



NMUN • NY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PLENARY BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

Written By: Yvonne Jeffery, Michele Minehart, Stephan Berberich, Jessie-Lynn A. Mace
Additional Contributions by: Alison Panza



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CONTACT THE NMUN

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 2012 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 2012	<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 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2012	<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. • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012	<p>1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York 3 - 7 April - New York Marriott Marquis</p> <p>The 2013 National Model UN Conference 17 - 21 March & 24 - 28 March (both at Sheraton; Sun-Thurs)</p>

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2012

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 1 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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for more information

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General Assembly Third Committee.....	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org
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ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org
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Commission on Narcotic Drugs.....	cnd.sheraton@nmun.org
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Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	oic.sheraton@nmun.org
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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	apec.marriott@nmun.org
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Peacebuilding Commission.....	psc.marriott@nmun.org
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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
Secretary-General	secgen.ny@nmun.org
Director(s)-General	dirgen.ny@nmun.org
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THE 2012 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

1 – 5 April (Sheraton) & 3 – 7 April (Marriott) • www.nmun.org

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Dear Delegates,

We are very pleased to welcome you to the 2012 National Model United Nations (NMUN). This year's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) staff is Directors Yvonne Jeffery and Michele Minehart, and Assistant Directors Stephan Berberich and Jess Mace. Yvonne currently lives and works in London, and recently completed her thesis to fulfill an MSc in International Public Policy at University College London. Her special interests include policies to alleviate gender inequality and the region of South Asia. This is her fifth NMUN conference, and she is looking forward to returning for her third year on staff. Michele Minehart lives in North Carolina with her family. She has a BA in business administration and a career in corporate finance. After attending four NMUN conferences, Michele is thrilled to be serving her sixth year on staff. Stephan graduated from the Brussels Free University in 2010 with a BA Political Science, and is currently studying towards a master's degree in International Relations. His thesis addresses the influence of Think Tanks on European security policies. This is his third NMUN and his first as a member of staff. Jess Mace just completed her Master's degree in Political Science from Wilfrid Laurier University and is currently living in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Her fields of interest are international relations and sexual minority rights. This will be her fourth NMUN conference and second time on staff.

The topics under discussion for the Economic and Social Council are as follows:

1. Evaluating the Progress and Projections of the Millennium Development Goals
2. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-based Violence on Realizing the Right to Reproductive Health
3. Environmental Migration and Social Vulnerability as a Result of Climate Change

This background guide will serve as a brief introduction to the three topics listed. Accordingly, it is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis but as the groundwork for your own analysis and research. To conduct your research, please consult scholarly materials, including journals, international news, and the United Nations website, amongst others. You will need to familiarize yourself with the work and current operations of the ECOSOC. Keeping abreast of current affairs will also prove to be valuable in the discussion of these topics, as it is highly likely that they will be affected by current events over the course of preparations before the conference.

Each delegation must submit a position paper. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 1, 2012. Please refer to the background guide for a message from your Director-General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial. NMUN can be one of the most rewarding academic experiences of your college career. We hope that this year's Conference will not only intrigue you to participate again, but also that you find it as beneficial as we have.

If you have any questions regarding preparation, please feel free to contact any of the ECOSOC substantive staff or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of the Economic and Social Council, Kristina Mader and Vera Todorova. Good luck in your preparation for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Sincerely,

Marriott Venue
Michele Minehart
Director

Jess Mace
Assistant Director

ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org

Sheraton Venue
Yvonne Jeffery
Director

Stephan Berberich
Assistant Director

ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org

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

At the 2012 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee to which it is assigned. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee affects 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 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 should establish precise policies and recommendations about 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 entirely original material. *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 it 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 one 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 format required) **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, 2011. 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 1, 2012 (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 Amanda D'Amico, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Nicholas Warino, 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 it 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,

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**Delegation from
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by
(Name of College)**

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions* (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy

and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee History

“If the United Nations does not attempt to chart a course for the world’s people in the first decades of the new millennium, who will?” –Kofi Annan¹

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) was established to promote “international economic and social cooperation” among Member States within the structures, that would seek to support such values.² At first, six major bodies were formed, including the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).³ The council is one of the “most complex part[s] of the UN system, covering the broadest areas of activit[ies], the majority of expenditures, and greatest number of programs.”⁴

Origins, Membership and Mandate

ECOSOC was created with 18 Member States.⁵ Membership expanded from 18 to 27 in 1965 and again to 54 members in 1973.⁶ As per article 61 of the Charter, 18 members of ECOSOC are elected every year, for three-year terms, by the General Assembly.⁷ The five permanent members of the Security Council are always elected and regional representation is taken into consideration during these elections.⁸ Additionally, membership in ECOSOC is renewable immediately following the end of the term, which has allowed several states to gain near-permanent member status in the council.⁹

ECOSOC was established as a principle organ of the UN through articles seven and eight of chapter three of the UN Charter.¹⁰ ECOSOC fulfills its mandate under the overall authority of the General Assembly and with the consultation of a broad range of civil society actors and in conjunction with the work completed by its subsidiary bodies.¹¹ ECOSOC has 14 UN specialized agencies serving under the body, in addition to nine functional commissions.¹² Its main goal was to serve as the means of rectifying the instability in the international system caused by poor economic and social conditions.¹³ As such, ECOSOC serves to “promot[e] higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identif[y] solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitat[e] international cultural and educational cooperation; and encourag[e] universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”¹⁴ These duties allow ECOSOC to “serve as a site for the negotiation, evolution, and implementation of norms” essential in promoting peace and prosperity in the international sphere.¹⁵ The council also highlights “critical problems and potential dangers” in regards to economic and social issues, allowing the council to be among the first to detect rising issues in the international community.¹⁶ In order to further this goal, ECOSOC began holding Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) meetings and Development Cooperation Forums following the 2005 World Summit, as established by UN resolution *A/RES/60/1*.¹⁷ Following these meetings, policy ideas and recommendations are presented in the form of a Ministerial Declaration, relaying the work of the organization and possible avenues for future discussions.¹⁸

In addition, ECOSOC provides a unique forum for non-governmental actors to discuss policy areas that affect their interests, including more than 3,400 recognized non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are consulted on a

¹ United Nations, *Press Release SG/SM/7342*, 2000.

² Karns & Mingst, *International Organizations: The politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2004, p.98.

³ Karns & Mingst, *International Organizations: The politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2004, p.101.

⁴ Karns & Mingst, *International Organizations: The politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2004, p.114.

⁵ Karns & Mingst, *International Organizations: The politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2004, p.114.

⁶ Benett & Oliver, *International Organizations: Principles and Issues*, 2002, p. 97.

⁷ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁸ Green, *ECOSOC: Its Role and Its Achievements*, 1952, p.74.

⁹ United Nations Elections, *Economic & Social Council*, 2011.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

¹¹ Baylis & Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: Introduction to International Relations*, 2005, p.410.

¹² United Nations Economic & Social Council, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*, 2011.

¹³ Shestack, Schachter & Kennedy, *The Charter’s Origins in Today’s Perspective*, 1995, p.50.

¹⁴ United Nations Economic & Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, 2011.

¹⁵ Hurrell, *On Global Order: Power, Values, and the Constitution of International Society*, 2009, p.182.

¹⁶ Green, *ECOSOC: Its Role and Its Achievements*, 1952, p.74.

¹⁷ United Nations, General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1)*, 2005.

¹⁸ United Nations Economic & Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, 2011.

variety of economic and social matters.¹⁹ In 1998, ECOSOC began meeting with the heads of various economic institutions, such as state finance ministers, members of the World Bank and of the International Monetary Fund, leading to an increase in cooperation between these financial institutions.²⁰ An extensive amount of data is thereby collected and assessed by ECOSOC, in order to gain a better understanding of the current problems effecting member states. ECOSOC has “played a major role in the technical assistance program” in order to aid less developed areas gain the skills and knowledge established in more developed areas.²¹

Focus on Human Rights

The necessity to expand diplomatic ties and multilateral cooperation in all areas of economic and social affairs has led to an increase in the importance of the United Nations and more specifically to that of ECOSOC.²² Resolutions that attempt to highlight the at risk nature of certain groups fall among the many areas addressed within ECOSOC.²³ Following the 2005 World Summit in New York, Kofi Annan spoke highly of the importance of protecting human rights and noted that these rights “constitute one of the three pillars - along with peace and security and economic and social development - that form the base of all the UN’s work.”²⁴ The importance of “economic development of underdeveloped areas” has been recognized and made a priority for the council, including the focus on the rights of those living in more impoverished areas of the world.²⁵ Accordingly, there has been a rise in awareness of minority rights, rights of populations considered to be more vulnerable, such as people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) individuals, those infected with HIV/AIDS, and women and children living in less developed areas. In this regard, ECOSOC “adopted a series of resolutions during the 1950s and 1960s directed both at preventing future disability and at rehabilitating existing disabilities.”²⁶ This topic has remained important for the council and has led to a renewed focus on individuals with disabilities, as noted within resolution 2010/13, which focuses on the importance of addressing those with disabilities in the development agenda.²⁷ Another example is the 2010 ECOSOC AMR, in which the focus was placed on [i]mplementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women,” to focus on the disadvantages caused by the existing gender bias in the international system.²⁸ In addition, several subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC focus their deliberation entirely on issues pertaining to minority rights, including the Commission on the Status of Women - now UN Women - and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.²⁹

The unique role of NGOs in the council has allowed an increased awareness to be given to certain groups and progress to be made on a wide variety of minority rights issues.³⁰ In July 2010, ECOSOC granted consultative status to the tenth organization working internationally for the protection of sexual minority rights, a step that has led to an increase in the focus of LGBT issues in the international sphere.³¹ Recent discussions over reforming ECOSOC have placed a focus on the importance of the council within the organization, and have highlighted the growing necessity to encourage international cooperation in a broad range of issue areas in order to promote the very values that are expounded by the United Nations.³²

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History

Baylis, J. & Smith, S. (2005). *The Globalization of World Politics: Introduction to International Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press.

¹⁹ NGO Branch, *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, 2011.

²⁰ United Nations, Economic & Social Council, *About ECOSOC*, 2011.

²¹ Green, *ECOSOC: Its Role and Its Achievements*, 1952, 75.

²² Bardford & Linn, *Reform of Global Governance: Priorities for Action*, 2007.

²³ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda* (2010/13), 2010.

²⁴ Terlingen, *The Human Rights Council: A New Era in UN human Rights Work?*, 2007.

²⁵ Green, *ECOSOC: Its Role and Its Achievements*, 1952, 75.

²⁶ Stein, *Disability Human Rights*, February 2007, p.88.

²⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda* (2010/13), 2010.

²⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *President’s Corner*, 2011.

²⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC*, 2011.

³⁰ Forsythe, *Human Rights in International Relations*, 2006, p.18.

³¹ IGLHRC, *United Nations Grants Official Status to U.S.-based International LGBT Rights Group*, 2010.

³² Baylis & Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: Introduction to International Relations*, 2005, p.421.

Baylis and Smith present a comprehensive overview of the United Nations system. Within the analysis the major components of ECOSOC are presented, in addition to an analysis of reforms undergone, as well as possible avenues for future changes in the committee. Major developments in the economic and social sphere are outlined and key concepts in international relations theory are highlighted in order to gain a better overall understanding of ECOSOC's role in the international system.

