NMUN • NW

PORTLAND 2014

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PLENARY
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE association™

**Message from the Director-General Regarding Position Papers for the
2014 NMUN•Northwest Conference**

At the 2014 NMUN•Northwest Conference, each delegation or individual delegate submits one position paper for each committee assignment. The position paper reflects the state's overall policy and position within a particular committee. Therefore, the role that a state plays in a given committee should inform the writing of the paper.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your state should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. While quotes from UN or state documents are allowed and encouraged if clearly labeled as such, delegates may not use existing material to formulate their own policy within the committee. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegates must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5 x 11 inches - US letter size).

- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 centimeters, for the whole paper.

- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.

- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.

- Country name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.

- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections.

- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 February 2014. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Canada_Jupiter University).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Director-General at dirgen.nw@nmun.org.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.

- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents.

- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints.

- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations.

- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide.

- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff or myself. We are happy to answer any questions you may have, and are looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Lucas Carreras
Director-General
NMUN•Northwest

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from   *Represented by*
Canada   **University of Jupiter**

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

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

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

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

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as

exemplified through the Canadian Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. Canada views the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations under Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. Canada emphasizes the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Declaration on Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. Canada calls upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to the Canadian $1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages states to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies and calls upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges states to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into state-specific strategies called for in the General Assembly Second Committee's report to the General Assembly Plenary on Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/62/419/Add.9) will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

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

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African states to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. Canada recommends Member States to cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/228, Canada believes developed states must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. Canada urges Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medication by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the

Malaria Vaccine Initiative. Canada emphasizes the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of $26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 National Model United Nations•Northwest (NMUN•NW) Conference! Furthermore, I would like to particularly welcome you to your committee, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Ardis Smith is your Director for ECOSOC. She completed her MPhil in Historical Studies at the University of Cambridge and her B.A. in History at Brigham Young University. This is her sixth conference on NMUN staff.

This year's topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

  I.   Strengthening the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Civil Society
  II.   Promoting Sustainable Development and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals
  III. The Empowerment of Women and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

ECOSOC is one of the main bodies of the United Nations and serves a significant role within international relations. It discusses economic and social topics of a wide variance that influence the global community. Accordingly, you have an important position as delegates representing your individual Member States on the Economic and Social Council. Although during the conference ECOSOC will be a simulation of the committee's real-life counterparts, the issues that are under discussion are real and influence men, women, and children throughout the world.

Through your preparation in the coming months, you have the opportunity to research extensively into the topics before the committee and understand the accomplishments, challenges, and positions of your Member State in relation to each of these issues. This background guide will serve as an initial platform to begin your research, but your research should expand beyond this starting tool. As a part of your preparation, as a delegation you will prepare and turn in a position paper on the three topics before ECOSOC. The position paper is an opportunity to explore what international accomplishments have occurred in relation to the topics, what your Member State's position and actions have been in relation to the topics, and to propose specific solutions to address the relevant issues. Because of this, it will greatly assist in your preparation for the upcoming conference. Please take note of the NMUN policies on the website and in the *Delegate Preparation Guide* regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions as you prepare for the Conference, please feel free to contact the substantive staff of ECOSOC or the Director-General, Lucas Carreras. We look forward to working with you at the upcoming conference in February!

Sincerely,

Ardis Smith
Director

Committee History

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been an important entity within the United Nations (UN) since its creation.[1] In 1945, the *Charter of the United Nations* established ECOSOC as one of six principal organs of the UN.[2] ECOSOC held its first session on 23 January 1946, with Ramaswami Mudaliar as the first ECOSOC President.[3] Since then, ECOSOC has actively discussed and influenced topics of international importance related to social, economic, cultural, and human rights issues worldwide.[4] This background guide will explore important elements of ECOSOC, including its mandate; governance, structure, and membership; functions and powers; and work during recent sessions, in order to illustrate the purpose and workings of the Economic and Social Council within the UN.

Mandate

The mandate of ECOSOC was established in Chapter X of the *Charter of the United Nations*.[5] Working specifically with questions of "international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters" and in "promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms," ECOSOC has the ability to analyze situations related to these topics within the global community and to create reports and recommendations for action by the General Assembly (GA).[6] ECOSOC can also create sub-commissions; establish international conferences on topics related to its mandate; create draft conventions to be sent to the GA; provide information to the Security Council when consulted; and organize matters related to UN specialized agencies and assist when requested by Member States.[7]

The mandate of ECOSOC was further expanded in 2005, following the World Summit held in that year. Through the resulting documents – the *World Summit Outcome Document* and the GA's *Resolution 61/16* – ECOSOC has been further mandated to discuss the achievement of international goals and to track the progress of outcomes decided upon in UN conferences.[8] This is done through a Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), held every two years by ECOSOC, and through Annual Ministerial Reviews (AMRs) also conducted by ECOSOC.[9]

Governance, Structure and Membership

Economic and social concerns compose a significant percentage of UN efforts, and 70% of the UN's "human and financial resources" are within ECOSOC's authority.[10] This reflects the wide breadth of ECOSOC and the scope of its subsidiary bodies. ECOSOC has many subsidiary bodies, including Functional Committees, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which focus on a specific topic; Regional Commissions, which look at specific regional

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[1] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*.
[2] United Nations, *Charter of the UN*, Chapter III, 26 June 1945; United Nations, *History of the United Nations*.
[3] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*.
[4] United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Economic and Social Council Documentation*.
[5] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Frequently Asked Questions*.
[6] United Nations, *Charter of the UN*, Chapter X, Article 62, 26 June 1945.
[7] United Nations, *Charter of the UN*, Chapter X, Articles 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 26 June 1945.
[8] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate*; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate of the DCF*;
    United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 61/16*, 9 January 2007.
[9] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate*; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate of the DCF*.
[10] United Nations, *About ECOSOC*.

issues; Standing Committees, such as its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations; and ad hoc, expert, and other related bodies.[11]

The ECOSOC Bureau leads ECOSOC and is composed of five individuals elected at the beginning of each year – four Vice-Presidents and a President.[12] The President and the Vice-Presidents are chosen to represent the five regional groups within ECOSOC: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and other Members.[13] Sixty-nine Presidents have served since 1946, and the current ECOSOC President is Néstor Osorio of Colombia, elected in January 2013.[14] Other 2013 Bureau members are Daffa-alla Elhag Ali Osman, Sudan; Masood Khan, Pakistan; Ferit Hoxha, Albania; and Martin Sajdik, Austria.[15]

ECOSOC also holds formal ECOSOC meetings, as well as meetings at which topic experts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) discuss issues of pertinence.[16] ECOSOC's main meeting is its annual July substantive session, which is split into five different emphases: High-Level, Coordination, Operational Activities, Humanitarian Affairs, and General Segments.[17] The July meeting alternates in location between Geneva and New York.[18] Throughout the year, ECOSOC produces reports, and during its annual meeting, ECOSOC adopts recommendations in the form of resolutions.[19] From the creation of ECOSOC until 1977, ECOSOC documents were named with an "E" and then a continually recurrent number (E/1040, E/1041 and so on).[20] Starting in 1977, ECOSOC adopted the current naming practice for ECOSOC documentation, which is "E", the year of the document, and then a recurrent number for that specific year (such as E/2010/150).[21]

There are 54 members of ECOSOC, comprised of Member States chosen to represent the UN regional blocs.[22] Each ECOSOC member is elected within the GA and serves for a three-year term.[23] Membership of ECOSOC is staggered, with 18 members being elected each year.[24] 14 members from Africa; 11 from Asia; 6 from Eastern Europe; 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and 13 from Western Europe and other Member States compose ECOSOC's membership, and each member of ECOSOC has one vote.[25] Those without membership in ECOSOC can participate in ECOSOC's deliberations, such as other Member States and NGOs, but may not vote.[26]

[11] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.
[12] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Bureau*, 2013; United Nations, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 9.
[13] United Nations, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, p. 9.
[14] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Presidents of the ECOSOC*; ECOSOC, *Welcome*, 2013.
[15] United Nations, *ECOSOC Bureau*, 2013.
[16] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*, 2013; ECOSOC, *About ECOSOC*.
[17] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*; ECOSOC, *Substantive Sessions*, 2013.
[18] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*, 2013.
[19] United Nations, *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council*, 1992, pgs. 16-17.
[20] United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Economic and Social Council Documentation*.
[21] United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Economic and Social Council Documentation*.
[22] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*.
[23] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*.
[24] United Nations, *Economic and Social Council Documentation*.
[25] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*; United Nations, *Main Bodies*.
[26] United Nations, *Charter of the UN*, Chapter X, 26 June 1945; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, NGO Branch, *Basic Facts about ECOSOC Status*.

Functions and Powers

In addition to the functions and powers mandated in the Charter, ECOSOC has recently been mandated to conduct the AMR and the DCF.[27] The AMR serves as a venue through which ECOSOC reviews the progress of established UN outcomes and monitors their influence on international goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[28] It is conducted as a part of the annual High-Level Segment held each July, and Member States, functional commissions, and regional commissions are encouraged to participate in order to further the work of the AMR.[29] The AMR meeting has three key components: an appraisal of the current UN agenda; concentration on a specific international theme; and presentations from Member States on achievements of international goals.[30]

The DCF serves as a forum through which Member States, development partners, and stakeholders can discuss effective development trends and practices to encourage increased development worldwide.[31] The DCF allows for the review of current development practices; collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders; and the fortification of development in relation to the UN.[32] Its five main themes of emphases are to promote unity; encourage accountability and transparency; increase cooperation; discuss actions towards crises; and achieve MDG success.[33] The DCF is held every two years; it was most recently held in July 2012, and will be held again in 2014.[34]

Recent Sessions

The 2012 substantive session of ECOSOC was held from 2-27 July 2012 at the UN headquarters in New York City.[35] The High-Level Segment began with the 2012 AMR, discussing employment and poverty eradication and the MDGs.[36] It also included the third DCF meeting, at which development stakeholders discussed how to approach the future of development, including issues of development assistance, aid, accountability, and gender equality.[37] Other segments included a review of the 2011 Ministerial Declaration on international education goals (Coordination Segment); increasing partnerships for humanitarian assistance coordination (Humanitarian Affairs Segment); and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN and issues within Haiti, Palestine, and Africa (General Segment).[38]

From 1-26 July 2013, the five segments of the 2013 substantive session of ECOSOC were held in Geneva.[39] During the High-Level Segment, the role of science and technology in promoting sustainable development and the MDGs was discussed for the 2013 AMR; reports were also given on science and technology in the five regional areas.[40] The Coordination Segment looked at the 2012 Ministerial Declaration on employment, poverty eradication, and the MDGs, while the Operational Activities

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[27] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Key Functions of ECOSOC*.
[28] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate*.
[29] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Mandate*.
[30] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *What is the Annual Ministerial Review*.
[31] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Development Cooperation Forum*.
[32] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Development Cooperation Forum*.
[33] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Development Cooperation Forum*.
[34] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Key Functions of ECOSOC*; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Development Cooperation Forum [Web Site]*.
[35] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Meetings and Events of ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies*, 2012.
[36] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *High-Level Segment*, 2012.
[37] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the 2012 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum*, July 2012.
[38] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Coordination Segment*, 2012; ECOSOC, *Humanitarian Affairs Segment*, 2012; ECOSOC, *General Segment*, 2012.
[39] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session*, 2013.
[40] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session*, 2013.

