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Update for the United Nations Development Programme

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

In recent months, the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to bring political and civil society actors around the globe together in various forums, including the Resilience Development Forum (RDF) that took place on 8 and 9 November 2015.¹ UNDP also played a crucial part in the much publicized Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), addressing climate change in November and December 2015.² Both events highlight the continued role of UNDP in coordinating efforts to address development issues on various fronts, including climate change, improving development resiliency, and human development.³ UNDP's Executive Board also held its first regular session of the year from 25 to 29 January 2016, dealing with several matters related to evaluating UNDP contributions and management response, as well as bureaucratic matters.⁴

The RDF event, held in Amman, Jordan, was intended to address the conflict in Syria, as well as investigate how to provide further assistance to communities taking in refugees in the region.⁵ The forum brought together over 400 key political actors from around the region and produced a document known as “The Dead Sea Resilience Agenda” for addressing the crisis in Syria.⁶ The agenda includes efforts to increase responsiveness and coordination, strengthen local capacity for responding to crises, highlight engagement of the private sector, and work towards improving capacity for resolving disputes in impacted communities.⁷ UNDP Administrator Helen Clark emphasized at the forum that the issues outlined in the agenda should be critical components of future fundraising endeavors by the international community.⁸

UNDP also continues to engage civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, governments, and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) around the world as it persists in its development efforts.⁹ In Europe, UNDP started a project in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SADC) in order to implement measures intended to address challenges brought about by climate change, specifically in the Prespa Lake Basin region of Macedonia.¹⁰ The project has provided expert assessments, and led to the refurbishment of environmental facilities that are now yielding results, including a 42% reduction in oil consumption and a 20% reduction of electricity consumption.¹¹ Elsewhere, UNDP has also worked with the European Union (EU) and members of the private sector on climate change issues; for example, in Lebanon, diesel-solar hybrid systems have been implemented to allow for higher energy availability to the public and cleaner air.¹² In October, UNDP and the NGO SPARK coordinated a project in Yemen to enhance agribusiness training and management in the country.¹³

UNDP was also actively involved in the COP21 conference held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.¹⁴ UNDP worked with Member States in the lead-up to the conference.¹⁵ As part of a series of meetings intended to bolster Member States' preparedness for the conference, UNDP met with representatives from the Pacific Islands in order to provide training, as well as to share good practices and identify what was needed to further climate change goals.¹⁶ During the conference, UNDP announced plans to reduce deforestation, expand

¹ UNDP, *Resilience Development Forum*, 2015.

² UNDP, *COP21 Conference on Climate Change*, 2015.

³ UNDP, *Resilience Development Forum*, 2015; UNDP, *COP21 Conference on Climate Change*, 2015; UNDP, *Human Development Report 2015*, 2015.

⁴ UNDP, *Tentative workplan for the first regular session 2016*, 2016.

⁵ UNDP, *Resilience Development Forum*, 2015.

⁶ UNDP, *UN Development Chief: Resilience Critical to More Effective Syria Response*, 2015.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UNDP, *News Centre*.

¹⁰ UNDP, *UNDP and Switzerland team up to tackle climate change in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, 2015.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² UNDP, *UNDP and EU Initiative in Lebanon helps tackle climate change and provide energy access*, 2015.

¹³ UNDP, *UNDP and SPARK launch agri-business project in Yemen*, 2015.

¹⁴ UNDP, *COP21 Conference on Climate Change*, 2015.

¹⁵ UNDP, *UNDP lends Support to Small Island States to develop Climate Targets*, 2015.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

access to renewable energy sources, and further invest in climate change impact prevention.¹⁷ In relation to reducing climate change, UNDP is actively involved in over 140 countries and has granted funding nearing \$2.3 billion, which positions the Programme well for assisting countries in implementing the agreed projects to achieve the goals of COP21.¹⁸

Finally, UNDP launched the *2015 Human Development Report* on 14 December 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.¹⁹ This report critically follows the UN's adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, providing important data on issues contained in the agenda, particularly regarding the importance of jobs and meaningful employment.²⁰ Entitled "Work for Development," the report contends that while factors such as rapid globalization and demographic transitions are assisting some segments of society economically, they are not distributed equally.²¹ The report addresses several issue areas related to this theme, including linking human development and work, addressing how work can be expanded in the digital age, and strategies for improving and expanding work opportunities for struggling communities.²²

