

Committee Overview

Introduction

The Second Committee's 69th session began 19 September 2014 and ended with its 38th meeting, in which sustained economic growth and sustainable development were among the themes discussed, on 11 December 2014.¹ Particular attention was given to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the amount of external debt they had accrued during the current global financial downturn, and the negative effects this has had on alleviating poverty.² Negotiations centered on strengthening productive capacity through increased Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and the establishment of a multilateral framework for sovereign debt restructuring.³ This update will present ways in which the Second Committee will implement its policies addressing increased external foreign debt among LDCs and the challenges posed by foreign debt to alleviating poverty.

Recent Activities

A major theme discussed by the Second Committee during its 69th Session was the "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development."⁴ Within this theme, during its 7th meeting, the Second Committee's General Debate pertained to external debt sustainability and development.⁵ A major concern for many Member States was the continual increase of external debt accrued, mostly by developing countries, and how, with a global economy characterized by slow growth and high unemployment, there seems to be no signs of relief.⁶ In order to meet the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda, developing countries, in collaboration with developed countries, need to find ways to lower external debt.⁷ At the 37th meeting of the Second Committee it was recognized that there is a need to establish a "multilateral framework for the establishment of debt restructuring processes."⁸ The purpose of the multilateral framework is to serve as a platform for increased efficiency and stability of the international financial system.⁹

Recent Policy Outcomes

Recent outcomes from Second Committee meetings during its 69th session, presented in multiple documents, provide ways to prepare for the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda. During a Second Committee side event, the debate revolved on investment promotion regimes for FDI and how increasing FDI plays an important role for strengthening productive capacity among Member States, even more so for LDCs.¹⁰ Equally important was the call for the establishment of a multilateral framework for sovereign debt restructuring.¹¹ The global financial downturn has increased external foreign debt to numbers never seen before, making it ever more difficult to alleviate poverty, especially among LDCs.¹² The Second Committee also discussed the importance, and the further implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, namely by prioritizing the areas of food security and rural development, strengthening productive capacity, and increasing financial capital for development and capacity-building.¹³ Negotiations among Member States emphasized the need for further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, especially in efforts to strengthen capacity building and increase access to capital for Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing States.¹⁴

¹ UN General Assembly, *Recent Meetings*, 2014.

² UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*, 2014, p. 2.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

⁴ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of Agenda Items to the Second Committee*, 2014.

⁵ UN General Assembly, *Second Committee: Summary record of the 7th meeting*, 2014.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ UN DPI, *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Second Committee*, 2014.

⁹ UN General Assembly, *Modalities for the implementation of resolution 68/304, entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes,"* 2014, p. 2.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Investment Promotion Regimes for Foreign Direct Investments in the Least Developed Countries*.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Second Committee: Summary record of the 7th meeting*, 2014.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*, 2014, p. 4.

¹⁴ UN DPI, *Eradication of Poverty Critical to Future Development Activities, Speakers Stress, as Second Committee Opens Session*, 2014.

Implementation of Second Committee Outcomes

In its efforts towards the establishing of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring process, the Second Committee has established an ad hoc committee to further negotiations between Member States.¹⁵ These focused negotiations are expected to increase the “efficiency, stability and predictability of the international financial system and achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development” among all stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, as well as the UN system.¹⁶ Following the work of this ad hoc committee is crucial to see how details of the multilateral legal framework are defined.

Conclusion

The Second Committee recognizes that developing countries and LDCs will not achieve sustainable growth if the international community does nothing to cope with ever-increasing unsustainable debt. The external debt restructuring processes must be realized in order for developing countries and LDCs to obtain sustainable growth and development. Furthermore, developing countries and LDCs must be given an equal voice and representation in international financial institutions. The Second Committee has the opportunity to see through these challenges in preparation for 2015 and beyond.

¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Modalities for the implementation of resolution 68/304, entitled “Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes,”* 2014, p. 3.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/69/L.60)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/c.2/69/L.60>

This is a draft resolutions submitted as a follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs, which calls for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Istanbul Programme of Action. This document explains further discussions that happened at this conference. For example, further discussion revolved on the increasing foreign debt by LDCs during the current global financial downturn. Alleviation of poverty has become increasingly difficult as more debt is accrued.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Modalities for the Intergovernmental Negotiations and the Adoption of a Multilateral Legal Framework for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes (A/C.2/69/L.4)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/L.4>

This document outlines the establishment of an ad hoc committee within the Second Committee. The ad hoc committee was created to prioritize negotiation efforts towards a multilateral legal framework for debt restructuring processes. The ad hoc committee is to hold at least three meetings during the months of February, April, and June of 2015. It also calls for all stakeholders including intergovernmental organizations and technical experts to participate in negotiations.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Summary Record of the 7th Meeting (A/C.2/69/SR.7)*. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/SR.7>

Negotiations for the 7th meeting are revealed in this document, shedding light on what Second Committee delegates said throughout the meeting. Here Member States express their concerns for the increase in external debt among developing countries. Beyond these concerns, a major focus was also how debt may be reduced in order to alleviate poverty. Many of the challenges faced by developing countries during the current economic downturn are also highlighted.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (7 October 2014). *Eradication of Poverty Critical to Future Development Activities, Speakers Stress, as Second Committee Opens Session* [Meeting Report]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3395.doc.htm>

