and agriculture – means that the primary energy demand is predicted to double by 2030, in relation to 2003 figures.¹⁹⁰ In addition, fossil fuel supplies are limited and expected to be depleted within 40 to 60 years.¹⁹¹ Despite this fact, most fossil fuel exporters aim for even higher export ratios, adding to the need for diversification.¹⁹² Additional factors for change are environmental concerns, the high potential damage stemming from climate change, and growing international ambitions to find a foundation for the world economy that is less dependent on carbon-fuel.¹⁹³ These factors, plus the expectation of great political and economic opportunities arising from sustainable energy and development, have led ESCWA members to increasingly rethink their energy policies. In fact, ESCWA Member States have “expressed the greatest interest in renewable energy...as they seek vehicles for economic diversification.”¹⁹⁴

Carbon-based Energy in the ESCWA Region

The availability and abundance of natural resources can have a significant negative effect on a country’s economic, social, and political development.¹⁹⁵ The so called “resource curse” or “Dutch disease” implies that the large-scale export of (often newly discovered) natural resources functions as a negative factor on other sectors of an economy.¹⁹⁶ The term “Dutch disease” was coined when the Netherlands in the 1960s had discovered large supplies of natural gas, yet somehow failed to turn the immense windfall into overall economic benefit.¹⁹⁷ While there had been a sudden influx of financial capital due to the export of natural resources, other sectors of the economy –

¹⁸⁵ Al Jaber, *Message from the CEO*, 2010.

¹⁸⁶ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2395.

¹⁸⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The ESCWA Energy Sector Characteristics*, 2002, p. 1.

¹⁸⁸ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2398.

¹⁸⁹ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2395.

¹⁹⁰ Figures are for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The grouping includes all ESCWA countries plus several others like Iran, Israel, and Morocco. Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 179.

¹⁹¹ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 177.

¹⁹² Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 177.

¹⁹³ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, pp. 2396–2397.

¹⁹⁴ Mason, *Conclusion: Towards a Renewable Energy Transition in the Middle East and North Africa?*, 2009, p. 220.

¹⁹⁵ A comprehensive account of the phenomenon can be found in Auty, *Sustaining Development in Mineral Economies: The Resource Curse Thesis*, 1993.

¹⁹⁶ Friedman, *The First Law of Petropolitics*, 2006, p. 33.

¹⁹⁷ Friedman, *The First Law of Petropolitics*, 2006, p. 33.

besides mineral extraction and processing – were handicapped from the sudden increase of the currency’s international value, a consequence of the financial capital influx.¹⁹⁸ The stronger currency allowed citizens to begin importing goods which in turn renders locally manufactured goods uncompetitive due to the cheap cost of importing goods.¹⁹⁹ This phenomenon has since been observed in many other cases and few countries have managed to overcome it.

Historically, the “Dutch disease” and its accompanying symptoms are relevant to the current energy situation in the oil-rich Middle East, too. The abundance of natural resources has hampered the development of competitive industries besides fossil fuel extraction and processing, while the uninhibited use of inexpensive carbon-based energy rendered other forms of energy production uncompetitive.²⁰⁰ Moreover, the availability of immense incomes from fossil fuel exports turned oil-rich ESCWA countries into sclerotic “rentier states,” whose political elites use export revenues as instruments of political power.²⁰¹ In short, rentier states distribute large-scale revenues from fossil fuel exports among the population – e.g. with subsidized energy, free health care, extremely low taxation, or high-paying public sector jobs – in exchange for domestic compliance with the rule of the elites.²⁰²

Many problems, such as deficits in transparency, accountability, and democracy, have been attributed to the political economy of resource-coursed rentier state systems. In the present context, however, the effects on the energy sector are of particular importance. Thus, the relatively low costs of carbon-based energy created market structures in which the diversification of affected economies – energy consumption and production in particular – is severely delayed.²⁰³ This explains the persistent overall structure of primary energy production in the ESCWA region: Energy produced from crude oil represents over 82% of the current energy mix in the ESCWA region, while the share of gas-based energy is almost 17%.²⁰⁴ This leaves an energy production share of only 1.17% from combustible renewables and waste; 0.13% from hydro power; and 0.01% from geothermal, solar, and similar renewables.²⁰⁵ In sum, despite obvious efforts within the ESCWA region to diversify energy supply structures, the region remains utterly dependent on energy produced from fossil fuels.

Introducing Sustainability

The concept of *sustainable energy* encompasses energy sources that can continuously produce energy or power without depleting the source, in addition to being used and produced efficiently.²⁰⁶ When an energy source is truly sustainable, it can be continuously renewed and used efficiently and effectively to avoid depletion, such as solar energy, wind energy, geothermal and nuclear energy; unlike sources that must be extracted and potentially depleted such as crude oil, coal, and natural gas.²⁰⁷ However, not all sustainable energy practices are synonymous with *renewable* sources. For example, while nuclear power produces relatively few greenhouse gas emissions, it can neither be considered a sustainable source of energy, since it consumes finite fuel material, nor has it proved to be a completely secure form of energy production.²⁰⁸

¹⁹⁸ Friedman, *The First Law of Petropolitics*, 2006, p. 33.

¹⁹⁹ Friedman, *The First Law of Petropolitics*, 2006, p. 33.

²⁰⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2006-2007: Summary*, 2007, pp. 6–7.

²⁰¹ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2396.

²⁰² Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2396.

²⁰³ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2006-2007: Summary*, 2007, pp. 6–7.

²⁰⁴ Economic Commission for Europe, *Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation*, 2010, p. 125.

²⁰⁵ Economic Commission for Europe, *Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation*, 2010, p. 125.

²⁰⁶ Institute for Sustainable Energy, *Learn About Energy*, 2004.

²⁰⁷ Institute for Sustainable Energy, *Learn About Energy*, 2004.

²⁰⁸ Institute for Sustainable Energy, *Learn About Energy*, 2004.

Sustainable Energy Projects in the ESCWA Region

Realizing secure and sustainable energy production in the ESCWA region is essential in order to combat the region's inefficient and unstable reliance on fossil fuels.²⁰⁹ Renewable resources in the ESCWA region include solar, wind, biomass, agricultural fuels, and hydro power.²¹⁰ Solar energy, in particular, is an important opportunity for ESCWA Member States, as they enjoy optimal conditions for its large-scale utilization. The Middle East has one of the world's highest solar radiation rates that lasts for large portions of the year, making it possible for countries in the region to capitalize on solar energy opportunities.²¹¹ Wind energy is another sustainable source of energy in the region that is being under-utilized; although countries such as Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon are expanding the use of wind energy in their countries.²¹² An example of a promising future for wind energy in the region is the Lebanese government's development of wind turbines in the country and current work producing a wind energy map, which will make more informed decisions on wind-energy investment in the future possible.²¹³ Yet biomass energy and hydropower still face significant challenges in the region. Both categories of energy sources combined contribute less than 2% to primary energy production in the ESCWA region and thus have so far only "marginal impact on both production and consumption" of energy.²¹⁴ But efforts to expand the use of renewable biomass-based energy sources are being pursued. Jordan is leading the region in bio-energy projects in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Jordan Biogas Company (JBCO).²¹⁵

ESCWA Member States have started taking steps toward sustainability at a community level in various sectors of their local economies. Lebanon, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Syria, Egypt and Oman have all begun integrating various sustainable energy policies into practice.²¹⁶ Lebanon is working on integrating private sector involvement in the power sector; Yemen is developing a renewable energy strategy in rural areas, as well as adopted energy policies for sustainability; the UAE has a wind farm pilot project, policies for improving the energy sector sustainability, and private sector involvement; Qatar has created a program for energy efficiency and private sector involvement in the electric power sector; Syria plans to introduce compressed gas technology for land transport; and finally, Egypt and Oman have integrated private sector involvement in generation and management of power sector.²¹⁷

Exploring the Nuclear Energy Option

Besides renewable energies, some ESCWA Member States have also started to develop ambitious plans for civilian nuclear energy programs. Because of the need to secure sustainable energy supplies in the nearing post-oil age and the high costs associated with renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, nuclear energy became a viable alternative in the eyes of most ESCWA Member States.²¹⁸ Apparently most advanced on this track is the United Arab Emirates, which ordered four nuclear reactors from a company based in the Republic of Korea for \$20 billion in December 2009.²¹⁹ After the discovery of extensive uranium reserves, Jordan plans to produce a third of its domestic energy supply with nuclear energy by 2030.²²⁰ Also Saudi Arabia has announced its nuclear ambitions.²²¹

²⁰⁹ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 179.

