NMUN•DC

UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2017

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2017 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This year's staff is: Director Courtney Indart and Assistant Director Ally Tu. Courtney completed her B.A. in International Political Economy in 2015 and is currently working on her M.A in International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. This will be her third year on DC staff, and she is excited to return to NMUN•DC. Ally is currently working on her B.A. in Nutrition and Food Sciences at California State University, San Bernardino and is working towards becoming a Physician's Assistant. This will be her first year on DC staff and is thrilled to be a part of NMUN•DC.

The topics under discussion for UNCTAD are:

1. Minimizing The Negative Effects of Globalization
2. The Social Responsibility of Multinational Corporations

UNCTAD is an important organization within the UN system, and it plays a crucial role in coordinating trade negotiations and providing trade guidance to economies across the globe. UNCTAD offers critical policy tools for Member States and international organizations through in-depth global trade analysis. Currently, UNCTAD is working to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting increases in funding for development and greater public-private partnerships.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 13 October 2017 in accordance with the guidelines in the *NMUN Position Paper Guide*.

Two resources, to download from the NMUN website, that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:
1. *NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide* - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. *NMUN Rules of Procedure* - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Deputy Secretary-General, Jess Mace, at dsg.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Courtney Indart, *Director*
Ally Tu, *Assistant Director*

Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) addresses trade, investment, and development issues for the United Nations (UN).[1] In the 1960s, as the world was becoming increasingly interconnected and global trade was becoming more commonplace, less developed nations felt that the rules regarding trade and development being discussed were one sided.[2] In order to mitigate these concerns, the General Assembly established UNCTAD in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental organization tasked with addressing the trade and power imbalance between developed and less developed countries.[3] Today, UNCTAD provides a variety of advisory, policy, and support programs to Member States, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and its mandate has continued to evolve through the years.[4]

UNCTAD hosts quadrennial meetings that include all of its Members. The outcome documents from these meetings are often influential in international economic policy and serve to guide the operations of UNCTAD through the intervening years.[5] The *Accra Accord* (2008), for example, established the environment as a core concern of UNCTAD.[6] Specifically, it urged action to address adaptation and mitigation in accordance to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (1992).[7] The *Doha Mandate* (2012) reconfirmed UNCTAD's mission of inclusive development-centered growth and stressed the role of policy research and technical assistance.[8] As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begin taking effect, UNCTAD's role within the UN remains significant.[9] The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) identified international trade as a tool for poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth.[10] With this in mind, UNCTAD passed the *Nairobi Azimio (Nairobi Declaration)* and the *Nairobi Maafikiano (Nairobi Consensus)* in 2016, which form the basis for UNCTAD's work in addressing the SDGs.[11] The following overview will highlight the main components of UNCTAD, in addition to its areas of work and current priorities.

Governance, Structure and Membership

There are 194 members of UNCTAD consisting of all UN Member States plus the Holy See.[12] The entire membership meets once every four years at an UNCTAD conference.[13] The Trade and Development Board manages the regular operations of UNCTAD between these quadrennial meetings as well as any urgent policy issues that may arise.[14] The board meets in Geneva up to three times a year.[15] The Trade and Development Board receives and reviews the various reports produced by UNCTAD's other administrative and functional bodies, including: the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget; the commissions on trade and development; the commission on investment, enterprise, and development; working groups on accounting standards and competitive laws and policies; and various expert meetings hosted by UNCTAD.[16] Membership to the Trade and Development Board consists of 155 members of UNCTAD.[17] To ensure balanced representation on the board,

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[1] UNCTAD, *History*, 2017.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] UNCTAD, *About UNCTAD*, 2017.
[5] Ibid.
[6] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD XII Adopts Accra Declaration and Accord, Stresses Action on Climate Change*, 2008.
[7] Ibid.
[8] UNCTAD, *Negotiators at UNCTAD14 reach consensus, strengthen UNCTAD: UNCTAD mandate reaffirmed in Doha*, 2012.
[9] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD delivers on the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.
[10] UNCTAD, *Trade and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017.
[11] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Azimio*, 2016; UNCTAD, *Nairobi Maafikiano*, 2016.
[12] UNCTAD, *Membership of UNCTAD and of the Trade and Development Board*, 2017.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.
[16] UNCTAD, *Meetings*.
[17] UNCTAD, *Membership of UNCTAD and of the Trade and Development Board*, 2017.

groupings were established in 1965.[18] The groups each receive a specific number of spots on the board and consist of: Group A for most of Africa and Asia; Group B for Western Europe and other nations; Group C for Latin American states; and Group D for Eastern European Member States.[19] There is also an unassigned group of 6 states which includes: Armenia, Kiribati, Nauru, South Sudan, Tajikistan, and Tuvalu.[20] UNCTAD reports to both the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); however, UNCTAD maintains its own membership, leadership and budget.[21] UNCTAD is headed by a Secretary-General, currently Mukhisa Kituyi, who is elected to a four-year term.[22]

The Substantive work of UNCTAD is carried out by five divisions lead by the Secretary-General.[23] The Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes provides policy analysis, technical assistance, and coordinates UNCTAD's activities in over 90 Member States.[24] The Division on Globalization and Development Strategies manages the consequences of globalization on developing nations and provides technical support for developing countries integrating into the international financial system.[25] The Division on Investment and Enterprise produces the World Investment Report and hosts the World Investment Forum.[26] The Division on International Trade in Goods and Services promotes partnerships for trade policy and manages issues including trade and climate change.[27] The Division on Technology and Logistics hosts the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, manages the Automated System for Customs Data, and provides policy dialogue for and technical dialogue on science, technology and innovation and trade logistics [28]