This document is a summary of the second and third meeting of the 69th session in which the major theme was eradication of poverty and the post-2015 development agenda. The representative of Bolivia highlights the importance of greater global partnerships as vital to tackling the multidimensional problem of poverty. The strengthening of institutional frameworks for sustainable development was also discussed in preparation for the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (5 December 2014). *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Second Committee* [Meeting Report]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3417.doc.htm>

This document is a summary of the 37th meeting of the 69th session, in which it was proposed to establish a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes. The proposal was approved with a vote of 128 in favor, four against, and 46 abstentions. Much of the debate of that meeting can be found in this document as well, including representatives speaking for or against the proposal.

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United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/69/1)*. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/1>

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United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Letter dated 8 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/69/3)*. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/c.2/69/3>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Modalities for the Intergovernmental Negotiations and the Adoption of a Multilateral Legal Framework for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes (A.C.2/69/L.4)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/L.4>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Recent Meetings*. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/ga/second/69th-session/programme/>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Summary Record of the 7th Meeting (A/C.2/69/SR.7)*. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/SR.7>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (7 October 2014). *Eradication of Poverty Critical to Future Development Activities, Speakers Stress, as Second Committee Opens Session* [Meeting Report]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3395.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (21 October 2014). *Outcome of Financing for Development Conference Needs to 'Make a Difference on the Grounds', Speaker Says, As Second Committee Debates Macroeconomic Policy* [Meeting Report]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3403.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (5 December 2014). *Proposal for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework among 6 Draft Texts Approved by Second Committee* [Meeting Report]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gaef3417.doc.htm>

I. Women in Development

Introduction

Gender mainstreaming and the integration of women in the development process is one of the cornerstones of the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁷ As the international system closes the chapter on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and moves into the post-2015 era, the need for strong sustainable development policies is key, and the rights and the role of women are inherent to the success of these policies.¹⁸ Post-2015 policies must incorporate the protection and promotion of women's rights by ensuring equal access to health services, education, and employment, and further promote women's empowerment through participation in the democratic and governance processes entrusted with policy development.¹⁹ Including women within the development reconciles the disparity in equality and human rights.²⁰ It also works towards the reduction of poverty within communities and increases resilience to shocks in local, regional, and international economies.²¹

Consideration of this topic was undertaken by several UN entities over the last year. As part of its 69th session, the General Assembly (GA) adopted two resolutions on the issue.²² Resolution 69/472 Add.3 was adopted on the report of the GA Second Committee; it takes note of the "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development" (2014), and requests the Secretary-General to update the survey for consideration in the 74th session of the GA, which will occur in 2018.²³ The GA also considered report 69/481 from the Third Committee on the "Advancement of Women" and adopted the draft resolution on the "Follow-up to the fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly."²⁴ The topic was also brought forward in report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/4) on the "Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme," which was submitted to the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.²⁵ The topic has been additionally considered by several other bodies within the UN system, as well external stakeholders including the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN-Women, The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Bank.²⁶

Several key international documents continue to underpin the discussion of women in development including the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979), the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the *Millennium Declaration*, which formed the MDGs (specifically goals 3 and 8).²⁷ The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*,

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *The Road to Dignity by 2030, ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*, 2014.

¹⁸ UN-Women, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development*, 2014, p. 12.

¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *The Road to Dignity by 2030, ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*, 2014.

²⁰ UN-Women, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development*, 2014, p. 13.

²¹ Ibid.

²² UN Department of Public Information, *Acting upon Recommendation by Second Committee, General Assembly Adopts 43 Texts, Defers Action on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework Draft*, 2014.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ UN Department of Public Information, *Adopting 68 Texts Recommended by Third Committee, General Assembly Sends Strong Message towards Ending Impunity, Renewing Efforts to Protect Human Rights*, 2014.

²⁵ UN ECOSOC, *Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on challenges and achievements in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals for women and girls: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/4)*, 2013.

²⁶ UNCTAD, *Trade, gender and the post-2015 development agenda*, 2014; UN-Women, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development*, 2014; OECD, *From ambition to results: Delivering on gender equality in donor institutions*, 2014; World Bank, *Gender at work: a companion to the world development report on jobs*, 2013.