²¹⁰ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 179.

²¹¹ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 181.

²¹² Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 181.

²¹³ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, p. 181.

²¹⁴ Economic Commission for Europe, *Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation*, 2010, pp. 125–126.

²¹⁵ Al-Widyan & Al-Muhtaseb, *Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems*, 2009, pp. 182–183.

²¹⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. *Progress Achieved on Energy for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region*, 2006, p. 14.

²¹⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Progress Achieved on Energy for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region*, 2006, p. 7.

²¹⁸ Lukas, *Is the Middle East Becoming a Clean-Energy Mecca?*, 2010.

²¹⁹ Lukas, *Is the Middle East Becoming a Clean-Energy Mecca?*, 2010.

²²⁰ Lukas, *Is the Middle East Becoming a Clean-Energy Mecca?*, 2010.

²²¹ Lukas, *Is the Middle East Becoming a Clean-Energy Mecca?*, 2010.

Inevitably, civilian nuclear energy programs raise questions about security implications.²²² Especially when considered in the wider geopolitical context, the near-future use of nuclear energy is likely to become a key issue in the region. It remains to be seen how nuclear energy can contribute to secure and sustainable energy supplies in the region without posing a threat to peace and security. ESCWA, along with other international actors, could play an important role here.

Case Study: Abu Dhabi's Masdar City Project

The ESCWA region features a great diversity of countries with differing social, economic, and political structures, varying access to and use of economic resources, and country-specific development strategies and capabilities. Thus it is evident that oil-rich and relatively wealthy Abu Dhabi, an emirate of the United Arab Emirates with a great degree of sovereignty, possesses the clout to invest heavily in sustainable energy projects, while other actors in the region may lack the capacities to do this on a similar scale. Moreover, Abu Dhabi's government also has the political will to explore new ways to transform its economy "from a 20th Century, carbon-based economy into a 21st Century sustainable economy."²²³ Therefore, it can be worthwhile to analyze the Masdar City project, Abu Dhabi's most prestigious sustainable energy project. Yet it should also be clear that the ambitious project might not be a viable model for every state in the ESCWA region.

The recent and wide-renowned project is mostly focused on the construction of carbon-neutral and zero-waste Masdar City, which will bring on a large scale innovative and sustainable city-planning, construction, and energy technologies into the ESCWA region. Masdar City is part of the broader Abu Dhabi "Masdar Initiative," a strategy announced in 2006.²²⁴ It is estimated that the government of Abu Dhabi invested more than \$15 billion into the initiative's framework.²²⁵ The venture is mostly controlled and funded by Abu Dhabi's government and foresees large investments in projects under the umbrella of the UN Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol; financial investments and participation in international sustainable energy enterprises; property and industry development (mostly) for the construction of Masdar City; and the establishment of a new Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) in Masdar City.²²⁶ According to the plans, the town will be completed after ten years of construction in 2016 and will then host a population of 90,000, branches of over 1500 companies, the new MIST, and the 2008-founded International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).²²⁷ For the construction and servicing of Masdar City, the planners have the ambition to mostly use renewable and sustainable technologies, so that the city in sum will be carbon-neutral and produce zero waste.

The government of Abu Dhabi hopes that this beacon project will produce significant spill-over effects on policies, technologies, business, and culture for the entire region and thus help "transforming oil wealth into renewable energy leadership."²²⁸ Another important motivation is to promote Abu Dhabi's "transition from technology consumer to technology producer."²²⁹

A complete evaluation of the project's benefits is hard to accomplish before the successful completion of construction. Yet some trends can be assessed already. On the one hand, many of the project's objectives are still on-paper only and seem overly ambitious: For example, despite the envisaged settlement of 1500 companies in Masdar City, many companies have so far only voiced their interest to acquire orders in construction, and seemed

²²² See for example Jackson, *Nuclear Energy and Proliferation Risks: Myths and Realities in the Persian Gulf*, 2009.

²²³ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 2.

²²⁴ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 3.

²²⁵ Economic Commission for Europe, *Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation*, 2010, p. 134.

²²⁶ One important cooperation partner for MIST is the U.S. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, pp. 3–4.

²²⁷ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 2.

²²⁸ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 2.

²²⁹ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 2.

less interested in investing.²³⁰ It is also unclear who will want to move to Masdar City, since Abu Dhabi's population is expected to decline and the new city has yet to deliver on living conditions or jobs.²³¹ The financial foundation for the ambitious project can be considered shaky, too, especially since the financial near-collapse of the neighboring emirate Dubai in 2009.²³² However, when looking at the bright side of the project, some achievements can be witnessed already. Masdar City has been an impressive publicity success and helped to present Abu Dhabi, or even the entire region, as a new player in the sustainable-economy competition and raised awareness of sustainable development topics in the region.²³³ Also, after merely four years, the construction is already well on track; the MIST, for instance, opened in fall 2009.²³⁴ The Masdar Initiative also has motivated Abu Dhabi's neighbors to engage in similar projects and to reinforce their efforts towards sustainable development.²³⁵ In sum, Masdar City so far is only an expensive experiment on a very large scale, but this and similar projects clearly point to a trend in the region.

Opportunities for Sustainable and Secure Energy

Achieving secure, sustainable energy sources will greatly impact the success of sustainable development in the ESCWA region. In regards to how ESCWA Member States specifically can work together to improve the sustainability of their energy supplies in order to positively impact the sustainability of the political, economic, and social development of the ESCWA region, ESCWA Member States have already established three preliminary areas of opportunity for the region: 1) international support regarding the importance of energy supplies, 2) regional cooperation, and 3) regional energy integration programs.²³⁶ These opportunities provide the foundation of a plan of action for the region and can focus current and future efforts towards achieving sustainable, secure energy supplies. Regional cooperation among ESCWA Member States is essential to achieve these goals. An important issue for the entire region will be to find viable ways towards regional cooperation on sustainable, secure energy supplies.²³⁷

ESCWA Member States also have the opportunity to work outside of the region to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with neighboring regions. Of great potential in this regard is the export of energy to European states; a number of ambitious projects are already being pursued. One greatly publicized project is the Desertec initiative, which aims to export solar energy across the Mediterranean Sea to European markets.²³⁸ ESCWA Member States would do right to assess the potential of cooperation on this or similar projects.

Conclusion: Topics and Questions to consider

The Member States of ESCWA have realized that the need to achieve a transition towards sustainable energy-based economies is great. Many have already started to explore ways towards this goal, and some smaller and larger projects are already completed or well on the way. Yet the topic includes a great variety of questions that still need to be answered.

As the economic and political capabilities vary greatly in the region, how can the transition towards sustainable energy be achieved in an equitable and cooperative way? Should ESCWA play an important role here?

²³⁰ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 3.

²³¹ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 3.

²³² Butters, *Will Dubai's Financial Problems Spread?*, 2009.

²³³ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 4.

²³⁴ Reiche, *Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi*, 2010, p. 2.

²³⁵ Reiche, *Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states*, 2010, p. 2402.

²³⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving a Sustainable Energy Sector: Executive Summary of ESCWA Briefing Paper No. 3*, 2002, pp. 1–2.

²³⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving a Sustainable Energy Sector: Executive Summary of ESCWA Briefing Paper No. 3*, 2002, p. 2.

²³⁸ Desertec Foundation, *Red Paper. An Overview of the Desertec Concept*. (Third Edition), 2010, p. 8.

As some countries have initiated smaller and larger projects – based on varying forms of energy production – which deserve to become models for the entire region? And regarding governance, can the traditional rentier state system (which seemingly continues to prevail in the region) be reformed to contribute more to the expansion of sustainable energy? Can the governments do more to incentivize citizens as well as businesses to do more for energy efficiency and sustainable energy utilization?

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Destremau, B. et al. (2004). *ESCWA: Striving for Regional Integration*. In Y. Berthelot (Ed.), *Unity and Diversity in Development Ideas. Perspectives from the UN regional commissions*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana Univ. Press.

The authors of this chapter provide a comprehensive analysis of ESCWA's role and functioning. The authors write from an academic perspective and present insightful background on the commission. Also, this chapter aptly explores the special political and historical circumstances which determine ESCWA's activities. The compilation in which this chapter is included was edited by Yves Berthelot and is the most recent comprehensive historical analysis of the UN regional commissions.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005). *Progress made by ESCWA member countries in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/5)*. Retrieved on August 2, 2010, from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/grid-05-5.pdf>.