While the UNCTAD general conference meets every four years, with the next meeting being in 2020, UNCTAD hosts others forums and conferences on a more frequent basis.[29] The World Investment Forum meets every two years and is meant to facilitate dialogue and action on emerging key challenges in investment.[30] The Global Commodities Forum meets annually; at its 2016 meeting its objectives were to increase understanding of the boom-to-bust cycle of commodities markets, identify opportunities for development of new markets, and to produce a roadmap for policy makers for adjustments to the commodity market to rebalance it within the global economy.[31]

Mandate, Functions and Powers

UNCTAD was created by General Assembly resolution 1995/XIX, which established the mandate of the organization to promote international trade between Member States at different stages of development, to make proposals for putting said principles and policies into effect, to review and facilitate the coordination of activities of other UN institutions, to initiate action in cooperation with the competent organs of the UN for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, and to be the center for harmonizing trade and related development policies of governments and regional economic communities.[32] The mandate has been updated several times, most recently at the 2016 meeting in Nairobi, Kenya where they added e-trade initiatives and integrated the first UN statistical report on the Sustainable Development Goals into the mandate.[33] Both the General Assembly and

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[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.
[21] UNCTAD, *Organization*, 2017.
[22] UNCTAD, *About UNCTAD*, 2017.
[23] UNCTAD, *Organization*, 2017.
[24] UNCTAD, *Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC)*, 2017.
[25] UNCTAD, *Globalization, Interdependence and Development*, 2017.
[26] UNCTAD, *Investment and Enterprise*, 2017.
[27] UNCTAD, *International Trade and Commodities*, 2017.
[28] UNCTAD, *Technology, Innovation and Trade Logistics*, 2017.
[29] UNCTAD, *Organization*, 2017.
[30] World Investment Forum, *Outcome 2016*, 2016.
[31] UNCTAD, *Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence*, 2016.
[32] UN General Assembly, *Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an Organ of the General Assembly (A/RES/1995(XIX))*, 1964.
[33] UNCTAD, *Negotiators at UNCTAD14 reach consensus, strengthen UNCTAD work programme*, 2016.

ECOSOC have also expanded the mandate of UNCTAD in the past, including in 2015 when the General Assembly added consumer protection to UNCTAD's mandate.[34]

In order to fulfill its mandate, UNCTAD's secretariat produces several annual reports including the Trade and Development Report and the Least Developed Countries Report (LDCR).[35] The Trade and Development Report analyzes current economic trends and concerns and provides policy suggestions to address them.[36] The LDCR contains a statistical annex, including a variety of data on Least Developed Countries, and provides analysis of the socio-economic situations in LDCs.[37] Other reports include the Economic Development in Africa Report, the World Investment Report, and the Trade and Environment Review.[38] In addition to its functioning as a deliberative body, UNCTAD also provides policy support to Member States in a variety of areas.[39] Currently, UNCTAD provides science, technology and innovation policy reviews to increase national competencies in this area and to help bolster local industries in less developed states.[40] UNCTAD has completed 9 reviews since 2008 and completes one to two each year.[41] UNCTAD also runs an e-commerce and law reform program which has trained over 2000 policy and lawmakers in over 60 Member States.[42] UNCTAD also operates programs, including the Automated System for Customs Data, the BioTrade initiative, and the Oceans Forum.[43]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reaffirmed the UN's focus on development and by association the work of UNCTAD.[44] The 2030 Agenda highlighted the importance of international trade as a tool for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.[45] In the *Nairobi Azimio*, the Members of UNCTAD reiterated their commitment to the successful implementation of the SDGs and highlighted the role that UNCTAD has to play in their implementation.[46] Additionally, the *Nairobi Azimio* recognized the role of unsustainable debt in limiting development and launched the E-Trade for All Initiative, which had been developed at a UNCTAD workshop in February 2016.[47] The E-Trade for All Initiative is tasked with raising awareness regarding both the opportunities and challenges of e-commerce, mobilizing resources to implement e-commerce initiatives, and strengthening global partnerships.[48]

The *Nairobi Maafikiano* begins by highlighting the low rate of growth for demand and trade and underscoring the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the *Framework Convention on Climate Change*.[49] The document reaffirmed UNCTAD's role in ensuring an inclusive global economy through international cooperation.[50] In reference to the 2030 Agenda, the *Nairobi Maafikiano* further reaffirms its focus on LDCs in its body of work, providing special focus on island, African, and landlocked states.[51] In order to promote international trade the *Nairobi Maafikiano* states, "a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization with appropriate supporting policies, are needed."[52] It goes further to identify that while global poverty has gone down by

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[34] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD receives a new consumer protection mandate from the General Assembly*, 2015.
[35] UNCTAD, *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016*, 2016.
[36] Ibid.
[37] UNCTAD, *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016*, 2016.
[38] UNCTAD, *Flagship Reports*, 2017.
[39] UNCTAD, *UNCTAD Toolbox: Delivering Results*, 2016.
[40] Ibid.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Ibid.
[43] UNCTAD, *About UNCTAD*, 2017.
[44] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[45] Ibid.
[46] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Azimio,* 2016, p. 2.
[47] Ibid, p. 4.
[48] UNCTAD, *eTrade for All: Unlocking the Potential of E-Commerce in Developing Countries*, 2017.
[49] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Maafikiano*, 2016, p. 2.
[50] Ibid, p. 3.
[51] Ibid, p. 4.
[52] Ibid, p. 5.

half, the effects have been uneven resulting in extreme global economic inequality.[53] The *Nairobi Maafikiano* also stresses the role structural transformation plays in supporting development and provides 120 recommendations for UNCTAD and the international community to implement.[54]