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979; UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Program of Action*, 1995; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

reinforces the topic's continued discussion into the post-2015 development agenda and its inclusion within the establishment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).²⁸ Additionally, the International Labor Organization's (ILO) *Declaration on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Women Workers* (1975) forms part of the international framework on the issue.²⁹ Substantive work on this topic is coordinated through the GA Second Committee and through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which supports the Second Committee in its deliberations through research and analysis.³⁰

Work on the topic continues to be highlighted across the international system, with a number of international and regional events held over the year. In preparation for the Beijing+20 Conference taking place in March 2015, several events were held in 2014 in cooperation with external stakeholders, including five intergovernmental review conferences held in association with regional organizations to assess progress on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration.³¹ The International Day for Rural Women was held on 15 October on the topic "What can we do to empower rural women in the post-2015 development agenda."³² The event focused on the role of women in alleviating poverty related to hunger in developing areas, and eliminating structural discriminatory practices and policies that prevent women from accessing productive agricultural resources.³³ Other events included: the "Women's empowerment and gender equality: the role of Transnational Corporations" discussion held at the World Investment Forum in partnership with UNCTAD in October 2014, and the seventh World Urban Forum panel on "Eliminating Constraints to Urban Land and Property Ownership by Women: A Practical Perspective" in April 2014.³⁴ Several events are also scheduled for early 2015 in the lead up to the Beijing+20 Conference including the launch of the ILO Overview Report on Women at Work and the Event on Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, both scheduled for March 2015.³⁵

Recent Developments

Post-2015 Development Agenda

In December 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon introduced his synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda to the GA.³⁶ The report emphasizes the need for an integrated sustainable development agenda, including integrating women and gender mainstreaming into the SDGs especially where access to financial services, productive employment, and education is concerned.³⁷ One of the key outcomes for this topic will be the creation of an accountability framework to monitor implementation of the SDGs and evaluate the integration of these gender-based development policies at the national level.³⁸ A large component of this is the capture of disaggregated data and statistics, which can identify the structural gaps that face marginalized populations, like women, and better evaluate progress of the SDGs within those groups.³⁹

In January 2015, Helen Clark, Director for the UN Development Programme, spoke to the Women's International Forum highlighting the benefits from gender integration in the development agenda.⁴⁰ Clark specifically highlighted the link between the inclusion of women and gender policies in development goals.⁴¹ In particular, she points to areas of economic progress, such as agriculture, where women's increased participation could "raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4 per cent per annum, and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by twelve to seventeen per cent."⁴² These successes, however, will only be seen at the state level if and

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

²⁹ ILO, *Declaration on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Women Workers*, 1975.

³⁰ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *What we do*.

³¹ UN-Women, *Beijing+20 Events, Schedule of Events 2014-2015*, 2014.

³² UN Department of Public Information, *Secretary-General's Message for 2014*, 2014.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ UN-Women, *Beijing+20 Events, Schedule of Events 2014-2015*, 2014; International Housing Coalition, *IHC News*, 2014.

³⁵ UN-Women, *Beijing+20 Events, Schedule of Events 2014-2015*, 2014.

³⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Road to Dignity by 2030, ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*, 2014.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UN Regional Commissions, *Towards an effective monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda: perspectives from the regions*, 2014.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UNDP, *Helen Clark: 2015: Speech to Women's International Forum, An Important Year for Gender and Development*, 2015.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

when states take the steps to create local and national policies that eliminate structural barriers to women’s access to property and recognize as well as empower women as economic producers in their communities.⁴³

Outside of agricultural development, one of the new emerging issues shaping this topic is the link between gender equality and trade policies.⁴⁴ In the UNCTAD policy brief, “[t]rade, gender and the post-2015 development agenda,” the organization notes that gender inequalities can affect the way trade liberalization policies affect communities at a local and regional level.⁴⁵ The report suggests that while trade policies can enable productive development, in order to be effective there needs to be greater consideration by states at the local level of the preconditions that are needed to ensure that women are not marginalized by trade liberalization.⁴⁶ Such a lack of harmonization between gender policy and trade policy can result in negative economic impacts within communities.⁴⁷ One example is in the area of domestic agricultural goods, where if trade liberalization reduces the sale price of these goods, the immediate and direct impact is on the income of small farmers, which tend to be women.⁴⁸

Access to Labor Markets and Employment

One of the keys to increasing access to employment for women improving “decent work” opportunities that ensures productive, fair, safe, and economically viable employment positions.⁴⁹ Part of the agenda on decent work focuses on closer relationships between the public and private sector such that employers promote social well-being and serve as advocates on the rights of women in the workplace.⁵⁰ A second component of the agenda relates to access to markets and inclusion in the planning and decision-making process for market operations; for example setting price points for the sale of goods and working with local vendors.⁵¹ In August 2014, UN-Women reported on the success of their Markets for Change (M4C) project taking place in the Pacific region.⁵² It focused on creating safe, inclusive, and non-discriminatory environments for marketplaces in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.⁵³ The M4C project hosted a series of workshops where the main goal was to understand the marketplace that women worked in directly from their perspective, and address issues that affected the safety, health, and wellness of the female workers.⁵⁴ The success of this project in these smaller scale trials points to the need and value for Member States on understanding women’s role within the marketplace, and recognizing that the inclusion of women in decision-making will not only allow for more safe environments, but also ones which are more economically productive⁵⁵

Conclusion

The inclusion of women’s role in development is instrumental to the success of the post-2015 development agenda and the work of the SDGs.⁵⁶ The foundation of this topic is the protection and promotion of women’s rights, as well as the integration of women into governance, policy development, and legal economic infrastructures within communities. The key takeaways for Member States from the work done thus far on the post-2015 development agenda are: the development of better gender streamed policies at the national level that can be used to support local economies, particularly in the areas of agricultural development, and small scale farming and development of an accountability framework such that states can responsibly monitor their own implementation of the SDGs and local progress towards development.