This publication assesses the performance of ESCWA Member States' in regards to the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development from 2002. Thus, it provides a first-class analysis on the region's strengths and weaknesses in development financing. This report is exemplary of how ESCWA manages to conduct comprehensive and critical studies of its Member States' political performance.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2005). *Towards integrated social policies in Arab countries: Framework and comparative analysis (E/ESCWA/SDD/2005/4)*. Retrieved on August 02, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/SDD-2005-4-e.pdf>.

Since 2002, ESCWA has focused on exploring ways towards more integrated social policies in the region. This publication reports on ESCWA's findings and identifies approaches to enhance the integration and effectiveness of its Member States' social policies. In doing so, the authors do not hesitate to criticize countries in the region, thus setting an example for ESCWA's impartial work.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008). *ESCWA At a Glance*. Retrieved on August 02, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/Glance.pdf>.

This brochure can serve as a first and compact introduction to the commission's work. Without going too much into detail, it provides information on ESCWA's mission, themes, organization, and activities. Especially noteworthy are the self-identified accomplishments of the commission on pages 24 and following. The brochure will provide delegates with an overall view of the structure and functioning of ESCWA.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2008). *Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/upload/frep25E.pdf>.

In 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its biennial ministerial session in Sana'a, Yemen. This document is the final report of the session. Among other issues, the ministerial session adopted resolutions on climate change, development and peace, statistics, a regional technology centre, or integrated social policies. In this session, ESCWA also agreed to extend membership to Sudan.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Assessment of Trade Policy Trends and Implications for the Economic Performance of the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/1)*. Retrieved on August 02, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/edgd-09-1-e.pdf>.

This document was published by the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) of ESCWA as part of its activities in the area of trade policy. It presents an evaluation of ESCWA member countries' performance in trade policies and development issues and suggests some recommendations in this regard. The study is composed of four chapters that include issues such as trade policies and practices, growth and effects of trade policies on the ESCWA region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2010). *ESCWA At a Glance*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/main.asp>.

ESCWA's Web site provides a short introduction of the Commission in this section. The introduction includes the history of the commission, its membership, objectives and mission. The Web site can serve as an initial avenue for researching topics and background on ESCWA. However, the access to ESCWA's publications is not very well-arranged.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2010). *Report on the Twenty-Sixth Session*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session26/editor/Download.asp?table_name=sess26_documents&field_name=ID&FileID=49.

In May 2010, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its 26th ministerial session at the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon; this document reports on key outcomes. The Commission adopted three resolutions on conflict-related issues, the upgrading of the ESCWA Centre for Women to division level, and the establishment of the ESCWA technology centre. Also included is a summary of main points raised in the discussions.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2010) *Governing Body*. Retrieved on October 5, 2010 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov.asp>

This Web site includes information about the Governing Body of the Commission, the frequency of its sessions and its participants. It also describes the seven specialized subsidiary inter-governmental committees that report to the ministerial session of the Commission. Although the Web site is not fully detailed it provides delegates with an overall understanding of the internal functioning of the Commission and its Governing Body.

Economic and Social Council (n.d.). *Subsidiary Bodies of the Economic and Social Council*. Retrieved on October 5, 2010 from: <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/subsidiary.html>

This Web site provides a very exhaustive list of all ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies including its Functional Commissions, Regional Commissions, Standing Committees, Ad hoc bodies, expert bodies composed of governmental experts and expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity. The site might serve as an initial entry for delegates to obtain information about the different regional commissions under the ECOSOC mandate.

Jolly, R. and Emmerij, L. (2010). *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*. Retrieved on August 17, 2010, from: <http://www.unhistory.org/briefing/22WestAsia.pdf>.

This document was published in 2010 by the United Nations Intellectual History Project which was established in 1999 by the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies of The Graduate Center of The City University of New York. The cited document is part of the Briefing Notes series and provides excellent background on the history of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. It includes an evaluation of ESCWA performance since the 1970s until the 1990s.

Malinowski, W. (1962). *Centralization and Decentralization in the United Nations Economic and Social Activities*; Vol. 16. United States: University of Wisconsin Press. Retrieved on October 5, 2010 from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2705180>

This article focus on the processes of Centralization and Decentralization in the United Nations Economic and Social Activities. The document is based on the adoption of two resolutions by the General Assembly on decentralization and economic planning and its consequences for the operational field activities of the UN. In this regard, the article recognizes the ascendancy of forces which have become increasingly apparent in the world organization.

Spröte, W. (2002). *ECOSOC - Economic and Social Council*. In Helmut Volger (Ed.), *A Concise Encyclopedia of the United Nations*. The Hague: Kluwer Law Internat.

This is an entry in the "Concise Encyclopedia of the United Nations" on the Economic and Social Council. It provides background on history, functions, organization, and role of the ECOSOC. Since the ECOSOC supervises the workings of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, this source is very useful to find out about the purpose, role of the ECOSOC and its supervision over its regional commissions.

Stoll, P. (1995). *Economic Commissions, Regional*. In R. Wolfrum (Ed.), *United Nations. Law, policies and practice; Volume 1-2*. Munich (et al.): Beck (et al.).

This article is an entry in the encyclopedia "United Nations. Law, policies and practice". On only a dozen pages, it describes origins, functions, organization, and relevance of the five regional economic commissions of the United Nations. While it is an excellent and precise reference on the commissions in general, specific details on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia are held rather short. However it will provide delegates with detailed information about the five regional commissions under the ECOSOC mandate.

Stoll, P. (2002). *Economic Commissions, Regional*. In Helmut Volger (Ed.), *A Concise Encyclopedia of the United Nations*. The Hague: Kluwer Law Internat.

This is an updated, but shorter, version of Peter-Tobias Stoll's background on the United Nations regional economic commissions from 1995. It can serve delegates as a precise and recent reference for the research of the regional commissions. It is part of the compilation "A Concise Encyclopedia on the United Nations", which is an excellent source for background on the United Nations.

Szasz, P. and Willisich, J. (2001). *Regional Commissions of the United Nations*. In Rudolf Bernhardt (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Public International Law: Vol. 4*. Amsterdam: North-Holland.

This encyclopedia is a very useful and comprehensive reference work for a great variety of issues of international law, which is the basic foundation of the United Nations. The encyclopedia is continuously edited and updated under the auspices of the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht. This entry by Paul C. Szasz and Jan Willisich, written in 198 and amended in 1997, describes history, structure, activities, and the roles of the UN regional economic commissions.

United Nations (1945). *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*. Retrieved on August 17, 2010, from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>.

The Charter of the United Nations is the foundational treaty of the UN. It has been signed in 1945 in San Francisco, USA. It is composed by an introductory note, a preamble and 19 chapters. The UN's work and competences are based on this important document.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council (1973). *Resolution 1818 (LV): Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010 from <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/resolution.htm>.

With this resolution from 1973, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the predecessor of ESCWA, the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In 1985, the commission was re-designated and assumed its present name.

I. Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources

Arab International Women's Forum. (2007). *Women as Engines of Economic Growth in the Arab World - Moving Forward*. A report of the round-table meeting on 25 January 2007 at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London. Retrieved October 19, 2010, from:

<http://www.aiwfonline.co.uk/downloads/AIWF%20FCO%20Report07.pdf>

This report is an account of the roundtable proceedings held in London, outlining the progress made since 2005 on implementing the recommendations and identifying areas where action is still required within a previous report on this topic. The report provides an analysis of the gaps and

the broad discussion points, as well as the way forward on this issue within the Arab region. This resource will be extremely useful for delegates in their preparation on this topic.

Dixon, Ruth B. (1982). *Women in Agriculture: Counting the Labor Force in Developing Countries*. Retrieved on August 3, 2010 from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1972379>.

This article looks at the role of women in agriculture in developing countries and analyzes how women working in agriculture are often overlooked and not accounted for in labor statistics. The paper compares the total counts of men and women in the farm labor force (self-employed, wage laborers, and unpaid family helpers) obtained from population censuses and surveys, from estimates prepared by the International Labour Office, and from censuses of farm holdings coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations--each of which follows different definitions and procedures. Whereas the three sources reveal quite similar counts of men in the labor force on average, they differ remarkably in their counts of women. New estimates based on the more inclusive practices of the FAO censuses substantially raise the proportions female in the agricultural labor force above those reported by the ILO. With its censuses, surveys and detailed statistics, the article will assist delegates in informing themselves about the role of women in agriculture in developing countries.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources (E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/2/Rev.1)*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ecw-09-2-e.pdf>

This is the main report that ESCWA put out on the topic in 2009 and the most important document both for the writing of this background guide and as a resource to guide delegates in their own research and understanding of what ESCWA has already done regarding the topic. The paper outlines exhaustively the economic status of women in the ESCWA region, gender-based barriers to the economic empowerment of Arab women, and presents some important recommendations on these issues. The document will be excellent for delegates to not only see what has been done already but also give them the opportunity to ask themselves and other delegates where they will take the topic in this simulation. Therefore it is not only essential for learning the background and the issues at hand, but also serves as a catalyst for questions and analysis.

Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia. (2009). *Report of the Committee on Women: Fourth session*. Retrieved on August 10, 2010 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/committees/women/ecw4e7.pdf>

This report was published by ESCWA's Committee on Women and the topic of discussion is ESCWA's report on Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources (E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/2/Rev.1.). In this document the committee presents on ESCWA's main report and discusses specific aspects of the document and how to implement it. The committee also focuses on obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and follows up on issues from the third session of the committee. This source is helpful for understanding specific aspects of the overall ESCWA report on the topic as well as seeing where women in the region are on other issues.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Center for Women. (n.d.). *ESCWA Holds Regional Workshop on Women for Arab Parliaments*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/ecwnewsdetails.asp?id=62&division=ECW>

This article presents an outline of the Regional Workshop on Women for Arab Parliaments and aims to inform participants about the contents and monitoring body of CEDAW and highlight the role of parliaments in the reporting process to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It lays out the visions on women's issues, like violence, and discrimination, of representatives of the different Western Asian nations. Although, the article is not detailed enough; it can serve as a point of reference for delegates on what actions have the ESCAW take to tackle discrimination and violence against women.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Center for Women. (n.d). *ESCWA, Bahrain Sign MoU*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/ecwnewsdetails.asp?id=50&division=ECW>

This article is a brief description of the signing of the MoU between Secretary Bader AlDafa and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women, Lulua Al Awadi aimed at achieving the implementation of youth and women-centered programs and taking the cooperation in women issues between the parties to new levels. Even though, the document is not exhaustive; it represents an entry for delegates to research on the work of the ESCWA Center for Women.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (n.d.). *Database on Gender and the Empowerment of Women in the Arab Region*. Retrieved October 19, 2010, from:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/databases/ecwpubs/pub.asp>.

This database, managed by ESCWA, divides relevant resources into 13 categories based loosely on the major areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. Of particular interest to delegates is the theme "Economic Activity" within which delegates can find a myriad of resources relevant to this topic. Although the database does not seem to have been updated in the last year, the resources are still invaluable and should be a high priority for all delegates.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Social and Economic Situation on Palestinian Women 2006-2009*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ecw-09-TP1.pdf>

This study published by the ESCWA in 2009 represents an exhaustive analysis of the economical and social situation of Palestinian women. It includes an analysis of the political framework of Palestine and the economic conditions and political participation of the population. It focuses on the achievement of women's rights and political, social, and economic development in Palestine. The study is also a great source of statistics regarding labor participation, employment, and education, etc. It includes also recommendations on how to achieve better conditions for women. The document will give delegates a broad perspective of the status of women in Palestine, which can serve as an example of the situation of women in the whole Arab region and as a point of departure for analyzing possible solutions to the issue at hand.

Euromed Women's Rights. (n.d.). *Gender Equality Database*. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from:

http://www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net/search_main.html.

Gender Equality Database, managed by Euromed, is a framework that covers analysis of the situation of women in each of the ten Mediterranean countries. Of particular interest to delegates is the Euromed Role of Women in Economic Life programme database, which aims at enhancing the role and involvement of Mediterranean public governmental and non-governmental institutions to facilitate and expand opportunities for women's economic participation. The mapping of research and studies on issues related to gender equality in the MEDA region revealed a number of gaps that need to be addressed, and will assist delegates in guiding their research. Specific resources within the database include, "Comparative Analysis of Economic Situation of Women in Ten South Mediterranean Countries" by Fawzi El-Solh, and "Women at Work: Insights on Employment and Entrepreneurship in Mediterranean Partner Countries" by Euromed.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (n.d.). *Role of Women in Agriculture*. Retrieved on August 3, 2010 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/V9322E/v9322e01.htm>

This source outlines the role of women in agriculture, including the division of labor by gender and gender relations in decision-making in farming activities. While there is a lack of data in this field this fact sheet on the role of women in agriculture puts together a good amount of statistics and cultural observations in order to produce a decent publication on the subject. While this particular source focuses on Lebanon, elsewhere in the site has access to other countries in the region. The fact sheet will provide delegates with current information on the specifics of the situation of women working in the agricultural sector which will serve as an entry to analyse the overall situation of women in the Arab region.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) & CAWTAR. 2007. *Women Entrepreneurs in the Middle East and*

North Africa: Characteristics, Contributions and Challenges. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from: http://www.cawtar.org/Assets/Documents/pdf/Women_Entrepreneurs_in_the_ME_Jun07.pdf.

This project report aims to provide relevant and focused information on the characteristics, contributions and challenges of women business owners in five Middle East and North African (MENA) countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. This report, however, is a very useful by-product of a larger regional capacity building initiative that uses IFC's Gender Entrepreneurship Markets (GEM) survey methodology to promote the ability of both businesswomen's associations and research centers to better serve the needs of women business owners, and to better advocate for their interests. It is expected that its release will encourage further, more detailed study.

International Labor Organization. (2010). *Decent Work in Arab States*. Retrieved August 10, 2001 from: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/arpro/beirut/decent/index.htm>

The International Labor Organization is a helpful website for obtaining specific statistics about labor in the region as well as examining different labor programs and initiatives in the region. This specific section of the ILO site is dedicated to achieving decent work in Arab States. This section outlines projects and programs underway in ESCWA member states and goals and challenges the region faces. This source is very important to understanding women's situation in labor in the region and where issues still need to be addressed.

Kabeer, Naila. (2009). *A Plea for the Economic Empowerment of Women*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010, from: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/a-plea-for-the-economic-empowerment-of-women>

This article was written by the lead writer of the 2009 UN World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. While the UN report deals largely with development, in this article the author specifically discusses the need for economic empowerment of women in order to obtain developmental progress. The article presents a survey on the economic empowerment of women through promoting their access to the variety of resources they need in order to balance their work and family lives. This suits the topic of discussion and will give delegates a brief introduction to the immense importance of economic empowerment of women in order to improve their own sense of wellbeing and dignity.

Karshenas, Massoud. (1997). *Economic Liberalization, Competitiveness and Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from:

<http://mercury.soas.ac.uk/economics/workpap/adobe/wp79.pdf>

This paper published by the University of London focuses on the economic status of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and how to structurally change their position through economic policy. The paper analyses economic liberalization in the region and how that translates into women's employment opportunities. The article could be used as a important instrument for delegates to explore the insights of the MENA region in terms of its economic policies and its consequences on women. It will also provide the delegates with exhaustive information about the integration of the MENA region into the global economy and its direct impacts on the role of women within a patriarchal society.

Mammen, Kristin and Christina Paxson. (n.d.). *Women's Work and Economic Development*. Retrieved on August 3, 2010 from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2647079>

This essay discusses how the role of women in the labor force varies with the level of economic development. The paper analyzes the roles and types of jobs women have in society and their similarities despite being across diverse countries. This paper specifically looks at India and Thailand which is not within the purview of ESCWA, however the theoretical aspects of this paper will be helpful for delegates to understand the theories behind women's participation in their economies and the way labor varies with the level of economic development of each country.

Mehra, Rekha. (1997). *Women, Empowerment, and Economic Development*. Retrieved on November 16, 2009 from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1049571>.

This article looks at the inequality of investment and empowerment of women as a part of economic development. The author attributes this inequality to the higher investments on

women's reproductive roles rather than their productive/economic roles in society. The author argues that often development strategies target and respond to poor women's need of income and only make a small investment to help rectify this need based on a welfare perspective. The latter is done by helping women get part time jobs and other temporary solutions rather than investing in women as part of development. This source is a theoretical article about women, empowerment and economics that doesn't necessarily focus on the ESCWA region but can be used by delegates as background information on the larger context of this topic and to understand the situation of women in the ESCWA region.

Roudi-Fahimi, Farzaneh and Valentine M. Moghadam. (2003). *Empowering Women, Developing Society: Female Education in the Middle East and North Africa*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, from: <http://www.prb.org/pdf/EmpoweringWomeninMENA.pdf>

This source focuses mainly on the benefits to society for educating women. While this is not directly a part of the topic at hand; it is important to research in order to understand the current status of women's control over economic resources as well as how to improve the economic status of women. The paper poses education as a key part of strategies to improve women's well-being and societies' economic and social development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The source discusses how access to education has begun to increase for women in the MENA region, resulting in more women in the workforce. The article represents an important source for delegates to understand the relationship between women empowerment and education in the developing nations.