In addition to the general conference, UNCTADs Trade and Development Board met in December of 2016.[55] At this meeting they discussed the role of investment for development, evaluated international trade from a development perspective, and produced UNCTAD's contribution to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020: Fifth progress report.[56] Additionally they reviewed technical cooperation activities including the report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian People.[57] The 64th Session of the Trade and Development Board will meet in September of 2017.[58]

Conclusion

UNCTAD has seen its mandate evolve since it was established in 1964, which has allowed for UNTAD to have greater ability to improve global trade and ensure a more equal playing field for Member States that were less developed.[59] UNCTAD serves as an essential organization for the implementation of the SDGs, especially with the direct support offered to Member States by its programs and the multitude of materials and reports supplied by its five divisions.[60] The *Nairobi Maafikiano* is the latest agreement to shape how UNCTAD functions, and it reaffirmed that sustainable development, trade, and climate change will continue to be at the core of its operations.[61]

Annotated Bibliography

United Nation Conference on Trade and Development. (2016). *Nairobi Maafikiano* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 22 April 2017 from: http://undocs.org/TD/519/Add.2
> *This outcome document from the 2016 quadrennial meeting covers a wide range of UNCTAD targets, including economic inclusivity and sustainability, and how it plans to implement these priorities. This document will serve as the guide for all of UNCTADs operations until 2020, including its budget. Delegates can use this document to place their research in line with the current priorities of UNCTAD. Organized by subtheme, the Nairobi Maafikiano helps delegates to better understand the goals of UNCTAD that best connect to the topics of debate. This will provide delegates with the most updated picture of UNCTAD, both its mandate and current priorities.*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2016). *UNCTAD Toolbox: Delivering Results* [Report]. Retrieved 20 May 2017 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/osg2015d6_en.pdf
> *This report provides an extensive discussion of the various policy programs of UNCTAD. In each section, there is a breakdown of how the program operates, is funded, and what programs are being implemented in each Member State. Included are programs like the Investment Policy Reviews, E-Tariff Measures, and National Green Export Reviews. Delegates should use this document both to guide their research of existing programs as well as look at how UNCTAD structures and funds its programs.*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2017). *Trade and the Sustainable Development Goals* [Website]. Retrieved 20 May 2017 from: http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-Analysis/TAB-Trade-and-SDGs.aspx

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[53] Ibid, p. 6.
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Ibid.
[57] Ibid.
[58] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Board, sixty-fourth session*, 2017.
[59] UNCTAD, *About UNCTAD*, 2017.
[60] UNCTAD, *Organization*, 2017.
[61] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Maafikiano*, 2016, p. 3.

This website explains how the SDGs connect to the work of UNCTAD. It explains how UNCTAD works to address the SDGs, including providing technical assistance. Delegates will also find an extensive list of documents on the topic of sustainable development, including some national programs. Additionally, this includes links to the various meetings recently held by UNCTAD and its subsidiaries.

United Nation Conference on Trade and Development. (2016). *Trade and Development Board, sixty-third session: Key Issues* [Website]. Retrieved 21 May 2017 from: http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=967
This website contains all information related to the December 2016 session of the Trade and Development Board. In addition to a list of the key issues of that session, it also provides the agenda of the session and the documents produced. Delegates will find this website useful in developing an understanding of the full body of UNCTAD's work outside of the quaternary sessions.

United Nations, General Assembly, Nineteenth Session. (1964). *Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an Organ of the General Assembly (A/RES/1995(XIX))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 22 April 2017 from: http://undocs.org/a/res/1995(XiX)
This is the founding resolution that established the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an intergovernmental organization. The resolution encompasses the original purpose, structure and goals of UNCTAD and also introduces the mandate of the institution. Delegates can refer to the resolution's original principles when formulating policies for current issues and challenges. Delegates should also stay aware of changes to the mandate of UNCTAD over the years.

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I. Minimizing the Negative Effects of Globalization

"We must ensure that the global market is embedded in broadly shared values and practices that reflect global social needs, and that all the world's people share the benefits of globalization."[62]

Introduction

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations (UN) has been forging the path to promote economically and socially equitable globalization.[63] In October 2016, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reaffirmed the UN's desire to ensure that globalization leaves no one behind.[64] However, ensuring this may be difficult given the multi-dimensional and evolving nature of globalization, which is characterized by economic rules designed for the entire world to maximize profits and productivity; technological innovation and adaptability; the reduction of the welfare state and privatization of social services; emergence of trans-national organizations that control economic policy instruments; and the dissemination of common cultural values with the re-emergence of nationalism, conflicts, and social movements.[65] Currently, the international economic system is simultaneously witnessing growing anti-globalization sentiments by some advanced economies while emerging economies continue to push forward to harness globalization for sustainable development.[66]

The 2009 global economic crisis caused a significant amount of damage to the image of globalization due to the impact on the international banking system.[67] Six years later, a lack of overall economic growth in the global north has left many uncertain about their futures and developing economies are now starting to be impacted.[68] At the release of the *2016 Trade and Development Report* (TDR16), UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi addressed the poor global economic climate and stated, "solutions [to the negative effects of globalization and the sluggish economy] require an ambitious rethink, not a tepid business-as-usual reaction."[69] UNCTAD is working to promote policies that are development-friendly, helping integrate developing economies into the global economy, and minimizing the costs of greater economic integration.[70] In a 2016 report, UNCTAD recognized that globalization has had many positive effects on helping decrease poverty and promote development.[71] In fact, the number of people living in extreme poverty has decreased by over one billion and the number of undernourished people has been cut in half since 1990.[72] However, as the world moves further towards global integration, several negative effects have manifested themselves due to these changes.[73] The social costs of globalization have increased due to issues such as the movement of skilled labor across borders, the ease in which corporations and individuals can avoid taxes, and the rise in income inequality.[74]