Segment discussed the implementation of the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment focused on The Future of Humanitarian Affairs: Towards Greater Inclusiveness, Coordination, Interoperability and Effectiveness, and the General Segment analyzed reports from ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, received the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and discussed the situation in South Sudan.[41] In July 2014, the ECOSOC substantive session will be held in New York City.[42]

Conclusion

ECOSOC serves as the UN body through which social, economic, and cultural issues can be debated, and it works closely with the GA to review topics of international significance and recommend actions for ameliorating global concerns and improving the lives of individuals throughout the world. The subsidiary bodies that ECOSOC monitors compose a substantial portion of the UN's structure, and ECOSOC provides many venues through which multiple participants, including Member States, NGOs, and development partners can collaborate for improved efforts. Accordingly, the work of the Economic and Social Council has a profound and continual influence on the UN, Member States, and men, women, and children in the global community.

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[41] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session*, 2013.
[42] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *High-Level Segment*, 2013; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Welcome to the Substantive Session – Geneva 2013*, 2013.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations. (1945, 26 June). *Charter of the United Nations*. Retrieved September 26, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml

> *The Charter of the United Nations was signed by participating members of the international community on 26 June 1945, in order to establish the United Nations as the official organization to discuss international peace, security, and human rights. Article 7 of Chapter III created ECOSOC as one of the six main bodies of the UN, and Chapter X gives the mandate, functions, and powers of the Economic and Social Council. This source is helpful to delegates, as it provides a context to the original establishment of ECOSOC and Chapter X gives extensive information about ECOSOC's mandate and its functions within the UN.*

United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library. (N.D.) *Economic and Social Council Documentation* [Web Site]. Retrieved September 28, 2013 from: http://research.un.org/en/docs/ecosoc

> *The Dag Hammarskjöld Library, named after the second Secretary-General of the UN, is the official Library at the UN and serves UN delegates, the Secretariat, and researchers. On its Web Site, the Library hosts a series of informational research guides, including a page of documentation related to ECOSOC. This Web Site includes a brief overview of ECOSOC's structure, and then links to resources for locating UN and ECOSOC documentation, including links to the UN's Official Document System, an Index to Speeches, UN Voting Records, and a database of ECOSOC documentation since 2001. As it is essential to understand previous ECOSOC decisions and discussions on different topics being researched, the documentation links provided through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library will provide delegates with needed resources.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (N.D.) *About ECOSOC* [Web Site]. Retrieved September 26, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml

> *ECOSOC has a rich history within the UN, accomplishing significant efforts for the international community since its first meeting in 1946. Accordingly, the ECOSOC Web Site provides a brief overview of ECOSOC, which is a useful tool in understanding the key workings of the Council. In addition to the information providing on ECOSOC, this page is located on the ECOSOC Web Site, and it provides links to other helpful ECOSOC resources, such as information on its membership, structure, meetings, documentation, and news.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (N.D.) *Presidents of the ECOSOC* [Web Site]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/former_presidents.shtml

> *ECOSOC is led each year by an elected Bureau, composed of four Vice-Presidents and one President, chosen according to geographic representation. This Web Site lists all Presidents of ECOSOC since its first meeting in 1946, as well as the country that they represented. For ECOSOC Presidents since 2002, it also provides links to detailed pages on each ECOSOC President and lists comments and news articles pertaining to those Presidents. It will prove helpful to delegates in identifying whether their Member State has previously served as a President of ECOSOC.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Welcome to the Substantive Session – Geneva 2013* [Web Site]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/substantive2013/index.shtml

The most recent substantive session of ECOSOC was held in Geneva in July 2013. This Web Site provides a portal for information related to the discussions held in each of the five segments of ECOSOC's substantive session. It includes news articles on events and statements occurring within the meeting, links to information on each of the five segments, and the closing remarks of the 2012 President at the end of the meeting. The Web Site provides context on the most recent topics that ECOSOC has debated, and accordingly is useful in researching the workings of ECOSOC and how ECOSOC has recently discussed specific topics.

I. Strengthening the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Civil Society

"Expanding and deepening the relationship with non-governmental organizations will further strengthen both the United Nations and the intergovernmental debates on issues of global importance."[43]

Introduction

In recent years, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has often discussed the topic of providing humanitarian aid in times of disaster and crisis. Throughout the world, there are many different types of situations that require international attention and humanitarian assistance. According to the United Nations (UN); for example, the civil war in Syria remains one of the most prevalent humanitarian crises worldwide, with an estimated 4.4 billion USD needed to assist over 12 million individuals affected by the war.[44] In the Central African Republic, recent political instability has led to social insecurity, with the already unequal access to basic needs such as healthcare, sanitation, and food being further exacerbated.[45] Similar needs are also in severe loss in Yemen, where approximately 50% of the population needs humanitarian assistance due to poverty and food insecurity.[46] In South Sudan, conditions have greatly improved through concentrated humanitarian efforts since the end of 2012 and increased political stability, but it is estimated that 2.2 million people are in need of food aid and that 485 million USD must be donated in order to meet the needs of the South Sudanese.[47] In addition to needs caused by war and conflict, humanitarian assistance is often also needed during natural disasters. Recent natural disasters which have received humanitarian assistance include the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the tsunami in South Asia, and the earthquake in Haiti.[48]

During situations of crisis, it is not solely the responsibility of an individual Member State or of the United Nations to provide unilateral support to ameliorate negative conditions. Instead, assistance is much more effective when approached multi-laterally, involving many different partners with an interest in providing humanitarian assistance. The inclusion of multiple partners, including civil society, can provide greater success in the coordination of humanitarian assistance. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has highlighted the need for multiple partners, including civil society, to work together to maximize international efforts, saying at the 2009 World Economic Forum, "Our times demand a new definition of leadership – global leadership. They demand a new constellation of international cooperation – governments, civil society and the private sector, working together for a collective global good."[49] The strengthening of humanitarian assistance strategies and processes can improve both UN-level assistance and the local-level situations of individuals affected by disasters. Given the widely varied and potentially devastating conflicts that occur each year throughout the world, it is apparent that many stakeholders must be included to ensure that assistance is provided in a manner that will be most effective, and that increasing the inclusion of civil society partners in humanitarian assistance can further strengthen UN and ECOSOC efforts towards humanitarian assistance.

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[43] United Nations General Assembly, *A/59/354*, 13 September 2004.
[44] United Nations, *An Overview of Global Humanitarian Action at Mid-Year*, 2013, p. 2.
[45] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Interview*, 2013.
[46] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Yemen*, 2013.
[47] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *South Sudan*, 2013.
[48] United Nations, *Following Massive Earthquake, Tsunamis, Secretary-General Says United Nations "Will Do Anything and Everything We Can" to Support People of Japan*, 11 March 2011; United Nations News Centre, *News Focus: Tsunami in South Asia*, n.d.; United Nations News Centre, *News Focus: Haiti,* n.d.
[49] United Nations, *UN and Civil Society*, n.d.

Definitions

Humanitarian assistance is defined as the providing of aid from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private donors in times of emergency, conflict, or disaster.[50] Civil society can be defined as NGOs, professionals in relevant sectors, advocacy groups, and other organizations that work within the international community, but are not part of governments.[51] Civil society partners can have a multitude of functions, such as facilitating discussions between citizens and governments, serving as watchdogs, and calling for transparency, and can often operate in manners that more formal partners may not be able, as well as provide voices to members of society who are often marginalized.[52] Organizations such as NGOs can also be referred to as civil society organizations (CSOs).[53] CSOs have a significant influence on the work of the UN, and the UN offers many opportunities for CSOs to work with the international community.[54] Civil society has grown greatly in recent years, due to increasingly globalized communities, and continues to have an emerging pertinence in the work of local, national, and international communities.[55]

International Precedence

International Precedence – Humanitarian Assistance

As humanitarian assistance is closely linked with many UN goals and causes, there have been significant international conversations on humanitarian assistance throughout the existence of the UN. Article 1 of the *Charter of the United Nations* notes that a main purpose of the UN is "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character."[56] In 1971 and 1989, UN General Assembly resolutions 2816 and 44/236 looked at UN humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.[57] In December 1991, the GA adopted resolution 46/182, a foundational document on the need of strengthened humanitarian assistance. Noting the plight of those affected by natural disasters and conflict, as well as the resulting displacement and damage that occurs, resolution 46/182 called on the UN to "strengthen further and make more effective the collective efforts of the international community, in particular the United Nations system, in providing humanitarian assistance."[58]

Within ECOSOC, conversations on humanitarian assistance have particularly focused on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance. As a part of its annual meetings, ECOSOC holds a Humanitarian Affairs Segment aimed to provide "a unique opportunity for Member States to address such challenges and support operational and normative progress on the humanitarian policy agenda" and which looks at how emergency assistance can be further developed.[59] Resolution 46/182 also established that the Secretary-General would report annually to the GA and to ECOSOC, and so ECOSOC receives yearly reports on the progress and challenges facing continued humanitarian assistance coordination.[60] Another set of significant documents is the yearly resolutions resulting from the segment, as each highlights

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[50] Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Basic Concepts and Definitions*, n.d.
[51] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Civil Society and the Convention*, n.d.
[52] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Civil Society and the Convention*, n.d.
[53] United Nations, *UN and Civil Society*, n.d.
[54] United Nations, *UN and Civil Society*, n.d.
[55] World Bank, *Defining Civil Society*, n.d.
[56] United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 26 June 1945.
[57] United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 46/182*, 19 December 1991.
[58] United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 46/182*, 19 December 1991.
[59] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Humanitarian Affairs Segment*, n.d.
[60] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Reports*, n.d.

matters of continuing importance to ECOSOC – for instance, ECOSOC resolution 2010/1 emphasizes the need for gender considerations in humanitarian assistance and the capacity building of governments and CSOs.[61] During the recent 2013 Humanitarian Affairs segment, ECOSOC focused on "The Future of Humanitarian Affairs: Towards Greater Inclusiveness, Coordination, Interoperability and Effectiveness."[62] Two high-level panels within the segment discussed reducing vulnerability and risks as a method for multiple shareholders to work together and maximizing innovation for improved humanitarian assistance.[63] Through the continued efforts of the Humanitarian Affairs segment of ECOSOC, it is apparent that strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance is seen as a prominent theme needing continual attention and progress.

