

# United Nations Development Programme

## *The Four Pillars for Sustainable Development*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been working closely with more than 170 countries and territories within the areas of poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and broadening access to sustainable energy in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.<sup>1</sup> Recent years were marked by a succession of crises, from the global economic recession and the spike of food prices, to a series of climatic events and famine.<sup>2</sup>

UNDP's Executive Board consists of representatives from 36 countries who serve on a rotating basis, and has completed an evaluation of UNDP's contribution to poverty reduction recently in a meeting on February 1, 2013.<sup>3</sup> The board recognized that there is potential for UNDP to promote energy access and environmental protection for any poverty reduction strategy.<sup>4</sup> In order for developing countries to achieve sustainable energy, the UNDP recommends the strengthening of national policy consistent with low-emission development; enabling policy to allocate investment to renewable energy; energy efficiency and sustainable urban transportation; and developing effective methods of delivering energy services.<sup>5</sup> The UNDP currently has 22 global projects with an estimated value of \$85 million with the intent to improve energy use and efficiency in metropolitan areas.<sup>6</sup> UNDP has for the last 20 years helped developing countries with projects and programs in the energy sector, and in the process shifted its efforts towards supporting sustainable energy use for development.<sup>7</sup>

Natural disasters, conflict and large swings in economic conditions threaten to halt the efforts by UNDP in helping developing countries to a road of sustainability.<sup>8</sup> Hence, crisis prevention and recovery are critical parts of UNDP's work.<sup>9</sup> For instance, before Hurricane Sandy struck Haiti on October 2012, UNDP built a large wall barrier protecting communities, schools, farmlands and important infrastructure, which diminished the damage the hurricane caused.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, Cuba has been given assistance through over 40 tons of United Nations humanitarian aid after Hurricane Sandy devastated the Eastern region of the country on October 25 2013.<sup>11</sup> UNDP and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have allocated US \$5 million to Cuba from the Central Emergency Response Fund to assist those affected by the hurricane.<sup>12</sup> In a recent report by the Executive Board, *Evaluation of UNDP support to conflict-affected countries in the context of United Nations peace operations*, the Board stressed the need for expanding partnerships with international financial institutions.<sup>13</sup> These partnerships help countries on their way to recovery by developing post-crisis needs to be identified such as allocation of funds to the rebuilding of infrastructure.<sup>14</sup>

UNDP's latest Human Development Report, which will be published in March 2013, will examine how global dynamics are quickly shifting to the rising powers of the developing world.<sup>15</sup> Developing countries have become keen in reshaping their economies through social policy innovation, entrepreneurial creativity, and South-South

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Inclusive and Sustainable Development in an Age of Global Economic Uncertainty*, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Evaluation of UNDP Contributions to Poverty Reduction*, 2013, p. xii.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Evaluation of UNDP Contributions to Poverty Reduction*, 2013, p. 29.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Sustainable Energy*, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Enhance Quality. Security, and Affordability of Modern Energy*, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Universal Access to Modern Energy for the Poor*, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 14.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 14.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Hurricane Sandy kills around 80 in the Caribbean, 1.8 million Affected in Haiti*, 2012.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *UN Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Cuba*, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *UN Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Cuba*, 2012.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Evaluation of UNDP Support to Conflict-Affected Countries in the Context of United Nations Peace Operations*, 2013, p. 58.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Evaluation of UNDP Support to Conflict-Affected Countries in the Context of United Nations Peace Operations*, 2013, p. 58.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *2013 Human Development Report*, 2013.

cooperation.<sup>16</sup> UNDP has supported several developing countries in adopting policies promoting small enterprises and women's entrepreneurship.<sup>17</sup> For instance, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction, through which local communities establish a development committee, was created in 2007 by UNDP and is still operating in Bangladesh's poorest and most vulnerable cities and towns.<sup>18</sup> These committees plan and implement projects aimed at sustainable development of the community which include vocational training programs and providing small grants for small businesses.<sup>19</sup> Additional UNDP work in boosting entrepreneurship can be noted in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where qualifying candidates may apply for grants of up to 3,000 euros to help cover the expenses of establishing new businesses.<sup>20</sup> In a country where unemployment reached more than 30 % in 2011, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, partnered with UNDP, has invested more than \$22 million for job creation.<sup>21</sup> UNDP affirms its commitment to the promotion and implementation of green economy in developing countries, in which the private sector and government ensure policies and initiatives provide equal benefits for all groups of people in a country.<sup>22</sup>

### ***The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference***

UNDP is focused on its four pillar mandates of poverty reduction; democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and energy for sustainable development. UNDP is currently active in 177 countries and territories working on the ground. The Executive Board consists of 36 members.