International and Regional Framework

In 2000, as Member States sought greater development and tried to adjust to the more frequent economic downturns, the UN adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to spur economic growth and global cooperation.[75] As a supportive response to the MDGs, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) held the first International Conference on Financing for Development (ICFD) in Monterey, Mexico in 2002.[76] Through multilateral efforts, the first ICFD created the landmark *Monterey Consensus* (2002), which highlighted that developing countries need to take more initiative in poverty reduction while developed countries need to increase

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[62] UN DPI, *Secretary-General Welcomes International Corporate Leaders to Global Compact Meeting*, 2000.
[63] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2016.
[64] UN DPI, *Globalization must leave no one behind, senior UN officials tell joint meeting on socio-economic issues*, 2016.
[65] UNESCO, *Globalisation*, 2017.
[66] UNCTAD, *Global economy needs policy overhaul to move beyond sixth straight year of sluggish growth*, 2016.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.
[70] Sachs, Sustainable development: a new kind of globalization, *Boston Globe*, 2016.
[71] UNCTAD, *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures*, 2016.
[72] Ibid.
[73] Collins, The Pros and Cons of Globalization, *Forbes*, 2016.
[74] UNCTAD, *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures*, 2016.
[75] Saad-Filho, *Growth, Poverty, and Inequality: From Washington Consensus to Inclusive Growth*, 2010.
[76] International Conference on Financing for Development, *Monterrey Consensus*, 2002.

their official development assistance (ODA).[77] Since 2002, three other financing conferences have been held, the most recent being in 2015 which resulted in the adoption of the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) (2015).[78] The AAAA negotiations resulted in a framework for funding sustainable development and a package of 100 measurements to help the world achieve the SDGs.[79]

Along with the AAAA, the General Assembly has expressed that globalization should not be rejected, but harnessed and managed to promote sustainable development and human rights.[80] Particularly, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/211 illustrated that the international community does not view globalization as inherently negative, although the resolution did call for continued research into how the international community can mitigate the negative effects of economic interdependence.[81] In 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/197, "Globalization and its impacts on the full enjoyment of human rights," which pinpoints growth in inequality as a direct outcome of globalization and calls for the equitable involvement of developing countries and marginalized groups at international economic discussions.[82] Finally, the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) signaled that the international community is ready to work towards a new kind of globalization that moves towards equitable development while continuing economic integration.[83]

In 2016, UNCTAD held its 14th international conference in Nairobi, Kenya to address how organizations could better help achieve the SDGs through trade.[84] The outcome document, the *Nairobi Consensus* (2016), was heralded as an immense success in the promotion of investments for development and global partnerships for fair and equitable globalization.[85] The *Nairobi Consensus* is one of the UN's first agreements to illustrate how globalization and sustainable development are concepts that can build upon each other.[86] Within the document, UNCTAD and its multilateral partners provided concrete measures that can to be taken to achieve SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic growth; SDG 9, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals.[87]

Role of the International System

The IMF, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are the foremost proponents of globalization and its promise to help developing economies.[88] Since the 1980s, these organizations operated under a "Washington Consensus" to guide economic policy.[89] The Washington Consensus refers to a set of 10 economic policy principles that include fiscal discipline, deregulation, trade liberalization, privatization of public goods, and increases in foreign direct investment.[90] This set of principles catalyzed globalization by connecting developing economies to international markets, multinational corporations, and official development assistance (ODA).[91] However, by the 2000s, the Washington Consensus and unregulated globalization came under scrutiny.[92] Global financial crises left commodity dependent developing countries in a fragile state without tools to adjust fiscal or monetary policy.[93]

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[77] International Conference on Financing for Development, *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus*, 2008.

[78] International Conference on Financing for Development, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, 2015.

[79] Ibid.

[80] UN General Assembly, *Role of the United nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/RES/70/211)*, 2015.

[81] UN General Assembly, *Globalization and its impacts on the full enjoyment of human rights (A/RES/71/197)*, 2016.

[82] Ibid.

[83] Sachs, Sustainable development: a new kind of globalization, *Boston Globe*, 2016.

[84] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Azimio*, 2016.

[85] Ibid.

[86] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Azimio*, 2016.

[87] UN DPI, *The Sustainable Development Agenda*, 2017.

[88] Spero & Hart, *The Politics of International Economic Relations*, 2010.

[89] Saad-Filho, *Growth, Poverty, and Inequality: From Washington Consensus to Inclusive Growth*, 2010.

[90] Center for International Development at Harvard University, *Washington Consensus*, 2003.

[91] Saad-Filho, *Growth, Poverty, and Inequality: From Washington Consensus to Inclusive Growth*, 2010.

[92] Ibid.

[93] Ibid.