⁴³ UNDP, *Helen Clark: 2015: Speech to Women’s International Forum, An Important Year for Gender and Development*, 2015.

⁴⁴ UNCTAD, *Trade, gender and the post-2015 development agenda*, 2014.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ ILO, *Decent Work*, 2014.

⁵⁰ UN-Women, *Global Compact in Mexico endorses the private sector’s commitment to gender equality*, 2014.

⁵¹ UN-Women, *Markets set to improve with Pacific women in the lead*, 2014.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ Mollett, *Women must have a voice in the post-2015 agenda*, 2014.

Annotated Bibliography

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2014). *From ambition to results: Delivering on gender equality in donor institutions*. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/From_ambition_to_results.pdf

This document provides delegates with a practical overview on the specific gender policy focus that the OECD Development Assistant Committee (DAC) donors have put in place over the last several years. The report will help delegates in understanding the actions that donor institutions have taken and what the implications they had through 2014 as it relates to stronger gender based policies within DACs such as gender balance in organizational staffing and funding provided to women's organizations. Delegates will find this useful in crafting policies related to funding mechanisms within states for gender policy as well as identifying practices that institutions take that have and have not worked.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2014). *Trade, gender and the post-2015 development agenda* [Policy Brief]. Retrieved 10 January 2015 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2014d2_en.pdf

This briefing from UNCTAD goes over the link between trade and development, specifically the role that gender equality policies play when trade is liberalized at the national level. The briefing specifically goes over how the post-2015 development agenda must endeavor to create favorable pre-conditions for women before trade and economic policies are implemented. The briefing will be useful for delegates in crafting their working papers with the SDGs and post-2015 policies in mind.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Helen Clark: 2015: Speech to Women's International Forum, "An Important Year for Gender and Development"*. Retrieved 12 January 2015 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2015/01/12/helen-clark-2015-an-important-year-for-gender-and-development-speech-to-women-s-international-forum/>

Helen Clark, Director of the UNDP, provides an excellent overview of the work to date on women's role in development, specifically where the MDGs are concerned. Ms. Clark expands on the key areas where work is still needed including equal earnings, increased job security, and the elimination of unpaid work, something that delegates will find useful in crafting their own states' policy. The speech also provides insight into the work of the UNDP, which may be useful for delegates in modeling or expanding on their own ideas.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *The Road to Dignity by 2030, ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700)*. Retrieved 11 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/700>

While this document does not exclusively address women in development it is an important report on the overview of the post-2015 development agenda. The report goes over the current state of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the state of intergovernmental negotiations on the subject. Lastly, the report provides key recommendations on how progress and implementation of the goals should be measured, both by Member States and UN system entities. The report will provide delegates with the overall framework of the progress of the post-2015 development agenda, and where the framework might shape policies at the state and local level.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2014). *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development*. Retrieved 10 January 2015 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2014/10/world-survey-2014>

This is the second World Survey completed by UN-Women on the issue of women in development. The survey casts the topic within the light of the post-2015 development agenda and emphasizes the significance of including women and development in the SDGs. The survey specifically evaluates the criteria necessary to determine whether national policies address equality, particularly with respect to unpaid work, enjoyment of rights, and the participation in decision-making.

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, December 19). *Adopting 68 Texts Recommended by Third Committee, General Assembly Sends Strong Message towards Ending Impunity, Renewing Efforts to Protect Human Rights* [Press Release]. Retrieved 9 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11604.doc.htm>

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United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 10 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

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II. Impact of Migration on Development

Introduction

International migration continues to be one of the main drivers in increasing development opportunities, both for the home and destination countries of migrants.⁵⁷ As a result, migration is a key consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.⁵⁸ There are currently over 200 million migrants in the international system, with recorded remittances of over \$404 billion dollars in 2013.⁵⁹ Migration has shown to have a direct impact on households, including higher levels of personal income, improved health, and higher levels of education and school enrollment.⁶⁰ Protecting the rights of migrants and maximizing the positive impacts of migration are thus two of the most important policy objectives within the development agenda on this topic.⁶¹ While migrants contribute significantly to reducing poverty, they often do so at a risk to their personal health and safety.⁶² Yet, several policy hurdles still exist with respect to lowering transaction costs for remittances, opening new South-South remittance corridors, and increasing investment opportunities for migrant workers in their destination countries.⁶³

Consideration on this topic has been undertaken in the United Nations (UN) system over the last several months. The General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution 69/470/Add.1 with over two thirds support on the recommendation of the GA Second Committee.⁶⁴ The resolution reaffirms the importance of protecting both human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, with an emphasis on the rights of women and children, especially those children who are unaccompanied or become separated from their parents.⁶⁵ The resolution further expressed concern about legislation adopted by Member States that may restrict the human rights of migrants, and reaffirmed the duty of states to comply with obligations under international human rights law.⁶⁶ Additionally, this topic was considered in two reports of the Secretary-General: on “International migration and development” (A/69/207) and on the “Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014” (A/69/62).⁶⁷ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) also considered the topic and adopted resolution 2014/23 on “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants” in September 2014.⁶⁸ Similarly, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants focused on the labor exploitation of migrants and was considered by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in April 2014.⁶⁹ Several other stakeholders, both internal and external to the UN system, have continued their consideration of the topic including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).⁷⁰