Benett, L. A. & James, O. (2002). *International Organizations: Principles and Issues 2nd Edition*. Upper Saddle river, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Benett and Oliver detail some of the major issues currently facing the United Nations. Membership, representation, voting, formal, and informal, and Charter amendments are discussed, while highlighting the unique facets of the major UN bodies, including ECOSOC. Through the discussion of the Charter, the reader is better able to understand the reforms that have occurred, as well as many of the current problems facing ECOSOC and this knowledge can aid one to understand how to address the current issues facing the international system.

Green, J. (Fall, 1952). ECOSOC: Its Role and Its Achievements. *World Affairs*, 115(3): 74-76.

The text written by Green presents a detailed look at the foundation of ECOSOC and its mandate at its creation. Although this piece is quite dated it presents an accurate overview of the role and functions of ECOSOC and can be used as a tool to understand the original function of the council, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of this UN body. It also notes the structure of ECOSOC, as well as outlining the basis for the use of various ad hoc committees and commissions in order to adequately fulfill its mandate.

Hurrell, A. (2009). *On Global Order: Power, Values, and the Constitution of International Society*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hurrell's book provides an assessment of the world's power struggles, while highlighting the major organizations and issues that are currently being addressed in the international arena. More specifically, this text analyzes the governing structure of the international system, including the major players, as well as describes the major constraints in dealing with human rights violations and the promotion of democracy throughout the international system.

Karns, M. & Mingst, K. (2004). *International Organizations: The politics and Processes of Global Governance*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Karns and Mingst provide a detailed account of the major international organizations, including the United Nations. Within this section of the book, there is a segment dedicated to ECOSOC as well as an in depth analysis of the history of the United Nations. ECOSOC is assessed in detail and its major components are discussed and elaborated upon throughout this section, providing a comprehensive overview of the functions and roles of ECOSOC.

NGO Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011). *Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status*. Retrieved August 24, 2011 from <http://csonet.org/>

The NGO Branch website provides a detailed description and list of the NGOs which have been granted consultative status within ECOSOC. It outlines a comprehensive description of the process and function of the NGOs and allows one to note the possible avenues of interest of these various organizations. Considering the important role of NGOs within the ECOSOC, it is essential to understand the role these organizations play in the study of economic and social matters.

Shestack, J., Schachter, O. & Kennedy, P. (1995, April). The Charter's Origins in Today's Perspective. *American Society of International Law*, 89: 45-52.

Shestack, Schachter and Kennedy's book presents a comprehensive overview of the UN Charter and its effect on the current UN system. An assessment of ECOSOC's foundation as well as its functions and mandate are detailed, so as to better understand what the council can accomplish, while also assessing the limitations of the current system and the possible reforms that could be implemented in the future. As a historical overview of the UN system, this book provides a good foundation and structure to begin one's research into the complexities of ECOSOC.

United Nations. (2011). *United Nations Economic & Social Council*. Retrieved August 26, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/index.shtml>

ECOSOC's website presents a broad overview of the committee's history, key functions, as well as the current work being done for the 2011 term. Many of ECOSOC's greatest accomplishments are highlighted and linked to the UN documents citing the major resolutions or reports concerned. In addition, the major reforms undergone within ECOSOC are outlined and the major policy areas that have been assessed, and those currently being evaluated, are presented. In addition, a list of the subsidiary bodies is presented and allows one to access the individual Web sites corresponding to each body.

I. Evaluating the Progress and Projections of the Millennium Development Goals

*"The MDGs remain feasible with adequate commitment, policies, resources and effort. Collectively, the Millennium Declaration represents the most important promise ever made to the world's most vulnerable people. This promise is not based on pity or charity, but on solidarity, justice and recognition that we are increasingly dependent on one another for our shared prosperity and security."*³³

Introduction and History of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In May 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) Kofi Annan laid the groundwork for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through his report to the General Assembly regarding the upcoming Millennium Assembly of the United Nations.³⁴ Annan saw the potential for the year 2000 to be an opportunity for the global community to renew its focus and commitment to international issues.³⁵ In September 2000, the global community convened for the Millennium Summit in New York City to discuss the direction of the UN in the new century.³⁶ The resulting document, the *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, was an unprecedented global promise to improve the lives of the world's poorest within 15 years.³⁷

The following year, Secretary-General Annan put forth a report outlining a "road map" for achieving the goals set out in the *Declaration*.³⁸ In collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the World Bank, the report consolidated the efforts of the *Declaration* into eight over-arching Goals with 18 targets.³⁹ Additionally, the report outlined 48 corresponding indicators providing specific benchmarks by which to measure progress toward the MDGs.⁴⁰ In early 2008, the targets and indicators were revised to 21 targets with 60 corresponding indicators to reflect the work done at the 2005 World Summit.⁴¹ The eight MDGs are listed as follows: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and, develop a global partnership for development.⁴²

Tracking progress toward the MDGs

In order to track the progress toward each of the Goals, a group of experts from various agencies both within and outside of the UN system is responsible for collecting and preparing data relevant to each of the MDG indicators.⁴³ The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators "reviews and defines methodologies and technical

³³ United Nations General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, Report of the Secretary-General*, 2010, paragraph 5.

³⁴ United Nations, General Assembly, *The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations: Thematic framework for the Millennium Summit, Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/948)*, 1999.

³⁵ Annan, *We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century*, 2000, p. 5.

³⁶ United Nations, *Millennium Summit Background*.

³⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.
United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Background*.

³⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326)*, 2001.

³⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326)*, 2001, Annex.

⁴⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326)*, 2001, Annex.

⁴¹ OECD, *Revised official list of MDG targets and indicators*, 2011.

⁴² UNDP, *Fast Facts: The Millennium Development Goals*, 2010.

⁴³ United Nations Statistics Division, *Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators*, 2011.

issues in relation to the indicators, produces guidelines, and helps define priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis, and reporting on MDGs.⁴⁴ The UN Statistics Division reports on the information compiled by the IAEG annually through a written report and progress charts.⁴⁵

In addition to IAEG's data collection, various other agencies collect and review information as it pertains to the MDGs. Agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other private groups track data pertaining to the MDGs, but often in a more focused manner as it pertains to their particular field.⁴⁶ In addition to this over-arching data, the UN has sponsored Country Teams to assist Member States in producing their own national reports.⁴⁷ Although these reports are not required annually, the UN supports states in this process to promote accurate benchmarking as well as national ownership.⁴⁸ It is important to note that although the MDGs are assessed globally, countries that are making great strides can hide the struggles of those countries that are falling behind.⁴⁹ For instance, China and India have made steep reductions in poverty due to the economic growth in those countries during the early part of the century.⁵⁰ Progress made in these countries is disproportionate due to their large populations skewing the statistics on global progress.⁵¹ Tracking country progress in addition to global progress can identify areas where national economic and social policies can aid in achieving the MDGs on a local level.⁵²

Statistics alone cannot tell the entire story. The success or failure of the tactics a government or organization utilizes in order to achieve progress can be useful examples to other organizations fighting similar problems.⁵³ In preparation for the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in 2010, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) presented a compilation of successful actions on the MDGs to be referenced as best practices.⁵⁴ The *MDG Good Practices* outlines each MDG and the corresponding targets along with specific hurdles that have been identified in local environments.⁵⁵ For example, insufficient public health facilities and skilled providers were identified as a hurdle to reach MDG 5 for improved maternal health.⁵⁶ The *MDG Good Practices* identified four states that utilized different methods to overcome these challenges.⁵⁷ In Bonsasso, Ghana, the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) utilized public and private funds to improve local health services.⁵⁸ Haiti and India each identified critical shortages of mid-wives and birth attendants or obstetricians and targeted different methods to improve community access to these medical professionals.⁵⁹ Finally, Kenya targeted stigma regarding post-abortion care through education and infrastructure improvements.⁶⁰ By identifying differing programs that each found success at a national or sub-national level, other governments and civil organizations can identify programs that are easily transferable to their national or sub-national environment.⁶¹

⁴⁴ United Nations Statistics Division, *Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators*, 2011.

⁴⁵ United Nations Statistics Division, *Millennium Development Goals Indicators*, 2011.

⁴⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Tracking Global Progress*.

⁴⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Tracking Country Progress*.

⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Tracking Country Progress*.

⁴⁹ World Health Organization, *Millennium Development Goals: progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals*, 2011.

⁵⁰ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010, p. 7.

⁵¹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010, p. 7.

⁵² United Nations Development Programme, *Tracking Country Progress*.

⁵³ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 1: Poverty, Employment and Hunger*, 2010, p. 3.

⁵⁴ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 1: Poverty, Employment and Hunger*, 2010, p. 2.

⁵⁵ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 1: Poverty, Employment and Hunger*, 2010, p. 4.

⁵⁶ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 3: Child Mortality, Maternal Health and Combating Diseases*, 2010, p. 4.

⁵⁷ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 3: Child Mortality, Maternal Health and Combating Diseases*, 2010, p. 4.

⁵⁸ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 3: Child Mortality, Maternal Health and Combating Diseases*, 2010, p. 45.

⁵⁹ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 3: Child Mortality, Maternal Health and Combating Diseases*, 2010, p. 47-50.

⁶⁰ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 3: Child Mortality, Maternal Health and Combating Diseases*, 2010, p. 51.

⁶¹ United Nations Development Group, *MDG Good Practices Chapter 1: Poverty, Employment and Hunger*, 2010, p. 3.

Continuing Progress toward the MDGs

As the deadline nears, there is growing concern about the global community's ability to meet the MDGs. The World Bank's current assessment is that only four African countries will achieve all of the MDGs by 2015.⁶² Globally, only five additional countries are on track to meet the Goals.⁶³ In 2010, the UN hosted a High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly where the international community recommitted itself to the MDGs and the 2015 deadline.⁶⁴ To support the global action plan for continued and accelerated progress, Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), and private businesses and organizations announced new initiatives and confirmed their commitment to current projects.⁶⁵ These public commitments are important to the advancement of MDGs.⁶⁶ The 2010 Millennium Summit's resulting document highlighted a number of key points. Experience has shown that "cross-cutting interventions" can drive progress across multiple Goals and indicators.⁶⁷ This appears to be particularly true when investing in energy infrastructure and gender and education equality.⁶⁸

The following are two case studies serve as examples of organizations utilizing these methods.

Case Study: Millennium Development Goal Acceleration Framework

In 2010, the United Nations Development Programme developed the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) in an effort to learn from past successes in order to move progress forward in those nations that are lagging behind in one or more targets.⁶⁹ Ten countries participated in a pilot program by utilizing the MAF to identify hurdles to achieving the MDGs within their borders.⁷⁰ Countries were able to devise solutions to these hurdles with UN support and further develop concrete action plans at national, regional and local levels.⁷¹ Participating countries had the option to focus on a single MDG or on cross-Goal issues such as health or education related policies.⁷² The results of the pilot program were different in each country as it was approached from a local perspective, but all participating countries saw a positive result and the MAF has been recommended for wide use.⁷³ Participating countries follow a systematic process to create an MDG Action Plan.⁷⁴ Some are complete and others are continuing the required consultations with partners and stakeholders.⁷⁵ One key aspect to the MAF is the identification of bottlenecks in a country's current action plan.⁷⁶ Once these hurdles are identified, the MAF works with the participating country to identify relevant solutions.⁷⁷ Plans to implement these solutions include focusing efforts and resources from various organizations both public and private.⁷⁸

⁶² Vanguard, *Only 4 African Countries'll achieve MDGs goal by 2015 – World Bank*, 2011.