While globalization was not completely rejected in the early 2000s, the international community was forced to quickly adjust its free market approach to incorporate socio-economic and political issues that affect development.[94] In October 2016, a joint session of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly Second Committee reaffirmed the UN's belief that globalization can be and is a benefit to the global community.[95] The joint session highlighted that the UN's work to promote globalization and minimize its negative effects has never been more important.[96] Furthering its role in supporting developing economies and their access to free trade, UNCTAD has pioneered various initiatives that are helping developing communities enter and navigate the global economy.[97] Specifically, UNCTAD's programs are training employees at ports and borders, providing technical policy support for governments and organizations, and helping entrepreneurs gain access to new technology.[98] The International Labour Organization (ILO) has similar initiatives and works to promote economic and social policies for the rights of laborers, produce publications on international labor issues, and provide technical assistance to Member States and corporations.[99] Additionally, ILO publications have directly linked globalization to decreased wages for workers and have called for the use of sustainable wages across the globe.[100]

Outside of the UN system, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also played a part in expanding the positive and mitigating the negative effects of globalization.[101] Despite individual members pushing back, the EU has continued to advance the positive effects of regional economic integration, including by using its trade policies to support socially responsible industries.[102] Additionally, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has stood behind the importance of the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) since its infancy in 2011.[103] The TPP sets out ambitious policies to knock down trade barriers and promote the market diversification of developing economies in the Pacific rim.[104] Currently, blocs like the EU and APEC are moving forward with trade agreements and negotiations despite the recent rejection of globalization by some of the largest economies in these groups.[105] NGOs are also involved in minimizing the negative impacts of globalization. One of the most notable NGO working in this field is the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), based in the Netherlands.[106] The WFTO works with both the public and private sector to promote developing economies and help small businesses, particularly those in developing economies, sell their products in global markets.[107] WFTO certified projects are labeled with stickers that let consumers know the product supports sustainable development and living wages.[108]

Environmental Costs

Through globalization industries have experienced overall increases in demands for their goods due to lower prices and a much greater number of people living out of poverty.[109] High levels of consumption have led to increased exploitation of Earth's natural resources and degradation of ecosystems.[110] According to the UNCTAD *Review of Maritime Transport 2016*, the use of maritime trade has hit a historic high with 10 billion tons of goods being transported on sea routes in 2015.[111] Additionally, the ocean-based economy is relied on by 3 billion people as a

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[94] Ibid.
[95] ECOSOC, *Joint meeting of ECOSOC and the Second Committee- "The changing political economy of globalization: Multilateral institutions and the 2030 Agenda"*, 2016.
[96] Ibid.
[97] UNCTAD, *Trading into Sustainable Development: Trade, Market Access, and Sustainable Development*, 2016.
[98] Ibid.
[99] ILO, *About the ILO*, 2017.
[100] Ibid.
[101] *Future of the EU: Harnessing #globalization*, EUReporter, 2017.
[102] Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *APEC and Trans-Pacific Partnership mutually useful: research*, 2011.
[103] Ibid.
[104] Ibid.
[105] *Australia leads fight to save Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact*, The Guardian, 2017.
[106] World Fair Trade Organization, *About the WFTO*, 2017.
[107] Ibid.
[108] World Fair Trade Organization, *Values and Mission*, 2017.
[109] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2016.
[110] UNCTAD, *Review of Maritime Trade Transport*, 2016.
[111] Ibid.

source of livelihood and is valued at $3-6 trillion.[112] However, this demand on oceans has caused increased pollution and degradation to fragile ecosystems.[113] The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has started to address the impacts of global shipping on coastal regions through in-depth research of some of the world's busiest ports and collaborative action plans with local harbor authorities.[114] At the Port of Tema, Ghana, UNEP has found that nearly 81% of pollution particles with 25 nautical miles of the port are a result of the shipping industry.[115] The Port of Tema is only one example that has been replicated across the globe, and with coastal economies and biodiversity witnessing the greatest impacts, UNEP has reaffirmed its mission to work with global harbor authorities.[116]

Oceans are currently one of the most relied upon resources for transporting goods and one of the world's staple proteins: fish.[117] According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 31.4% of fish stocks are being overfished, 10.5% are underfished, and 58.1% are currently fully fished.[118] Further, the FAO contends that global consumption of fish will continue to increase at a rapid pace, and will hit 9-10 billion tons by 2050.[119] SDG 14 brought attention to the delicate ocean ecosystem and the negative impacts globalization has had on the ocean environment.[120] In June 2017, the UN's Ocean Conference adopted *Our ocean, our future: Call for Action* to urge the international community to accelerate initiatives that address the degradation of ocean life.[121] During the Ocean Conference, UNCTAD held an event to discuss the potential of utilizing biotrade, the conservation of biodiversity through the fair and equitable utilization of genetic resources, to harness sustainable use of ocean ecosystems.[122] NGOs, including the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), are also combatting the problem of overfishing.[123] SFP has been working to reshape corporate social responsibility by directly educating retailers, restaurants, and food distributors on the importance of sourcing fish sustainably.[124]

Socio-Economic Costs

Increasing globalization and export-led industrialization was expected to lead to an overall increase in wages, but wages in developing economies have increased the least.[125] According to the ILO, approximately half of the world's population still lives on $2 or less a day.[126] Through SDG 11, Reducing Inequalities, the UN recognized that income inequality is one of the most prevalent economic problems today.[127] In 2016, Oxfam International released data on income inequality that illustrated that the wealthiest 1% now has more money combined than those below them.[128] Such a concentration of the world's wealth introduces new barriers in the global economy, with stagnant wages and the rising global cost of living being the most harmful.[129] To address this issue, UNCTAD has reaffirmed its commitment to corporate social responsibility, particularly in the realm of providing sustainable and equitable wages.[130]

In the TDR16, UNCTAD reiterated its position that minimum wage legislation and redistributive policies are necessary to development especially in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.[131] According to the ILO, the 2008