The UN, and ECOSOC specifically, have repeatedly called for financial humanitarian support as a method of providing humanitarian assistance. In July 2013, ECOSOC renewed its requests for financial assistance from relevant partners, requests that had previously occurred in December 2012 and January 2013.[64] The amount called for was revised to approximately 12.9 billion USD internationally, and was reported at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment by Valerie Amos, the UN Humanitarian Chief.[65] Coordinated with this call was the publication of *An Overview of Global Humanitarian Action at Mid-Year*, a UN report providing information about past and present areas of particular need in humanitarian assistance. The report noted that while 73 million individuals stood to benefit from the aid that would be provided with an increasing effort towards humanitarian funding, only 40% of the needed funds had yet to be donated.[66] This emphasis on increased funding was released on behalf of 620 aid agencies, reflecting the cooperative power of CSOs working together with other global entities for funding.[67]

International Precedence – Civil Society

The UN has also emphasized the importance of international agencies working together with civil society partners, and increasingly so in recent years. The participation of CSOs in the UN was included within the *UN Charter*, in Article 71, and the Charter's creation of ECOSOC also mandated the Council to interact with NGOs.[68] The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which focuses on issues related to global populations and international development, has emphasized since its 1994 *Programme of Action* the need for partners on multiple levels, including governments, NGOs, and private organizations, to work together to address a myriad of international concerns. In 1996, ECOSOC created through resolution 1996/31 the opportunity for NGOs to have official consultative status within ECOSOC workings.[69] In GA resolution 65/243 (2011), it was noted that conversations between civil society and governments are significant, and that governments remain pertinent partners in international conversations.[70] Although the inclusion of civil society partners has sometimes been debated within the

[61] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 2010/1*, 2010.
[62] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Humanitarian Affairs Segment*, 2013.
[63] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment*, 2013.
[64] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *ECOSOC: UN Releases Revised Global Humanitarian Appeal*, n.d.
[65] United Nations, *An Overview of Global Humanitarian Action at Mid-Year*, 2013, p. 2, 10.
[66] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *ECOSOC: UN Releases Revised Global Humanitarian Appeal*, n.d.
[67] United Nations, *An Overview of Global Humanitarian Action at Mid-Year*, 2013, p. 12.
[68] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Research on Civil Society and International Decision-Making*.
[69] The United Nations Office at Geneva, *The United Nations and Civil Society*, n.d.
[70] United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 65/234*, 2011, p. 2.

UN, recently, many organizations have focused on how to further coordinate interaction with civil society, with many holding discussions with civil society partners.[71]

International Crises

Global situations requiring international assistance from the UN and civil society partners are widely varied in their individual conditions, but universally require coordinated humanitarian aid. Many crises are due to natural disasters, while matters of conflict cause others. In the Central African Republic, there are 1.6 million individuals directly in need of humanitarian assistance, with 484,000 people highly food insecure and 206,000 internally displaced within the last year, due to the current political instability in the country.[72] Due to an inability to meet basic needs, the average citizen has an average life expectancy of 48 years, and many of those living in the Central African Republic only eat one meal a day.[73] Civil society partners have been highly influential in providing current assistance, as several NGOs are assisting particularly with sanitation strategies and food provision to those in the area.[74] In Yemen, many similar issues are of grave concern amongst its population, where many formerly displaced individuals still face unequal access to food and almost 300,000 Yemeni citizens remain displaced.[75] The UN estimates that 528 million USD is needed to address humanitarian issues in Yemen, and has created a short list of critical and therefore highest-priority projects that add up to 209 million USD.[76] South Sudan stands as an example of improvement through extensive support and stability; the UN and associated aid agencies had called for an original 1.16 billion USD for assistance in improving conditions in the new nation at the beginning of 2013, but in July 2013 reduced the needed amount to 1.05 billion USD, with the goal of 485 million USD to be donated at the end of the year.[77] While a productive harvest decreased the number of those who have poor access to food, and the successful collaboration of aid agencies and other partners have dramatically increased South Sudan's conditions, there still remain 4.1 million individuals who are food insecure and 224,000 South Sudanese refugees.[78] South Sudan reflects how quickly humanitarian assistance from the coordinated efforts of multiple partners can be effective, with substantial success over the period of less than a year, and also the length of time in which continued humanitarian assistance is further needed for effective results.

Current UN Strategies in Providing Coordinated Assistance

There are many UN entities that work with issues related to humanitarian affairs and humanitarian assistance, including the GA Third Committee, ECOSOC, the UN Children's Fund, UN Development Programme, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT).[79] The World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN make food available in times of food insecurity, while the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration provide camps to those who are displaced.[80] The World Health Organization assists global citizens affected by natural disasters and medical

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[71] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Research on Civil Society and International Decision-Making*, n.d.
[72] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Interview*, 2013.
[73] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Interview*, 2013.
[74] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Interview*, 2013.
[75] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Yemen*, 2013.
[76] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Yemen*, 2013.
[77] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *South Sudan*, 2013.
[78] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *South Sudan*, 2013.
[79] United Nations Humanitarian Affairs, *UN Bodies*, n.d.
[80] United Nations, *Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*, n.d.

conditions.[81] The United Nations Environment Programme has a Disasters and Conflicts segment which addresses how to further decrease disasters from occurring, and focus on several countries in disaster management.[82] In addition to the efforts of these entities, a significant organization within the UN is the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies" and which "ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort."[83] OCHA, which is led by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, provides for the coordination and advocacy of humanitarian assistance throughout the world.[84]

Another UN organization also aims to provide humanitarian aid, with an emphasis on uniting all relevant partners, including civil society shareholders, to maximize assistance. In June 1992, GA resolution 46/182 created the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), an entity to facilitate the coordination of humanitarian assistance and decision-making between the UN and its partners, including civil society partners, and its purpose was further acknowledged in GA resolution 48/57 (1993).[85] The IASC is also led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, a position currently held by Valerie Amos, and works with the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA).[86] The IASC also has subsidiary bodies, including task forces, reference groups, and sub-working groups, as a method to recommend policies for improved humanitarian assistance, and has recommended the use of a cluster approach in all emergencies.[87]

In addition to the IASC, the UN employs several other procedures to encourage the participation of CSOs within humanitarian affairs. Within ECOSOC, NGOs can work with the Council through gaining consultative status, as established by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.[88] Over half of all Geneva UN meetings are available for NGOs to attend.[89] The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) also maintains the Integrated Civil Society Organizations System (iCSO) web site as a resource for CSOs engaged with DESA and DESA's NGO Branch.[90] Each of these systems allows for the participation of CSOs in many UN humanitarian efforts.

There are many challenges facing humanitarian efforts, and recent UN recommendations highlight areas in which the international community can enact change. In the 2013 Secretary-General's report on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance, the UN emphasized the particular need of further including gender, age, and disability considerations into providing aid, noting, "Humanitarian crises do not affect all people evenly."[91] The IASC has developed a Gender Marker, which measures how successfully projects incorporate a gender perspective; attention to the elevated potential of gender-based violence is also significant to ensure that gendered elements of conflict and disaster are minimized.[92] Other current challenges in coordinating humanitarian efforts include growing issues in disaster management in preventing causes of natural disasters and food insecurity, acts of violence against

[81] United Nations, *Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*, n.d.
[82] United Nations Environment Programme, *Disasters and Conflicts*, n.d.
[83] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Who We Are*, n.d.
[84] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Who We Are*, n.d.; OCHA, *The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator*, n.d.
[85] Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *About the Inter-Agency Standing Committee*, 2013.
[86] Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *About the Inter-Agency Standing Committee*, 2013.
[87] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs, *OCHA On Message: Inter-Agency Standing Committee*, n.d.
[88] The United Nations Office at Geneva, *The United Nations and Civil Society*, n.d.
[89] The United Nations Office at Geneva, *The United Nations and Civil Society*, n.d.
[90] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *NGO Branch*, n.d.
[91] United Nations, *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*, 2013, p. 11.
[92] United Nations, *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*, 2013, p. 11.

individuals tasked with providing humanitarian assistance, and disagreements in defining the meaning of humanitarian effectiveness.[93]

Inclusion of Civil Society in Providing Coordinated Assistance

At a 1999 roundtable, the Director of the UNFPA stressed that individual shareholders in matters of international significance – local communities, CSOs, private partners, governments, and international entities – each have a significant role that they can play to improve the overarching whole of international affairs.[94] Similarly, OCHA emphasizes within its strategic framework that "partnership has always been integral to OCHA's efforts," and "the scale and scope of global challenges requires working together in new ways."[95] Because civil society partners are often close to individual communities and groups affected by a disaster or conflict, they often are able to empower individuals on a grassroots level in a manner other entities cannot.[96] However, civil society partners are not often fully incorporated in providing coordinated humanitarian assistance, and their involvement can be further increased to ensure the success of international humanitarian projects and to further increased international coordination.

The Secretary-General has noted the need for continued improvement in the UN's work with civil society, and in 2003 a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations was created to recommend methods through which civil society partnerships can be maximized.[97] In a 2004 report to the High-Level Panel, the Secretary-General outlined seven main points through which civil society involvement can be increased. Highlighted aspects of the report include an emphasis that NGO participation must be further promoted in intergovernmental bodies; that a trust fund should be created to rally NGO participation in developing countries; the improvement of processes for accreditation and UN Secretariat-CSO conversations is need; and that relationships between countries and NGOs should be strengthened.[98] Another challenge in providing fully effective humanitarian assistance, particularly within ECOSOC, is the failure of the international community to fully foster participation of regional civil society organizations. In many developing regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and areas of Latin America, NGO participation is less strong than in North America and Europe, which hinders the ability of the global community to provide emergency assistance in times of conflict or disaster due to a lack of local partners and institutionalized cooperation.[99] Accordingly, the encouraged participation of civil society shareholders in these areas can contribute to the overall success of humanitarian coordination, while it also must be ensured that diversity in humanitarian participation is cohesive and unified in order to prevent stratification.[100]

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[93] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *E/2013/L.20*, 8 July 2013, pp. 1-2; United Nations, *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*, 2013.

[94] United Nations Population Fund, *Policy-Making Too Important to Leave to Governments Alone, Dhaka Round Table Told*, 1999.

[95] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Who We Are*, n.d.