United Nations (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. Retrieved on August 10, 2010 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/index.html>

This report outlines a series of strategic objectives that fall under the category of women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources. This is an important document for the topic because it created strategic objectives that directly relate to the issue at hand. It also presents a description of the achievements of the Commission on the Status of Women in Beijing and its follow up. The report will be used in the background guide to outline what objectives have already been established. This source should also help delegates in their research of what has been done and where to go with their own objectives.

United Nations. (2005). *The United Nations Fourth Conference on Women*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm#statement>

This Web site presents a detailed description of the Beijing Platform for Action. It includes its mission statement, global framework, critical areas of concern and strategic objectives and actions. The Web site also includes links to previous World Conferences on Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Expert Group Meeting, recent publications, among others. The Web site is excellent for delegates to familiarize themselves with the specifics of the Platform for Action, which will serve as an indispensable source for understanding the core issues related to women empowerment.

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. (2008). *Report of the fifty-second session (E/2008/27)*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from: [http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2008/27\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2008/27(SUPP)).

This document outlines the conclusions of the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It is divided in seven chapters and includes drafts and adopted resolutions on women's issues like, women and HIV/AIDS, ending female genital mutilation, release of women and children taken hostage, among others. The paper also presents detailed information about agreed conclusions on financing gender equality and the empowerment of women. The report is an important source of research for delegates regarding the efforts made by the CSW in the last couple of years and provides substantial information on the status of women on the twenty first century.

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women.(2011). *55th session*. Retrieved on September 15, 2010 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm>

This Web site presents the priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women for the year 2011: access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. It further outlines the preparation for the 55th session of the Commission. Although, this site is not detailed enough, it will serve delegates as a point of departure to analyse the current issues on the agenda and how they relate to the topic at hand.

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. (n.d.). *About the Commission*. Retrieved on August 12, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>

The Commission on the Status of Women is an essential gateway to access many resources on gender such as the Beijing Platform and other topics that the commission has discussed, or is discussing presently, that will help understand the topic at hand. While this is not region specific, it has many international goals and challenges that will pertain to the topic and region. This Web site includes an overview of the Commission, its mandate, membership and composition. Moreover, this Web site will be extremely helpful to delegates in order for them to understand the activities and functions of the Commission and how it might work to improve women's access to financial and economic resources in the Arab region.

United Nations. General Assembly. (1979). *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women*. Retrieved on August 11, 2010 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a great resource and tool for delegates to see on an international scale the rights that should be universally granted to women and from there analyze where the region is falling short in terms of the topic. CEDAW goes hand in hand with the International Bill of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter. Various articles within the text pertain directly to the topic at hand which makes it a relevant source for understanding women's rights in this specific context.

United Nations World Survey on the Role of Women and Development. (2009). *At a Glance, Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources-factsheet*. Retrieved on August 3, 2010 from: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/ws2009/documents/DESA_Survey_FactSheet.pdf

This fact sheet breaks down the topic into subsections such as women's voice in decision-making, women entrepreneurs' access to financial services, access to full employment and decent work, and education and skills development. It also gives background information from the original ESCWA report in a bullet point and summary format. It is a more concise document that recaps the ESCWA report on the topic and a good source for delegates to get a comprehensive overview of the issue as well as facts and figures that are broken down into bullet points.

United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. (n.d.). *Women Watch Resources*. Retrieved on August 10, 2010, from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/resolutions.htm>

This Web site is extremely useful and essential for understanding the situation of women globally and regionally and the efforts made by the collaboration between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies outside its realm. The Web site can be used as a portal to various reports, publications, and United Nations Resolutions pertaining to the topic. It can also serve as a source of important information for delegates on the United Nations system policy and strategy on Gender Mainstreaming. The Web site also includes relevant links for obtaining information about the members of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its current functions and activities.

United Nations Development Fund for Women, Arab States Sub-Regional Office. (2004). *Progress of Arab Women*. Rabat: UNIFEM. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from: http://www.unifem.org/materials/item_detail.php?ProductID=89

The report provides insight into the world of Arab women and identifies progress in their social, economic and political security. While it celebrates the achievements of Arab women to date, it also identifies the challenges and impediments that women face as they work to become effective and powerful stakeholders within their families, communities and societies. The report covers substantial ground, providing evidence and insight into the vast influences that challenge women's

security in the region. It opens with a brief overview of human security and explanation of its role in the region's women's movement. The report continues by analyzing various aspects of human security unique to the Arab culture, including the interrelationship between private and public spheres. The author addresses some implications these have on women's security.

United Nations Development Program. (n.d.). *Program on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR) Country Theme: Gender Lebanon*. Retrieved on August 10, 2010 from:

<http://www.pogar.org/countries/theme.aspx?cid=9&t=4>

This is a great resource Web site within the UNDP main site that focuses on Gender in Lebanon. The UNDP analyzes the overall condition of women in Lebanon as well as personal status law which directly relates to the topic in so far as what women are allowed to control legally. It also goes over country specific reforms taking place and the effect of CEDAW in the country. Although it is focused on Lebanon, this Web site will give delegates a broad perspective on the situation of women in the whole region and will encourage delegates to make comparisons between the role of women in each country of the ESCWA.

World Bank. (2006). *Concept Note for the Roundtable on Women's Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa*. Retrieved October 12, 2010 from:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMNAREGTOPGENDER/Resources/ConceptNoteWomenEntrepreneurRoundtable.pdf>

This Concept Note was prepared by the Office of the Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. The document summarizes the presentations, discussions, and conclusions, and provides an overview of the key issues that will be discussed at the roundtable. Although four years old, the situation remains largely unchanged, thus delegates will find the resource insightful and helpful in their research.

World Bank. (2009). *Data and Statistics Country profile Lebanon*. Retrieved on August 18, 2010, 2010 from: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/LEBANONEXTN/0,,menuPK:294929~pagePK:141132~piPK:141109~theSitePK:294904,00.html>

This document is a useful economic tool to assess various economic indicators of Lebanon that relate to the topic such as women's participation rate in the labor force, educational indicators and more. The Web site is focused on Lebanon, however there is a statistics page for each ESCWA Member State. The Web site also includes statistics for the MENA Region. This site will give delegates access to specific statistical information that can contribute to well research resolutions during the conference.

World Bank. (n.d.) *Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship in MENA*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010 from: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMENA/Resources/Environment_for_Womens_Entrepreneurship_in_MNA-3.pdf

This report by the World Bank focuses on the entrepreneurial aspect of women's economic participation. It outlines challenges, progress, and opportunities regarding women's role in economics as entrepreneurs in the region. This source is important to the section of the topic discussing women as entrepreneurs and how that can lead to further employment of women and result in them controlling more of their economic resources and the opportunities and challenges to achieving equal access to financial resources. The report will be useful for delegates to obtain an overall perspective on women's entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa and its recent developments.

World Bank. (2004). *Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Women in the Public Sphere*. Washington, DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank.

This valuable resource provides an overview of the complexity of gender issues, explores the causes of gender inequality, and proposes an agenda for change with a specific focus on the Middle East and North Africa. The report makes the argument that "decades of investment and improved policies have greatly increased women's education and health and have reduced their fertility rate, however, the expected payoffs in higher employment and economic growth have not materialized due to cultural and political barriers." Furthermore the report makes the case that

“future economic growth must rely on human resources rather than on the natural resources relied on in the past and women remain a huge, untapped reservoir of human potential.” This report should be utilized by all delegates in their preparation on this issue.

World Bank. (2006). *Gender Equality as Smart Economics: A World Bank Group Gender Action Plan (Fiscal Years 2007-10)*. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/GAPNov2.pdf>

This resource sets out an action plan which seeks to advance women’s economic empowerment in the World Bank Group’s client countries in order to promote shared growth and accelerate the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3. The Plan would commit the World Bank Group to intensify and scale up gender mainstreaming in the economic sectors² over four years, in partnership with client countries, donors, and other development agencies. The Bank Group and its partners would increase resources devoted to gender issues in operations and technical assistance, in Results-Based Initiatives (RBIs), and in policy-relevant research and statistics. This resource is particularly useful for delegates in assessing what concrete policies can be implemented at an international level in the formulation of their own policies on this topic within the committee.

World Bank. (2010). *World Bank Development Indicators*. Washington D.C: World Bank Publishers.