⁶³ Bazeley, *Millennium Development Goals prove too ambitious*, 2011.

⁶⁴ United Nations, *UN Summit, 20-22 September 2010, New York*, 2010.

⁶⁵ United Nations, *Explanatory note on matrix of commitments and initiatives*, 2010.

⁶⁶ United Nations, *MDG Summit Matrix*, 2010.

⁶⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *2010 MDG Summit*.

⁶⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *2010 MDG Summit*.

⁶⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress*, 2010.

⁷⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 7.

⁷¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 7.

⁷² United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 8.

⁷³ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 9.

⁷⁴ United Nations Development Programme Regional Centre – Panama, *MDG Acceleration Framework – Draft Operational Note, version 1 April 2011*, 2011, p. 1.

⁷⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 18.

⁷⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 20.

⁷⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 20.

⁷⁸ United Nations Development Programme Regional Centre – Panama, *MDG Acceleration Framework – Draft Operational Note, version 1 April 2011*, 2011, p. 1.

In Columbia, while the country as a whole was on target to meet the MDGs, a closer look revealed that there were grave discrepancies between sub-national regions.⁷⁹ The MAF process helped identify key bottlenecks and “priority” solutions within each region.⁸⁰ Although each local area focused on a specific MDG target, the solutions implemented confronted the MDG target directly and often times addressed cross-sector issues.⁸¹ This method addresses the MDG target of highest concern while maintaining and advancing the country’s overall development goals.⁸² In the Cundinamarca region, the MAF was applied to MDG 1 to reduce poverty.⁸³ The solutions used to address this deficiency with income generation methods that improved food security, improved access to credit especially for women, reclamation of unproductive assets such as land, and reduced administrative hurdles to business through education.⁸⁴ These solutions encouraged progress in MDGs 3 and 7 in addition to the primary MDG 1.⁸⁵

Case Study: Millennium Villages

In 2005, the first non-governmental organization specifically focused on achieving the MDGs was formed.⁸⁶ The Millennium Promise Alliance works to bring together resources from the UN system, specifically UNDP, local governments, civil society organizations, and private investors in order to assist countries in taking ownership of development.⁸⁷ The Millennium Promise Alliance utilizes a localized approach in order to address underlying issues in multiple areas to improve progress to the MDGs through the Millennium Villages Project (MVP).⁸⁸ Currently there are 14 Villages (clusters of rural areas) operating across 10 African countries.⁸⁹ Communities are selected to “reflect a diversity of agro-ecological zones, representing a range of challenges to income, food production, disease ecology, infrastructure, and health system development.”⁹⁰

Rather than focusing on specific MDG targets or indicators, the Alliance employs a ‘cross-sector’ approach in the Villages.⁹¹ The target for the initial five-year period was for focused action to lead to quick successes.⁹² The second five-year period now focuses on “commercializing” agricultural gains for long-term economic benefit and a movement toward expanding the scope of the projects from the community level.⁹³ Between now and 2015, the MVP communities will be focused increasingly on starting cooperatives, launching businesses, and connecting to larger markets.⁹⁴ Millennium Promise is supporting these efforts by providing technical training, reviewing business plans, and establishing partnerships with local financial institutions to provide loans and savings accounts, among other efforts.⁹⁵

The Millennium Villages have seen significant progress in the first five years including dramatic increases in the use of bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria and increased enrollment in primary school particularly due to providing

⁷⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 62.

⁸⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 63.

⁸¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 65.

⁸² World Health Organization, *Accountability for women’s and children’s health in countries: Current practices and challenges in Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania*, 2011, p. 1.

⁸³ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 64.

⁸⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, pp. 65-66.

⁸⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*, 2010, p. 66.

⁸⁶ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Overview*.

⁸⁷ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Overview*.

⁸⁸ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Millennium Villages*.

⁸⁹ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: 2010 Annual Report*, p. 5.

⁹⁰ The Earth Institute at Columbia University, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa: The Millennium Villages After Three Years*, 2010, p. 4.

⁹¹ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Millennium Villages*.

⁹² The Earth Institute, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa: The Millennium Villages After Three Years*, 2010, p. 4.

⁹³ The Earth Institute, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa: The Millennium Villages After Three Years*, 2010, p. 2.

⁹⁴ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Millennium Villages*.

⁹⁵ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: Millennium Villages*.

school meals.⁹⁶ Access to healthcare has been greatly increased through free health clinics located in all 14 Villages as well as the introduction of ChildCount+ in a majority of the communities.⁹⁷ ChildCount+ was developed by MVP as a means of monitoring and improving pediatric and maternal care using standard text messaging.⁹⁸

There has been significant criticism of the MVP in terms of how the project is evaluated. Michael Clemens from the Center for Global Development has noted concern that the only formal evaluation of the MVP will review only the initial five-year phase of the project without any additional long-term review.⁹⁹ William Easterly, former economist for the World Bank, discusses concern that the MVP cannot be implemented on a large scale because it does not address issues such as government corruption.¹⁰⁰ Can the global community continue to fund projects such as the Millennium Villages without evidence that there are long-term and large-scale benefits?¹⁰¹

Review and Conclusion

While clear progress has been made toward halving poverty and providing primary education for all children, achieving the Goals especially focused on health is unlikely by the 2015 deadline.¹⁰² The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund reported in the 2011 Global Monitoring Report “[t]wo-thirds of developing countries are on target or close to being on target for all the MDGs.”¹⁰³ There is concern, however, that progress could stall with continuing global economic uncertainty.¹⁰⁴ The states falling furthest behind are generally the poorest and the most fragile due to conflict and economic uncertainty.¹⁰⁵ Member States closest to achieving the Goals are those with the greatest per capita GDP growth since 1990.¹⁰⁶ Economic stability and international focus on the states furthest behind will be required to meet the Goals in every Member State.¹⁰⁷ There is evidence to show that economic growth has a positive bearing on all MDGs and targets, but the health- and sanitation-related MDGs are most greatly affected by government policy changes and infrastructure improvements.¹⁰⁸ Policies must meet the needs of the most disparate populations. Minority populations including indigenous people and ethnic minorities are lagging furthest behind.¹⁰⁹ Evidence shows that the greatest impact on all populations, including the poorest populations, is achieved through “inclusive growth and equality.”¹¹⁰

As delegates prepare for debate, they should research the actions their country is taking in order to achieve the MDGs. Which projects have been successful? Which projects have not met expectations? Are there sufficient resources allocated to achieve progress toward the Goals? How can NGOs and CSOs continue to aid in the advancement of the MDGs? How can the international community continue to support the poorest and most at-risk populations, especially women and children? Delegates should further consider the role of ECOSOC in supporting Member States’ actions toward achieving the MDGs.

⁹⁶ The Earth Institute, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa: The Millennium Villages After Three Years*, 2010, p. 12.

⁹⁷ Millennium Promise Alliance, *Millennium Promise: 2010 Annual Report*, p. 14.

⁹⁸ ChildCount.org, *ChildCount.org: Every Child Counts*, 2009.

⁹⁹ Clemens, *Why a Careful Evaluation of the Millennium Villages is Not Optional*, 2010.

¹⁰⁰ Gettleman, *Shower of Aid Brings Flood of Progress*, 2010.

¹⁰¹ Freschi, *Do Millennium Villages work? We may never know*, 2009.

¹⁰² International Monetary Fund, *The IMF and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2011.

¹⁰³ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. xi.

¹⁰⁴ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. xi.

¹⁰⁵ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. xii.

¹⁰⁶ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. 4.

¹⁰⁷ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. 1.

¹⁰⁸ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. 5.

¹⁰⁹ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. 8.

¹¹⁰ The World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*, 2011, p. 8.

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Millennium Promise Alliance. (N.D.) *Millennium Promise: Millennium Villages*. Retrieved August 7, 2011 from: <http://www.millenniumpromise.org/the-villages>

The Millennium Promise Alliance is the first NGO dedicated to achieving the MDGs. Their main course of action is through the Millennium Village Project. There are currently 14 Villages in operation in Africa. This website is an overview of the Millennium Villages with links to each village's specific projects and results.

The World Bank. (2011). *Global Monitoring Report 2011: Improving the Odds of Achieving the MDGs*. The World Bank: Washington, D.C.

The World Bank, in concert with the International Monetary Fund, produces the Global Monitoring Report annually to assess the global progress towards the MDGs. This report is the eighth in the series of reports and focuses on specific achievements and failures. The report highlights the lack of progress in improving child and maternal health and access to sanitation. Additionally, this report addresses the link between spending and progress toward the Goals and the importance of addressing indigenous populations as they relate to the MDGs.

United Nations. (2010). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*. New York: United Nations. Retrieved October 1, 2011 from:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/MDG_Report_2010_En.pdf

The annual MDG Report highlights progress toward the MDGs on a global level from the UN system perspective. This report was the final report published by the UN prior to the 2010 MDG Summit held in September of 2010. The 2010 MDG Report addresses each Goal individually within the scope of the previous year's global events. The report includes global and regional statistics and a general review of progress.

United Nations. (2010, November 12). *MDG Summit Matrix*. Retrieved October 1, 2011 from:

http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/MDGSummit_Matrix_12Nov2010_rev2_REV%20DZ.pdf

Following the 2010 MDG Summit, the international community including national governments, NGOs and CSOs, and private organizations announced their specific commitments through initiatives to further progress toward the MDGs. This matrix is a comprehensive compilation of these commitments. Notations are classified by Goal and specific information regarding the project or financial commitment and appropriate deadlines are outlined.

United Nations Development Group. (2010, June). *MDG Good Practices Chapter 1: Poverty, Employment and Hunger*. Retrieved September 24, 2011 from: http://mdgnet.undg.org/ext/MDG-Good-Practices/GP_chapter1_poverty.pdf

The UN Development Group Task Force on MDGs, in preparation for the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in September 2010, put forth a collection of case studies with positive results. These studies were put forth as concrete evidence of best practices with detailed information so that the information can be utilized in similar circumstances to encourage progress toward the MDGs. This document focuses on case studies regarding MDG 1 – eradicate extreme poverty.

United Nations Development Group Regional Centre – Panama. (2011, April 1). *MDG Acceleration Framework – Draft Operational Note, version 1 April 2011*. Retrieved September 24, 2011 from: <http://www.regionalcentre-lac-undp.org/images/stories/POVERTY/mafoperationalnote.pdf>

This document is a concise overview of the MDG Acceleration Framework. The document outlines the process of identifying bottlenecks to progress and solution implementation. This document also identifies important partners in the process as well as the role of the UN Resident Coordinator. Delegates can utilize this document as a basic description of the MAF but should further research any work the MAF is performing in their country or region for further information.

United Nations Development Programme. (2010). *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015, Lessons from the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot countries*. New York: UNDP.