**Format:** The United Nations Development Programme Executive Board is a Resolution Writing Committee.

**Voting:** In the United Nations Development Programme, each member has one vote and all decisions are made by a majority of members present for both procedural and substantive matters.

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *2013 Human Development Report*, 2013.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 2.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *FYR Macedonia: Employment Programme Boosts Entrepreneurs*, 2012.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *FYR Macedonia: Employment Programme Boosts Entrepreneurs*, 2012.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *The Sustainable Future We Want*, 2012, p. 2.

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United Nations Development Programme. (June, 2012). *Sustainable Future We Want*. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/annual-report-2011-2012--the-sustainable-future-we-want/>

*Provides information on a variety of countries that have received assistance from UNDP.. Poverty reduction, renewable energy, and other issues are discussed. It is emphasized that women play a major role in the sustainable and inclusive economic growth of any country. The promotion for sustainable energy for all is also discussed as a requirement for developing countries to reduce poverty and for the long term protection of the environment.*

United Nations Development Programme. (October, 2012). *Inclusive and Sustainable Development in an Age of Global Economic Uncertainty*. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2012/10/30/helen-clark-inclusive-and-sustainable-development-in-an-age-of-global-economic-uncertainty/>

*Helen Clark discusses UNDP's role in Africa as the global economy is still recuperating from the financial crisis. Clark recommends that African leaders focus their efforts on inclusive and sustainable economic growth. She further recommends the inclusion of women and the youth as economic contributors.*

United Nations Development Programme. (October, 2012). *Helen Clark: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2012/10/17/helen-clark-international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty/>

*UNDP Administrator Helen Clark presents recently published MDG progress report citing information from the report. She praises countries that have already met or nearly achieving their MDG's despite the recent global economic recession. Clark also gives recommendations for developing countries in order to stay on track in achieving MDG's.*

United Nations Development Programme. (November, 2012). *Hurricane Sandy kills Around 80 in the Caribbean, 1.8 Million Affected in Haiti*. Retrieved January 15, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2012/11/02/hurricane-sandy-kills-around-80-in-the-caribbean-1-8-million-affected-in-haiti/>

*This article reports on the damage dealt by Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean, specifically Haiti, Cuba, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Efforts made by UNDP to diminish the amount of damage dealt to Haiti is also discussed, including additional work done by UNDP to further help Haiti recover. Cuba is also discussed in much detail about the damage done and the efforts UNDP has already done in humanitarian aid.*

United Nations Development Programme. (January, 2013). *Evaluation of UNDP Contributions to Poverty Reduction*. Retrieved February 5, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2013/English/Evaluation%20of%20UNDP%20Contribution%20to%20Poverty%20Reduction.pdf>

*Every year the Executive Board evaluates UNDP yearly progress in addition to overseeing and supporting UNDP activities. The Executive Board's oversight insures that UNDP is consistently responding to evolving needs of developing countries. The report focuses on a variety of strategies to tackle poverty reduction within today's dynamic context. UNDP promotes the protection of the environment for the purpose of poverty reduction.*

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United Nations Development Programme. (2013). *Executive Board*. Retrieved February 5, 2013 from [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive\\_board/overview.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/executive_board/overview.html)

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United Nations Development Programme. (January, 2013). *Evaluation of UNDP Contributions to Poverty Reduction*. Retrieved February 5, 2013, from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2013/English/Evaluation%20of%20UNDP%20Contribution%20to%20Poverty%20Reduction.pdf>

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## I. Improving Access to Sustainable and Renewable Energy