UNDP will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.²³ To commemorate this milestone, UNDP will hold a ministerial meeting in New York on 24 February 2016.²⁴ This meeting will be both a celebration of past UNDP efforts and an opportunity for Member States to plan for the committee's upcoming work.²⁵ Topics such as eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, preventing violent conflict, and risk management will all be covered during this meeting.²⁶ UNDP's work will continue to be a critical part of development efforts around the world into 2016 and beyond. The committee remains committed to bringing together political and private actors around the international community in order to work towards a more sustainable future.

¹⁷ UNDP, *COP21 Conference on Climate Change*, 2015.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ UNDP, "Work for Human Development" report launch is opportune timing, 2015.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2015*, 2015.

²² UNDP, *Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development*, 2015.

²³ UNDP, *50 Years*.

²⁴ UNDP, *50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting*.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

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United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *COP21 conference on climate change* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/events/2015/december/COP21-paris-climate-conference.html>

This website provides a helpful overview of where UNDP is situated in relation to the broader efforts initiated at COP21. It provides information on UNDP's position regarding climate change, access to reports that UNDP has conducted on the topic, as well as a host of information on the conference itself. This resource will allow delegates to take what was done at COP21 and consider what UNDP can do going forward to further the efforts made by participants at the conference.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from:

http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report_1.pdf

This is the full UNDP Human Development Report released in December, and it is one of the most recent reports released by UNDP. It highlights a significant amount of work that UNDP has accomplished and what it plans to do in the future on the topic of improving work opportunities for impoverished and developing communities. This will be a crucial document for framing the committee's work in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as its coordination with political and civil society actors to address these issues.

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Resilience Development Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/events/2015/november/8-9-november---resilience-development-forum.html>

This website provides a wealth of information for understanding and expanding upon UNDP's efforts to address the crisis in Syria, as well as the struggles of communities in the region who are affected by the crisis. It provides information on what "resilience" is, why it is so important, and a host of resources that delegates can use to further investigate how UNDP can further work towards resolving these problems. It also provides information on the forum itself, which is useful for gaining an understanding of how such forums work and how they are organized to address topics that the committee is actively engaged in.

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United Nations Development Programme. (2015, October 27). *UNDP and Switzerland team up to tackle climate change in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* [News Article]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/10/27/undp-and-switzerland-team-up-to-tackle-climate-change-in-fyr-macedonia.html>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015, November 10). *UN Development Chief: Resilience Critical to More Effective Syria Response* [Press Release]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/11/10/un-development-chief-resilience-critical-to-more-effective-syria-response.html>

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United Nations Development Programme. (2015, October 26). *"Work for Human Development" report launch is opportune timing* [Blog Post]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/10/26/-Work-for-Human-Development-report-s-launch-is-opportune-timing.html>

I. Enhancing South-South Cooperation

Recent Developments

In recent months, the international community has continued to discuss, share, and implement capacity-building measures to enhance South-South cooperation (SSC), particularly following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015.²⁷ SSC is especially relevant to achieving SDG 2 on food security, SDG 7 on energy needs, and SDG 17 on global partnerships.²⁸ SSC remains a priority for the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).²⁹ In consultation with Member States, UNDP is working on a new “strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation,” which was presented as a draft to the UNDP Executive Board in January 2016.³⁰ UNDP also provides “financial and technical support to the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to map good practices and lessons learned.”³¹

The UN General Assembly (GA) addressed SSC during its 70th session, which opened on 15 September 2015.³² In October 2015, the GA Second Committee (Economic and Financial) considered the state of SSC and operational activities for development.³³ Mr. Jorge Chediek, the Director of UNOSSC, gave a presentation on a recent report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation.³⁴ In December 2015, the GA adopted resolution 70/222 on South-South cooperation, which recognized the paramount importance of SSC and triangular cooperation to sustainable development.³⁵ The resolution called upon UNDP to recommend ways in which the UN system and Member States can further support SSC, aid developing countries with the implementation of SSC projects, and create “a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism” to improve coordination with respect to SSC initiatives.³⁶