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[112] UNCTAD, *Ocean Economy and Fisheries*, 2017.
[113] FAO, *Sustainable Development Goal 14*, 2017.
[114] UNEP, *Global Clean Ports, Port of Tema, Ghana*, 2016.
[115] Ibid.
[116] Ibid.
[117] UNCTAD, *Review of Maritime Trade Transport*, 2016.
[118] FAO, *Sustainable Development Goal 14*, 2017.
[119] Ibid.
[120] Ibid.
[121] Ocean Conference, *Report of the Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14*, 2017.
[122] UNCTAD, *New Blue Biotrade initiative announced at the UN Ocean Conference*, 2017.
[123] Sustainable Fisheries Program, *About Us*, 2017.
[124] Ibid.
[125] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2016.
[126] ILO, *Economic and Social Development*, 2017.
[127] UN DPI, *SDG 11*, 2015.
[128] Hickel, Global inequality may be much worse than we think, *The Guardian*, 2016.
[129] UN DPI, *SDG 11*, 2015
[130] UNCTAD, *Nairobi Azimio*, 2016.
[131] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2016.

financial crisis uncovered the realities of income inequality across the globe.[132] However, since 2008, income inequality has increased within more developed Member States in comparison to the improving income distribution of emerging economies.[133] While globalization is tied to both the negative and positive impacts on income distribution, the ILO and UNCTAD both support the use of redistribution legislation to ensure citizens are able to take part in the global economy.[134] Since 1986, the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) has been leading the fight to promote labor rights and keep corporations accountable for rights violations.[135] The ILRF purports that a lack of appropriate minimum wage laws and government oversight of corporations has led to an overall abuse of labor rights.[136] To address this, the ILRF contends that the international community must adopt an official definition of the term "living wage" and recognize it as a human right.[137]

Access to Global Markets
Currently, business owners and traders in developing and transitioning economies face a myriad of structural challenges to enter global markets.[138] Over the last two decades, UNCTAD has built programs to better train citizens and government officials through its Train for Trade's (TFT) program, which includes the highly successful Port Management Programme.[139] According to the WTO, some 80% of international trade uses ports to transport goods.[140] UNCTAD recognized that due to constantly changing maritime regulations, developing economies were facing a roadblock in keeping port employees trained.[141] Corporations and Member States could not utilize ports and access global markets due to deficits in trained managers and laborers.[142] Since its inception in 1996, the TFT has trained over 2,500 port managers around the world to meet maritime regulations and keep their employees trained on relevant procedures.[143] Another structural issue that UNCTAD has worked to address is inconsistent and costly customs processes, where corruption and lack of training have resulted in costly transactions at ports of entry for entrepreneurs and small enterprises, limiting their ability to benefit from globalization.[144] UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) allows Member States to not only create more efficient processing times at border customs, but further allows Member States to increase customs revenues as more transparency creates less loopholes.[145] One of ASYCUDA's recent successes is in Afghanistan.[146] Since 2003, ASYCUDA has helped Afghan officials increase customs revenues by 2,000% and cut processing time from 18 hours to 1.5 hours.[147]

Conclusion

The negative effects globalization has had on the environment and socio-economic issues are only a few of the many issues the global community faces today.[148] Environmental degradation, specifically within the ocean ecosystem, is expected to increase unless Member States work cooperatively to promote sustainable initiatives.[149] Increases in labor wages is a more difficult problem to address, as the general lack of political will by Member States to promote better wages and corporate social responsibility has led to the stagnation of wages globally.[150] Globalization can promote development, but consequently the desire to develop has been historically sold as a series of environmental and socio-economic trade-offs.[151] It is UNCTAD's and the greater UN's goal to effectively manage globalization to

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[132] ILO, *Global wage growth stagnates, lags behind pre-crisis rates*, 2016.
[133] Ibid.
[134] Ibid.
[135] International Labor Rights Forum, *History*, 2017.
[136] International Labor Rights Forum, *Living Wage*, 2017.
[137] Ibid.
[138] Ibid.
[139] UNCTAD, *Train for Trade's Port Training Programme*, 2017.
[140] UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report*, 2016.
[141] UNCTAD, *Train for Trade's Port Training Programme*, 2017.
[142] Ibid.
[143] Ibid.
[144] UNCTAD, *ASYCUDA—Automated System for Customs Data*, 2017; UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report, 2016.*
[145] UNCTAD, *ASYCUDA—Automated System for Customs Data*, 2017.
[146] Ibid.
[147] Ibid.
[148] Collins, The Pros and Cons of Globalization, *Forbes*, 2015.
[149] FAO, *Sustainable Development Goal 14*, 2017.
[150] International Labor Rights Forum, *Living Wage*, 2017.
[151] UNCTAD, *Trading into Sustainable Development: Trade, Market Access, and Sustainable Development*, 2016.

promote sustainable development while still ensuring that every Member State can decide its own economic future.[152]

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> *This brief article about globalization is an invaluable resource for delegates. The article illustrates the ways in which globalization has had positive and negative impacts. Additionally, the author provides details to each point and discusses whether the claims are credible. Most importantly, delegates can find very useful information at the bottom of the article about what can be done to minimize the negative effects.*

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> *While this UN DESA report is seven years old, it is still incredibly relevant to the topic of globalization. It is imperative that delegates understand where the international trade and economic system has been and where analysts believe it is going. The Washington Consensus is part of the reason the global economy is witnessing an unprecedented rejection of globalization by some and a shift in thinking by others. It is imperative that delegates understand the history of globalization and how the UN envisions the global economy changing.*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2016). *Nairobi Azimio* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 23 April 2017 from: http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/td519add1_en.pdf

> *This document is UNCTAD's direct response to the Sustainable Development Agenda and describes how UNCTAD can help with the achievement of the goals. Particularly, it provides concrete measures for UNCTAD and the international community to take to help improve infrastructure, public-private partnerships, innovation, training and quality of work. Delegates should use this document as a guide to how UNCTAD is currently addressing the real development problems the world faces.*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2016). *Trading into Sustainable Development: Trade, Market Access, and Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 23 April 2017 from: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditctab2015d3_en.pdf