Key documents that continue to underpin this topic include: GA resolution 45/158, also known as the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, the GA’s first official resolution on International Migration and Development, GA resolution 49/127, and the ILO’s *Multilateral*

⁵⁷ European Commission, *Maximizing the Development Impact of Migration*, 2013, p. 2.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ IOM, *Integrating Migration into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*, 2014.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ *The case for including migration in the post-2015 agenda*, Integrated Regional Information Networks, 2014.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ IOM, *Integrating Migration into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*, 2014.

⁶⁴ UN Department of Public Information, *Acting upon Recommendation by Second Committee, General Assembly Adopts 43 Texts, Defers Action on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Framework Draft*, 2014.

⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Globalization and Interdependence: international migration and development: Report of the Second Committee (A/69/470/Add.1)*, 2014.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *International Migration and Development: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/207)*, 2014; UN, ECOSOC, *Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2014/4)*, 2014.

⁶⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants (2014/23)*, 2014.

⁶⁹ UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau: Labour exploitation of migrants (A/HRC/26/35)*, 2014.

⁷⁰ UNFPA, *How has the world changed in the last 20 years?*; IOM, *Integrating Migration into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*, 2014; ILO, *Global Migration Group releases new book on youth and migration*; OECD, *International Migration Outlook 2014*, 2014.

Framework on Labour Migration.⁷¹ Additionally, the most recent constitution of the IOM, which recalls the *1951 Migration Conference* in Brussels, sets out the standards, objectives, and mandate for the organization; as such, the IOM has become a crucial international body responsible for activities related to international migration.⁷² The UNFPA serves as one of the core UN programs within the UN system, which coordinates closely with local government and civil society organizations to mobilize resources and provide data analysis and research, as well as coordinate funding mechanisms.⁷³ The HRC created the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in 1999 pursuant to resolution 199/44, a mandate, which was renewed by resolution 26/19 on 26 June 2014 for an additional three years.⁷⁴ The work of the Special Rapporteur will be especially important in the coming years for outcomes on this topic, as the need for human rights-based development is emphasized within the post-2015 development agenda, such that states will need to incorporate human rights policies into both long- and short-term development planning.⁷⁵ One specific action out of this planning will be the need for states to incorporate safe migration channels so that individuals do not fall victim to trafficking or human smugglers.⁷⁶ In 2006, the UN also appointed the Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) on International Migration, to serve as advocate for migrants.⁷⁷

On 18 December 2014, the UN highlighted the issues of migration on International Migrants Day, where the Secretary-General called for the “fulfillment and protection of the worlds’ 232 million migrants.”⁷⁸ Also in December, the OECD held their High-Level Policy Forum on Migration, which included governmental representatives from OECD Member States and representatives from key international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the ILO, and the IOM.⁷⁹ In October 2014 the IOM and South American regional organization, Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), held a three-day training workshop for policymakers on the human rights of migrant workers.⁸⁰ These two events stressed the need for outcomes on this issue at the local and national level, with an emphasis on the work of policy makers.⁸¹ One of the key outcomes from the OECD Forum, focuses on how to reconcile short-term and long-term labor market and economic goals for Member States, to create better consistency on migration policy, and to avoid sporadic loosening or tightening of migration regulations.⁸² The IOM also worked closely with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host an international workshop, “Integrating Migration into Development: Diaspora as a Development Enabler,” focused on the relationship between migration and sustainable development as a part of the post-2015 development agenda.⁸³

Recent Developments

Post-2015 Development Framework

In December 2014, the IOM in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica and Germany held a High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.⁸⁴ Members in attendance at the dialogue stressed the need to include migration within the sustainable development goals (SDGs), noting that it was especially important to include measurable targets and implementation measures.⁸⁵ The SRSG on International Migration noted that migrants help to fill gaps in necessary labor markets, at all levels of employment, and across both professional and

⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (A/RES/45/158)*, 1990; ILO, *ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration: Non-binding Principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration*, 2006; UN General Assembly, *International migration and development (A/RES/49/172)*, 1995.

⁷² IOM, *Constitution*, 1989.

⁷³ UNFPA, *How we work*.

⁷⁴ OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants*, 2014.

⁷⁵ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *UN Discusses Migration in Post-2015 Development Agenda, SDG Targets*, 2014.

⁷⁶ OHCHR, *Open, safe and regular migration channels crucial to stop human rights violations against migrants International Migrants’*, 2014.

⁷⁷ UN DESA, *Special Representative to the Secretary-General*.

⁷⁸ UN DESA, *Secretary-General’s Message for 2014*, 2014.

⁷⁹ OECD, *OECD High-Level Policy Forum on Migration 2014*, 2014.

⁸⁰ IOM, *IOM and MERCOSUR Host Training Workshop on Human Rights of Migrants for Officials*, 2014.