SSC has also constituted an important topic for the rest of the UN system. In November 2015, Member States, UN agencies, and individuals within academia gathered in New York to discuss the role of the UN in SSC and new South-South approaches that support achieving the SDGs.³⁷ Co-organized by the UN University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) and chaired by the Ambassador of Brazil and the Director of UNOSSC respectively, two events facilitated discussion amongst participants, who agreed on the critical need for the UN “to act as a knowledge hub for South-South sharing.”³⁸

In December 2015, at the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) held in Paris, France, UNOSSC worked with the Second South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) Forum, where panelists led discussions focused on how Member States and the UN can effectively combat climate change through SSC.³⁹ Participants included over 100 representatives of governments, UN agencies, and other organizations.⁴⁰ At the forum, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Wu Hongbo, acknowledged the potential of harnessing SSC in areas including “knowledge generation and knowledge sharing, technology transfer of sustainable energy sources and access to climate data.”⁴¹

²⁷ South Centre, *South Centre Side Event to the WIPO Assemblies, 8 October 2015*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²⁸ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

²⁹ UNDP, *South-South Cooperation*, 2016.

³⁰ UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2016.

³¹ UNOSSC, *2015 Saw Significant Developments in South-South Cooperation – UNDP Administrator*, 2016.

³² UNOSSC, *General Assembly Considers the State of South-South Cooperation*, 2015.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee*, 2015.

³⁶ UN General Assembly, *Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/477/Add.2)*, 2015, pp. 5-6.

³⁷ UNOSSC, *Enhancing Engagement for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ UNOSSC, *South-South Cooperation Crucial to Fighting Effects of Climate Change*, 2015.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

At the regional level, the Second Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) took place from 4 to 5 December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.⁴² Composed of China, 50 African countries, and the Commission of the African Union, FOCAC is premised upon “the principles of [SSC] and mutual and equal benefit.”⁴³ China and Africa face common development challenges, and they share a common interest in continuing prosperous growth by fostering constructive relationships with Member States, regional organizations, and UN agencies.⁴⁴ The *Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, released in December 2015, emphasized FOCAC’s continued dedication to the promotion of world peace, stability, and continued development.⁴⁵ In the Declaration, FOCAC expressed an interest in opposing trade protectionism and underlined its commitment to the principles of non-interference and mutual cooperation, while upholding the UN’s core position in international affairs and calling for the need to support SSC.⁴⁶

On 25 January 2016, in a statement to the UNDP Executive Board, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark characterized 2016 as “a huge opportunity to make real progress on [development priorities] around the world.”⁴⁷ With its leading role in encouraging knowledge and partnerships among developing countries, UNDP demonstrates a strong capacity to find solutions to development challenges.⁴⁸ UNDP will continue to strengthen SSC, which will serve as a primary tool for developing countries as the international community works to achieve the SDGs.⁴⁹

⁴² FOCAC, *Africa: Focac Summit to Advance Sino-Africa Cooperation*, 2015.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.; FOCAC, *Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, 2015.

⁴⁵ FOCAC, *Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, 2015.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2016.

⁴⁸ UNDP, *South-South Cooperation*, 2016.

⁴⁹ UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2016.

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<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2016/01/25/helen-clark-statement-to-the-first-regular-session-of-the-undp-executive-board.html>

On 25 January 2016, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark addressed the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board. She provided an overview of UNDP's current projects and priorities in the face of pressing challenges, as well as information on UNDP's efforts with respect to SSC. This source will provide delegates with the most recent information on SSC within the broader context of UNDP's work as a whole.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/477/Add.2)*. Retrieved 9 February 2016 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/70/477/Add.2>

In December 2015, the GA adopted resolution 70/222 on South-South cooperation, the text of which is contained as a draft in this report by the GA Second Committee. Delegates should review this source to gain understanding of how the GA considers SSC in the course of its work. The resolution reveals UNOSSC's growing importance and the possibility that it may eventually operate independently of UNDP. Further, as the GA has made specific requests of UNDP in relation to promoting and coordinating SSC within the UN system, this resolution also indicates UNDP's upcoming efforts in relation to SSC.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015, November 23). *Enhancing Engagement for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2015/enhancing_engagement_2030_agenda_sustainable_development.html