[96] Do, *Successful Models of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status*, 2011.

[97] The United Nations Office at Geneva, *The United Nations and Civil Society*, n.d.

[98] United Nations, *Report of the Secretary-General in Response to the Report of the Panel of Eminent Person on United Nations-Civil Society Relations*, 2004.

[99] NGO Branch, *Regional Participation of Civil Society in the Work of ECOSOC*, n.d.

[100] International Committee of the Red Cross, *Strengthening Coordination of UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*, 13 December 2012.

Case Studies

Many examples of coordinated humanitarian assistance exist, reflecting the success achieved through collaboration between intergovernmental and civil society partners. In Mozambique, UNHABITAT has worked with the Auroville Earth Institute to design homes and schools in the Inhambane province that can withstand cyclones that affect the area; similar cyclone-resistant buildings have also been designed in partnership throughout Mozambique.[101] Following Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis in 2008, the government initially rejected international humanitarian aid, but eventually NGO support was accepted. The Save the Children-Myanmar NGO organized a consortium of local and international NGOs called "Paung Ku," which allowed for an increase in available humanitarian support to those in the country.[102] In Ethiopia in 2013, the UN organized a meeting with civil society, private partner, and agricultural representatives to discuss the creation of collaborative partnerships with one another in order to address food insecurity in Africa.[103] In 2012 and 2013, the emphasis on local communities greatly aided the success of a polio vaccination program in Afghanistan, resulting in vaccine access to 11 million children. An increase of focus on local communities was a new concept that the 2013 Secretary-General's report cited as successful.[104] This tactic can be well employed by civil society partners, as they are often able to enact change at a local community level that governments or international entities are not able to pursue fully.

Conclusion

The strengthening of humanitarian assistance coordination remains a significant international topic, given ECOSOC's annual conversations on the topic and the increasing collaboration between UN entities and civil society partners. The UN's structure in approaching situations of disaster and conflict, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, emphasizes the growing trend of the UN to include civil society partners; however, much remains to be done to strengthen humanitarian coordination and maximize intergovernmental/civil society interactions.

How can humanitarian assistance be further coordinated and strengthened within the UN? What humanitarian assistance do individual Member States contribute to? To what level do individual Member States participate or facilitate humanitarian assistance? What is the level of interaction between the governments and civil society? How active are NGOs within local communities/countries/ regions? What are successful case studies of strengthened humanitarian coordination and collaboration with civil society within individual Member States? Through the further inclusion of civil society partners in all aspects of humanitarian assistance provided internationally, the international community could further assist global citizens in need.

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[101] United Nations Settlements Programme, *Focus on Mozambique*, 2012.
[102] Do, *Successful Models of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status,* 2011.
[103] UN News Centre, *At UN Meeting, Civil Society, Private Sector Partner to Ensure Food Security in Africa*, 1 July 2013.
[104] United Nations, *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*, 2013, p. 17.

Annotated Bibliography

Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (2013). *About the Inter-Agency Standing Committee* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 25, 2013 from: http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-about-default

> *The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has a significant influence within the international community, and its presence re-iterates the importance of cooperation between governmental and international organizations and civil society organizations. On its Web site, delegates can learn more about the IASC, its objectives, principles, membership, priorities, and significant documents in its development. Delegates can also navigate to additional information about the IASC, including its subsidiary bodies, information about its weekly events, and additional documents pertaining to its work.*

International Conference on Population and Development. (2012). *The Role of Civil Society*. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about/view/11-the-role-of-civil-society

> *The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was originally held in 1994, and there are currently extensive conversations occurring within the UN on the 20-year review of the ICPD and what should happen beyond 2014 in relation to population and development goals. A significant part of the Beyond 2014 conversation has been on how civil society can further be included in all topics and levels of international approaches to significant issues. This Web site provides a background on the influence that civil society can have, generally, and some of the methods through which civil society is impacting international efforts and development goals. It provides an introduction to the role of civil society in the UN and examples of effective methods of inclusion for civil society into the UN.*

United Nations. (2013). *An Overview of Global Humanitarian Action at Mid-Year*. Retrieved July 24, 2013 from https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/MYR_2013_Overview_of_GHA.pdf

> *In July 2013, the United Nations released this report, which analyzes recent humanitarian aid situations and the accompanying financial amounts needed to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to pressing issues worldwide. This report is significant, as it provides extensive information about current funding needed and previous funding provided, allowing for an in-depth introduction to the financial aspects of humanitarian assistance. In addition, it also provides country overviews that detail the amounts and types of humanitarian assistance made available and also needed in different countries throughout the world, thus allowing Member States to see their own relationship with international humanitarian affairs and needs within their region.*

United Nations. (n.d.) *Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance*. Retriever July 25, 2013 from www.un.org/en/globalissues/humanitarian

> *The United Nations features a section of its website on Global Issues, and one of the issues addressed is Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance. On this page, extensive information can be found on the different programmes that are a part of the UN's organized efforts towards humanitarian needs, different organizations that work with the UN to provide assistance, and prominent UN efforts and documents related to humanitarian assistance. This website also provides a series of related links that provide additional information and resources regarding UN disaster relief efforts.*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Branch. (n.d.) *NGO Branch* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=14

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Branch (UN-DESA NGO Branch) hosts the website CSONet.org, which is a source that provides information for non-governmental organizations (NGOS) and civil society organizations (CSOs) who are registered with ECOSOC or who wish to register with ECOSOC. The website provides information about the UN-DESA NGO Branch and the support it provides to NGOs, upcoming events for NGOs and CSOs, information on NGO participation within the UN, and research on the significance of the inclusion of civil society. As this Web site aims to provide information to NGOs and CSOs on how they can have an influence within ECOSOC and the UN, it is useful in understanding the pertinence of CSO inclusion within the UN.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2012). *Humanitarian Affairs Segment* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/has2012.shtml

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) holds several different segments during its annual meetings each year, including its Humanitarian Affairs Segment. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment focuses specifically on the strengthening of humanitarian coordination, and this Web site provides an overview of the purpose of the Humanitarian Affairs segment. It also provides specific information on the 2012 Humanitarian Affairs segment, thus allowing delegates to see an example of how humanitarian assistance is discussed and proposals are given. The site also provides a link to the 2012 report of the Secretary-General on the topic.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*. Retrieved May 27, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/sg_report-adv_strengthening_coordination_of_%20humanitarian_assistance.pdf

In July 2013, the Economic and Social Council will discuss the strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance during the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC's annual meeting. In preparation to discuss the official topic of "The Future of Humanitarian Affairs: Towards Greater Inclusiveness, Coordination, Interoperability and Effectiveness," ECOSOC published an advanced draft of the Secretary-General's report on the topic to be addressed. It provides an introduction to the pressing and widely variant humanitarian crises currently facing the UN, successes in strengthened coordination, and topics of continuing need. This source is significant because it allows for delegates to understand what topics were perceived as influential prior to the July 2013 segment, and allows for a point of comparison with the final resulting document from the July 2013 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment.

United Nations, General Assembly. (1991, 19 December). *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations*. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm

In December 1991, the UN General Assembly produced a resolution on the importance of humanitarian assistance coordination within the United Nations. The resulting resolution is a helpful resource for delegates, as it provides information on predecessor resolutions on humanitarian assistance, defines guiding principles that define UN humanitarian assistance, addresses preparation and preparedness for providing assistance, and highlights the need for cooperation and collaboration when approaching this topic. A/RES/46/182 highlights that strengthening the coordination of UN humanitarian efforts has been a consistent effort of the UN for over two decades, and it continues to be a pertinent subject to UN organizations.

United Nations News Centre. (n.d.) *News by Topic: Humanitarian Aid*. Retrieved July 25, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=3

> *The United Nations News Centre is a useful source for recent news on many topics pertinent to the work of the UN. This particular Web page provides links to the most recent articles related to the topic of humanitarian aid within the UN, and accordingly is a helpful resource in researching current UN discussions on humanitarian assistance, effective strategies for aid, and the inclusion of civil society partners in extending humanitarian assistance. It also provides specific case studies of effective and ongoing humanitarian projects.*

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (n.d.) *OCHA* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://www.unocha.org/

> *The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the UN organization that focuses specifically on UN coordination efforts in humanitarian assistance. Its four part mission is to provide humanitarian assistance with involved partners, speak for the rights of those needing assistance, make available training on both preparing for and avoiding crises, and developing effective solutions to humanitarian affairs. The OCHA Web site is a venue through which significant information about humanitarian affairs coordination can be identified, including in a history of OCHA and international precedence, the goals of OCHA, many themes that fall within the larger topic of humanitarian assistance, resources on humanitarian affairs, and recent news stories about humanitarian assistance. This Web site will provide an in-depth introduction to the UN's responsibilities in relation to humanitarian affairs, as well as the major topics that can be addressed when approaching humanitarian assistance.*

II. Promoting Sustainable Development and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Introduction

In 2000, leaders from 189 United Nations (UN) Member States gathered and met for the UN Millennium Summit, which culminated in the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as part of the *Millennium Declaration.*[105] These world leaders committed their respective countries to achieving the eight MDGs by 2015 with the aim of reducing extreme poverty.[106] Aside from the emphasis on reducing extreme poverty, another common theme and point of emphasis in the MDGs is addressing and ensuring that any gains made with regard to each of the MDGs are sustainable. In particular, the emphasis on ensuring and achieving sustainable development is demonstrated as instrumental by the inclusion of MDGs 7 and 8, which explicitly focus on sustainable development.

As 2015 approaches, Member States will reconvene to analyze progress towards the MDGs and how much work remains unfinished; in particular, they will discuss how much work still needs to be done to adequately address the promotion of sustainable development, which will be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. There is still time, however, to promote sustainable development within the MDG framework and prior to the creation of the post-2015 development agenda. With that in mind, the promotion of sustainable development in relation with the MDGs can still promote and foster technological innovation, addressing urbanization, and addressing the role of women in the promotion of sustainable development are still viable and worthwhile projects.

Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals

At first glance, the connection and relationship between sustainability and the Millennium Development Goals might not be obvious or clear cut. Yet upon closer examination, it becomes quite clear that sustainable development plays a role in helping to achieve results and progress in each of the eight MDGs. Essentially, sustainable development serves as a linking and interconnecting concept that ties the MDGs together.[107] Aside from serving as a link between MDGs, sustainable development plays a role in helping to achieve each of the MDGs individually, and also serves to be a focal point/concept in the development of a post-2015 development agenda.[108]

Breaking down each of the eight MDGs, we are able to highlight and pinpoint how sustainable development has an influence and or how it can be useful in helping to achieve that particular goal by 2015 or in a post-2015 agenda. MDG one, "Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger," has seen progress stalled in the past few years relative to established targets.[109] The set targets for MDG goal 1 included halving the proportion of those living with an income of 1.25 USD a day or less, achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all including women and young people, and halving the

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[105] Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Page.
[106] Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Page.
[107] United Nations General Assembly, Accelerating Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Options for Sustained and Inclusive Growth Issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda (A/66/126), 11 July 2011.
[108] United Nations General Assembly, Accelerating Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: Options for Sustained and Inclusive Growth Issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda (A/66/126), 11 July 2011.
[109] Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Page.

proportion of people of people who suffer from hunger.[110] While targets related to halving the rate of extreme poverty and hunger reduction have been met, others within MDG one have yet to be met.[111]

The role sustainable development can play in helping UN Member States achieve the targets for MDG 1 involves addressing targets laid out in some of the other MDGs. To properly address the fact that 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty, address the gender gap in employment to population ratio between men and women, currently at 24.8%, and address the fact that that 870 million people are still malnourished, requires addressing MDG goals 3, 5, 7, and 8 concurrently. With regards to MDG 3, addressing the fact that in developing countries, women still tend to hold less secure jobs that offer very few social benefits while also being relegated to more vulnerable employment means that automatically, there is one less potential individual in the household to properly help provide an adequate income.[112] This in turn can lead to and push families with multiple primary school-age children withhold some or all children from school because the family needs to "put food on the table."[113]

The interconnectedness between MDG goals and sustainable development is highlighted even further as the fact that children who enter the workforce, whether formally or informally, are less likely to go to school, undermining the ability to achieve targets in MDG 2 promoting universal primary education.[114] In other words, poverty becomes reinforcing, because children sent to work due to necessity fail to attain an education and therefore lack literacy and other basic skills, which will prevent them later in life from obtaining high-skilled jobs; this in turn promotes a continuing income inequality gap which MDG 1 attempts to address.[115]

Environmental sustainability, which is itself the subject of MDG 7, has the most direct relationship with sustainable development of each of the eight MDGs.[116] In particular, the biggest challenge to achieving MDG 7 are related to access to sanitation facilities and addressing the increasing urban population share.[117]

In sufficient sanitation facilities affect the ability of Member States to be able to also address MDGs 1, 2, and 6, among others. We can see that if countries are able to properly address and implement policies which promote and provide access to sanitation facilities, this reduces the instance and exposure individuals, particularly populations residing in slums, will have to diseases that can be contracted because of poor sanitation practices.[118] In turn, this leads to a domino effect: addressing access to sanitation facilities helps with achievement of MDG 6, to combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria; MDG 4, to reduce child mortality; MDG 2, to achieve universal primary education; and therefore also MDG 1, to eradicate poverty.[119] Sanitation, which is one part of MDG 7 focusing on environmental

[110] Millennium Development Goals, Special Event 25 September: Outcome Document, 2013.
[111] Millennium Development Goals, Special Event 25 September: Outcome Document, 2013.
[112] Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Page.
[113] United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO and the Millennium Development Goals, 2009.
[114] United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO and the Millennium Development Goals, 2009.
[115] United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO and the Millennium Development Goals, 2009.
[116] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia, "Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable Development", Amman, 26 November 2012.
[117] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia, "Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable Development", Amman, 26 November 2012.
[118] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia, "Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable Development", Amman, 26 November 2012.
[119] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia, "Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable Development", Amman, 26 November 2012.

sustainability, highlights the interconnectedness of MDG solutions as well as their problems: by addressing sustainability and in particular sustainable development, other MDG achievements become easier to realize.[120] With a clear understanding of the importance of the role and relationship between sustainable development and the MDGs, an analysis of examining different particular variables like cultural practices, science, technology, promotion of maternal health, and other relevant variables is better understood.

Millennium Development Goals and the UN

The breadth and range of issues addressed in the MDGs necessitate coordination and collaboration from more than one UN agency in order to achieve the goals' targets. UN agencies also interact with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional organizations in collaborative efforts to address a particular MDG. Individual UN agencies also release reports, updates, and status reports about how individual countries and regions are progressing towards achieving a particular MDG.

Division for Sustainable Development

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) serves to provide leadership in promoting and coordinating implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations.[121] Chief among the work that the DSD has done was to coordinate the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, better known as the Rio +20 Conference.[122] The DSD works to coordinate and translate five core functions into policy and action; those five core functions are: to support UN intergovernmental processes on sustainable development, analysis and policy development, capacity development at a national level, foster inter-agency coordination, and provide knowledge management, communication, and outreach.[123] In addition to coordinating and translating its five core functions, the DSD is home to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) unit, which undertakes the division's core functions in support of the *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation* of the *Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS*.[124]

The DSD serves as the primary office responsible for supporting UN intergovernmental process on sustainable development by supporting Member States during deliberations of a high level forum related to sustainable development, helping Member States develop sustainable development goals, and helping Member States implement their commitments on sustainable development made in the 1992 Earth Summit.[125] The DSD provides analysis and policy development through analytical and scientific reporting for intergovernmental deliberations on sustainable development, and designs integrated policy responses for a number of priority areas related to sustainable development goals.[126] With regards to capacity development, the DSD serves to help translate decisions of UN intergovernmental bodies related into sustainable development into policies and actions at the national level.[127] In addition, the division, along with its three non-New York offices and other UN agencies, focus on building capacity and for integrated

[120] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia, "Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable Development", Amman, 26 November 2012.
[121] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[122] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[123] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[124] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[125] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[126] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.
[127] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.

planning and policy design in order to inform intergovernmental bodies on the relevance and impact of normative and analytical efforts at the country level.[128]

With regards to the final two core functions of work and coordination by the DSD, the division's work on inter-agency coordination takes on the form of mobilizing the UN and its related agencies, as well as other relevant and interested organizations, to support sustainable development strategies.[129] The DSD also supports knowledge management, communication and outreach by increasing effective participation of outside organizations such as NGOs in the UN political process as well as its analytical and capacity development work.[130] In addition, the division helps to support, facilitate, and monitor voluntary partnerships, and serve to provide wide access to information and knowledge to sustainable development through its online platform.[131] The DSD serves an important role in the promotion of sustainable development through the UN system and amongst its Member States in order to help achieve MDG obligations.

United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the primary organization within the United Nations system focusing on development policy and coordination. UNDP is heavily involved in helping its national networks link and coordinate efforts globally with the goal of helping Member States achieve the MDGs.[132] In particular, UNDP is focused on helping countries share and build solutions on four particular points of emphasis, one of those being environment and energy for sustainable development.[133]

UNDP's assistance to Member States as they address and strengthen their national capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner helps countries achieve the MDGs, in particular achieve MDGs 1and 7.[134] The efforts of UNDP to help Member States achieve sustainable development through improved environmental and energy policies that can help them achieve targets outlined in the millennium development goals can be observed in a number of countries.

Bagladesh is a country that is geographically particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and as a result has seen a number of natural disasters devastate large portions of its territory and affect the ability of national authorities to carry out development policies.[135] This is on top of the fact that Bangladesh is already a high amount of environmental degradation, which is compounded with every natural disaster that affects the country.[136] In 2008, UNDP along with the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) created a Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) to help support Bangladesh in its efforts to become more resilient to the effects of climate change and in the process, be able to better achieve the MDGs through sustainable development.[137] In cooperation with the Bangladeshi Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Ministry of Finance, the PEI is an initiative that mainstreams a

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[128] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.

[129] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.

[130] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.

[131] United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, About the Division on Sustainable Development.

[132] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Programme.

[133] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Programme.

[134] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Programme.

[135] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[136] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[137] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

perspective inclusive of poverty, gender and climate change into the national development process.[138] The results of the PEI initiative in Bangladesh have shown that the Bangladeshi government has been footing three-quarters of all environmental spending related to climate change initiatives; simultaneously, Bangladeshi spending on climate change adaptation for poorer households and the homeless was far higher than expected.[139] Another byproduct of the PEI in Bangladesh has been that there has been an incorporation of poverty-environment-climate issues into key national and sectoral planning policies.[140] As a result, the Bangladeshi government has been able to properly address and incorporate environmental infrastructure and poverty alleviation strategies into national action plans that would improve the likelihood of Bangladesh achieving the MDGs.[141]

As recently as 2010, less than half of all Nicaraguans had access to electricity, while electricity that was available for many was generated by power plants that relied on fossil fuels.[142] Because these power plants require a high degree of maintenance and run substantially high operation costs, this contributes to unsustainable power generation and unreliable source for electricity.[143] As a result of a lack of reliable source of energy for many Nicaraguans, rural individuals lacked the ability to operate and sustain rural economies; this meant that the average household wage was significantly lower as a result of unreliable power generation.[144] In cooperation with the government of Nicaragua, UNDP developed an initiative that would take advantage of the country's various natural resources and in the process transform the energy sector and rural economies with the introduction of renewable hydropower, targeting the most remote areas of the country.[145] This expansion, which took the form of micro turbines, has served as a catalyst in creating a culture of sustainable power generation, spurred new legislation for the promotion of electricity generation from renewable resources, and led to the development of training programs at two national universities to strengthen the capacity of engineering students in renewable energy.[146] Just as importantly, the project has seen 48,000 people gain access to energy.[147] Rural shops can now operate on a more consistent basis, which alleviates and reduces the amount individuals dealing with extreme poverty and hunger. It also allows school age children to attain an education, which means that Nicaragua can better achieve its goal related to universal primary level education.[148]

[138] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[139] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[140] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[141] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[142] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[143] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[144] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[145] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[146] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[147] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[148] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

The Role of ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the UN agency that serves as the central forum to discuss, debate, and issue policy recommendations related to economic, social, and environmental challenges.[149] Since 1972, with the hosting of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, ECOSOC has recognized the reach of sustainable development governance.[150] With the 1987 *Brundtland Report*, ECOSOC recognized the need for integration of economic development, natural resources management and protection, as well as social equity and inclusion.[151] Today, ECOSOC continues to serve as the forum in helping to achieve a balanced integration of implementing sustainable development policies, especially with regards to pledges made in the Rio +20 Conference outcome document.[152] Specifically, ECOSOC plays a key role in mobilizing, facilitating, and partnering with other UN system entities and civil society to advance food security and nutrition, as well as sustainable urbanization.[153]

ECOSOC is engaged in addressing sustainability of food security through its engagement in the High Level Task Force on Global and Food Security. In 2011, the Task Force published an updated version of the *Comprehensive Framework of Action* document, which outline the work, and key principles of action, and outcomes and actions that have been achieved or need to be strengthened by the task force.[154] One of the topics the Task Force and the Framework of Action address is ensuring that increases in food availability are maintained through productive and sustainable smallholder farming systems.[155] To ensure and sustain gains in food production, the framework of action promotes ensuring that macroeconomic, budget, trade, and sector policy frameworks provide incentives for sustainable increases; stimulate investment by farmers through enabling small landholders to access finance so that their agricultural output serves as a sustainable, environmentally sound and competitive source of growth and employment.[156] In addition, the updated comprehensive framework of action also calls for states to enhance secure and equitable access to natural resources, invest in agricultural research, improve rural infrastructure, and ensure sustained access to competitive, transparent and private sector-led markets.[157] Finally, the updated framework of action calls on states to support producer organizations in which women participate on equal footing, and strengthen access of valued food chain actors to financial risk management services.[158]

In addition to participation in such High Level Task Force(s), ECOSOC as a decision-making body has also addressed and discussed the issue of sustainable development and the MDGs through reviews of

[149] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[150] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, 2013 March.