### *Recent Developments*

In November 2012 Lighting Africa organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair that took place in Dakar, Senegal.<sup>23</sup> Lighting Africa is a program of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) together with the World Bank in order to supply communities in Africa to have functional off-grid lighting, detached from electricity, with the help of the regions' private sector.<sup>24</sup> The main types of energy supply mostly pursued by this project are the global Solar and LED Energy Access programs. This initiative was firstly brought up but the Clean Energy Ministerial and, although its main goal it's to achieve sustainable and better-quality lighting for 250 million people in 2030, it is estimated that near 4 million people are already provided with this service.<sup>25</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair of 2012 was one of the most relevant conferences on energy supply carried out recently in Africa if considered by its outcomes.<sup>26</sup> Its great attendance (more than 40 exhibitors and over 300 stakeholders of Off-Grid Lighting) enabled the conversation on different topics related to energy.<sup>27</sup> The discussion on how to increase the distribution and the access of clean energy in the African continent concluded very positively that Lighting Africa would be capable of meeting its target of supplying 250 million people with lighting products by 2030, if working along with the private sector.<sup>28</sup> Also in this event, Lighting Africa referred to its report called Key Trends and Developments in the Africa Off-Grid Lighting Market that expresses the nine fold increase in the market of well-qualified solar lamps from 2009 to 2012.<sup>29</sup> This means that many local businesses and low-income families of Sub-Saharan Africa had their lives improved by solar energy.<sup>30</sup> Lastly, the entrance of multinationals supporting the local economy and the increase of manufacturers committed to environment attentive types of energy, were some positive results reported by this study.<sup>31</sup>

Also at the end of 2012 the Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative (ACCES) was launched as a result of the work of the World Bank's Africa Energy Group (AFTEG) and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP).<sup>32</sup> In cooperation with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (The Alliance) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA) the objective of this initiative is to promote clean technologies in households, especially for cooking, relating and empowering the private sector for regional development in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>33</sup> It also helps creating a healthy environment to families in Africa by encouraging the use of cleaner fuels, making them more affordable, and therefore facilitating their general access.<sup>34</sup> The Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative is especially important to girls since they are the responsible for the meals in many cultures. This initiative also focuses therefore in gender integration.<sup>35</sup>

Furthermore, the World Bank has been working with governments to increase countries' development in geothermal energy.<sup>36</sup> Indonesia is seen as the country with the highest potential in this type energy, having the capacity to produce nearly 40% of the world's reserves. Investment in geothermal development in the country is required since its current use is no bigger than 4%.<sup>37</sup> With the support of the World Bank important geothermal fields in the country are being financed (for example in Ulubelu and Lahendong) making possible the generation of power to further 1 million families.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Lighting Africa, *3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair*, Web site.

<sup>24</sup> Lighting Africa, *3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair*, Web site.

<sup>25</sup> Lighting Africa, *African Lighting Market Records Explosive Growth IFC/World Bank Study*, 2012.

<sup>26</sup> Lighting Africa, *African Lighting Market Records Explosive Growth IFC/World Bank Study*, 2012.

<sup>27</sup> Lighting Africa, *3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair*, Web site.

<sup>28</sup> Lighting Africa, *3<sup>rd</sup> International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair*, Web site.

<sup>29</sup> Lighting Africa, *African Lighting Market Records Explosive Growth IFC/World Bank Study*, 2012.

<sup>30</sup> Lighting Africa, *African Lighting Market Records Explosive Growth IFC/World Bank Study*, 2012.

<sup>31</sup> Lighting Africa, *African Lighting Market Records Explosive Growth IFC/World Bank Study*, 2012.

<sup>32</sup> Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, *Web site*.

<sup>33</sup> Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, *Web site*.

<sup>34</sup> World Bank, *Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative (ACCES)*, 2012, p. 3.

<sup>35</sup> World Bank, *Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative (ACCES)*, 2012, p. 3.

<sup>36</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Deep Well of Experience Supporting Indonesia's Geothermal Development*, 2012.

<sup>37</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Deep Well of Experience Supporting Indonesia's Geothermal Development*, 2012.

<sup>38</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Deep Well of Experience Supporting Indonesia's Geothermal Development*, 2012.