On 23 November 2015, UN officials, international organizations, and Member State representatives gathered at the UN and discussed approaches to SSC and the support that the UN can provide toward achieving the SDGs. Leaders in the developing community such as Brazil and China, along with UN entities such as the UNU-CPR, discussed the measures and projects that had been implemented and that are currently underway in relation to SSC. This source will help delegates explore the measures of engagement for developing nations to harness SSC for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015, October 13). *General Assembly Considers the State of South-South Cooperation* [News Article]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2015/general-assembly_considers_state_of_south-south_cooperation.html

Following the adoption of the SDGs, many endeavors related to SSC have been underway from Member States and UN agencies. This source identifies key reports such as the 2015 report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/70/344). Furthermore, this source discusses the presentation by the Director of UNOSSC as he shared data on the effects of South-South cooperation with the GA Second Committee.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. (2015, December 6). *South-South Cooperation Crucial to Fighting Effects of Climate Change* [News Article]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from:

http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/news/articles/2015/unossc_on_climate_change_forum.html

As the international community continues to address climate change throughout the world, the use of SSC and its impact on mitigating climate change were discussed at COP21. With over 100 participants in attendance, the positive influence of SSC on climate change was emphasized. Delegates are encouraged to use this source to gather a deeper understanding as to how Member States can address climate change through SSC.

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II. Empowering Youth for Development

Recent Developments

Recent efforts by the United Nations (UN) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) show the continued importance of addressing youth and their empowerment for development, as today's cohort constitutes the largest generation of young people in history.⁵⁰ The last several months have seen important events and decisions on the role of young people, including the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), which asks for youth to have an increased role in decision-making processes.⁵¹ The resolution highlights the idea of young people helping to achieve long-term justice, conciliation, and peace.⁵² During Security Council discussions, the permanent representative of Jordan to the UN, Dina Kawar, further underlined the importance of this resolution and stressed that “What we seek is to draw the world’s attention to ensure that young people are given the attention they deserve at a time when the world is a theatre for an increasing number of negative issues.”⁵³ Instead of portraying youth as victims or perpetrators of violence, the Security Council has recently highlighted that youth should be considered peacebuilders.⁵⁴

In December, the *Human Development Report 2015* on “Work for Human Development” was launched by UNDP.⁵⁵ The report stresses that the issue of youth unemployment dominates the role of the youth in development efforts, as many young people lack proper employment and are not able to contribute their creativity and innovation to society.⁵⁶ Already earlier this year in a report entitled *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015*, the International Labour Organization (ILO) put the estimated number of young men and women that were unemployed in 2014 at 73.4 million – 36.7% of the global number of unemployed persons.⁵⁷ Upon the release of the report, Azita Berar Awad, Director of ILO’s Employment Policy Department, underlined the great emphasis on the issue of youth employment in Goal 8 of the recently launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as this goal establishes a platform to generate global partnerships to support actions mitigating this situation.⁵⁸ A new initiative looking to address this problem is the ILO’s Youth Employment Programme, which has developed an inventory of policies and legislations addressing the issue of youth employment.⁵⁹

The potential of young people as entrepreneurs is also recognized by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which directs its new initiative, Inclusive, Development, and Entrepreneurship for All (IDEA), specifically towards young people and their struggle to find sustainable work.⁶⁰ The goal of IDEA is to support enterprise development by helping young people identify business opportunities and establish innovative business solutions.⁶¹ The strategy of getting young people involved in initiatives targeting political and economical progress was also demonstrated at the International Volunteer Day (IVD) in December 2015, when 113,000 volunteers, mostly young people, showed their support for the implementation of the SDGs.⁶² In their efforts, UN Volunteers has made the support of youth one of its five programmatic areas in the context of the *2030 Agenda*.⁶³

Other UN entities have also recently discussed aspects of youth empowerment. One UN body that has done so is the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).⁶⁴ The topic of health, and in particular sexual education, is of great

⁵⁰ The World Bank, *Toward Solutions for Youth Employment: A 2015 Baseline Report*, 2015, p. 44.