This publication outlines the MDG Acceleration Framework pilot program utilized by ten countries beginning in 2010. The UNDP's pilot program to further progress toward the MDGs is outlined in more detail as well as the specific programs implemented in the ten pilot countries. Based on this experience, the UN has recommended the use of the MAF in a more widespread fashion. Delegates can use this document to learn about the MAF and its important role in achieving the MDGs.

United Nations General Assembly. Fifty-fifth session. (2000, September). *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*. Retrieved August 7, 2011 from: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

The United Nations Millennium Declaration is the concluding document from the Millennium Summit, part of the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations held in 2000. The Declaration defines the international community's intention to strengthen the United Nations System in the 21st century. This document lays the groundwork for a new global commitment to the world's poorest and most at-risk populations.

United Nations General Assembly. Fifty-sixth session. (2001, September 6). *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326)*. Retrieved August 8, 2011 from: <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>

Following the Millennium Summit and the corresponding Millennium Declaration, the Secretary-General of the UN reported to the General Assembly a 'road map' to achieve the targets outlined in the Declaration. After collaborating with a variety of international agencies, the report put forth a focused list of over-arching goals and targets commonly referred to as the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations General Assembly. Sixty-fifth session. (2010, September 17). *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/65/L.1)*. Retrieved August 8, 2011 from: http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/download/asset?asset_id=2802060

The General Assembly of the UN held a World Summit in 2010 to discuss the progress of the international community in meeting the MDGs. This outcome document reviews important successes and remaining gaps in achieving the Goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. Additionally, this document outlines a revised action plan for the international community going forward.

II. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-based Violence on Realizing the Right to Reproductive Health

*"When she is educated, healthy and skilled, she will be an active citizen in her community. She will become a mother when she is ready and [she] will invest in her future children's health and education. She will be the entrepreneur discovering solutions that breaks the cycle of poverty, one girl at a time. Multiply this by 500 million girls in the developing world and imagine the possibilities."*¹¹¹

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Over the past several decades, the United Nations (UN) has developed a number of definitions for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).¹¹² Under the auspices of various bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Security Council, SGBV within the context of human rights, humanitarian affairs, and conflict has been discussed.¹¹³

¹¹¹ Osotimehin, Statement of UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin, 2011.

¹¹² Partners for Prevention, Men and the Prevention of Gender-based Violence, 2008, p. 4.

¹¹³ Partners for Prevention, Men and the Prevention of Gender-based Violence, 2008, p. 4.
United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325)*, 2000.
United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820)*, 2008.
United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888)*, 2009.

The unifying theme across these debates is the understanding of SGBV as a specific form of gender inequality based on socially ascribed differences.¹¹⁴ In 2006, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) expanded the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of SGBV to embody the notion that gender-based violence involves any harmful act committed against a person's will that is based on socially associated differences between males and females, including and not limited to sexual violence.¹¹⁵ SGBV, therefore, manifests itself in multiple ways, for example in prenatal sex selection, female infanticide, child marriage or prostitution, genital mutilation, reduced or inferior food and medical care for girls, psychological abuse, sexual harassment, trafficking in women and sexual violence as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, and instill fear.¹¹⁶ This list is far from complete, demonstrating the extensive nature of SGBV.

The effects of sexual and gender-based violence can devastate lives and adversely affect sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and human rights, particularly in the area of the right to reproductive health.¹¹⁷ At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the right to reproductive health was defined as a "state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes."¹¹⁸ SGBV directly undermines this right because of the physical and psychological trauma it inflicts, such as unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions or sexually-transmitted infections and HIV.¹¹⁹ These consequences are compounded as the damage SGBV causes both maintains the cycle of violence and initiates other forms, entrenching gender inequality.¹²⁰ In the global context, almost one in three women have been beaten or coerced into having sex, over 201 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for modern contraceptives and 70,000 maternal deaths occur per year due to unsafe abortions.¹²¹ Poor sexual and reproductive health accounts for a third of global illness and early death amongst women of reproductive age, so realizing the right to reproductive health has been identified as a priority in a number of internationally agreed goals.¹²² Below, the history of international action on this topic is examined before two thematic case studies illustrate the impact of SGBV on the right to reproductive health.

The United Nations and Gender Equality

Although they have come into focus relatively recently, the basis for the elimination of SGBV and the assurance of reproductive rights has deeper roots in international law through its parent-issue: gender equality.¹²³ The *Charter of the United Nations* (1946), the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979), the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966), the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1976), and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1990) each contain clauses that support the principles of equality and complete bodily and mental well-being.¹²⁴ In 1992, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which monitors the implementation of CEDAW, explicitly criticized states for failing to adequately recognize the "close connection between discrimination against women, gender-based violence, and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms."¹²⁵ It posited that gender-based violence is a clear breach of the fundamental right to freedom from discrimination as defined in Article 1 of the Convention.¹²⁶ Subsequently, in five resolutions on "Women and peace and security" (S/RES/1325, S/RES/1820, S/RES/1888, S/RES/1889, and S/RES/1960), the United Nations Security Council has addressed and condemned the use of SGBV in the context of

United Nations Security Council, Women and peace and security (S/RES/1889), 2009.

United Nations Security Council, Women and peace and security (S/RES/1960), 2010.

¹¹⁴ ECOSOC, Gender-based violence and the role of the UN and its Member States, 2006, p. 3-4.

¹¹⁵ ECOSOC, Gender-based violence and the role of the UN and its Member States, 2006, p. 3-4.

¹¹⁶ UNFPA, *The Right to Reproductive and Sexual Health*, 1997.

United Nations Security Council, *Women peace and security (S/RES/1820)*, 2008.

¹¹⁷ García-Moreno, Protection of sexual and reproductive health rights, 2009, p. 144.

¹¹⁸ UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994, Paragraph 7.2.

¹¹⁹ García-Moreno, Protection of sexual and reproductive health rights, 2009, p. 144.

UNFPA, *Strategy and Framework for Action to Addressing Gender-based Violence*, 2008, p. 7.

¹²⁰ García-Moreno, Protection of sexual and reproductive health rights, 2009, p. 144-5.

¹²¹ UNFPA, *Making Reproductive Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health a Reality for All*, 2008, p. 6-7.

¹²² UNFPA, *Making Reproductive Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health a Reality for All*, 2008, p. 6-7.

¹²³ ECOSOC, Gender-based violence and the role of the UN and its Member States, 2006.

¹²⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (A/RES/48/104)*, 1993.

¹²⁵ CEDAW, *General Recommendations No.19*, 1992.

¹²⁶ CEDAW, *General Recommendations No.19*, 1992.

conflict, further providing a strong normative framework for the issue.¹²⁷ Recently, on April 15, 2011, the Commission on Population and Development adopted a resolution on *Fertility, reproductive health and development*, emphasizing that the ability to exercise reproductive rights has benefits not just for women but society as a whole.¹²⁸

Two major conferences are particularly pertinent to SGBV and the right to reproductive health. They are the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo that resulted in the *Cairo Programme of Action*, and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women which culminated in the *Beijing Platform for Action*.¹²⁹ Three five-year reviews of the *Cairo Programme* have taken place (ICPD+5, ICPD at 10 and ICPD/15), and the next review is due in 2014.¹³⁰ Similarly, the *Beijing Platform for Action* has undergone three quinquennial reviews (Beijing+5 at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Beijing+10 and Beijing+15).¹³¹ These conventions confront SGBV and reproductive health from a human rights-based perspective, framing the right to reproductive health as a central tenet of gender equality, and a necessity for the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.¹³² There are two salient points from the Cairo and Beijing conferences for alleviating the impact of SGBV and realizing the right to reproductive health. The first is removing the threat of discrimination, coercion and violence; the second is the provision of accessible reproductive healthcare, services, and education.¹³³

In 2010, ECOSOC devoted the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) to the issue of gender equality.¹³⁴ The review found that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is uneven across targets concerning gender equality, including the achievement of universal access to reproductive health as part of Goal 5 on improving maternal health.¹³⁵ The resulting *Ministerial Declaration* reaffirmed the need to provide, promote, and protect access to reproductive health, stressing the sweeping social changes required to engage discriminatory attitudes and end all forms of discrimination, particularly through initiatives to prevent gender-based violence.¹³⁶ ECOSOC has subsequently decided to focus the 57th session of the CSW on the topic of “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” in 2013, and the 58th session on “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls” in 2014.¹³⁷ The 57th session will also discuss the possibility of conducting a further review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2015.¹³⁸ ECOSOC has thus ensured that the focus on gender equality, the drive against discrimination such as SGBV, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and MDGs will be maintained in future.

Thematic Case Studies

Sexual and gender-based violence can be perpetrated in many ways, with severe ramifications for reproductive health. Gender inequality and discrimination are the overarching issues which drive SGBV, but the specificity of certain forms mean that general policies and initiatives on gender equality alone are not necessarily sufficient in combating them. To address particular forms of gender-based violence, it is necessary not only to rectify structural inequalities or implement initiatives to empower women, it is crucial to become “culturally fluent” in order to understand the entrenched attitudes, beliefs, and motivations that shape such social behaviors and practices.¹³⁹ The

¹²⁷ United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325)*, 2000.

United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820)*, 2008.

United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888)*, 2009.

United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1889)*, 2009.

United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1960)*, 2010.

¹²⁸ United Nations Commission on Population and Development, *Fertility, reproductive health and development*, 2011.

United Nations Commission on Population and Development, *Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (E/2011/25)*, 2011, p.iii.

¹²⁹ UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994.

United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*, 1995.

¹³⁰ UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994.

¹³¹ UN Women, *Beijing and its Follow-up*.

¹³² UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994, Paragraph 7.2.

Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995, Paragraph 94, p. 35.

¹³³ UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994, Paragraph 7.3.

Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995, Paragraphs 96-97, p. 36.

¹³⁴ ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration*, 2010.

¹³⁵ ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration*, 2010, Paragraph 7.

¹³⁶ ECOSOC, *Ministerial Declaration*, 2010, Paragraph 9.a, 9.b, 9.c, 10.f, 10.g, 10.o.

¹³⁷ ECOSOC, *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (Resolution 2009/15)*, 2009.

¹³⁸ ECOSOC, *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (Resolution 2009/15)*, 2009.