[151] United Nations Development Programme, UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change, March 2013.

[152] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Achieving Sustainable Development and Promoting Development Cooperation, 2008.

[153] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Achieving Sustainable Development and Promoting Development Cooperation, 2008.

[154] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Food and Nutrition Security: Comprehensive Framework of Action, Summary of the Updated Comprehensive Framework of Action, August 2011.

[155] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Food and Nutrition Security: Comprehensive Framework of Action, Summary of the Updated Comprehensive Framework of Action, August 2011.

[156] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Food and Nutrition Security: Comprehensive Framework of Action, Summary of the Updated Comprehensive Framework of Action, August 2011.

[157] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Food and Nutrition Security: Comprehensive Framework of Action, Summary of the Updated Comprehensive Framework of Action, August 2011.

[158] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Food and Nutrition Security: Comprehensive Framework of Action, Summary of the Updated Comprehensive Framework of Action, August 2011.

several reports of the Secretary-General. In April 2012, report 2012/63 was presented during ECOSOC's annual substantive session.[159] The report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC was titled "Promoting Productive Capacity, Employment, and Decent Work to Eradicate Poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable, and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs."[160] The report notes that the MDGs recognize that employment, if it brings adequate remuneration, income security and protection under international labor standards is a crucial driver of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth, which is essential to poverty reduction.[161] In report 2013/54, titled "Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs," the Secretary-General notes the need for creating an enabling environment that can stimulate demand for innovation, and recommends that governments ensure that appropriate budget allocations are made to culture-related institutions and ministries in order to use culture as a vehicle to promote sustainable development as a means to achieving the millennium development goals.[162]

Conclusion

As UN Member States undertake efforts to achieve and meet the targets of the millennium development goals, sustainable practices in development are vital. From promoting sustainable farming practices to renewable electricity generation, sustainable development plays a vital role in helping to achieve and address the MDGs. Moving forward, the role of sustainable development will be vital in the discussion and development of a post-2015 development agenda. Before focusing on the post-2015 agenda, however, delegates must explore if it is possible to continue promoting the role of sustainable development to continue helping countries achieve the MDGs. How can the UN continue to sustainably push the use of cultural, scientific, and technological practices in order to achieve the MDGs? What is the best method to promote the inclusion of sustainable development practices into national policy? What new policies and practices to support sustainable development need to be promoted to help countries achieve their MDG targets?

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[159] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Promoting productive capacity, employment, and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/2012/63), 24 April 2012.

[160] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Promoting productive capacity, employment, and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/2012/63), 24 April 2012.

[161] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Promoting productive capacity, employment, and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/2012/63), 24 April 2012.

[162] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/2013/54), 18 April 2013.

Annotated Bibliography

Millennium Development Goals. (n.d.). *United Nations Millennium Development Goals Page* [Webpage]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

> *This is the official page for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The webpage lists each of the eight MDGs as well as providing links to related documents and relevant information with regards to the MDGs and the work by the United Nations (UN) and its Member States to achieve the MDGs. The webpage serves as a valuable resource for delegates as it provides an introduction into what the specific targets of each of the eight MDGs, as well as providing a gateway into learning and reading on the various projects and efforts being taken to achieve the MDGs.*

Millennium Development Goals Indicators. (n.d.). *The Official United Nations site for the MDG Indicators* [Website]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx

> *This webpage is the official UN site for everything related to tracking and measuring indicators related to the progress the UN, regional agencies, and individual Member States are making with regards to achieving the MDGs. The website offers a one stop shop for delegates to be able to read up and learn as to how progress is measured, access the various and different documents and reports related to the MDGs, as well as read reports from the Secretary-General. This website offers delegates the opportunity to further their understanding of where various countries and regions stand with regards to how far and how much is left for them to progress with regards to meeting the targets of the MDGs.*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012 May). *Back to our common future: Sustainable Development in the 21ˢᵗ Century (SD21) Project* [Report]. Retrieved October 4, 2013 from: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/UN-DESA_Back_Common_Future_En.pdf

> *This is document is a summary of the main findings from the Sustainable Development in the 21ˢᵗ Century (SD21) Project with regards to the various studies that have been taken over the years with regards to the SD21 project. The report is of use in that it offers delegates an opportunity to better understand and decipher all the various projects and potential solutions and projects which have been and or have yet to be undertaken with regards to the promotion of sustainable development, especially with regards to achieving the MDGs. The document is of benefit for delegates as it will help enhance their understanding of what it is meant by sustainable development as a concept, which can be implemented as opposed to something abstract.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. (2012, May). *Culture: A driver and an enabler of Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved October 3, 2013 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/post2015/pdf/Think_Piece_Culture.pdf

> *The document that is a publication of UNESCO focuses on the role that culture can have in the promotion of sustainable development and sustainable development policies. The role of culture in driving and enabling sound sustainable development policies, in particular in developing countries can serve the role of providing solutions to complex development issues in a way which is innovative and multisectoral in nature, This document is of benefit for delegates as the role of culture in promoting sustainable development in achieving the MDGs plays a vital role by being able to help develop and create an environment that can help developing countries take*

advantage of what is in many cases the presence of rich historical and cultural resources which if harnessed could be very beneficial.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. (2012, June 20-22). *Report of the United Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/16).* Retrieved October 1, 2013 from: http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/814UNCSD%20REPORT%20final%20revs.pdf
> *This is the report which was adopted by the participating Member States at the end of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development better known as the Rio +20 Conference. The outcome document is a comprehensive document which covers many development and sustainable development policies, questions, points of interest, and general acknowledgments of what is needed in order to better promote and fulfill past and future commitments made by the UN and its Member States. This is a must read document for delegates as the Rio+20 Conference and the report adopted at the end of the conference is a significant sign of the recognition that sustainable development is a vital and very important engine as it relates to development and most importantly, with regards to achieving the MDGs.*

United Nations Development Programme. (n.d.). *The Millennium Development Goals Overview* [Webpage]. Retrieved October 6, 2011 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/
> *The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is one of the UN agencies which is most involved and embedded in working on helping Member States achieve the targets of the MDGs through country offices and work with local organizations and actors, The webpage offers a look into getting to know what the eight MDGs, but more importantly it offers a number of reports and documents with regards to the efforts taken by the UNDP in helping the UN and its Member States achieve the MDGs. This webpage is of value for delegates as they can learn and better understand the role and efforts of a UN agency and their specific involvement with regards to achieving the MDGs.*

United Nations Development Programme. (2013, March). *UNDP's Work In Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-2012: Towards Transformational Change* [Report]. Retrieved October 6, 2013 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Towards_Transformational_Change_ESD_2008-2012.pdf
> *This UNDP report is a review of various UNDP related work and projects in collaboration with various Member States on projects that intend to help countries address and use the local environment to promote sustainable development and help achieve the MDGs. Two of the countries which UNDP work on with to help address and promote sustainable development and environmental sustainability are those efforts taken in Bangladesh and Nicaragua. Delegates will be able to read and better understand how promoting environmental sustainability can help countries meet the targets of the MDGs.*

United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *About the Division on Sustainable Development* [Webpage]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/about.html
> *This webpage offers an understanding of what exactly the Division of Sustainable Development (DSD) does and what are their core functions as an agency. The webpage outlines specifically the five core functions which the DSD is charged with carrying out and helping coordinate action with regards to sustainable development policies. This webpage is of benefit for delegates as it offers basic background information with relation to sustainable development and the role of the DSD in implementing and helping to coordinate various sustainable development policies.*

United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Topics* [Webpage]. Retrieved September 30, 2013 from: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics.html

> *This is the webpage for the UN Division for Sustainable Development which outlines and lists all sustainable development related topics and sub-topics which are of importance. The webpage offers those visiting an opportunity to see what regions and specific sub-topics have a relation with sustainable development as a whole and the particular relationship that may exist. This webpage is of particular benefit for delegates as they will be able to better immerse themselves into sustainable development as a topic area and further their understanding of how it is related and can be applied to other sub-topics and the MDGs themselves.*

United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2013, July). *Special Report of the SD in Action Newsletter: Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development.* Retrieved October 1, 2013 from: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/930Report%20on%20Voluntary%20Commitments%20and%20Partnerships.pdf

> *This document focuses on an important and at times little discussed issue related topic with relation to sustainable development and implementation of sustainable development policies and that is the issue of commitments. The document takes a summary look at what specific areas is there either progress and or lacks of progress and execution in terms of addressing specific topics and the role that commitments and execution of funds and policy is having on being able to deliver results. This document is of benefit for delegates as it takes a look at what factor(s) play a role when it comes to effective implementation of sustainable development policies and in turn, achieving specific MDG targets.*

III. The Empowerment of Women and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

"I am deeply convinced that, in women, the world has at its disposal the most significant and yet untapped potential for development and peace. Gender equality is not only a goal in itself, but a prerequisite for reaching all other international development goals."[163]

Introduction

Since its creation, the United Nations (UN) has often discussed how to advance international gender equality and how women can be empowered as equal, participating members of society. Many UN entities exist to specifically approach global gender equality, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The empowerment of women is a topic deeply rooted in ensuring not only equal opportunities for women, but also the development and progress of all global communities as a whole.

Since 2000, attention to the further inclusion of women in global society has particularly been emphasized by the existence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight development goals that UN Member States agreed to aspire to as a method of improving worldwide conditions and decreasing international poverty levels. MDG 3 specifically focuses on the need to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women; however, the empowerment of women contributes to all eight MDGs.[164] Many global accomplishments have occurred in recent years due to the MDGs. The number of global citizens living in extreme poverty has been decreased by 50 percent.[165] Women's participation in parliaments has increased, with the number of women in parliamentary positions having increased by a full percent in 2012 alone and large gains seen particularly in Algeria, Senegal, and Timor-Leste.[166] Women's involvement in higher education has grown to a level where women are the majority of students enrolled in tertiary education.[167] These and other accomplishments have improved the status of women worldwide.