⁵¹ UN DPI, *Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 (2015), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels*, 2015.

⁵² UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

⁵³ UN DPI, *Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 (2015), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels*, 2015.

⁵⁴ *Liberia: UN Security Council Adopts Resolution On Youth, Peace and Security*, Daily Observer, 2015.

⁵⁵ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development*, 2015.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 55.

⁵⁷ ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling Up Investments in Decent Jobs for Youth*, p. 79.

⁵⁸ UN DPI, *New UN report shows global youth unemployment rate still above financial crisis levels*, 2015.

⁵⁹ ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling Up Investments in Decent Jobs for Youth*, p. 61.

⁶⁰ UNIDO, *Inclusive Development and Entrepreneurship for All: The IDEA Approach to Youth Employment and Enterprise Development: UNIDO Methodological Framework*, 2015, p. 29.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² UN Volunteers, *Celebrating volunteerism around the world in 2015*, 2015.

⁶³ UN Volunteers, *UNV in Action: Volunteerism in the 2030 Agenda*, 2015, p. 3.

⁶⁴ UNAIDS, *On the Fast-Track to end AIDS by 2030: Focus on location and population*, 2015.

importance for young people, and this topic was addressed in the 2015 UNAIDS report *On the Fast-Track to End AIDS by 2030: Focus on Location and Population*.⁶⁵ The report identifies gaps in sexual education, condom programming, and the provision of youth-friendly services as aspects that can improve the health of youth.⁶⁶ Another UN organization that has recently discussed the empowerment of youth is the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which in October 2015 had a Youth Forum entitled “Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet,” in order to call for action to make inclusive and equitable education opportunities possible.⁶⁷ The young people who participated in the Youth Forum requested global youth platforms, the foundation of an environmental youth organization, and the support of “intercontinental social innovation incubators.”⁶⁸

In January 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the importance of the year 2016 for young people, as it will see the work of the first year of the SDGs and the first system-wide Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth at the UN.⁶⁹ The role of young people in supporting political and economic development was also at the center of the UN Economic and Social Council’s (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, which was held on 1 and 2 February 2016 in order to discuss actions on how youth can help put the *2030 Agenda* into action.⁷⁰ As UNDP and the international community continue their efforts, the empowerment of youth will remain significant for overall national and global development.

⁶⁵ UNAIDS, *On the Fast-Track to end AIDS by 2030: Focus on location and population*, 2015.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 133.

⁶⁷ UNESCO, *Conclusions of the youth forum (38 C/19)*, 2015, p. 1.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 1-3.

⁶⁹ UN DPI, *UN must get ‘priorities right’ in 2016, Ban tells Member States, calling for ‘more and better work,’* 2016.

⁷⁰ ECOSOC, *Youth Taking Action to Implement the 2030 Agenda*, 2015.

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International Labour Organization. (2015). *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling Up Investments in Decent Jobs for Youth*. Retrieved 26 December 2015 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_412015.pdf

This document gives delegates a great overview about everything related to youth employment on a global scale. It includes both a global and regional outlook on the trends in youth employment and characteristics of this market from a development perspective. In addition, policies that aim to increase the employment of young people and how different approaches such as trainings and partnerships might support this development are also discussed. Delegates should use this report to inform themselves about the issues of youth employment and how they might be addressed in the future.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2015). *On the Fast-Track to end AIDS by 2030: Focus on location and population* [Report]. Retrieved 27 December 2015 from: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/WAD2015_report_en_part02a.pdf

Health-related topics, and in particular the issue of HIV/AIDS, are of great interest for the health of young people worldwide. Many young people are affected by HIV/AIDS, and many regions are suffering from slow progress regarding its treatability. In the report, UNAIDS details the current state of affairs and what gaps need to be closed to achieve progress in the fight against this virus. Moreover, the report breaks down information about different risk groups and countries affected by the virus worldwide. Delegates can use this document to learn more about the current state of HIV/AIDS and how it affects the health of many young people, as well as what needs to be done to improve the situation.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2015). *Conclusions from the youth forum (38 C/19)* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 27 December 2015 from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002351/235185e.pdf>