⁸¹ OECD, *OECD High-Level Policy Forum on Migration 2014*, 2014.

⁸² OECD, *Mobilizing Migrants skills for economic success*, 2014.

⁸³ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Integrating Migration into Development: Diaspora as a Development Enabler*, 2014.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

skilled labor sectors.⁸⁶ The SRSR further noted that transactional fees for remittances, as well as fees paid by migrants to obtain travel and work documentation are key obstacles to harnessing all of the positive benefits to migration, something which needs to be addressed by state policy.⁸⁷ These are key gaps that Member States will need to fill in their own national policies moving forward on the topic, especially when considering their own economic planning to offset potential losses from transaction fees.⁸⁸ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General speaking at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture in December 2014, noted the negative impacts of forced and mass migration, specifically highlighting rural development, where the migration of young men has reduced rural economic opportunities and further has disproportionately affected the women left behind to take care of households.⁸⁹ This specific movement of workers, whether it results in internal or international migration, can have negative economic impacts on developing areas within a country.⁹⁰ It also highlights scenarios where migration is not necessarily the most positive development action for a Member State and local workers.⁹¹ This emphasizes the need for states in some situations to focus on enhancing infrastructure to entice some workers to stay and work in rural development and agriculture roles.⁹²

In its 2014 International Migration Outlook, the OECD stressed integration of migrants as a key policy gap issue.⁹³ In a similar vein to the OECD High-Level Policy Forum, the Outlook stresses the need to develop smart migration policies within states that fall in line with better economic planning at the local level, including better labor migration management systems.⁹⁴ Such policies include: clear admissions criteria and providing better skills and language training to migrants in order to increase integration.⁹⁵ Moving forward this means states must be better at ensuring that migration is not only used as a stop-gap measure for labor shortages but that policies aim at integrating migrants into long-term and continued employment as a result of better whole scale planning.⁹⁶ A major component of this planning will be alignment with the post-2015 development agenda.⁹⁷ Specifically, economic planning should take into consideration the SDGs and associated targets of providing decent work, safe environments, and responsible facilitation of migrants.⁹⁸

Conclusion

The issue of international migration is cross-sectional and continues to impact several related topics including development, human rights, the international financial system, and gender. Moreover, the topic continues to be on the agenda for the GA, and has been stressed as crucial to the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. Importantly, migration has been observed as having both positive and negative effects on Member States. Though this is known, much is still needed in local, state, and international policy to harness the benefits of migration while mitigating any negative implications.

⁸⁶ Sutherland, *Migration is Development: How Migration Matters to the Post-2015 Debate*, 2014.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ OECD, *Mobilising Migrants skills for economic development*, 2014.

⁸⁹ UN FAO, *Director-General stresses link between rural development and migration*, 2014.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ OECD, *International Migration Outlook 2014*, 2014.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid., p. 36.

⁹⁷ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *UN Discusses Migration in Post-2015 Development Agenda, SDG Targets*, 2014.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

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Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2014). *International Migration Outlook 2014*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://www.oecd.org/migration/international-migration-outlook-1999124x.htm>

Published at the end of 2014, this Outlook provides an excellent overview of migration flows from 2013 to early 2014 within Member States of the OECD. As over 50% of migrants currently reside within these states, the Outlook is an important resource for delegates in understanding the topic, and in understanding the policies that need to be implemented within developed destination states. Further, the Outlook touches on some of the other recent geo-political issues that have affected migration including the ongoing Crisis in Syria, which could be useful for delegates in understanding migration in the context of current events.

Sutherland, P. (2014). *Migration is Development: How Migration Matters to the Post-2015*. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/partners/docs/Migration_is_Development_by_P_Sutherland_MPP.pdf

Offering delegates a direct insight of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on International Migration, this document explains how migration will affect development and the post-2015 development agenda. Particularly, the article highlights vital issues related to migration and development including stemming the interference of the black market and criminals within international migration, which is a significant policy gap that could be focused on by the delegates. Additionally, the article links migration back to the Millennium Development Goals noting where migration fits into each of the eight goals.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants 2014/23* [Resolution]. Adopted on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2014/30). Retrieved 2 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/E/RES/2014/23>

This is a recent resolution from ECOSOC that highlights a particular problem within international migration, human trafficking and smuggling. Delegates will find this resolution useful in understanding the basic problem that frames the issue of smuggling, while gaining insight into policy gaps that need to be addressed. Additionally the resolution provides an information base for the insights from the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on stemming the negative offsets of international migration as related to the black market.

United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. (2014, November 28). *FAO Director-General stresses link between rural development and migration* [News Article]. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from:

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/270265/icode/>

This is an interesting source for delegates because it highlights some of the negative impacts of migration. Specifically it highlights where migration is either forced or there is mass migration of workers in rural areas. The source will be useful for delegates to understand the situations where migration may not be useful to developing states. Additionally, it will be helpful to understand where further focus is needed on local economic and job policies that can prevent individuals from migrating due to poor socio-economic conditions.