Indeed, many countries around the world are currently looking forward to using geothermal energy as it is known to be a trustworthy source of power, besides being cheap and clean.<sup>39</sup> In some cases geothermal energy is even considered to be one of the first responsible for countries' local development.<sup>40</sup> In Kenya for instance, communities around Olkaria are experiencing a prosperous environment as a result from the constant non-polluting provision of power generated ever since a geothermal plant was implemented in the region.<sup>41</sup> Because of this, Pierre Audinet, leader of the Clean Energy Program Team of the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) affirmed "For many developing countries, this is a transformative source [of energy]".<sup>42</sup>

The UNDP brought up an interesting and innovative challenge to encourage off-grid renewable energy by doing a pilot experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project launched in the end of 2012 consists in finding creative solutions for the provision of off-grid power to families in rural areas of the country.<sup>43</sup> The UNDP and its partner "Nesta", a British charity group, are planning to reward the creator of the challenge's solution with \$20,000. The winning alternative will be tested in at least 50 Bosnian and Herzegovinian families and, if successful, reproduced in other parts of the world.<sup>44</sup> After the Bosnia and Herzegovina's war over a decade ago, thousands of families came back to the country. More than 3,000 returnee households have not had access to electricity since then. With the promotion of this challenge, the UNDP expects to progress with its "innovative solutions to global problems".<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Deep Well of Experience Supporting Indonesia's Geothermal Development*, 2012.

<sup>40</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Global Coalition Can Tap Geothermal Power and Drive Development*, 2012.

<sup>41</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Global Coalition Can Tap Geothermal Power and Drive Development*, 2012

<sup>42</sup> Keyes, N. (World Bank), *A Global Coalition Can Tap Geothermal Power and Drive Development*, 2012

<sup>43</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Energy Challenge to Provide Power for War Returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2012.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Energy Challenge to Provide Power for War Returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2012.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Energy Challenge to Provide Power for War Returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2012.

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*This is the official Web site of the International Off-Grid Lighting Conference and Trade Fair that took place in November 2012. It contains its complete information and deep details about the Conference. With the support of the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank Group, Lighting for Africa has been very active in searching for alternative resources of energy. Most of its work can be seen in this Web page. The reader will also find presentations, information on collaborators and donors, and outcomes.*

World Bank. (2012). *ACCES: Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

[http://esmap.org/sites/esmap.org/files/WB\\_ACCES\\_brochure\\_AFTEG\\_ESMAP\\_AFREA.pdf](http://esmap.org/sites/esmap.org/files/WB_ACCES_brochure_AFTEG_ESMAP_AFREA.pdf)

*This is report published in November 2012 to summarize the necessity of access for technologies and fuels in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially for cooking. This document is a collaboration between the Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative (ACCES), the Africa Renewable Energy and Access Program (AFREA), and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), all of which belong to the World Bank group. It is a good source in order to understand how broadly the topic on energy is: the relation of access to energy, with business development and finance, and with countries' engagement, is well-shown in this text.*

Keyes, N. (2012). *A Global Coalition Can Tap Geothermal Power and Drive Development*. World Bank's blog. Retrieved January 13, 2013 from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/energy/a-global-coalition-can-tap-geothermal-power-and-drive-development>

*The situation in Kenya is changing rapidly and this is a good source to understand a little better how. But not only in this country, as in many other ones, geothermal energy has turned to be an important mean to achieve Global Sustainable Energy. Indeed, the World Bank Group has published a Geothermal Handbook not long after this article, as a part of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP)'s works.*

Keyes, N. (2012). *A Deep Well of Experience Supporting Indonesia's Geothermal Development*. World Bank's blog. Retrieved January 13, 2013 from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/energy/a-deep-well-of-experience-supporting-indonesia-s-geothermal-development>

*Indonesia's full plan on how to extend its capacity of energy production can be analyzed in this text. As it aims to reach the country's demand, this case could be used by delegates as it can very likely be reproduced in other countries. As a matter of fact, Indonesia's plan on increasing geothermal development is not only a renewable energy solution but a job-creator and local-business push-up. Lastly, it will help the environment and Indonesians' health as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and further pollution are expected to be reduced drastically.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Energy Challenge to Provide Power for War Returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2012/11/30/undp-launches-energy-challenge-for-war-returnees-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

*This document is an evidence that the UNDP is always looking for innovative ways of giving solutions to countries' difficulties and needs. This challenge, that will take place in May 2013, motivates an experience that might be useful not only for the returnees as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for refugees all over the world. With this initiative, the UNDP pushes up a brain storming for original unexpected ideas. This might therefore hopefully gather great potential for interesting solutions.*

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## II. Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance by Improving Disaster Prevention and Management