This document is the result of cooperation between young people from all over the world and explains the requirements for a sustainable future for all. The outcome document lists ideas and actions that help improve the global situation for youth. It outlines the rights and responsibilities as seen by young people to achieve education and partnerships. Delegates can refer to this document in order to build arguments based on recommendations given by young people.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Inclusive Development and Entrepreneurship for All: The IDEA Approach to Youth Employment and Enterprise Development: UNIDO Methodological Framework* [Report]. Retrieved 27 December 2015 from: [https://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What we do/Topics/Business investment and technology services/The IDEA Approach to Youth Employment and Enterprise Development.pdf](https://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What%20we%20do/Topics/Business_investment_and_technology_services/The_IDEA_Approach_to_Youth_Employment_and_Enterprise_Development.pdf)

This report by UNIDO explains the Inclusive, Development, and Entrepreneurship for All (IDEA) approach. This approach supports initiatives targeting the employment of young women and men around the globe. It gives background information on the know-how of UNIDO and how this body tries to help young people find sustainable jobs. The IDEA approach addresses employment challenges in least developed countries, which might also be interesting for other regions. Delegates can use this source as a base to develop further ideas that target the issue of youth employment.

United Nations, Security Council, 7573th Meeting. (2015). *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*. Retrieved 26 December 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))

Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), which passed in December in the Security Council, is of great relevance for delegates looking for information to support arguments of further youth involvement in decision-making processes. This resolution is proof that the global community sees young people as valuable assets in political processes and the fight against terrorism. The progress and development of many countries depends on the involvement of young, motivated people and their skills. The source clearly highlights that long-term peace is only possible if the youth have the opportunity to be represented in decision-making processes.

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III. Ensuring Women’s and Men’s Equal Participation in Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding

Recent Developments

Ensuring the active and equal participation of men and women in governance and peacebuilding processes is vital to achieving sustainable peace and development.⁷¹ In effect as of January 2016, the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a target on “ensur[ing] women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”⁷² In accordance with its *Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017*, the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to support women’s participation in decision-making, leadership, and “conflict mitigation, mediation and peacebuilding.”⁷³ Other entities within the UN system, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the international community at large have also discussed this topic in recent months.

UNDP has remained active at the national level, particularly by providing direct support to women in countries emerging from conflict.⁷⁴ Against a backdrop of violence and political instability, the Central African Republic (CAR) held general elections on 30 December 2015.⁷⁵ In conjunction with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), UNDP has played a major role in making the political transition as smooth as possible.⁷⁶ UNDP supplied voting materials and trained 18,000 workers to operate polling stations throughout the country.⁷⁷ With the support of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNDP and MINUSCA “trained female candidates for the electoral campaign” and conducted public awareness campaigns to encourage women to vote.⁷⁸ Women have had a fair amount of participation in discussions leading to the adoption of a “code of good conduct” for political parties and election candidates.⁷⁹ The second round of the runoff vote occurred on 14 February 2016.⁸⁰

In addition to UNDP, other UN bodies have persevered in their efforts in relation to this topic. During its 70th session, on the report of the Second Committee, the UN General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution 70/219 on “Women in development.”⁸¹ The resolution encouraged Member States and the UN system to promote “women’s capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political and economic decision-making,” particularly by “mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes.”⁸²

2015 marked notable anniversaries for significant aspects of the international framework underlying gender equality in democratic governance and peacebuilding. On 27 September 2015, China and UN-Women cohosted the “Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” to discuss progress in implementing the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.⁸³ Over 80 world leaders convened to pledge their Member States’ commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment.⁸⁴ In October 2015, the UN Security Council (SC) held a High-level Review to assess progress made in the 15 years following the adoption of SC resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace, and security.⁸⁵ As part of the review process, the

⁷¹ UNDP, *Women’s equal political participation*, 2016.

⁷² UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

⁷³ UNDP, *Women’s equal political participation*, 2016; UNDP, *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017*, 2014, p. 13.

⁷⁴ UNDP, *Women’s equal political participation*, 2016; UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2016.

⁷⁵ UNDP, *The Central African Republic heads to the ballot box to achieve sustainable peace*, 2016.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ UN DPI, *Central African Republic: UN report urges steps to end impunity for rights abuses*, 2016.