This is a publication from the World Bank that is released annually which puts numbers on various social and economic development issues. It is an essential resource for dealing with anything pertaining to international economics. In this report there are many development indicators that will be use in this background guide and the numbers that the World Bank attaches to these social indicators will be important to analyzing how the ESCWA region is doing developmentally and economically compared to the world. The report also presents subjects and issues specific to women, such as how many women are getting educated to what level in each ESCWA member country and how many women in each country are participating in the workforce.

World Bank. (2007). *Status and Progress of Women in MENA*. Retrieved on August 17, 2010 from:

http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/0,,contentMDK:21483955~menuPK:3970760~pagePK:2865106~piPK:2865128~theSitePK:256299_00.html

This report published by the World Bank analyzes the status and progress of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region. It also analyses five main sections: economic participation, access to education, and health care, women’s legal rights, and public participation and representation. The sections on economic participation, access to education, and parts of women’s legal rights are helpful to understanding the status of women in the ESCWA region. It also includes a 2007 gender overview of the MENA region and a report on the status and progress of Women in the Middle East and North Africa. The report will provide delegates with information on additional work carried out in the area of gender and poverty, as well as the ongoing research on women’s entrepreneurship.

II. Promoting Sustainable Peace and Development in Yemen

Albrecht, H. (2006). Jemen. In M. Petri, U. Schnier, & J. Bellers (Eds.), *Handbuch der transitorischen Systeme, Diktaturen und autoritären Regime der Gegenwart* (pp. 267–270). Berlin: Lit.

The author, Holger Albrecht, is an expert on the political system of Yemen, presently working at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg. The present document (only available in German) is an entry in an encyclopedia on authoritarian systems. In it, Yemen is characterized as a relatively liberal authoritarian system, especially when compared to its peer group of Arab states.

Albrecht, P. A. (2010). Think Twice Before Engaging in Yemen. *Danish Institute for International Studies Policy Brief*, (May). Retrieved October 10, 2010, from

http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/PolicyBriefs2010/think_twice_yemen.pdf.

The Danish Institute for International Studies, for which the author wrote this policy brief, is a Danish government-sponsored research institute on international affairs. In this article, Peter A. Albrecht advises against too much foreign interference with Yemen because of its fragile political system and subversive dynamics within the country. Especially noteworthy is the passage on the Ten Point plan, which the author dismisses as ineffective.

Caton, S. C. (2010, August 11). Yemen: not on the verge of collapse. *Foreign Policy*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/11/yemen_not_on_the_verge_of_collapse.

The author is Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. In this article, he tries to refute the presently prevailing characterization of Yemen as a failed or failing state. He argues, for example, that the central government is far more stable and powerful than before in Yemen's recent history.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2006). *Report on the Twenty-Fourth Session (8-11 May 2006). 8-11 May 2006. E/2006/41 // E/ESCWA/24/10*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from United Nations: <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session24/upload/Draft24e.pdf>.

This is the final report of the 24th Ministerial Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. It includes proceedings of the session, substantive contributions, and adopted resolutions. Noteworthy is the review of Yemen's progress regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2006). *Review and Appraisal of Progress Made by Yemen in the Implementation of the new Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries During the Period 2001-2005*. Retrieved August 02, 2010, from

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/grid-05-12.pdf>.

This publication from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is a key document for research on Yemen. It provides insights into Yemeni development policies and moreover serves as a good example of ESCWA's work. In it, ESCWA does not hesitate to name problems and moreover presents reasonable recommendations.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2008). *Report on the Twenty-Fifth Session (26-29 May 2008). E/2008/41 // E/ESCWA/25/10/Rev.1*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from United Nations:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session25/upload/frep25E.pdf>.

This is the final report of the 25th Ministerial Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. It includes proceedings of the session, substantive contributions, and adopted resolutions. The 2008 Ministerial Session of ESCWA took place in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2010). *Report of the Executive Secretary on the Activities of the Commission. Follow-up to the Implementation of the Resolutions Adopted by the Commission at its Twenty-Fifth Session. E/ESCWA/26/5(Part II)*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from United Nations:

http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/session26/editor/Download.asp?table_name=sess26_documents&field_name=ID&FileID=35.

In a resolution made at the 25th Ministerial Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the commission mandated the secretariat to act on certain topics. This is the report of the secretary, authored two years later at the 26th Ministerial Session. Noteworthy is the reference to new programs aiming to strengthen Yemen's development policy capabilities.

Federal Foreign Office of Germany (2010). *Stability in Yemen: a challenge for the international community*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from Federal Foreign Office of Germany: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html>

In June 2010, the government of Germany hosted a session of the "Friends of Yemen" working group on economy and governance. This is the official press release about the meeting by the Federal Foreign Office. The document provides general background on the "Friends of Yemen" group and illustrates the ongoing international diplomatic engagement in regard to Yemen.

- Friends of Yemen (2010). *Joint Statement from the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Yemen on Friday 24 September 2010*. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office Website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=22916622>.
The Friends of Yemen, a group of 24 countries which pledged assistance to Yemen, met in New York in September 2010, on the occasion of the UN General Assembly session. In this statement, "encouraging progress" on behalf of Yemen is mentioned, such as the nearly completed World Trade Organization accession negotiations. On the other hand, it also outlines an agenda of important reform measures in the fields of economy, development, governance, justice, and the rule of law. The next meeting of the Friends of Yemen is also announced; it will take place in February 2011 in Riyadh.
- Government of Yemen (2005). *Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025*. Retrieved July 13, 2010, from Government of Yemen: http://www.mpic-yemen.org/dsp/printed_version_of_the_vision2005.pdf.
The government of Yemen drafted this development strategy. The Vision's aims, inter alia, are to secure a sustainable development path which would uplift Yemen into the mid-income country category by 2025. Unfortunately it is hard to assess how much progress has been achieved since the adoption of the strategy.
- Corinne Graff (2010). Poverty, Development, and Violent Extremism in Weak States. In S. E. Rice, C. Graff, & C. Pascual (Eds.), *Confronting poverty. Weak states and U.S. national security* (pp. 42–89). Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
This book chapter, albeit written from an U.S. foreign policy perspective, can be regarded as a good and general review of Yemen's specific problems, together with other fragile states. The author explores how poverty and other problems of socio-economic development can provide a fertile soil for extremism and even terrorism. Especially revealing are the listed indicators of Yemenis' poverty, which paint a gloomy picture.
- Graff, C. (2010). *What You Should Know About Yemen*. Retrieved August 22, 2010, from The Brookings Institution: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0108_yemen_graff.aspx.
Corinne Graff in this January 2010 article joins the general alarmist mood in literature by describing Yemen as a failing state. Obviously still under the impression of a failed airplane bombing (by a Nigerian citizen recruited by terrorists in Yemen) in the United States in December 2009, the author stresses the terrorist threat emanating from and affecting Yemen. The article reflects the author's personal opinion.
- Hill, G. (2010). Avoiding Freefall. *The World Today*, 66(7), 4–7. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?did=2070583361&Fmt=7&clientId=69662&RQT=309&VName=PQD>.
The World Today is a monthly journal published by the British Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). In this excellent article, Ginny Hill criticizes the current surge of international interest about Yemen's stability. While acknowledging the problematic security situation, the author argues that social and economic development should be in the focus of Yemen and the international security, rather than primarily counter-insurgency measures.
- Hill, G. (2010). *Democracy on Hold in Yemen*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from Carnegie Endowment: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/arb/?fa=show&article=41191#>.
This article by Ginny Hill analyzes the state of democracy in Yemen. It provides valuable background on democratic institutions in Yemen. Especially the problems surrounding the endangered (and currently postponed) general election are highlighted. The author shows that the democratic development of Yemen is about to reach a critical point in the next months and years.
- Hill, G. (2010). What is Happening in Yemen? *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, 52(2), 105–116. Retrieved August 03, 2010, from <http://www.informaworld.com/10.1080/00396331003764637>.
Written after the high-level meeting on Yemen in London, held in early 2010, this article presents a current portrait of Yemen and its problems. Hill concludes that Yemen is likely to require greater humanitarian assistance by the international community in the near future. The author

works at Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), a London-based think-tank on international affairs.

Holmes, O. (2010, July 30). Is Yemen in the Middle of Another Undeclared War? *Time.com*. Retrieved August 03, 2010, from <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2007387,00.html>.

This article by Oliver Holmes reports on the ongoing conflict in northern Yemen. It presents an insightful account of the complicated situation around this conflict, which, at present, is said to be suspended yet far from solved. This Time article is yet another example of a rising number of alarming reports about Yemen's security situation.