> *This UNCTAD report is one of the most recent reports to be published by the organization. Since trade is one of the major components of globalization, it is important for delegates to be familiar with the most recent work of UNCTAD. This report connects UNCTAD to the Sustainable Development Goals and the ways in which the organization believes Member States and private enterprise can write trade policy and utilize trade to achieve the SDGs. It can be used to help delegates understand current trends in trade policy and the intricacies of the global market.*

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> *This is one of the most recently adopted General Assembly resolutions about globalization. The discussion of human rights, trade, and globalization is commonly overlooked. The social costs outlined in the guide can also be considered globalizations negative effects on human rights. It is important for delegates to understand how the UN sees the connection between the two topics and where the UN sees room for improvement.*

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II. The Social Responsibility of Multinational Corporations

"The price of greatness is responsibility."[153]

Introduction

Multinational corporations (MNCs) are important contributors to global trade and development, impacting host countries both economically and culturally.[154] As companies continue to expand internationally, there have been increased calls for MNCs to recognize their far-reaching environmental and socio-economic impacts, in order to mitigate their negative effects through ethical and sustainable business practices.[155] Responsible business practices can include mainstreaming sustainability in business models, reducing emissions, and ensuring labor rights are upheld.[156] The United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) defines corporate social responsibility (CSR) as the role corporations and businesses play within the context of society, which should be examined to "maximize the positive societal outcomes of business activity."[157] Broader aspects of CSR include the expectation of businesses and corporations to utilize an equitable and sustainable business model in their efforts to expand and increase their profits.[158]

With the advent of social media, branding has become a key component in maintaining a successful business strategy and consumer pressure has encouraged corporations' to increasingly focus on the environment and labor rights.[159] While progress has been slow, some mainstream corporations have begun to take steps forward in upholding their CSR.[160] Nike has promoted the use of sustainable materials for their products; Ford Motor Company has worked to ensure their supply chains maintain and reduce their green-house gas (GHG) emissions; and Starbucks funds college opportunities for their employees and is working to ensure the use of sustainable farming in their supply chains.[161] These actions and trends have been seen as positives, but all CSR frameworks remain voluntary and success can only be achieved and maintained when businesses integrate these into their operations.[162]

International and Regional Framework

Policy at the international level regarding sustainability really began with the adoption of *Agenda 21* at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.[163] It recognized that the eradication of poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and the promotion of economic growth were tied to environmental concerns and overall prosperity.[164] *Agenda 21* provides a sustainable framework for combating poverty, protecting and promoting human health, conserving biological diversity, strengthening the role of workers and trade unions, and promoting science for sustainable development.[165] Since its adoption 25 years ago, several resolutions have been adopted as key instruments in addressing the concerns laid out in *Agenda 21*.[166] The International Labour Organization's (ILO) 1998 *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* similarly promoted sustainability in business, but focused on labor rights.[167] Emphasis was placed on corporations mainstreaming worker's rights into core business models and developing reporting mechanisms to maintain transparency and track progress.[168]

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[153] Churchill, *Speech by Winston Churchill on The Gift of a Common Tongue at Harvard University on 6 September 1943, in Boston*, 1943.
[154] Kogut, *Multinational Corporations*, 2001, p. 1.
[155] Ibid.
[156] Confino, Best practices in sustainability: Ford, Starbucks and more, *The Guardian*, 2014.
[157] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development: Innovation Brief – Issue 1*, 2007.
[158] ILO, *No. 1: ILO Helpdesk – The ILO and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*, 2014.
[159] Offiong, *United Nations Role in entrenching Corporate Social Responsibilities on Multinational Corporations*, 2010, p. 4.
[160] Confino, Best practices in sustainability: Ford, Starbucks and more, *The Guardian*, 2014.
[161] Ibid.
[162] ILO, *No. 1: ILO Helpdesk – The ILO and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*, 2014.
[163] UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992.
[164] Ibid.
[165] Ibid.
[166] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[167] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014.
[168] Ibid.

The adoption of the UN Global Compact in 2000 was the first international effort to develop a framework specifically addressing CSR.[169] The Global Compact provides guidelines for MNCs to mainstream CSR and includes ten principles that MNCs can voluntarily agree to adhere to.[170] The Ten Principles of the Global Compact were derived from principles within the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), *Agenda 21,* and the *UN Convention against Corruption* (2003).[171] The Ten Principles encourage MNCs to apply a template that addresses humane working conditions, accountability, and codes of conduct for business operations.[172] The UN Global Compact has also worked towards addressing the changing landscape of business models, the pressing concerns of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and its ten principles by providing a management model for businesses that includes environmental stewardship and CSR at its core.[173] The model focuses on the implementation of sustainable programs in business and integrating "the tenet of continuous improvement," recognizing that most companies are not fully sustainable and socially conscious when first created.[174]

Since the creation of the Global Compact, the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions related to CSR, including General Assembly resolution 62/11 regarding "global partnerships," which addresses the need for partnerships within the UN system and public-private partnerships (PPPs) between MNCs and state actors.[175] In mirroring past work, resolution 71/221 on "Entrepreneurship for sustainable development," highlighted how MNCs can solve challenges of sustainability through the inclusion of cooperatives and social enterprises as part of an effort to "alleviate poverty and catalyze social transformation."[176] In 2015, the General Assembly adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the most recent framework to build on *Agenda 21* and address CSR.[177] It recognizes that the quick growth of MNCs necessitates better management of consumption and waste and that reaching the SDGs will require private sector involvement.[178] Both *Agenda 21* and the 2030 Agenda promote corporate sustainability and encourage businesses to function in a responsible manner that supports communities and upholds human rights.[179]