### *Recent developments*

While natural disasters cannot be prevented, preparation efforts utilize funds and resources more wisely than disaster response, as one dollar spent in DRR equals seven dollars spent in response efforts.<sup>46</sup> Examples of successful DRR efforts include doubling schools as cyclone shelters, creating drought early warning and response systems, and encouraging insurance among at-risk populations to mitigate a disaster's impact.<sup>47</sup>

### *A New Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

As requested by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) resolution 66/199, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has initiated the campaign "Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework," whereby it will facilitate the multi-stakeholder consultation process for how the international community will move beyond the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* (HFA).<sup>48</sup> This plan utilizes regional platforms and ministerial conferences to move from consultation to framework recommendations to be used at the 2015 Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan.<sup>49</sup> Representatives from 63 Member States and 14 international organizations recently attended the Second World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in July 2012, where several documents identified the integration of DRR initiatives into public policy and the strengthening of resilient, prepared societies as critical to a future DRR action framework.<sup>50</sup> GA resolution 67/209 adopted in late 2012 recognizes the implementation of resolution 66/199 and maps out what the international community should work towards before the Third World Conference.<sup>51</sup> It sets specific goals for 2013 and adds "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" as a sub-agenda item for the GA's sixty-eighth session.<sup>52</sup>

A variety of other events and meetings have occurred internationally as part of the preparation for a post-2015 DRR Framework. During September 2012, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark met with representatives from Japan, Mozambique, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Caribbean Community, the European Union, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the World Bank to renew commitments to disaster preparation and recovery.<sup>53</sup> Delegates reviewed progress made in Mozambique, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and agreed to a new initiative concentrating on DRR in world regions most vulnerable to disasters.<sup>54</sup> This initiative includes assisting the development of national resilience plans within most at risk states, ensuring financial provisions for DRR strategies, improving the coordination of development and humanitarian assistance, stimulating the private sector to engage in DRR activities, and improving government understanding and financial management of disaster risks.<sup>55</sup>

Japan hosted the Sendai Dialogue in October 2012, where participants like the World Bank and the International Monetary Foundation discussed how to build disaster resilience in vulnerable countries.<sup>56</sup> The Dialogue took place in the week leading up to the International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13, 2012, which focused on the role of women and girls in forging disaster-resilient communities.<sup>57</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held October 22-25 in Indonesia concluded that the process of reducing disaster vulnerability must be centered on people and "hazard-prone communities must be central to decision making and

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<sup>46</sup> UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction*.

<sup>47</sup> UNDP, 2012, *United Nations and Partners Commit to Building Disaster Resilience*.

<sup>48</sup> UNISDR, 2012, *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework*.

<sup>49</sup> UNISDR, 2012, *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework*; Hasan, 2012, *Japan to host World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*.

<sup>50</sup> UNDP, 2012, *More than Sixty Countries Renew Commitments to Boost Disaster Risk Reduction Globally*.

<sup>51</sup> GA, 2012, *Sustainable Development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee*, A/67/437/Add.3, p. 10-13.

<sup>52</sup> GA, 2012, *Sustainable Development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee*, A/67/437/Add.3, p. 10-13.

<sup>53</sup> UNDP, 2012, *United Nations and Partners Commit to Building Disaster Resilience*.

<sup>54</sup> UNDP, 2012, *United Nations and Partners Commit to Building Disaster Resilience*.

<sup>55</sup> UNDP, 2012, *United Nations and Partners Commit to Building Disaster Resilience*.

<sup>56</sup> ODI, 2012, *A Big Month for Disaster Resilience in the post-2015 Development Agenda*.

<sup>57</sup> ODI, 2012, *A Big Month for Disaster Resilience in the post-2015 Development Agenda*.

legislative processes for development to be effective.”<sup>58</sup> The *Yogyakarta Declaration* further called for replication and up scaling of successful community-based DRR initiatives and highlighted the need for DRR programs to involve women and children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities during assessment and planning.<sup>59</sup> Representatives from 20 agencies and programs within the UN system met for a High Level Retreat in mid-November 2012 to internally prepare a DRR plan of action within the next four months, including the identification of finalization, ownership, and implementation milestones.<sup>60</sup>