International Crisis Group (2009). Yemen: Defusing the Saada Time Bomb. *Middle East Report*, (86). Retrieved August 03, 2010, from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20Gulf/Yemen/086%20Yemen%20Defusing%20the%20Saada%20Time%20Bomb.ashx>.

The International Crisis Group is a Brussels-based independent think tank, advocacy, and activist group for peace and stability. This comprehensive background paper is on the Huthi rebellion in northern Yemen. It analyzes the causes, describes the proceedings of the conflict, and explores potential solutions.

MacDonald, D. (March 2010). The Path to Reform. *Yemen Today*, 48-55. Retrieved September 13, 2010, from http://www.yemen-today.com/go/files.php?force&file=The_Ten_Point_Plan_568225155.pdf.

This article from Yemen Today concentrates on the Ten Point plan to reform Yemen and the high expectations stemming from it. The author also quotes from an interview with the Yemeni Deputy Minister of Finance, Jalal Yaqoub, on this plan. Moreover, the article presents an overview of the contents of the plan.

Phillips, S. (2008). *Yemen's democracy experiment in regional perspective: Patronage and pluralized authoritarianism* (1. ed.). New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

The author of this detailed book, a political scientist, provides a comprehensive and current analysis of the state of Yemen's democracy. Although Yemen has been praised in the early 1990s for its democratic reforms in a predominantly undemocratic region, this image has gradually faded. Today, Yemen is characterized by patronage, weak institutions, and a divided civil society.

Office of the Press Secretary. (September 20, 2010). *Statement by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer on the visit of Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security John Brennan to Yemen*. Retrieved October 12, 2010, from The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/20/statement-national-security-council-spokesman-mike-hammer-visit-assistan>.

This press release by the U.S. government's press office on the visit of a government official to Yemen includes excerpts of a letter from U.S. President Obama to the President of the Republic of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh. In the letter, President Obama addresses the security challenges faced by Yemen and pledges the support of his country to Yemen. In the excerpt of the letter, President Obama speaks in a cautiously optimistic tone of Yemen's future.

Ragab, A. a.-H. (2002). *Jemen*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung: http://www.bpb.de/popup/popup_lemmata.html?guid=02COGZ.

The author, Abd al-Halim Ragab, is researching and teaching at the University of Bamberg on Arab and Islam Studies. The present document (available in German only) is a brief encyclopedia entry on Yemen and its history. The Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung is a German government-sponsored public education institution on political affairs.

Steinberg, G. (2010). Der Jemen vor dem Staatszerfall? Bürgerkrieg und Separatismus sind bedrohlicher als al-Qaida. *SWP-Aktuell*, (A 06 / January 2010). Retrieved October 10, 2010, from http://www.swp-berlin.org/en/common/get_document.php?asset_id=6721.

Guido Steinberg, the author of this article, is senior researcher on Middle East and Africa at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs). In this article (only available in German) he argues that Yemen has far greater problems than Islamic

terrorism, something especially the United States should understand. Steinberg concludes that a long-term stability effort for Yemen is the only viable solution to its problems.

The World Bank (2009). *Yemen, Rep. at a glance*. Retrieved August 22, 2010, from http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/yem_aag.pdf.

The World Bank regularly gathers and publishes valuable information on most developing countries, including Yemen. This data sheet from 2009 contains many recent figures, statistics, and indicators about Yemen's economic and social situation and development.

The World Bank (2010). *Yemen Country Brief*. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from The World Bank: <http://go.worldbank.org/21JDOQBJ80>.

Next to basic data and fact sheets, the World Bank also releases from time to time up-to-date country briefs. In this piece on Yemen, the World Bank summarizes the current situation and recent developments of Yemeni economic and social policies. Delegates should be able to access even more in-depth analyzes on the World Bank's Web site.

The World Factbook (2010). *Yemen*. Retrieved August 21, 2010, from United States Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html>.

One starting point for the research of the topic at hand might be the World Factbook, which regularly provides updated basic information on many countries and topics. The World Factbook is being developed under the auspices of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, a foreign intelligence service. For more in-depth information on countries and topics, it is advised to refer to other sources.

United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (2009). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance (UNCTAD/LDC/2009)*. Retrieved August 22, 2010, from http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/lcd2009_en.pdf.

Every year the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publishes its report on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to provide a comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the LDCs. The 2009 report has been prepared under the impression of the global economic crisis, and consequently investigates its impact on the LDCs. It is argued that the LDCs are so severely affected by the crisis that "business as usual" is no longer possible." As a central policy implication, UNCTAD proposes a strengthened role for governments and improved governance to counter the crisis effectively and to enhance the development performance.

United Nations Development Programme (2009). *Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries*. Retrieved August 03, 2010, from United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regionalreports/arabstates/ahdr2009e.pdf>.

Since 2002, the United Nations Development Programme publishes the Arab Human Development Report. These publications are an excellent source for information on the socio-economic and developmental conditions of the Arab states (and, among them, the ESCWA Member States). The 2009 edition finds that the region lacks people-centered policies and that human security is widely absent in Arab countries.

Wedeen, L. (2008). *Peripheral visions: Publics, power, and performance in Yemen*. Chicago studies in practices of meaning. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

In this 2008 book, Lisa Wedeen analyzes the social coherence and power structures in Yemen. She manages to give valuable insights into the particularities which define and determine Yemen's society, whose many facets can at times be hard to comprehend from abroad. Especially noteworthy are Wedeen's insights into Yemen's strong national unity, which seems to stand in contrast to the image of a fragile and fractured society.

Worth, R. F. (2010, July 11). *Is Yemen the Next Afghanistan?* *New York Times Magazine*, MM30. Retrieved July 13, 2010, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/11/magazine/11Yemen-t.html>.

This news article is an investigative account of Yemen's recently deteriorating security situation. Based on the author's experiences in the country, this piece of reporting describes the growing intensity of insurgent

Yemeni tribes' activities and their links to international terrorism. Though at times a bit lurid, the author nevertheless manages to present first-hand insights into Yemenis' daily lives.

III. Realizing Sustainable and Secure Energy Supplies in the Region

- Al Jaber, S. A. (2010). *Message from the CEO*. Retrieved September 17, 2010, from Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar): <http://www.masdar.ae/en/Menu/index.aspx?MenuID=42&CatID=21&mnu=Cat>. *Dr. Al Jaber is the CEO of the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, which is overseeing the Masdar City project. In this message, he outlines goals and vision of Masdar City project. Delegates are advised to refer also to other sources on the Masdar project Web site.*
- Al-Widyan, M. I., & Al-Muhtaseb, M. A. (2009). Institutional Aspects of Regional Energy Systems. In M. Mason & A. Mor (Eds.), *Renewable Energy in the Middle East. Enhancing Security through Regional Cooperation* (pp. 177–195). Berlin: Springer (available online on <http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-1-4020-9890-1>). *This book chapter analyzes institutional aspects of renewable energy in the Middle East region. It provides valuable up-to-date information on the potential of sustainable energy in the region. Unfortunately, access to this source is limited.*
- Auty, R. M. (1993). *Sustaining Development in Mineral Economies: The Resource Curse Thesis*. London: Routledge. *This book is included in the bibliography as a standard work on the resource curse theory. As outlined above, the symptoms of the resource curse, or “Dutch disease” continue to have major implications for the social and political economy of resource-rich Middle Eastern countries.*
- Butters, A. L. (2009, November 27). Will Dubai's Financial Problems Spread? *Time.com*. Retrieved September 15, 2010, from <http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1943212,00.html>. *This news article describes the financial problems faced by Dubai, an emirate of the United Arab Emirates. In the wake of the global financial crisis, Dubai witnessed a severe economic recession in the real estate and construction sectors. Dubai World, a state-owned construction company, ran out of money in 2009 and could only be saved with help from neighboring Abu Dhabi.*
- Desertec Foundation (2010). *Red Paper. An Overview of the Desertec Concept*. (Third Edition). Retrieved September 12, 2010, from http://www.desertec.org/fileadmin/downloads/desertec-foundation_redpaper_3rd-edition_english.pdf. *The Desertec Foundation is working with European Union and Middle East and North African (MENA) states to develop clean power sources, mostly produced in deserts in the MENA region. The Foundation published this “Red Paper” as an overview of its work in the region and an analysis of the current situation and problems with current sustainable development. Desertec is working to develop solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and geothermal energy sources that would be utilized and traded within the EU/MENA regions.*
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2002). *The Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving a Sustainable Energy Sector: Executive Summary of ESCWA Briefing Paper No. 3*. Retrieved September 12, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/sdpd/wssd/pdf/3.pdf>. *This report by ESCWA examines the challenges and opportunities within the ESCWA region in regards to sustainable energy. It is an essential document to delegates to prepare themselves for the simulation in terms of understanding both the opportunities that can be acted upon in resolutions and discussions as well as limitations within the region that should be acknowledged or overcome. Understanding both the challenges and opportunities in the region should provide for a holistic approach to working through the topic.*
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2002). *The ESCWA Energy Sector Characteristics*. Retrieved September 11, 2010, from <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/sdpd/wssd/pdf/1.pdf>.