¹³⁹ UNFPA, *Population Issues*, 2009.

following case studies illustrate the intersection between population and development strategies, gender-based violence and reproductive health.¹⁴⁰ The thematic cases, prenatal sex selection and child marriage, each demonstrate how a specific form of gender violence inhibits the right to reproductive health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes.”¹⁴¹

Prenatal Sex Selection

The *Beijing Platform for Action* (1995) posits that it “seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.”¹⁴² A particularly acute form of gender violence that discriminates against females before birth, prenatal sex selection involves the use of amniocentesis or ultrasound technology to determine the sex of the fetus, followed by an abortion if the fetus is female.¹⁴³ The practice of prenatal sex selection has resulted in severely skewed sex ratios at birth (SRB) in a number of countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Cyprus, China, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Serbia, South Korea, Taiwan, and Tunisia.¹⁴⁴ A skewed SRB indicates that the ratio has deviated from the natural biological parameters of the number of males per the number of females.¹⁴⁵ The accepted healthy parameters are between 104 and 106 males per 100 females born, but ratios as high as 130 males per 100 females have been recorded.¹⁴⁶ Ratios outside of the healthy parameters are the result of human intervention, almost always biased in favor of males, created through the conjunction of new reproductive technology (such as ultrasound scans) and a social preference for sons.¹⁴⁷

The gender-discriminatory determinants of skewed sex ratios have economic and socio-cultural origins. Economic factors such as the low status of women in society and their economic dependence upon their families reinforce the perception of female children as a burden.¹⁴⁸ In India, for example, already-poor families may face further impoverishment by losing land, resources and money in dowry payment when their daughters leave the family after marriage.¹⁴⁹ Conversely, sons are expected to support their birth families, inherit the family business and estate, and provide for their parents for the rest of their lives.¹⁵⁰ In this sense, a daughter equals the loss of any resources invested in her as she is raised, and a further loss in dowry at marriage, reifying a widely-used sentiment that raising a girl is merely “watering the neighbor’s plant,” as she will never be of economic benefit to her birth family in comparison to a son.¹⁵¹

However, a purely economic explanation of son preference is insufficient: research shows that prenatal sex selection is popular amongst the wealthy and educated in India.¹⁵² The “class paradox” demonstrates that wealthy and educated women (with a Grade 10 education or higher) have a sex ratio of 683 females per 1,000 males for second and third births, compared to a ratio of 869 females per 1,000 males among women who are illiterate.¹⁵³ These families can afford to raise girls and give them away with dowries as cultural custom requires, yet still many choose to actively avoid giving birth to girls.¹⁵⁴ The social factors of son preference lie not just within the son’s role as provider and inheritor, but through cultural and religious rites that he is expected to perform such as making *pindas* (offerings to pay off ancestral debts) and *sraddha* (the lighting of the funeral pyre and observances of rites after the

¹⁴⁰ UNFPA, *Population Issues*, 2009.

¹⁴¹ UN ICPD, *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*, 1994, Paragraph 7.2.

¹⁴² Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995, Paragraph 38, p. 14.

¹⁴³ Guilмото, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007, p. 3.

¹⁴⁴ The Economist, *Gendecide: The worldwide war on baby girls*, 2010.

Hvistendahl, *Unnatural Selection*, 2011.

¹⁴⁵ Guilмото, *The Sex Ratio Transition in Asia*, 2009, p. 520.

¹⁴⁶ Guilмото, *The Sex Ratio Transition in Asia*, 2009, p. 520.

UNFPA, *Son preference and prenatal sex selection*.

¹⁴⁷ UNFPA, *Son preference and prenatal sex selection*.

¹⁴⁸ Attané & Guilмото, *Watering the Neighbour’s Garden: The Growing Demographic Female Deficit in Asia*, 2007.

¹⁴⁹ Ahmad, *Female foeticide in India*, 2010, p. 16-17.

Bumiller, *May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons: A Journey Among the Women of India*, 1990, p. 117.

Chamberlain, *Female foeticide in India*, 2008.

¹⁵⁰ Kapoor, *Adoption: Born to Live*, 2007, p. 234-5.

¹⁵¹ Attané, *Watering the Neighbour’s Garden: The Growing Demographic Female Deficit in Asia*, 2007.

¹⁵² Dale, *India’s missing daughters*, 2011.

Guilмото, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007, p. 7.

¹⁵³ CSR, *Meri Shakti, Meri Beti ‘My Strength, My Daughter’: An Anti Female Foeticide Campaign*, 2007.

Dale, *India’s missing daughters*, 2011.

¹⁵⁴ Dale, *India’s missing daughters*, 2011.

death of the father).¹⁵⁵ These determinants culminate as gender violence in the form of discrimination against and elimination of women who have not yet been born, with negative consequences for reproductive health.

The impact of prenatal sex selection on the right to reproductive health includes pressure to eliminate a female fetus or neglect a female baby, which impairs the right to autonomous and equal decision-making; and repeated abortions that are detrimental to the mother's physical and psychological reproductive health (particularly when undertaken in backstreet conditions, which increases mortality rates).¹⁵⁶ In 2005, it was calculated that if the entire continent of Asia had maintained a natural SRB for the last few decades, an additional 163 million females would appear in the Asian demography.¹⁵⁷ The "missing women" phenomenon, with a corresponding surplus of men, has undesirable consequences for reproductive health and the occurrence and perpetuation of gender-based violence.¹⁵⁸ This is because the scarcity of women and the high ratio of men increases the likelihood of women being trafficked, and is likely to destabilize society not just in terms of gender violence such as prostitution, child marriage, sexual harassment, or polygamy, but also in terms of class cleavages as poorer people will be disproportionately affected.¹⁵⁹ Prenatal sex selection is ultimately a severe form of gender discrimination that denies the right to reproductive health as a component of overall health throughout the life cycle.¹⁶⁰

Child Marriage

Child marriage is understood as a form of gender violence because it constitutes a violation of children's rights, as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁶¹ An estimated 10 million girls are married worldwide each year, and one in three girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18, the age at which young people are internationally recognized as adults.¹⁶² A third of child brides worldwide live in India, and regional figures estimate that 46% of underage girls are married in sub-Saharan Africa, 38% in South Asia, 21% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 18% in the Middle East and North Africa.¹⁶³ Child marriage is a direct form of discrimination against the girl child, depriving her of basic rights to health, education, development, and equality.¹⁶⁴ It leaves her vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse and deprives her of her right to reproductive health through poor or no provision or access to information about her rights and health, or the means to act upon them.¹⁶⁵

Poverty and tradition are two of primary determinants of the practice of child marriage.¹⁶⁶ If a family is acutely impoverished, early marriage provides an opportunity to remove the economic burden a girl places upon them.¹⁶⁷ Conversely, child wives may be chosen by parents-in-law because they are thought to be more fertile, which would maximize the chances of having new children (particularly boys) to provide wealth, social status, and security for the rest of the family.¹⁶⁸ In other areas, particularly those which have suffered or are suffering from conflict, families wish to marry girls at an early age as they hope that it will protect them and the girl from sexual violence that combatants engage in.¹⁶⁹ In traditional terms, some societies consider a girl who can menstruate an adult, despite the physical immaturity that means it would be unhealthy for her to bear children – this clashes with the CRC's definition of a child as anyone under the age of 18, and impairs the right to reproductive health.¹⁷⁰ The role of women in societies where child marriage occurs is often governed by traditional views that women are subservient to men, and a multitude of entrenched gender discriminatory practices within the society reinforce the practice of child marriage.¹⁷¹

¹⁵⁵ Kapoor, *Adoption: Born to Live*, 2007, p. 234-5.

¹⁵⁶ Thomas, *Abortion Law and the Unregulated Business of Female Sex-Selective Abortions in India*, 2007, p. 3.

¹⁵⁷ Guilmoto, *Sex Ratio imbalance in Asia: Trends, consequences and policy responses*, 2007, p. 1.

¹⁵⁸ Guilmoto, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007, p. 13.

¹⁵⁹ Leidl, *Silent spring: the tragedy of India's never-born girls*, 2005.

Guilmoto, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007, p. 13.

¹⁶⁰ Guilmoto, *Sex Ratio imbalance in Asia: Trends, consequences and policy responses*, 2007.

¹⁶¹ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008, p. 3.

¹⁶² The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁶³ The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁶⁴ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008, p. 3.

¹⁶⁵ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008, p. 3, 21.

¹⁶⁶ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008, p. 32.

¹⁶⁷ UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 6.

¹⁶⁸ UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 6.

¹⁶⁹ UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 6.

¹⁷⁰ UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 6.

UNFPA, *The Right to Reproductive and Sexual Health*, 1997.

¹⁷¹ UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 7.

The negative effects of child marriage on the right to reproductive health are extensive. Statistically, girls under the age of 15 are five times as likely to die giving birth as women over the age of 20, and girls aged between 15 and 19 are still twice as likely to die.¹⁷² Maternal morbidity is also highly problematic, as girls under the age of 18 have a greater chance of suffering an obstructed birth and injuries such as fistulas.¹⁷³ Child brides are often too young to be able to access reproductive health information if it is available, let alone exercise any of their reproductive rights – an illustration of this is that they are at greater risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases because they lack the power to insist upon safe sexual practices.¹⁷⁴ Even if they are not suffering from abuse or exploitation, child wives are powerless to decide upon the number of children they have and the spacing between them.¹⁷⁵ The children of child brides are also at risk because of their mother's age, and are 60% more likely to die before the age of 12 months than children borne by mothers over the age of 19.¹⁷⁶ Child marriage represents an acute form of gender violence, as both a cause and an effect of SGBV.

Priorities for Action

It is clear that sexual and gender-based violence has an extensive negative impact on realizing the right to reproductive health. Amongst the many ways in which the impact of SGBV could be addressed, there are three particular complementary courses which could provide a strong basis for coordinating further action: improving the status of women, alleviating societal pressures that perpetuate gender violence, and enhancing public policy and legal structures.¹⁷⁷ To a large extent, improving the status of women necessitates social change. This is evident through the engrained socio-cultural beliefs and practices which perpetuate practices such as prenatal sex selection and child marriage.¹⁷⁸ Social pressures that perpetuate gender violence like son preference, and expectations such as the subservience of women to men, prevent adherence to existing national laws and international conventions designed to preserve the right to reproductive health.¹⁷⁹ A social barrier to the empowerment of women and the realization of reproductive rights therefore exists, despite existing legal structures which recognize this problem: the texts of both the *Cairo Programme of Action* (1994) and the *Beijing Platform for Action* (1995), for example, call for removal of regulatory and social barriers to the provision of reproductive health information and care.¹⁸⁰ Establishing or enhancing policies and legal structures for the promotion and protection of reproductive rights and to eliminate gender violence is an important step in moving forward.¹⁸¹ Concurrent with this, however, must be community-based initiatives. As demonstrated within recent research by the International Center for Research on Women, it was shown that programs working directly with girls, families and communities are most effective in changing “underlying social norms.”¹⁸² Empowering women through education and economic independence, therefore, is one of the most powerful ways to break the cycle of poverty, but also for breaking the cycle of gender violence.¹⁸³

Conclusion

The eradication of SGBV and the realization of the right to reproductive health will ultimately benefit societies as a whole, improving both economic and social aspects of life far beyond the realm of reproductive health.¹⁸⁴ On a macro-scale, sexual and reproductive health and rights are “integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.”¹⁸⁵ However, the starting point for achieving these wider goals is situated in firstly eliminating gender-based violence, and secondly realizing the right to reproductive health, in society. Whilst the “ultimate goal... (may be) the improvement of the quality of life of present and future generations,” this process

¹⁷² The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁷³ The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁷⁴ The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁷⁵ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008, p. 3.

¹⁷⁶ The Elders, *Girls Not Brides – a new global partnership to end child marriage*, 2011.

¹⁷⁷ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008.

¹⁷⁸ Kapoor, *Adoption: Born to Live*, 2007, p. 234-5.

UNICEF, *Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, 2001, p. 7.

¹⁷⁹ Guilmoto, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007.

¹⁸⁰ UNFPA, *The Right to Reproductive and Sexual Health*, 1997.

¹⁸¹ UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law*, 2008.

ICRW, *Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows*, 2011.

Guilmoto, *Characteristics of Sex-Ratio Imbalance in India, and Future Scenarios*, 2007.

¹⁸² ICRW, *Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows*, 2011, p. 6.