#### *Recent Disasters: Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Bopha (Pablo)*

Two sides of the world experienced devastating natural disasters at the end of 2012: Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Pablo. One of the largest recorded on the Atlantic, Hurricane Sandy caused over 80 deaths in the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, and over 110 people in the United States.<sup>61</sup> While death tolls were higher in the United States than in the Caribbean, DRR strategies such as official and timely warnings, systematic evacuations, and trained emergency workers limited the long-term effects and range of Sandy’s impact in the United States.<sup>62</sup> In Haiti, Sandy caused 200,000 people to become homeless, flooded 18,000 homes, and damaged road, school, and hospital infrastructure, thus facilitating the spread of diseases such as cholera.<sup>63</sup> Food security became a more severe problem as Sandy compounded problems caused by Hurricane Isaac in August of 2012, continuing drought, and 350,000 people still in displaced persons camps from the January 2010 earthquake.<sup>64</sup> Some infrastructure and agricultural resources escaped severe damage due to UNDP-facilitated DRR protection walls.<sup>65</sup> Disaster wrought by Hurricane Sandy prompted a variety of Member States to call for increased sustainable development efforts as recommended by Rio+20.<sup>66</sup>

A few weeks later, Typhoon Bopha, or Pablo, killed over 1,000 people and wiped out entire communities in the southern Philippines.<sup>67</sup> While evacuation centers hosted about 26,000 people, nearly a million others stayed among their ruined houses and communities.<sup>68</sup> Pablo hit Mindanao particularly hard as floods and mudslides buried farms, mining towns, and people while preventing aid from reaching communities in need.<sup>69</sup> Out of the average 20 typhoons a year to hit the Philippines, generally only two or three are truly devastating; Pablo embodied the worst such disaster in the region in the past century and hit a region still suffering from 1,500 dead, 1,000 missing, and 23.8 million USD in damage caused by Typhoon Washi the year before.<sup>70</sup> Philippine Senator Loren Legarda encouraged the country to renew its dedication to DRR and community awareness and iterated the destructive economic setback caused by the annual typhoon season, which adds up to almost 5 percent each year.<sup>71</sup> He identified development planning combined with a political will for action as a necessary combination to reduce disaster risk, protect citizen lives, and build safe communities rather than continuing in the cycle of destruction and reconstruction that is so costly to states and their citizens.”<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Chua, 2012, *Communities Come First: Charting a New Direction for Disaster Risk Reduction*, NA.

<sup>59</sup> Chua, 2012, *Communities Come First: Charting a New Direction for Disaster Risk Reduction*, NA.

<sup>60</sup> McClean, 2012, *UN Starts Work on Action Plan for Risk Reduction*, NA.

<sup>61</sup> UNDP, 2012, *Remembering Sandy’s Many Victims*, NA.

<sup>62</sup> UNDP, 2012, *Remembering Sandy’s Many Victims*, NA.

<sup>63</sup> UNDP, 2012, *Remembering Sandy’s Many Victims*, NA; UNDP, 2012.

<sup>64</sup> UNDP, 2012, *Hurricane Sandy Kills Around 80 in the Caribbean, 1.8 Million Affected in Haiti*, NA.

<sup>65</sup> UNDP, 2012, *Hurricane Sandy Kills Around 80 in the Caribbean, 1.8 Million Affected in Haiti*, NA.

<sup>66</sup> UNISDR, 2012, *After Sandy World Weighs in on Disaster Risk Reduction*, NA.

<sup>67</sup> Win, 2012, *Almost 1 Million Typhoon-hit Filipinos Living Outside Evacuation Centers*, NA.

<sup>68</sup> Win, 2012, *Almost 1 Million Typhoon-hit Filipinos Living Outside Evacuation Centers*, NA.

<sup>69</sup> Halcon, 2012, *Children in Philippines Struggle to Deal with Typhoon Aftermath*, NA.

<sup>70</sup> Halcon, 2012, *Children in Philippines Struggle to Deal with Typhoon Aftermath*, NA.

<sup>71</sup> Legarda, 2012, *Disaster Risk Reduction Can be Done*, NA.

<sup>72</sup> Legarda, 2012, *Disaster Risk Reduction Can be Done*, NA.