The authors of this 2002 report analyze the characteristics of energy production and consumption in the ESCWA region. They find that while the region continues to depend to a great degree on fossil fuels, there is nevertheless potential for renewable energy. Delegates can refer to this or other ESCWA sources to get a picture of ESCWA's role regarding energy topics.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2007). *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2006-2007: Summary*. Retrieved October 10, 2010, from United Nations:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ead-07-2-e.pdf>.

Periodically, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia undertakes economic surveys of its Member States and the region as a whole. In this 2007 survey, the authors explicitly concentrate on the phenomena associated with the "Dutch disease" and the resource curse. In the survey it becomes evident that the ESCWA region is specifically vulnerable to these effects. Yet it also makes clear that good macroeconomic policies can avert negative impacts from resource windfalls.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2006). *Progress Achieved on Energy for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region*. Retrieved September 12, 2010, from

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/escwaRIM_bp.pdf.

ESCWA and the League of Arab States put together a report on the status and progress achieved on energy for sustainable development. This report will be helpful for delegates to assess where the Council is on this issue and get ideas for where gaps are to work to close during the simulation. The source is also useful for understanding the topic in general in relation to the region.

Economic Commission for Europe (2010). *Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation* (ECE Energy Series No. 37). New York and Geneva. Retrieved September 12, 2010, from United Nations:

http://www.unece.org/energy/se/pdfs/gee21/gee21_pub/GEE21_GlobalClimateChangeMitigation_ESE37.pdf.

This report from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was published in mid-2010; it is therefore a very recent source. Delegates should especially refer to section 9, in which energy policies of the ESCWA region are concisely discussed. The ECE is a regional economic commission of the United Nations, like ESCWA itself.

Fitzpatrick, M. (2008). Will Nuclear Energy Plans in the Middle East Become Nuclear Weapons Strategies? *International Relations*, (22), 381–385, from 10.1177/0047117808094184 22: /

<http://ire.sagepub.com/content/22/3/381.short>.

This article looks at and analyzes the nuclear ambitions of various Middle Eastern countries who have announced plans to pursue nuclear energy. The author attributes this expressed interest in nuclear energy plans to the "worldwide trend that often finds expression in predictions of a nuclear renaissance." Fitzpatrick also discusses the notion that nuclear energy is seen as part of the solution to global warming caused by carbon-producing energy sources. And finally, the article analyzes the growing water shortages in the region which Fitzpatrick describes the increasing interest in nuclear energy for the purpose of desalination of seawater.

Friedman, T. L. (2006). The First Law of Petropolitics. *Foreign Policy*, (154). Retrieved September 12, 2010, from http://relooney.fatcow.com/00_New_798.pdf.

This article on "Petropolitics" explores the "Dutch Disease," an issue relevant to understand the energy supply in the ESCWA region. The article analyzes the political and economic situation of a country when the price of oil fluctuates and when there is a dramatic increase in natural resources. It also looks at the effect of oil prices on individual freedoms and the types of governments that control oil dominated states.

Institute for Sustainable Energy (2004). *Learn About Energy*. Retrieved September 12, 2010, from Eastern Connecticut State University: <http://www.easternct.edu/sustainenergy/education/learnAboutEnergy.htm>.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University provides a website that gives an overview of energy, sustainable energy, and renewable energy sources and links to publications and other sources of information. While this site is not an official document or

report it is a helpful web portal to begin understanding the fundamentals of the topic. Delegates should note that this site will only provide a basic introduction on the topic.

- Jackson, I. (2009). Nuclear Energy and Proliferation Risks: Myths and Realities in the Persian Gulf. *International Affairs*, 85(6), 1157–1172, from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2009.00855.x>.
Ian Jackson explores in his 2009 article the rise of nuclear energy in the Persian Gulf region. While he acknowledges the economic logic behind the nuclear ambitions of most states in the region, he also stresses the potential security implications. He concludes that weaponization is not an inevitable consequence of civil nuclear energy, but rather a political choice.
- Lukas, E. (2010). *Is the Middle East Becoming a Clean-Energy Mecca?* Retrieved September 11, 2010, from ForeignPolicy.com:
http://oilandglory.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/20/is_the_middle_east_becoming_a_clean_energy_mecca.
This article from Eric Lukas analyzes the current rising use of clean-energy technologies in the Middle East region. It provides insights and linkage to many interesting current projects and plans in the region. Delegates are kindly advised to follow this blog and to look out for additions or updates by the author or his colleagues.
- Mason, M. (2009). Conclusion: Towards a Renewable Energy Transition in the Middle East and North Africa? In M. Mason & A. Mor (Eds.), *Renewable Energy in the Middle East. Enhancing Security through Regional Cooperation* (pp. 219–235). Berlin: Springer (available online on <http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-1-4020-9890-1>).
Michael Mason is co-editor of the book “Renewable Energy in the Middle East,” of which this book chapter is the conclusion. In it, he summarizes the findings on structures and capabilities of sustainable energy policies in the region. He finds that there are “significant but not insuperable obstacles” for the energy transition.
- Reiche, D. (2010). Energy Policies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - possibilities and limitations of ecological modernization in rentier states. *Energy Policy*, 38(5), 2394–2403. Retrieved July 14, 2010, from <http://econpapers.repec.org/scripts/redir.plex?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sciencedirect.com%2Fscience%2Farticle%2FB6V2W-4Y648K2-1%2F2%2Fa63a99d9ee535f8d25e2b7f7a44275a5:h=repec:eee:enepol:v:38:y:2010:i:5:p:2395-2403>.
This article analyzes the benefits of transforming oil wealth into funding renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as the obstacles to this type of wealth transformation. The article shows that GCC countries are adopting a more pro-active approach towards modernization and energy transformations. The Gulf Cooperation Council is made up of 6 countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates whose major export is oil and natural gas. The concluding assumption that progress is being made is based on the concept of policy transfers such as Masdar City in Abu Dhabi and innovative regulation like the green building code in Dubai will spread within the GCC.
- Reiche, D. (2010). Renewable Energy Policies in the Gulf countries: A Case Study of the Carbon-Neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi. *Energy Policy*, 38(1), 378–382, from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6V2W-4XHC6JR-4/2/29fd5f3f12a520ac8ec839fa3040dc66>
This source analyzes renewable energy policies in the Gulf Countries with a specific case study on the “Masdar City” in Abu Dhabi. The article goes through the political economic background of the region and the Masdar City project, key characteristics of innovations and developments, the main actors in the region and obstacles to creation and development. Within the context of Masdar City the article analyzes policy and progress in the development of the carbon-neutral town in Abu Dhabi.

Rules of Procedure Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) and shall be considered adopted by the Commission prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-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 commission.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

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

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Commission 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 Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the 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. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the members 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 voting¹ means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the Commission 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. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. 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 Commission so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Commission decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an —important and urgent character¹ is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, 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 Commission to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Commission until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, 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 Commission.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Commission 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 Commission, and shall distribute documents of the Commission to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission.

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 Commission are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Commission shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, —members of the Commission 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 Commission, 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 Commission 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 Commission 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. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to —propose to the Commission entails her/his power to —entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

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

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. 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 (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Commission 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.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Commission may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Commission in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

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 Commission, 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 Commission.

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 Commission. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Commission 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 Commission 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 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 Commission shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Commission'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 Commission.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

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 Commission favors the closure of debate, the Commission shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions Subject to rule 23, 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 substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Commission would like the Commission to consider the proposal or amendment. 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 Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission 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. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Commission. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Commission 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 proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Commission, 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.

For purposes of this rule, —those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Commission 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 Commission for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Commission 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 Assembly 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.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Commission 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 present 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 —yes‖ or —no.‖ 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 Commission 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 Commission 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.

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 involved 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 perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of 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 Commission 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. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42

The Commission shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Commission and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Commission 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.
3. 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 Commission considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Commission 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 Commission is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Commission 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 46 - 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 Commission 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 Commission or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Commission on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Commission on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.