⁸¹ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee*, 2015.

⁸² UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: Women in development: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/476/Add.2)*, 2015.

⁸³ UN-Women, *Press release: World leaders agree: We must close the gender gap*, 2015.

⁸⁴ UN-Women, *Member State commitments*, 2015.

⁸⁵ UN Security Council, *Resolutions adopted by the Security Council in 2000*, 2015; UN-Women, *Global Study on UNSC resolution 1325*, 2015.

Secretary-General commissioned a Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325 that was officially launched on 14 October 2015.⁸⁶

Alongside the UN system and individual Member States, civil society has recently contributed to advocating for women's involvement in political leadership and peace processes. In December 2015, UN-Women launched a new project to promote "women's leadership and participation in Turkish politics and decision making" in partnership with civil society organizations and the Turkish Grand National Assembly.⁸⁷ At the project's launch event, Ms. Ingibjörg Solrun Gísladóttir, UN-Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, emphasized the necessity of collaborating with "women's and civil society groups – as no real change will be achieved without including civil society." In February 2016, UN Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, invited 12 "independent civil society representatives" to form the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, which will contribute to ongoing peace talks by "propos[ing] gender-responsive perspectives and channel[ing] relevant civil society expertise."⁸⁸

In a statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board on 25 January 2016, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark observed that UNDP has "particular strengths" with respect to advancing "women's political and economic empowerment."⁸⁹ Moving forward, in furtherance of the SDGs, UNDP will continue to play an essential role in promoting women's and men's equal participation in political life.

⁸⁶ UN-Women, *Featured publication: Global Study on 1325*, 2015; UN-Women, *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325*, 2015.

⁸⁷ UN-Women, *UN Women, IPU and Turkish Parliament to enhance women's political participation*, 2016.

⁸⁸ Ford, Funds for Syria need to be ringfenced for women, civil society groups say, *The Guardian*, 2016; UN-Women, *Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on the establishment of the Syrian Women's Advisory Board to contribute to peace talks*, 2016.

⁸⁹ UNDP, *Helen Clark: Statement to the First Regular Session of the UNDP Executive Board*, 2016.

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This report reviews the conditions for an ordered transition in the Central African Republic. In this transition, UNDP has played a key role on the path towards better governance. This source will give delegates insight into how UNDP supports peacebuilding and promotes equality between men and women in political processes.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Member State commitments* [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/step-it-up/commitments>

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which marked its 20th anniversary in 2015, remains one of the key frameworks underpinning this topic. Following the results of the meeting sponsored by China and UN-Women in September 2015, this source will help delegates look for specific commitments of countries involved with respect to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. This can help delegates become familiar with the commitments of their Member States.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325* [Report]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from:

<http://wps.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>

This report is an analysis on the effects of Security Council resolution 1325, which was adopted in 2000. The resolution recognized the necessity of more active participation of women in peace processes. Delegates will find relevant information on the effects of the resolution and the essential contributions of women to peacebuilding.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015, January 25). *UN Women, IPU and Turkish Parliament to enhance women's political participation* [News Article]. Retrieved 10 February 2016 from: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/01/turkish-parliament-to-enhance-women-s-political-participation>

In January 2016, UN-Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union launched "Gender Equality in Political Leadership and Participation in Turkey." Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, this project aims to address gender inequality in Turkish politics, as women currently constitute only 14.7 percent of the Turkish national parliament. This project serves as a notable example of ways in which the UN, Member States, and civil society can collaborate to further women's participation in politics at the national level.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: Women in development: Report of the Second Committee (A/70/476/Add.2)*. Retrieved 10 February 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/476/Add.2>

In December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/219 on "Women in development," the text of which is contained in this report of the Second Committee. The resolution recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential to the achievement of the SDGs. The resolution also reaffirms that sustainable development is impossible without women's "political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels." Delegates should review this resolution to gain further understanding of the General Assembly's commitment to ensuring women's participation in democratic governance and peacebuilding as a prerequisite for sustainable peace and development.

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United Nations Development Programme & The Central African Republic. (2015). *Immediate Priorities for Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic* [Report]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/CAR_ENGLISH-WEB-LR-09302015.pdf

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