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*This article summarizes the international perspective on climate change and disasters in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. It discusses the importance of several international documents and meetings, including Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and the Secretary-General's report on the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It summarizes a variety of international perspectives concerning this strategy, including those of Small Island Development States (SIDS), the Group of 77, and states like Thailand, Japan, and Haiti that have recently been hit by severe disasters.*

Legarda, Sen. Loren. (2012). "Disaster Risk Reduction Can Be Done." *Philippine Daily Inquirer*: December 31, 2012. Retrieved January 17, 2013 from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/333069/disaster-risk-reduction-can-be-done>

*More of a narrative than a research document, Filipino Sen. Legarda documents the crippling cycle of natural disasters on a vulnerable country. He lays out the recent history of typhoon damage in the Philippines, the costs of recovery, and the long-term impact they have had on the economy. He identifies how DRR measures would make a real difference in the development of the state as illustrates several examples of work already done. This article acts as a thorough case study for delegates learning about the full-cycle relevance of DRR.*

McClean, Denis. (2012). "UN Starts Work on Action Plan for Risk Reduction." UNISDR: November 19, 2012. Retrieved January 17, 2013 from <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=29731>

*Marking the beginning of the UN developing a strategic plan of action concerning risk reduction, this article describes the UN's goal of developing an action plan over the following four months as well as to identify concrete milestones for success of the plan. It shares statements made by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlstrom, concerning the relevance of economic growth and scientific research to any future DRR plan.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Sustainable Development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: Report of the Second Committee, A/67/437/Add.3*. Retrieved February 10, 2013 from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/437/Add.3>

*This Second Committee report contains the draft for GA resolution 67/209, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It begins with a report of the outcomes from 66/199, summarizes the significant international instruments relating to DRR, and reiterates the importance of DRR for the international community. The draft presents a succinct list of UN-recommended tools for states to reduce disaster risk, making it a great resource for delegates find a guideline for possible future resolutions. Furthermore, the draft details which goals the GA would like to see fulfilled within 2013 as progress is made towards a post-2015 development and disaster risk reduction framework.*

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2012). *Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework*. Retrieved January 17, 2013 from [http://www.unisdr.org/files/25129\\_posthfatimeline.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/25129_posthfatimeline.pdf)

*Created in December 2012, this infographic summarizes the strategy of the UN towards a post-2015 DRR Framework, as requested by the GA in resolution 66/199. It includes a brief summary of the facilitator, actors, background, and goals. Broken town by years, it provides clear and distinct benchmarks towards 2016 delegates should be aware of and incorporate into their preparations on this topic. In 2013, it also provides resources for delegates to identify and examine the regional platforms and conferences that occurred in 2012.*

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### III. Strengthening Development Cooperation for Poverty Reduction: Empowering Microfinance and Local Entrepreneurship

#### *Recent Developments*

In the last few months topic on Strengthening Development Cooperation for Poverty Reduction: Empowering Microfinance and Local Entrepreneurship has seen numerous developments.

In October 2012, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced that more than 50,000 families in Colombia will benefit from the *Trust and Opportunity Project*, a United Nations rural poverty reduction project, providing access to financing and community services for small-scale producers, introducing a variety of innovations such as the use of mobile banking in remote rural areas.<sup>73</sup> The project will be at risk groups by creating mechanisms to improve security and increase incomes by as much as 31 percent.<sup>74</sup> In order to finance the \$69 million project, the IFAD has loaned \$50 million to Colombia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development while the Colombian government will provide an additional \$5.76 million with an additional \$13.7 million coming from joint funding from projects participants for funding micro enterprises, insurance, and mobilization.<sup>75</sup>

In November, High-Level Panel members tasked with advising on the global development agenda beyond 2015 reaffirmed their commitment to work together on a framework to combat poverty.<sup>76</sup> Panel members covered human development, jobs, livelihoods, and how to reach the marginalized and excluded.<sup>77</sup> In addition, panel members gathered input from international civil society, private sector representatives, and global youth, fulfilling Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call for transparency and inclusiveness in its consultations.<sup>78</sup> The Panel will continue with its discussion and will have its next meeting in the first quarter of 2013 in Liberia.<sup>79</sup>

The November 2012 UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, *Harnessing Remittances and Diaspora Knowledge to Build Productive Capacities*, claimed remittances to the world's least developed countries (LDCs) can play the dual role of reducing poverty while also empowering economic growth. The report emphasized better banking and financing services to allow for greater domestic investment, small business development, and job creation among their increasingly urbanized populations.<sup>80</sup>