The progress reports of the Millennium Development Goals and documents produced by UN entities show, however, that while much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done to ameliorate barriers that women face in order to be further included in their local, national, and regional communities. Significant barriers still exist in many areas of global participation for women, including economic stability, participation in decision-making processes, and safety from gender-based violence.[168] MDG gains are not consistent amongst Member States and regions, and in many areas much remains to be accomplished in order to meet MDG targets.[169] While maternal mortality has decreased 47% in the past twenty years, the desired reduction of 75% as outlined by MDG 3, has not yet been reached.[170] Out of 130 Member States, only two have met gender parity goals for all education levels.[171] Despite gains, women are still largely underrepresented in decision-making processes and positions, with women only composing 20 percent of worldwide parliamentary seats.[172] Because of the significant sub-goals of MDG 3 that have yet to be achieved, continued UN attention to the empowerment of women remains important

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[163] Ban, *Gender Equality a Prerequisite for Attaining All Other Development Goals*, 6 March 2008.
[164] UN Women, *The Gender Dimension of The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013.
[165] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 4.
[166] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 22.
[167] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 23.
[168] Ban, *Gender Equality a Prerequisite for Attaining All Other Development Goals*, 6 March 2008.
[169] UN Women, *The Gender Dimension of The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013.
[170] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 4-5.
[171] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 18.
[172] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 22.

to the international community. As the MDGs were created as a 15-year set of goals to be accomplished by 2015, the world remains committed to achieving the goals by 2015, which Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Wu Hongbo has declared as "a global priority."[173] Given the significant successes since 2000, but also the fact that key areas of worldwide development that will not be met by 2015, the United Nations and its entities are also currently debating what should be done with the MDGs and international development goals following the 2015 MDG expiration, and how to discuss gender equity in the post-2015 development agenda.

International Precedence

The empowerment of women has been a significant topic within the UN since its early years. When the *Charter of the United Nations* was created in 1945, Article 1 affirmed "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."[174] A year later, a sub-commission on the Status of Women was approved in its appeal to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to become a fully recognized commission; this organization became CSW.[175] In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), a major document that defined discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."[176] In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing. The resulting document of the conference was the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, a seminal document that reaffirmed the basic human rights of women and called upon the international community to actively pursue female empowerment, outlining 12 critical areas of empowerment, including decreasing female poverty burdens, preventing violence against women, and closing gaps in employment and decision-making.[177] The calls of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, along with other early international precedence, were a precursor for the MDGs, particularly MDG 3.

During its existence and particularly in recent years, ECOSOC has confirmed its dedication to the empowerment of women and the integration of gender equality in UN processes. ECOSOC's Operational Activities Segment of its annual Substantive Session oversees the funding of UN Women.[178] In 2010, the thematic debate of the Council's High-Level Segment was on "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women."[179] That year, ECOSOC also held a special event on "Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment;" its Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) also focused on "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in Regard to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women."[180] The latter topic was also approached in 2011, when ECOSOC adopted resolution 2011/5, and resolution 2011/6 of that year was also produced on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system."[181] Mainstreaming gender into UN processes was further discussed in

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[173] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 5.
[174] United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article 1.
[175] Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, n.d., p. 1.
[176] United Nations, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,* 1979, Article 1.
[177] United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.
[178] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Operational Activities Segment*, 2013.
[179] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Thematic Debate*, 2010.
[180] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Special Event*, 2010.
[181] United Nations Office at Geneva, *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and Gender Mainstreaming in the United Nations*, 14 July 2011.

2012 and 2013; the Secretary-General produced a report on the topic for ECOSOC in April 2012, and gender mainstreaming was reviewed during the General Segment of the Council in 2012 and discussed again in 2013.[182]

The Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, 189 world leaders met in New York as a part of a UN Millennium Summit. The Summit aimed to discuss the UN and international development in the 21st century, and to decide upon major initiatives for the UN and Member States to pursue.[183] The Millennium Summit also emphasized that increasing globalization requires the increased inter-participation of Member States in different regions throughout the world.[184] The resulting document of the Summit was General Assembly resolution 55/2, the *Millennium Declaration*, adopted by all Member States present. The Declaration includes commitments by Member States to adhere to commonly-held international goals, including development and poverty eradication, environmental concerns, and strengthening the UN.[185] The agreed-upon initiatives developed into the MDGs, each of which is an individual goal with subsidiary goals, and all of which support an overarching theme of eradicating poverty by the MDG deadline of 2015.[186] Since their creation, the goals have been a core focus of UN efforts and have been actively integrated into UN entities and actions of all kinds. In addition, in 2002 the UN Millennium Campaign was launched as a mechanism to encourage participation from many partners, including global citizens, in the achievement of the MDGs.[187] Several summits and events on the MDGs have also been held as a method for analyzing the success of the goals.[188] The annual *Millennium Development Goals Report* provides an important checkpoint on the successes and failures of the MDGs, as it is published each year and concentrates on international improvements, areas needing continued attention, and current global success in meeting the Goals.[189]

The eight Millennium Development Goals, in order, focus on: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combatting HIV/AIDS; environmental sustainability; and establishing a global partnership for development.[190] Although only MDGs 3 and 5 explicitly discuss women, all eight goals are intricately tied to one another and to the empowerment of women, and encouraging furthered gender equality and incorporating gender into MDG efforts will allow for the overall improvement for all affected by the MDGs.[191] For example, with MDG 1 and its goal to eradicate extreme poverty, it has been proven that providing an additional year of education for women increases the family income by an average of 700 USD.[192] In addressing MDG 4 and the reduction of child mortality, it has been found that providing appropriate prenatal care and nutrition can prevent up to

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[182] United Nations, *Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective Into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System*, 2012; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *General Segment*, 2012.

[183] United Nations, *Millennium Summit of the United Nations*, 2000.

[184] United Nations, *Secretary-General Calls on World Leaders to Decide Priorities and Adapt the United Nations to Meet Them*, 6 September 2000.

[185] United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 55/2*, 18 September 2000.

[186] United Nations, *Background*, n.d.

[187] United Nations, *Background*, n.d.

[188] United Nations, *Background*, n.d.

[189] United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Reports*, n.d.

[190] United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Home*, n.d.

[191] United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Gender Equality Now: Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*, n.d; UN Women, The Gender Dimension of The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, 2013.

[192] United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Gender Equality Now: Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*.

4 million infant deaths.[193] MDG 5 and its goal to combat HIV/AIDS is greatly impacted by education levels of women, as women and girls with schooling have a lesser chance of infection than women and girls without.[194] As the encouraged participation of women in all levels of community, civic, and family life helps quicken reaching each MDG, it is essential that gender equality and the empowerment of women be considered in both the current MDGs and in the post-2015 development goals soon to be developed by the UN.[195]

Post-2015 Development Agenda

Due to the success of the MDGs in bringing many international issues to the attention of the global community and the resulting collaboration and action of the UN, Member States, and civil society, the UN aims to continue the impetus of the MDGs beyond their expiration in 2015.[196] At a 2010 MDG Summit, a conversation on the creation of a post-2015 development agenda was initiated, and at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, a need for sustainable development goals (SDGs) was expressed. Resulting was the creation of an Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, with the ultimate goal of the SDGs being merged with the post-2015 development agenda.[197] As 2015 approaches, the UN, its organizations, and its partners are actively discussing options for post-2015 development goals.[198] Civil society shareholders, such as non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, are engaged in the conversation with the UN and Member State governments.[199] While it was not originally known whether a similar set of explicit goals would be adopted in a similar format as the MDGs or whether goals would be more informal, ECOSOC has acknowledged in its 2013 Substantive Session dialogues that it appears a more formal set of goals appears to be the prominent format now envisioned for the post-2015 development agenda.[200]

Also engaged in the post-2015 development agenda are several UN entities tasked by the Secretary-General specifically with educating the agenda – the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and a Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning.[201] The UN System Task Team is composed of UN and international organizations and provides information, recommendations, and reports on post-2015 development goals.[202] The task team has published two reports thus far, *Realizing the Future We Want for All* (2012) and *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development* (2013).[203] The High-Level Panel was composed of the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the UK, co-chairs that worked with interested civil society, governmental, and private partners. The High-Level

[193] United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Gender Equality Now: Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*.

[194] United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Gender Equality Now: Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*.

[195] United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Gender Equality Now: Accelerating the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*, n.d.

[196] United Nations, *Beyond 2015*, n.d.

[197] United Nations General Assembly, *New Open Working Group to Propose Sustainable Development Goals for Action By General Assembly's Sixty-Eighth Session*, 22 January 2013.

[198] United Nations, *Beyond 2015*, n.d.

[199] United Nations, *Beyond 2015*, n.d.

[200] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *The Contribution of ECOSOC to the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

[201] United Nations, *Beyond 2015*, n.d.; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The UN System Task Team*, n.d.

[202] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The UN System Task Team*, n.d.

[203] United Nations System Task Team, *Realizing the Future We Want For All*, 2012; United Nations System Task Team, *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development*, 2013.

Panel, appointed in July 2012, held five consultative meetings discussing potentially needed development after 2015, and in May 2013 published its resulting report, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*.[204] The Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning is Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria, who assists the Secretary-General in discussions on the development agenda.[205] The work of each of the UN organizations and groups tasked with the new development goals directly reflects the most recent developments on the agenda and is informing the ongoing post-2015 development agenda discussion occurring worldwide.

Because of the success of ECOSOC's AMR, ECOSOC has a major responsibility in the development of the post-2015 agenda and its eventual execution.[206] Accordingly, ECOSOC's involvement in the post-2015 discussion is important, and ECOSOC will also provide monitoring following the creation of the new development goals according to a mandate received by ECOSOC.[207] During its 2013 High-Level Segment, ECOSOC's thematic debate was "The contribution of ECOSOC to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the MDGs."[208] ECOSOC noted at that time that a frequent theme of its AMRs has been the furthering of equality, particularly for women.[209] ECOSOC also acknowledged that the Council's Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) has stood as an effective venue for collaboration, which remains vital for post-2015 success.[210]

The Empowerment of Women Beyond 2015

The current UN discussions are shaping the new development goals. Extensive emphasis lays in sustainable development, given the connections to the SDGs, as well as the continued goal of eradicating extreme poverty.[211] In *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, the UN System Task Team emphasized that the post-2015 agenda should create new development goals that maximize the strengths of the MDGs, will be applicable to all Member States, and that focus specifically on equality, sustainable development, and human rights.[212] The Task Team has also produced a series of 18 "think pieces," each on a different potential aspect of post-2015 development, including a document on *Addressing Inequalities: The Heart of the Post-2015 Agenda and the Future We Want For All.*[213] The High-Level Panel's report recommends five transformative shifts to achieve a universal agenda: adopt goals to end extreme poverty; focus centrally on sustainable development; increase economic opportunities; human rights adherence and safety in all governments and organizations; and promote a new global partnership, including women and

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[204] High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *About*, n.d.; High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economics Through Sustainable Development*, 2013.