¹⁸³ ICRW, *Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows*, 2011, p. 6.

¹⁸⁴ UNFPA, *Population Issues*, 2009.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations Commission on Population and Development, *Fertility, reproductive health and development*, 2011, p. 3.

begins with the elimination of gender discrimination, for as girls flourish “their families and communities flourish as well.”¹⁸⁶ Osotimehin puts this simply:

“Putting girls first... promoting their rights and gender equality, and prioritizing them within national programmes for health, education, livelihoods, and security... (Capitalizing) on this critical period in their lives... (channeling) our energies to end child marriage; keep girls in school; stop violence against girls; provide girls with the right skills and opportunities; and promote comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education and access sexual and reproductive health.”¹⁸⁷

To prepare for discussions on this topic, there are a number of questions to consider. Firstly, what are the key areas which need to be addressed to eliminate gender violence as a barrier to the right of reproductive health? How should these areas be prioritized, and most crucially, how should they be targeted? To varying extents, ECOSOC and a number of its subsidiary bodies and important international agreements, such as the Cairo and Beijing frameworks, have already addressed this topic. In future, what support should be given by ECOSOC and related bodies on this matter, and to whom? Whether the existing frameworks need updating, and how, should also be considered. Underpinning any proposed solution must be a mechanism to address any funds required. Whether a timeframe is needed to implement the measures expounded in the resolution, and what is realistically possible, should also be addressed. Two forthcoming events which may be of interest for this topic are taking place in 2014: the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, and the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development, which will have a special theme of “Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.”¹⁸⁸ Preparatory materials for these events could provide useful insights for the direction of possible resolutions in terms of gender violence within the family, an important component of SGBV as demonstrated by prenatal sex selection and child marriage.

Annotated Bibliography

II. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-based Violence on Realizing the Right to Reproductive Health

Attané, I. and C.Z. Guilмото. (Eds.) (2007). *Watering the Neighbour's Garden: The Growing Demographic Female Deficit in Asia*. Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography. Retrieved September 14, 2011, from http://www.cicred.org/Eng/Publications/pdf/BOOK_singapore.pdf

Together, this collection of essays provides a sound initial basis for research on prenatal sex selection. Using the case studies of Bangladesh, China, the Caucasus, India, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam, it explores a wide range of factors that cause and influence this phenomenon. These include recent demographic trends, socio-cultural determinants, regional and local perspectives on gender bias and policy responses. Presenting nuanced studies that acknowledge the complex process behind prenatal sex selection and its effect upon society, this volume demonstrates the level of sensitivity and detail required to understand and respond to prenatal sex selection.

Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Platform for Action*. Retrieved September 18, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

The Beijing Platform for Action, the result of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, is one of the primary guiding documents for international efforts to achieve gender equality, so familiarity with it is essential. The Chapters IV.C on Women and health, IV.D on Violence against women, IV.I on Human rights of women and IV.L on The girl child are particularly pertinent for SGBV and the realization of reproductive rights. The Commission on the Status of Women will discuss the possibility of conducting a further review of the Beijing Platform for Action at its fifty-

¹⁸⁶ United Nations Commission on Population and Development, *Fertility, reproductive health and development*, 2011, p. 4. Osotimehin, *Statement of UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin*, 2011.

¹⁸⁷ Osotimehin, *Statement of UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin*, 2011.

¹⁸⁸ UNDESA, *Assessing family policies: Confronting family poverty and social exclusion & Ensuring work-family balance*, 2011. United Nations Commission on Population and Development, *Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (E/2011/25)*, 2011, p. 13.

seventh session in 2015. Delegates may want to consider how the Beijing Platform handles SGBV and reproductive rights in light of this possibility.

García-Moreno, C. and H. Stöckl. (2009). Protection of sexual and reproductive health rights: Addressing violence against women. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 106: 144–147. Retrieved September 14, 2011, from <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0020-7292/PIIS0020729209001489.pdf>

Framing violence against women and reproductive health in terms of human rights, this article addresses the violation of these rights as a global public health problem. Concentrating on the right of women to live free from violence and the negative health consequences violence entails, García-Moreno and Stöckl focus on international human rights law and public health systems as tools to protect sexual and reproductive health rights. They advocate for a multi-level approach to confront the violation of these rights, arguing that programs should be implemented on international and national levels to protect these rights and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

International Centre for Research on Women. (2011). *Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows*. Retrieved September 20, 2011, from <http://www.icrw.org/publications/solutions-end-child-marriage>

This recent publication by the ICRW provides a detailed examination of solutions to end child marriage. By systematically reviewing documented child marriage prevention programs, this report evaluates the ways that this practice can be best addressed. Tracing programs as far back as the 1920s, the review finds that the number and scope of programs has increased in the past couple of decades, and that five core strategies can be discerned in devising a program which is likely to be successful. On balance, the ICRW concludes that their findings are positive, and will be useful in directing future programs.

Partners for Prevention. (2008). *Men and the Prevention of Gender-based Violence A Conceptual Framework for Policy Change*. Prepared for UN Asia Pacific Regional Programme “Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence” an interagency initiative of UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNV. Retrieved September 14, 2011, from http://www.partners4prevention.org/files/resources/policy_change.pdf

The product of a UN interagency initiative, this program focuses on the role and involvement of boys and men in reducing gender violence. It proposes that gender violence can be eliminated through holistic change, by redefining men’s as well as women’s roles and status in society. This is particularly important for the eradication of both prenatal sex selection and child marriage. As such, this program advocates profound economic and social change, engaging and mobilizing men on issues such as sexual and reproductive health that are often seen as “women’s issues,” and above all making a clear commitment to gender equity in policy and lawmaking.

United Nations Children’s Fund. (2008). *Child Marriage and the Law*. Legislative Reform Initiative Paper Series. UNICEF Division of Policy and Planning. Retrieved September 16, 2011, from http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Child_Marriage_and_the_Law%281%29.pdf

Focusing on the legislative aspect of preventing child marriage, this document provides a thorough background to international human rights law and norms to produce a framework to combat child marriage. Giving a thorough examination of the causes of child marriage and a number of country studies, this paper thoroughly grounds readers in the topic. The recommendations for law and policy reform, and the use of courts of law, constitute useful suggestion for directing future child marriage prevention programs.

United Nations Commission on Population and Development. (2011). *Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (E/2011/25)*. Retrieved August 7, 2011, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2011/25

This report provides an up-to-date and detailed review of “Fertility, reproductive health and development” under the auspices of the Commission on Population and Development. It reinforces the notion of sexual and reproductive health as a human rights issue, condemns extreme forms of gender discrimination such as prenatal sex selection and encourages states to create a socio-economic environment conducive to the elimination of child marriage. The document also includes the Commission’s resolution from this session, providing a highly relevant guide for future decisions.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2010). *Report of the Secretary-General on the Annual Ministerial Review (E/2010/4)*. Retrieved September 20, 2011, from <http://doc.un.org/DocBox/docbox.nsf/GetAll?OpenAgent&DS=E/2010/4>

Reporting on the ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review in 2010, this document critically assesses the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and their contributions in terms of realizing the Millennium Development Goals through a gender perspective. As such, it is an excellent resource for evaluating past and current international efforts on a host of gender issues, and for gaining a thorough background on these issues to put SGBV and reproductive rights in a wider context.

United Nations Population Fund. (2008). *Making Reproductive Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health a Reality for All*. Retrieved September 15, 2011, from

http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/UNFPA_SRH_Framework_FinalVersion.pdf

As the central framework for the UNFPA's work on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), this document acts as a reliable reference for past and current efforts on realizing reproductive health, progress made and remaining challenges, global trends and statistics, priorities for action and detailed policy objectives. It is extremely useful as an overall guide to SRH, but it is also an excellent example of how to plan, structure and develop programs, and manage them with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

United Nations International Conference on Population and Development. (1994). *The Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development*. Retrieved August 6, 2011, from

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/sitemap/icpd/International-Conference-on-Population-and-Development/ICPD-Programme>

Like the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development (known as the Cairo Programme of Action) is a seminal framework for international work on gender equality. Chapter IV on Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women and Chapter VII on Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health are particularly pertinent for this topic, and a thorough knowledge of this document and its reviews will be extremely useful in deciding how its work affects this topic and how it could be enhanced in future. The next review of the Cairo Programme will be held in 2014.

III. Environmental Migration and Social Vulnerability as a Result of Climate Change

“The interlinkage of environment and human security is nowhere else more pronounced. When “perverted nature” strikes back, when ecosystem services get exhausted, hazard events devastate large stripes of land, then environment literally turns against humans.”¹⁸⁹

Introduction

Natural disasters affect 250 million people per year, and population displacement is a pervasive issue in both slow and sudden-onset cases.¹⁹⁰ In the next decades, climate change threatens to exacerbate the environmental events and processes that cause natural disasters.¹⁹¹ Consequently, it is thought human movement within and across state borders will dramatically increase.¹⁹² Migration of this type is understood as “forced,” which refers to “the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (those displaced by conflicts) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects.”¹⁹³ One of the major effects of environmental migration is social vulnerability, as migration affects “population growth, poverty,

¹⁸⁹ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 5.

¹⁹⁰ Birkmann et al., *Addressing the challenge: Recommendations and quality criteria for linking disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change*, 2009, p. 4.

IOM, *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*, 2008.

¹⁹¹ McAdam, *Environmental Migration Governance*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁹² McAdam, *Environmental Migration Governance*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁹³ Forced Migration Online, *What is Forced Migration?*, 2007.

governance, human security and conflict.”¹⁹⁴ The multifarious nature of migration complicates this; migration is affected by social, economic, cultural, and political factors amongst others, so cases of “environmental” migration can be difficult to discern.¹⁹⁵ However, recent predictions of mass migration of this kind have reached estimates of nearly 50 million people by the year 2020, lending a greater urgency to questions regarding the capabilities of international refugee structures in coping with the effects of climate change.¹⁹⁶ As such, this guide will examine the causes and history of migration, and the key issues and challenges that current refugee law faces in addressing environmental migration. Finally, two case studies on Southeast Asia and Africa illustrate the effects of climate change upon environmental migration and social vulnerability in finer detail before key questions for consideration are outlined in the conclusion.

Difficulties of Definition

Before this topic can be examined, an overarching issue concerning the definition of terms in the debate must be explicated. Currently, discussion on environmental migration is hampered by the lack of a consensual definition on what being an “environmental ‘migrant,’ ‘refugee,’ or ‘displaced person’” means.¹⁹⁷ In terms of governance, the failure to agree upon a definition has a number of repercussions “procedurally – as an international, regional or local, developed and/or developing country concern/responsibility – and thematically – for example, within the existing refugee protection framework or under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change” (UNFCCC).¹⁹⁸ Multiple working definitions of environmental migration therefore exist, from concise understandings such as “people who migrate from their usual residence due to changes in their ambient non-human environment,” to ones that emphasize the multi-causal nature of migration and understand environmental migration as “a continuum, ranging from clear cases of forced to clear cases of voluntary movement, with a grey zone in between.”¹⁹⁹ An internationally-agreed definition of environment migration is therefore a central goal if progression is to be made in negotiations on changing or adapting current international refugee structures in the face of climate change.