Further development was seen also in November 2012 between the UN Women and the Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Network (REDCAMIF).<sup>81</sup> The two organizations cemented their partnership by signing an agreement, which will support initiatives that encourage the economic empowerment of women in the Central American region.<sup>82</sup> In particular, it will focus on sectors in where rural women have fewer opportunities for example commerce, tourism, and agro-industry.<sup>83</sup> This will be achieved through credit access, as well as training on production and business, which includes creation and management of businesses.<sup>84</sup> Last but not least, participants will share their experience through a mentoring system among new and more experienced entrepreneurs.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *Thousands of families in Colombia to benefit from UN-backed poverty reduction project*, 2012.

<sup>74</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *Thousands of families in Colombia to benefit from UN-backed poverty reduction project*, 2012.

<sup>75</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *Thousands of families in Colombia to benefit from UN-backed poverty reduction project*, 2012.

<sup>76</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *High level group reaffirms commitment to develop framework to fight global poverty*, 2012.

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<sup>78</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *High level group reaffirms commitment to develop framework to fight global poverty*, 2012.

<sup>79</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *High level group reaffirms commitment to develop framework to fight global poverty*, 2012.

<sup>80</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *Remittance investment and knowledge-sharing can help lift poorest nations – UN report*, 2012

<sup>81</sup> United Nations Women, *Supporting women to become entrepreneurs through microfinance in Central America and the Caribbean*, 2012.

<sup>82</sup> United Nations Women, *Supporting women to become entrepreneurs through microfinance in Central America and the Caribbean*, 2012.

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Beginning of 2013 marked another important development. The United Nations tourism agency welcomed the General Assembly's adoption of a resolution that recognizes ecotourism to fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development.<sup>86</sup> The resolution promotes ecotourism, protection, and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging local and indigenous communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage.<sup>87</sup> Ecotourism will remain on the agenda of the United Nations and requires the UNWTO to submit a follow up report to the sixty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly in 2014.<sup>88</sup>

In January of 2013, the United Nations reported that approximately 30,000 farmers in South Sudan will benefit from a new United Nations programme that aims to improve their livelihoods by boosting the quality of the seeds they use to produce key crops.<sup>89</sup> The programme itself will be implemented with the support of France and South Sudan's ministry of agriculture, and will target several states for one year, training farmers in the production, storage, and marketing of quality seeds and cuttings of staple crops.<sup>90</sup> The project will include seed fairs, capacity development for seed enterprises, and training for farmers.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *UN agency welcomes General Assembly's adoption of resolution on ecotourism*, 2013.

<sup>87</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *UN agency welcomes General Assembly's adoption of resolution on ecotourism*, 2013

<sup>88</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *UN agency welcomes General Assembly's adoption of resolution on ecotourism*, 2013

<sup>89</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *New UN programme to improve livelihoods of thousands of farmers in South Sudan*, 2013.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations, News Centre, *New UN programme to improve livelihoods of thousands of farmers in South Sudan*, 2013.

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<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43410&Cr=mdgs&Cr1#.UPmG1h1X24I>

*This news report by the United Nations covers the High-Level Panel and its discussion on the agenda beyond 2015 to achieve the MDGs and reaffirms its commitment on working together to combat poverty. The panel took opinions from international civil society, private sector, and the global youth into consideration. Discussion will continue at the next meeting in early 2013.*

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*This United Nations report, published in early 2013, talks about a new programme that aims to improve the livelihoods of farmers in South Sudan by boosting the quality of crops seeds. The programme will be implemented with the help of France and the South Sudan's ministry of agriculture. Targets are specific regions in South Sudan, as well as the training of farmers in the areas of production, storage, and marketing of seed and crops.*

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*In October of 2012, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) introduced its new project, the Trust and Opportunity Project, which aims to reduce rural poverty in Colombia by providing access to financing and community services for small entrepreneurs. The project will create mechanisms to improve security and increase incomes for risk groups. Colombia receives loans from the IFAD, as well as funding from other project participants.*

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*In November 2012, the UN Women, as well as the Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Network (REDCAMIF) signed an agreement, supporting initiatives encouraging economic empowerment of women in Central America. The agreement focuses in particular on women in rural areas. Women will be granted access to credit, production, and business training.*

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