[205] UN News Centre, *Ban Appoints Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning and Head of Burundi Office*, 7 June 2012.

[206] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*, n.d.

[207] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*, n.d.; United Nations Economic and Social Council, *The Contribution of ECOSOC to the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

[208] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *The Contribution of ECOSOC to the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

[209] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *The Contribution of ECOSOC to the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

[210] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *The Contribution of ECOSOC to the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

[211] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*, n.d.

[212] Beyond 2015, *UN Actors*, n.d.

[213] DESA Development Policy and Analysis Division, *UN Task Team Thematic Think Pieces*, n.d.

other marginalized members of society.[214] It also suggested the potential need for a stand-alone development goal on Empowering Girls and Women and Achieving Gender Equality, with four targets of preventing gender-based violence, eradicating child marriage practices, ensuring equality in property ownership, and eliminating forms of discrimination.[215] The report also highlighted the need for theoretical ideas to become concrete, actionable plans, and suggested that goals be similar to the MDGs in their non-binding and yet monitored status.[216]

The currently produced reports highlight the importance of including gender as a consideration in the post-2015 development agenda; however, UN Women has specifically called for the need for a stand-alone development goal related to women in the post-2015 development agenda.[217] To emphasize the significance of incorporating a gender equality-centric goal after 2015, UN Women published a position paper titled *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*.[218] In creating a stand-alone goal, UN Women advises in its position paper that essential elements of such a goal, in order to fully address the empowerment of women following the expiration of the MDGs, must include three specific targets: freedom from gendered violence; equality in available resources and institutions; and attention to equality in decision-making processes.[219] UN Women views a definitive development goal on women with these three target areas, in addition to given attention to female empowerment and equality throughout the development agenda, as a necessary aspect of post-2015 development goals.

In addition, as stated in the UN System's Task Team's thematic document on equality, the MDGs in some situations have failed to fully integrate equality into its goals, and as a result marginalized individuals may have not received necessary resources to further promote equality.[220] In addition, MDG 3 is considered as a relatively narrow goal, and some believe that more sub-goals and targets would benefit the international community.[221] The organizations consulted in the Task Team's report on equality state that goals and efforts that look at conditions, such as poverty or educational exclusion, without taking into account the underlying reasons for such conditions, such as discrimination and lack of ability to access materials, cannot fully affect long-term change.[222] Accordingly, for development goals to have a significant, lasting impact, they must address the causes of negative world conditions and not simply the conditions themselves. The report also acknowledged that due to the influence of gender equality on overall global development, "there are reasons to support the option that the post-2015 agenda both directly addresses the challenge of gender inequality in itself, as well as the need to advance gender equality across all relevant dimensions of the agenda."[223] As gender mainstreaming ensures the full incorporation of gender considerations in all policies and processes rather than regarded as a stratified

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[214] DESA Development Policy and Analysis Division, *UN Task Team Thematic Think Pieces*, n.d.

[215] UN Women, *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*, 2013, p. 13.

[216] High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economics Through Sustainable Development*, 2013.

[217] UN Women, UN Women Launches Global Call for a Transformative Agenda to Make Gender Equality a Reality, 26 June 2013.

[218] UN Women, *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*, 2013.

[219] UN Women, *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*, 2013, p. 17-18.

[220] UN System Task Team, *Addressing Inequalities*, n.d.

[221] UN System Task Team, *Addressing Inequalities*, n.d.

[222] UN System Task Team, *Addressing Inequalities*, n.d.

[223] UN System Task Team, *Addressing Inequalities*, n.d.

element, as ECOSOC has discussed often in recent years, it is essential for gender equality to be a significant aspect of any new development goals.[224]

Conclusion

As the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has stated, "as a principle and basic human right, and as a central means of achieving other development goals, ensuring that the potential of women and girls is fully utilized in all aspects of development – and that women and girls share equally in the benefits of development – is vital."[225] The annual MDGs Reports and other forms of MDG monitoring reflect that the benefits of the MDGs have been measurable and real, but also that much remains to be done to ensure that women are empowered within communities throughout the world. In relation to this topic, delegates can consider a variety of questions for the empowerment of women and the post-2015 development agenda. What should be the future of the MDGs and UN development goals? How should the inclusion of female empowerment be approached in relation to post-2015 development goals? How have representatives from your Member State or region engaged with the post-2015 development agenda discussion? In what ways can ECOSOC further contribute to post-2015 efforts, and particularly within the conversation on the role of gender equality in the development agenda? While it remains to be seen as to whether upcoming development goals will explicitly name the empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal as has been with MDG 3, or whether it will be part of a larger set of goals, what is apparent is the need for the empowerment of women and gender equality to be a significant aspect of the post-2015 development agenda, given the role that the empowerment of women can have on achieving local, national, regional, and international development.

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[224] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The United Nations Development Agenda: Development for All*, 2007, p. 41.

[225] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The United Nations Development Agenda: Development for All*, 2007, p. 41.

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> *In July 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Tasked with consulting with one another at several meetings and producing recommendations on global development after 2015, the High-Level Panel's resulting report is this document. Within the report can be found an executive summary on the efforts of the Panel, information on current development goal success, priority transformations post-2015, and information regarding the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. Given the High-Level Panel's in-depth appointment and extensive in-depth conversations, this is one of the most significant documents yet produced which provide information on how the development agenda make take shape.*

United Nations. (1995, September 15). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved July 26, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf
> *In 1995, the Fourth World Conference was held in Beijing, China, where representatives of governments throughout the world discussed the empowerment of women. The resulting document, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, provides significant information about the contemporary status of women and recommendations for action for the empowerment of women. Released five years previous to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was influential in the ultimate development of the MDGs and particularly MDG 3.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2012). *General Segment* [Web Site]. Retrieved May 27, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/gs2012.shtml
> *The 2012 General Segment of the Economic and Social Council, held 23-27 July 2012, focused on several issues related to UN processes and continued development. One of the emphasized topics was "mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system," and this Web site provides information about how the issue was to be approached during the 2012 segment. This topic discussed during the July 2012 General Segment is pertinent to the discussion of the UN and needed development goals, as it relates to how the UN should approach gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the UN, and can accordingly provide useful suggestions of ways through which gender equality can be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2010). *High-Level Segment* [Web Site]. Retrieved May 27, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index10.shtml
> *From 28 June to 2 July 2010, the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council discussed gender equality and the empowerment of women in relation to the contemporary nature of international efforts and their resulting effects. This discussion was held in both the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), which looked at UN development goals particularly with female empowerment in mind, as well as in its thematic debate, which focused on "Current global and national trends and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women." This Web site provides links to the discussions held within both the AMR and the thematic debate, providing a useful description of how*

ECOSOC discussed in 2010 the role of the empowerment of women in the present and upcoming UN development agendas and what was perceived at that point to be of pressing issues.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2011). *Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective Into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System.* Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011.6.pdf

ECOSOC has discussed the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN processes in several venues, and in 2011, it produced Resolution 2011/6 on the importance of continued UN efforts to address the topic. The ECOSOC resolution provides information on the international precedence related to gender mainstreaming and UN conversations on including women in development discussions, discusses the role of UN Women in assisting UN organizations to include women in such discussions, and provides specific information on how this can be incorporated within the UN. It provides delegates with further understanding on what remains to be done to further include women in UN conversations, as well as emphasizes the importance of women in UN processes and development goals.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2012). *Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective Into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System.* Retrieved July 2, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/61

The report of the Secretary-General on the topic of mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN processes, as discussed in the July 2012 General Segment of ECOSOC, is E/2012/61. This report is separated into five sections, each of which explores an aspect of mainstreaming gender into the UN system, and includes segments on the background of the topic; the progress of ECOSOC resolution 2011/6 on the same topic; efforts of UN-Women; continuing challenges in gender mainstreaming; and ECOSOC recommendations on what continuing efforts can be made in this topic. It is a helpful report in understanding what has been done to further include a gender perspective in UN processes, what can be done to address the topic, and the roles of UN Women and ECOSOC in achieving further gender equality internationally.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (June 2013). *A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Framework and Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved July 26, 2013 from: http://www.unwomen.org/~/media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/7/post-2015%20-%20case%20for%20standalone%20gender%20goal%20pdf.pdf

As the conversation of the fate of the Millennium Development Goals following their 2015 expiration continues, the discussion includes the topic of how gender equality and female empowerment should be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. In this June 2013 position paper, UN Women calls for the creation of a stand-alone gender development goal in the new development agenda, and outlines specific recommendations for such a goal that UN Women views as essential in relation to women's issues. In this report, delegates can find information on current post-2015 discussions, recommendations for major target areas of a new stand-alone goal, and other notes on gender mainstreaming in the United Nations. This report is a key document in understanding the current international needs related to the empowerment of women and how a major international figure in women's rights views the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). *Millennium Development Goals* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from:
http://www.unwomen.org/category/subject/mdgs/

> *UN Women is a significant entity within the United Nations in relation to the larger topics of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and a useful resource in understanding how the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda relate specifically to topics on women. This associated UN Women Web site is an effective tool in accessing the most recent articles, reports, and events related to gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals, as it is a subject list site that provides a brief description and links on the most recent documents related to women and the MDGs. It provides delegates with an easy to navigate Web site with the latest information on women in relation to UN development goals.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2011). *The Post-2015 Agenda: Looking Beyond The Millennium Development Goals* [Web Site]. Retrieved July 2, 2013 from:
http://www.unwomen.org/focus-areas/post-2015/

> *UN Women is working extensively in relation to the issues of including discussions of women in the post-2015 development agenda. This UN Women Web site provides an overview of the Millennium Development Goals, the need for a post-2015 development agenda, and what discussions have been held and will be held on international development goals after the Millennium Development Goals expire in 2015. It also provides links to sources on development agenda documents and organizations.*

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. (2013). *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development*. Retrieved July 26, 2013 from:
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/report2.shtml

> *In the current international discussion on potential development goals to continue after 2015, the Secretary-General has created a UN System Task Team to recommend policies. The second and most recent report of the UN System Task Team is titled A Renewed Global Partnership for Development, and it provides information specific to MDG 8 and encouraging a collaborate partnership for development. Released in March 2013, its key recommendations are one of the main forms of recommendations currently available on the post-2015 development agenda, and accordingly, delegates will find extensive information about current aspects of the discussion.*

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