Defining social vulnerability is equally important with regards to this topic. In relation to climate change, there are two particularly important factors to address when considering social vulnerability: social inequality and geographic location.²⁰⁰ Social inequities, such as “age, gender, race and socioeconomic status,” contribute to vulnerability, because they affect the individual’s ability and collective capacity to respond to environmental hazards.²⁰¹ Geographic location also affects the individual and community capacity to respond to environmental changes, because factors such as “the level of urbanization, growth rates, and economic vitality” are strong influences upon social vulnerability.²⁰² The United Nations (UN) approximates that only one of its emergency humanitarian appeals in 2007 was not climate-related, demonstrating the need to address inadequacies in the current system.²⁰³ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, and has a mandate to discuss issues of environmental safety and security, as well as the protection of refugees and migrants.²⁰⁴ The Council has the power to make or initiate studies and reports on important issues such as environmental migration and social vulnerability, and it is these functions which must be utilized to make progress in this area.²⁰⁵

Environmental Migration: History and Challenges

The notion of the “environmental refugee” was first enumerated by Lester Brown of the World Watch Institute in mid-1970s; subsequent prominent theorists in the area include Essam El-Hinnawi in the 1980s, Norman Myers in the 1990s, and more recently Diana Bates and Tracey King.²⁰⁶ Outside academic debate, however, the notion has not gained legal influence; there are no international or national institutional systems that recognize environmental

¹⁹⁴ IOM, *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*, 2008.

¹⁹⁵ IOM, *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*, 2008.

¹⁹⁶ IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007.

¹⁹⁷ McAdam, *Environmental Migration Governance*, 2009, p. 3.

¹⁹⁸ McAdam, *Environmental Migration Governance*, 2009, p. 3.

¹⁹⁹ Bates, *Environmental Refugees? Classifying Human Migrations Caused by Environmental Change*, 2003, p. 468.

IOM, *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*, 2008.

²⁰⁰ Cutter et al., *Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards*, 2003, p. 243.

²⁰¹ Cutter et al., *Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards*, 2003, p. 245.

²⁰² Cutter et al., *Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards*, 2003, p. 243.

²⁰³ High Representative and the European Commission to the European Council, *Climate Change and International Security*, 2008, p. 1.

²⁰⁴ ECOSOC, *Background Information*.

²⁰⁵ ECOSOC, *Background Information*.

²⁰⁶ Ugalde, *Environmental Migration and Unsustainable Use of Natural Resources – Case Study Mexico*, p. 1.

change as a cause of migration, even though the UN and various civil society bodies utilize terms such as “environmental refugee.”²⁰⁷ Within the existing international legal framework for refugees, the accepted definition of a refugee, as defined within the *United Nations High Commission for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Statute*, is a person “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”²⁰⁸ Neither the *United Nations High Commission for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Statute* or the *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* specifically mentions the environment.²⁰⁹

However, Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of ... circumstances beyond his control.” This right is clearly threatened by the prospect of mass environmental migration, a circumstance beyond the control of the migrants. The social vulnerability that is created by climate change also creates an environment that threatens basic human rights. When climate change creates a situation where finding food and water is a challenge, or when livelihoods are threatened, basic human rights are violated and social vulnerability becomes a major concern. There is thus an international institutional vacuum as far as environmental migration is concerned, as “both environmental problems and population movements (because of such environmental change) often transcend the ‘protective’ borders of the nation-state.”²¹⁰ The ECOSOC provides a suitable forum to address this issue, as mandated by Article 62 of the *Charter of the United Nations* which states that the Council has competence in matters including (but not limited to) “international, economic, social, cultural, educational, and health,” all of which are impacted directly or indirectly by environmental migration as an issues of “basic rights and needs.”²¹¹

Climate Change and Migration

To address environmental migration and social vulnerability as a result of climate change, the relationship between these factors must be examined. Established in 1992, the UNFCCC defines climate change as “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”²¹² Examples of these changes according to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) include the observation that global temperatures have risen 0.74 degrees Centigrade over the past 100 years, that atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is greater than at any time in the past 650,000 years, and that mountain glaciers have shrunk by about 7%.²¹³ A critical characteristic of climate change, and not just in terms of its implications for migration, is that it is a “threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability.”²¹⁴ Whilst climate change is not usually the sole cause of events such as outbreaks of conflict or mass migration, it exacerbates pre-existing environmental, political, economic, and cultural vulnerabilities and overburdens governance capacities.²¹⁵ The populations most susceptible to climate change migration are often affected by these vulnerabilities;

“For both developed and developing countries, the lower the economic, political, and social status of the people (...) affected by disasters, the larger the loss burden (...) Consequently, the people and activities most affected by natural disasters are bound to be those belonging to the poorest and most powerless social sectors of less developed countries, especially in those countries undergoing rapid transition with little or no regard for social consequences at the margin.”²¹⁶

Two case studies, on Southeast Asia and Africa, will now be examined to explore the relationship between environmental migration, social vulnerability and climate change in further detail.

²⁰⁷ McNamara, *The Politics of ‘Environmental Refugee’ Protection at the United Nations*, 2006, p. 1-2.

²⁰⁸ United Nations, *Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, 1950, Chapter II, Art. 6.A.ii, p. 7.

²⁰⁹ United Nations, *Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, 1950.
United Nations, *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951.

²¹⁰ McNamara, *The Politics of ‘Environmental Refugee’ Protection at the United Nations*, 2006, p. 2.

²¹¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Chapter X, Art. 62.

McNamara, *The Politics of ‘Environmental Refugee’ Protection at the United Nations*, 2006, p. 2.

²¹² UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, Art. 1.2, p. 3.

²¹³ African Development Forum, *Quick Facts on Climate Change*, 2010.

²¹⁴ High Representative and the European Commission to the European Council, *Climate Change and International Security*, 2008, p. 2.

²¹⁵ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 2, 7.

²¹⁶ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 28.

Case Studies

Southeast Asia

In global terms, Asia suffers a disproportionate number of “severe” natural disasters, and groups most at risk tend to be those classed as socially vulnerable: “women, the elderly, children, ethnic and religious minorities, single-headed households; people engaged in marginal livelihoods; socially excluded groups such as ‘illegal’ settlers and others whose rights and claim to resources are not officially recognised” as well as those who are poorer.²¹⁷ Covering the Asian region east of the Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam, several climate change “hot spots” have been identified in Southeast Asia.²¹⁸ Environmental concerns include rising sea-levels, storm surges, cyclones, and water stress as a consequence of freshwater salinization and urbanization.²¹⁹ It is feared that climate change will amplify these events, and that they will place extra pressure on already-heavily populated cities as migration increases.²²⁰

A particular problem is that a third of the Southeast Asian population lives in areas “considered to be at risk of coastal flooding and its associated impacts.”²²¹ Over the last decades, coastal areas in Southeast Asia have been the site of much development, resulting in greater population density, population growth, migration to coastal areas, inadequately-planned urbanization and “inappropriate development in high-risk areas for industry, shipping and transport, aquaculture, and tourism.”²²² It is expected that climate change will increase the sea level from 0.09 meters to 0.88 meters by 2100, with four main physical effects and a host of socioeconomic impacts.²²³ This is expected to entail lowland flooding, shoreline erosion, aggravated storm patterns and damage and the salinization of freshwater sources.²²⁴ The corresponding socioeconomic impacts are thought to include “the loss of economic, ecological, cultural, and subsistence values through loss of land, infrastructure, and coastal habitats; increased flood risk to people, land, and infrastructure, and the aforementioned values; and other impacts related to changes in water management, salinity, and biological activities.”²²⁵

To address the likelihood of migration through climate change, adaptation strategies that aim to firstly prevent disasters in the first instance and secondly to prepare for them so that they can be managed and their impacts minimized as far as possible, are very important.²²⁶ This is because adaptation strategies address the fundamental aspect of social vulnerability, which increases susceptibility to environmental migration, as they can “substantially enhance social capital and reduce the vulnerability of developing countries of Asia to climate change.”²²⁷ Initiatives to increase income and reduce poverty, improve education levels and diversify technical skills, increase public food distribution, diversify agricultural produce, extend early warning systems, develop healthcare systems and advance sustainable and equitable development offer “no regret” policy measures against the impacts of climate change.²²⁸ The UN has noted that the “best way to reduce their (communities’ and countries’) vulnerability is to help lift them out of poverty”, and adaptation strategies are closely aligned with this development goal and others such as the Millennium Development Goals.²²⁹

Africa

²¹⁷ Zou and Thomalla, *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*, 2008, p. 17-18.

²¹⁸ ASEAN, *Member States*.

Asian Development Bank, *Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific*, 2009, p. 17.

²¹⁹ Asian Development Bank, *Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific*, 2009, p. 17.

²²⁰ Asian Development Bank, *Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific*, 2009, p. 17.

²²¹ Asian Development Bank, *Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific*, 2009, p. 20.

²²² Zou and Thomalla, *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*, 2008, p. 18.

²²³ Zou and Thomalla, *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*, 2008, p. 19.

²²⁴ Zou and Thomalla, *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*, 2008, p. 19.

²²⁵ Zou and Thomalla, *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*, 2008, p. 19.

²²⁶ IPCC, *Vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies*, 2007.

²²⁷ IPCC, *Vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies*, 2007.

²²⁸ IPCC, *Vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies*, 2007.

Asian Development Bank, *The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: A Regional Review*, 2009, p. 103.

²²⁹ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 28.

Asian Development Bank, *The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: A Regional Review*, 2009, p. 55.

The First Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-1) Conference was held on October 17-19, 2011, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the auspices of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).²³⁰ It was noted that climate change does not have a uniform impact upon the continent, though the different consequences will impact upon hundreds of millions of people.²³¹ It is estimated, for example, that 350-600 million people will be under water stress by 2050, and that climate-sensitive disease epidemics such as malaria, cholera and meningitis will be aggravated.²³² Climate change presents four particular general challenges for Africa:

- “1. Intensified acute weather-related hazards that contribute to temporary and permanent social disruption or change;
2. Competition for natural resources that contribute to local- level conflict, which in turn may fuel societal disruption and population displacement.
3. Intensified drought and desertification that adversely affect food security and livelihoods
4. Rising sea levels that inundate coastal areas and will be particularly harmful to low lying deltas and island countries.”²³³

In North Africa and the Sahel, it is feared that communities will have to permanently leave due to desertification.²³⁴ In Southern Africa, rainfall has already decreased by about 20% since 1950, and future rainfall is expected to decline a further 10%, leading to a high level of water-stress in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050.²³⁵ Food security is a further problem: 70% of Africans are dependent upon agricultural livelihoods, and approximately 80% of the 100 million people expected to be at risk of hunger by 2080 live in Africa.²³⁶ These statistics may seem abstracted, but the effects of climate change are already in action.²³⁷ The World Health Organization estimates that over 150,000 deaths that occurred in the year 2000 were the result of changes in the climate since the 1970s, and the climate change-related Zimbabwean drought in the early 1990s effected an 11% decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).²³⁸

The IPCC (2007) noted that the situation in Africa is such that “for many in Africa adaptation is not an option but a necessity.”²³⁹ At the CCDA-1 Conference, five priorities for action were identified for African leaders.²⁴⁰ The first, and most crucial point, is to multiply adaptation strategies so that there are a multiplicity of development processes and a range of ways through which people can make their livelihoods.²⁴¹ Secondly, the promotion of disaster risk reduction strategies alongside investment in responses to natural hazard and conflict can help minimize the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.²⁴² The remaining goals are more indirect, concerned with the support and development of African knowledge and science, the improvement of support systems within frameworks such as the UN, and the design and implementation of risk management and reduction.²⁴³

Current Challenges and Key Issues

The latest projections by the IPCC (2007) indicate that in future, people across the globe will have to face the ramifications of extremities in weather patterns (such as precipitation, droughts, heat waves and cyclones) and rising sea-levels.²⁴⁴ If these projections are realized, the changes wrought by climate change in ecosystems, hydrological systems, terrestrial biological systems and aquatic systems will alter the environment and “contribute greatly to future migration fluxes.”²⁴⁵ Applying the precautionary principle and preparing for these changes in case they occur as predicted would be pragmatic, though “scientific “concerns”... paralyze both the scientific and the policy making

²³⁰ ACPC, *Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa*, 2011.