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Twenty-sixth session. (2014). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau: Labour exploitation of migrants (A/HRC/26/35)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/26/35>

The report from the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants highlights another specific issue in international migration: labor exploitation. The report provides a timeline and overview of all of the specific conferences and conventions that the Rapporteur attended, which may be useful in the delegates' research into their own states attendance and participation on the topic. Additionally, the report notes the policy implications for exploitation within labor migration, and talks about the special situation of lesser-skilled migrants.

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United Nations, Human Rights Council, Twenty-sixth session. (2014). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau: Labour exploitation of migrants (A/HRC/26/35)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/26/35>

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III. Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and the Green Economy

Introduction

The 69th session of the General Assembly Second Committee opened on 16 September 2014.⁹⁹ It was characterized by macroeconomic policy questions and sustainable development topics in the context of globalization and climate change.¹⁰⁰ The 2008 financial crisis represents one major impact of globalization.¹⁰¹ The crisis demonstrated how sensitive and vulnerable the global economy is.¹⁰² Despite all its negative effects and influences, globalization also has the power to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries.¹⁰³ This update will review the highlights and outcomes of the most recent session of the Second Committee, in regards to addressing these positives and negatives of globalization through creating a sustainable green economy, and will illustrate the process of implementation of its work through various conferences and reports of the United Nations (UN).

Recent International Outcomes

The Second Committee concluded the 38th meeting of this current session in December 2014 and approved eight draft resolutions regarding sustainable development and economic growth.¹⁰⁴ Overall, the Second Committee connected the new international economic order with the green economy and discussed the interdependence between protecting the climate and finding suitable financing structures for a greener future.¹⁰⁵ The draft text “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system” especially highlights the need for an expansion of the UN development system to eradicate poverty.¹⁰⁶ Furthermore, it points out that a common understanding of sustainability between Member States is needed to promote global economic growth.¹⁰⁷ In addition, the Committee adopted the crucial draft resolution: “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy” which highlights the use of renewable energies for a greener future.¹⁰⁸ Together with the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All from 2014 to 2024 this draft reminds the international community to foster universal sustainable energy access to ensure worldwide economic stability.¹⁰⁹ The draft “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” refers to the International Decade for Action on Water for Life from 2005 to 2015 and explains that safe drinking water is directly linked to successful economic development.¹¹⁰ These draft resolutions underline the great importance of establishing the post-2015 development agenda for future generations and different possibilities to support green development.¹¹¹ Moreover, they stress how essential it is to take action for a greener economy and to adapt to the new global financial order.¹¹²

Beyond the Second Committee, addressing the new international economic order and its diverse financial structures with sustainable development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published a report in January

⁹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Schedule of General Assembly plenary and related meetings*, 2014.

¹⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/69/1)*, 2014.

¹⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/RES/63/303)*, 2009.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (A/RES/3201(S-VI))*, 1974.

¹⁰⁴ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *As Second Committee Concludes Work Approving 8 Draft Resolutions, Operational Activities of Organization, South-South Cooperation Go To Recorded Vote*, 2014.

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Second Committee Approves Text Recognizing New International Economic Order for Sustainable Economic Development*, 2014.

¹⁰⁶ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *As Second Committee Concludes Work Approving 8 Draft Resolutions, Operational Activities of Organization, South-South Cooperation Go To Recorded Vote*, 2014.

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¹⁰⁸ UN General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/C.2/69/L.54)*, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, *About the Decade*, 2015.

¹¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *International Decade for Action, “Water for Life,” 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/C.2/69/L.12/Rev.1)*, 2014.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*

2015.¹¹³ This report analyzes where financial investment is needed to recover from the financial crisis, how the post-crisis capital markets can be regulated, and through which financial structures long-term sustainable development can be achieved.¹¹⁴ The report also explains that the green economy needs to be addressed in a systematic way by incorporating climate change into credit rating assessments.¹¹⁵ Additionally, in December 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon published a new synthesis report on the post-2015 agenda to end poverty and protect the planet by using sustainable resources.¹¹⁶ The main topics of the report were: framing an integrated sustainable development agenda, creating shared responsibility with regard to a sustainable future, and investing in green capacity building.¹¹⁷

Work on this topic also extends to civil society actors. For example, together with UNEP, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform addresses questions of green growth practices and theory in context of the new international economic order.¹¹⁸ This global network works together with several international expert groups and holds its third annual conference in January 2015 in Venice, Italy.¹¹⁹ The conference is organized under the title: "Fiscal Policies and the Green Economy Transition: Generating Knowledge – Creating Impact."¹²⁰ The participants will discuss how to reform fiscal policy instruments to create green growth.¹²¹