²³¹ Lamptey et al., *Vulnerability and Climate Change Hot Spots in Africa*, 2011, p. 6.

²³² Lamptey et al., *Vulnerability and Climate Change Hot Spots in Africa*, 2011, p. 6, 9.

²³³ Warner and Zakieldean, *Managing Loss & Damage: Climate Resilient Development & Adaptation in Africa*, 2011, p. 5.

²³⁴ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 30.

²³⁵ Tearfund, *Fleeing the Heat*, 2006 p. 9-10.

²³⁶ Tearfund, *Fleeing the Heat*, 2006 p. 13.

²³⁷ Tearfund, *Fleeing the Heat*, 2006 p. 13.

²³⁸ Tearfund, *Fleeing the Heat*, 2006 p. 13-14.

²³⁹ IPCC, *Adaptation constraints and opportunities*, 2007.

²⁴⁰ Warner and Zakieldean, *Managing Loss & Damage: Climate Resilient Development & Adaptation in Africa*, 2011, p. 9.

²⁴¹ Warner and Zakieldean, *Managing Loss & Damage: Climate Resilient Development & Adaptation in Africa*, 2011, p. 9.

²⁴² Warner and Zakieldean, *Managing Loss & Damage: Climate Resilient Development & Adaptation in Africa*, 2011, p. 9.

²⁴³ Warner and Zakieldean, *Managing Loss & Damage: Climate Resilient Development & Adaptation in Africa*, 2011, p. 9.

²⁴⁴ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 25-26.

²⁴⁵ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 25-26.

communities('s)' efforts to address ill-defined concepts such as environmental migration.²⁴⁶ Creating a coherent multilateral governance framework for environmental migration will not be an easy task, however, as environmental issues are often not the only reason that people migrate from a particular area.²⁴⁷ But, as long as there is disorder over the definition of "environmental refugee," especially in legal terms, it will be difficult to protect the "basic rights and needs" of people migrating due to changes in the environment.²⁴⁸ In terms of climate change as a threat multiplier however, it is not enough to react to changes; implementing "threat minimizers" to reduce the impact of climate change and thus reduce the factors which cause people to migrate.²⁴⁹ Threat minimizers, according to the report of the Secretary-General on *Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, can be broadly classified into five categories: mitigation, adaptation, economic growth and sustainable development, effective governance mechanisms and institutions and information for decision making and risk-management.²⁵⁰ These measures are all concerned with minimizing the impact of climate change, and therefore provide a prudent setting to the protection of environmental migration, by trying to prevent it in the first place.²⁵¹

Conclusion

Environmental migration and social vulnerability will be a pressing issue in the coming decades. Due to the sweeping effects of climate change, it is necessary to examine the impact of climate change on all aspects of migration and vulnerability. It is important to determine the Economic and Social Council's role in dealing with the international issue of environmental migration and climate change. What role should the ECOSOC have in dealing with both the broader issue of climate change and the related, more specific issues of refugees and vulnerable populations? There are many devices within the Council's mandate that can be enacted to handle the issues of environmental migration and social vulnerability, such as the ability to call international conferences, make recommendations to other UN bodies and create commissions and specialized agencies.²⁵² Within the Council's mandate, which issues regarding environmental refugees and social vulnerability are most pertinent? What underlying matters need to be addressed to prevent mass numbers of environmental migrants? Running parallel to mitigation and prevention strategies against the impacts of climate change is the fact that the current legal frameworks do not accommodate environmental reasons as a cause of migration. What developments should be made in national, regional and/or international legislation regarding environmental migrants? Ultimately, climate change presents an unprecedented challenge to the international community, and it is imperative that preparations are made to meet it.²⁵³

Annotated Bibliography

III. Environmental Migration and Social Vulnerability as a Result of Climate Change

African Climate Policy Centre. (2011). *Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa*. The First Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-1) Conference held October 17-19, 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Retrieved October 21, 2011, from <http://www.uneca.org/acpc/ccda/ccda1/index.htm>

The Web site African Climate Policy Centre's first conference on climate change and development in Africa provides a plethora of current information and resources on a wide range of climate issues. A large number of academics, politicians and organizations have provided input into the debate, and their transcripts, PowerPoint presentations, and documents are available through this site, giving a broad range of perspectives on the most pressing issues, especially the social vulnerability with which this topic is concerned.

²⁴⁶ Renaud et al., *Control, Adapt or Flee? How to Face Environmental Migration?*, 2007, p. 28-29.

²⁴⁷ McAdam, *Environmental Migration Governance*, 2009, p. 23.

IOM, *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*, 2008.

²⁴⁸ McNamara, *The Politics of 'Environmental Refugee' Protection at the United Nations*, 2006, p. 2.

²⁴⁹ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 23.

²⁵⁰ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 23-27.

²⁵¹ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 27.

²⁵² ECOSOC, *Background Information*.

²⁵³ UN GA, *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications*, 2009, p. 28.

Asian Development Bank. (2009). *The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: A Regional Review*. Retrieved September 20, 2011, from <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Economics-Climate-Change-SEA/PDF/Economics-Climate-Change.pdf>

The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia review provides an in-depth study of the effects of climate change in Southeast Asia. The economic aspect of the review demonstrates the vulnerability of certain segments of the population in the region and ties those directly to climate change. The review, while focusing on Southeast Asia, discusses the impact that climate change and migration in a certain region can have on a global scale. The ideas and data that are discussed in the report provide a clear image of the negative effects of climate change in the region and the world over.

High Representative and the European Commission to the European Council. (2008.) *Climate Change and International Security*. Retrieved September 20, 2011, from http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/reports/99387.pdf

This document is a brief and concise discussion of the possible implications of climate change on international security, including (but not limited to) mass migration and climate refugees. The document explains how migration itself is a threat to security, of both the people who are migrating and the communities to which they are migrating. It also provides evidence of an increase in climate change related events and discusses environmental stressors as they pertain to security. The document focuses on Europe, but also provides evidence of global trends, and discusses possible actions to be taken in order to reduce the effects of climate change and increase international security.

International Organization for Migration. (2008). *Migration, Climate Change and the Environment: A Complex Nexus*. Retrieved August 11, 2011, from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/complex-nexus>

The IOM explains in this article the complex relationship between migration and climate change. The article discusses the many different kinds of climate refugees and why many are forced to leave their homes. The urgency of action is made clear, as well as the predicted increase in environmental migrants. The article provides a detailed explanation of the impacts of climate change on migration, as well as the impacts of mass migration on the environment.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2007). *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Retrieved August 27, 2011, from http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/contents.html

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. As a scientific body, it analyzes scientific data from all over the world relating to climate change. In its report *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, the IPCC discusses the impacts of climate change and its effect on vulnerable populations. The report discusses many regions at risk to the impacts of climate change, as well as the impacts on human health, mitigation and vulnerable populations. The report is an in-depth look at many scientific aspects of climate change, but also discusses the inter-relation between climate change and human action.*

McAdam, J. (2009). *Environmental Migration Governance*. University of New South Wales Faculty of Law Research Series. University of New South Wales Faculty of Law Research Series 2009. Working Paper 1. Retrieved August 14, 2011, from <http://law.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1143&context=unswwps>

This article provides very complete information on the legal aspects of environmental migration. It discusses many of the difficulties in mitigating environmental migration, as well as the challenges with determining the legal status of climate refugees and IDPs. The challenges of defining the term "environmental migrant" are examined, as well as the governmental implications of doing so. The article demonstrates the gaps in legislation – locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally – and examines different courses of action that may be taken to breach this gap. It also discusses governmental actions in the past that have resulted from influxes of climate change migrants and refugees.

Renaud, F., J. Bogardi, O. Dun, and K. Warner. (2007). *Control, Adapt or Flee: How to Face Environmental Migration?* Interdisciplinary Security Connections, Publication Series of UNU-EHS. Retrieved October 20, 2011, from <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/3973>

This paper debates the possible reactions and methods for resolving the issues surrounding environmental migration. Much of the international discussion so far has been concerned with the structure of the legal framework for the status of refugees, and the lack of recognition for environmental causes of migration. This paper expands the debate to ensure the adaptation and prevention strategies are equally important to resolving the legal status of environmental migrants, and it is therefore a must-read in terms of gaining a holistic understanding of the effects of climate change on environmental migration and social vulnerability.

United Nations General Assembly. (2009). *Report of the Secretary-General: Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications (A/64/350)*. Retrieved August 10, 2011, from www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/350

In this report, Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon discusses the possible security implications that climate change may have on the global community. Mr. Ban analyzes many different aspects of international security, including environmental and human security as well as sustainable development and its importance. The report analyzes how climate change contributes to social vulnerability, and how this vulnerability affects national security. Implications of climate change to development, international conflict and the status of refugees are discussed.

United Nations. (1992). *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved September 5, 2011, from <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

The UNFCCC is an international treaty created at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The document discusses the impact of human activity on climate change and the dangers of this activity. The goal of the UNFCCC is to prevent further degradation of the environment caused by human activity. The document provides good background information on what has already been done to combat climate change, and lays out the groundwork for future global governance of climate change activities.

Zou, L. and F. Thomalla. (2008). *The Causes of Social Vulnerabilities to Hazards in Southeast Asia*. Retrieved October 4, 2011, from http://sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Sustainable-livelihoods/social_vulnerability_coastal_hazards_thomalla.pdf

This working paper is an in-depth look at many different aspects of climate change and environmental hazards in Southeast Asia. The paper discusses different definitions and causes of vulnerability, while also discussing the role of governing institutions in alleviating that vulnerability. The working paper analyzes current reduction strategies and presents many courses of action in dealing with social vulnerability. Preparedness for hazards and emergency plans are discussed as well.

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Rules of Procedure

Economic and Social Council Plenary

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Economic and Social Council Plenary (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) and shall be considered adopted by the Council 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 Council.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

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

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 voting 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 Council 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 Council so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Council 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 character 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 Council to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Council 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 Council.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council 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 Council, and shall distribute documents of the Council to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council.

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

For purposes of this rule, members of the Council 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 Council, 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council.

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 Council 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 Council, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Council 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 Council 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 Council, 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 Council.

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

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

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 Council favors the closure of debate, the Council 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 Council who would like the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Council 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 Council, 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 Council 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 Council for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Council 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 role 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 COUNCIL

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Council shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council 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 Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.