Recent Developments

Much debate on the green economy has focused on the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) (1992) and, as such, many key developments relate to the theme of strengthening and supporting the UNFCCC. To this end, the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2014 held in December in Lima, Peru.¹²² Over 190 countries negotiated towards a global climate agreement.¹²³ The overarching goal of the conference was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would limit the global temperature increase to two degrees Celsius above current levels.¹²⁴ The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015 will further discuss the impacts of climate change.¹²⁵ It will take place in Paris and is seen as a follow-up conference of the Kyoto Protocol.¹²⁶ The conference objective is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change.¹²⁷ Furthermore, the World Bank Group published the *World Development Report 2015*, which brings together human decision-making and sustainable development policy.¹²⁸ It was launched in December 2014 and consists of three different parts: "An expanded understanding of human behavior for economic development: A conceptual framework," "Psychological and social perspectives on policy," and "Improving the work of development professionals."¹²⁹ The report explains psychological and social factors of policymaking and stresses the importance of sustainable human behavior for green economic development.¹³⁰ Moreover, it points out how to address the challenge of climate change in various sectors such as health care and productivity.¹³¹ In addition, the report illustrates how social norms can be used to reduce energy consumption.¹³²

To adapt to the ongoing process of globalization and the new economic order, the World Economic Forum published the *Global Risks 2015* report.¹³³ The document introduces economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal

¹¹³ UNEP, *Aligning the Financial System with Sustainable Development: Pathways to Scale*, 2015.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ UN, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet (A/69/700)*, 2014.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Green Growth Knowledge Platform, *About Us*, 2015.

¹¹⁹ Green Growth Knowledge Platform, *Third Annual Conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform*, 2015.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Lima Call for Climate Action Puts World on Track to Paris 2015*, 2015.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ World Bank, *World Development Report 2015*, 2015.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ World Economic Forum, *Global Risks 2015*, 2015.

and technological risks that the international community will face in 2015.¹³⁴ The report underlines that accurate financial risk management is of the utmost importance to avoid another financial crisis.¹³⁵ The growing rate of global unemployment as well as asset bubbles in banking sectors are serious threats to a stable economic order.¹³⁶ The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in January 2015, in Davos, Switzerland, followed the report.¹³⁷ The Forum discussed growth and stability after the 2008 financial crisis, especially in regards to the topics “The Global Agenda 2015” and “Closing the Climate Deal.”¹³⁸ Moreover, Addis Ababa will host the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015.¹³⁹ Establishing financial structures for sustainable development is one of the main targets of the conference.¹⁴⁰ Additionally, the improvement of financial market conditions will be discussed, as well as sources of development finance.¹⁴¹ General Assembly resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 provides that the conference “shall be held at the highest possible political level.”¹⁴² Therefore heads of state and several relevant ministers will discuss how to promote economic growth in terms of globalization.¹⁴³

Conclusion

The Second Committee is the only UN committee relating to economic development where every single country has a voice. As a result, it is the forum with the most authentic pattern of the international community’s consensus and progress on the new international economic order and the green economy. The Second Committee will continue to be the world’s primary instrument for powerful and meaningful discussions on sustainable development and economic growth. Moreover, it will work together with its partners and subcommittees to create the “future we want.”¹⁴⁴

¹³⁴ World Economic Forum, *Global Risks 2015*, 2015.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ World Economic Forum, *World Economic Forum*, 2014.

¹³⁸ World Economic Forum, *World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015 Programme*, 2014.

¹³⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Third International Conference on Financing for Development*, 2014.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² UN General Assembly, *Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/68/279)*, 2014.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

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http://www.migration4development.org/sites/m4d.emakina-eu.net/files/sg_synthesis_report.pdf

This essential resource underlines the call for action regarding the establishment of a new post-2015 agenda. The Secretary-General points out lessons learned and future challenges of the post-2015 process. Furthermore, he explains that technology and science play a vital role in a sustainable future. Based on this, this document explains why Member States should support financing frameworks and work together to create economic growth.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *International Decade for Action, “Water for Life,” 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/C.2/69/L.12/Rev.1)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 3 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/L.12/Rev.1>

This document introduces the implementation and efforts of the International Decade for Action, Water for Life, 2005-2015. The source calls for further action to achieve the sustainable development of water resources and urges a comprehensive review of the Decade. Furthermore, the General Assembly reaffirms its belief in the Millennium Development Goals and its desire to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water. Delegates will learn that water is a core element of an intact green economy and essential for human development.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/69/L.39/Rev.1)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 1 January 2015 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/L.39/Rev.1>

This document recalls the essential quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the operational system of the United Nations. The review is a process by which the General Assembly reconsiders the coherence, effectiveness, and funding of the UN development programs, funds, and specialized agencies of the United Nations operational system for development. Delegates will read about how operational activities for development can help to support and implement the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/C.2/69/L.54)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 3 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/69/L.54>

The draft resolution explains why using and promoting renewable energy is directly linked to the creation of economic growth. Sustainable development consists of the establishment of a green economy and the smart use of natural resources. In addition, this crucial resource highlights the vital role of women in the context of development. Moreover, cleaner and more energy-efficient technologies can help to empower developing countries and support worldwide sustainable growth.

World Bank. (2014). *World Development Report 2015*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from:

<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202015/WDR-2015-Full-Report.pdf>

This interesting report is structured in three different parts and explains the coherence between mind, society, and human behavior. The source describes how decision-making processes are influenced by psychological factors and how these factors also influence policymaking. The report helps to understand how development policies can be established and what aspects have the power to influence this process. In addition, delegates can learn more about the impacts of climate change and how to respond to this challenge.

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