Role of the International System

UNCTAD has focused on issues of trade, technology, finance, sustainable development, and enterprise development since its inception and it remains an integral organization in discussions surrounding economic growth and CSR.[180] In March 2013, UNCTAD held a Global CSR Retreat in Geneva, which addressed key concerns pertaining to CSR.[181] The retreat included discussions on a wide variety of topics from the need to integrate the SDGs into business practices from the beginning of the supply chain to the private sector's role in public goods, including humanitarian aid and aid for poverty alleviation.[182] In 2008, UNCTAD adopted the *Accra Accord* and its role in addressing and setting international agendas on issues pertaining to CSR grew.[183] Following the adoption of the accord, UNCTAD has called for the continued analysis of voluntary CSR policies within enterprises and to continue its reporting of best practices in order to enhance and complement national policies.[184] A 2012 report by UNCTAD on addressing CSR in global value chains noted the need for measures to promote greater policy inclusion of CSR

[169] Offiong, *United Nations Role in entrenching Corporate Social Responsibilities on Multinational Corporations*, 2010, p. 4.
[170] Ibid.
[171] UN Global Compact, *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact*, 2017.
[172] Ibid.
[173] UN Global Compact, *Environmental Stewardship Strategy: Overview and resources for corporate leaders*, 2010, p. 8.
[174] Ibid.
[175] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014.
[176] UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/22)*, 2017, p. 5.
[177] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[178] Ibid.
[179] UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992; UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[180] European Union, *The United Nations and the EU Trade Policy: the case of UNCTAD*, 2016.
[181] UNCTAD, *Global CSR Retreat: Summary Report*, 2013, p. 3.
[182] Ibid.
[183] European Union, *The United Nations and the EU Trade Policy: the case of UNCTAD*, 2016.
[184] UNCTAD, *Accra Accord*, 2008, p. 26.

and references the need to "harmonize their CSR codes at the industry level and streamline application procedures" as part of policy growth.[185]

Publications from other agencies, such as the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the ILO, the UN Industrial Development Organization, the Human Rights Council (HRC), and the Economic and Social Council have recognized the importance of CSR and the reality that social progress requires action on the part of governments and businesses.[186] The Global Compact has synthesized many of these reports into guidelines for businesses that focus on five defining features, namely: principled business, strengthening society, leadership commitment, reporting progress, and local action.[187] As with many actions undertaken by the Global Compact, it provides this information to businesses in order to promote voluntary CSR implementation that appeals to businesses desire for integration in communities and long-term growth.[188]

Regional groups, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), have encouraged MNCs to focus on the achievement of SDGs in their implementation of CSR.[189] The ASEAN CSR Fellowship, which provides an opportunity for corporations and entities to convene together to focus on issues pertaining to responsible business practices, is an example of public-private cooperation in promoting CSR.[190] The most recent meeting of the ASEAN CSR Fellowship was on 3-8 July 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar.[191] Some of the issues discussed included current CSR trends, particularly issues related to "extractive mining, garment manufacturing, and tourism."[192] The European Union (EU) has recognized the significant impact CSR can have on an economy, believing that improvements in sustainability, competitiveness, and innovation can be accomplished if the private sector is encouraged to implement CSR policies.[193] This can be seen in the EU's Integrated Product Policy (IPP), a pilot program that seeks to track the environmental sustainability throughout a products life-cycle.[194] Other regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS), have similarly recognized that for equitable growth to be realized in a community or region change within the industry for those working for MNCs is necessary.[195] This type of change can be seen in the OAS CSR Program, which works to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to promote dialogue focused on increasing information-sharing regarding successful CSR practices among corporations and enhancing responsible business practices highlighting sustainable capacity-building for local communities.[196]

CSR and Environmental Sustainability

Three of the Global Compact's ten principles are regarding corporate responsibility in protecting the environment and promoting environmentally friendly technologies.[197] The Principles mirror the SDGs in their focus on humanitarian and environmental concerns, but also take into account the motivations of the corporate world, including profit and long-term viability.[198] The Global Compact recognized that providing information to businesses regarding environmental concerns, especially when it is framed in a business perspective, can compel them to action.[199] As such, they created the Caring for Climate initiative in response.[200] The Caring for Climate initiative is one of the largest climate and business initiatives currently operating and it provides individualized frameworks for

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[185] UNCTAD, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Global Value Chains: Evaluation and monitoring challenges for small and medium sized suppliers in developing countries*, 2012, p. 12.
[186] ILO, *Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational enterprises and Social Policy*, 2017, p. 1.
[187] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 9.
[188] Ibid.
[189] ASEAN, *CSR Policy Statement*, 2016.
[190] ASEAN, *ASEAN CSR Fellowship in Myanmar (3-7 July 2017)*, 2017.
[191] Ibid.
[192] Ibid.
[193] EU, *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*, 2017.
[194] UN Global Compact, *Environmental Stewardship Strategy: Overview and resources for corporate leaders*, 2010, p. 18.
[195] OAS, *The OAS supports socially responsible enterprises*, 2010.
[196] OAS, *Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI): CSR*, 2017.
[197] UN Global Compact, *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact*, 2017.
[198] Ibid.
[199] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 22.
[200] Ibid.

businesses to apply practical sustainable solutions based on their unique situations.[201] With support and facilitation from the Global Compact, UNEP, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more than 60 Member States and over 400 companies having signed onto the Caring for Climate.[202] While this is indicative of progress, statements made by the Group of 7 (G7) Leader's Declaration in June 2015 recognized that responsible business conduct was a necessary priority and that voluntary adherence by corporations in reporting their CSR measures is still needed.[203]

Some MNCs, such as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and General Mills, have recognized the significance of their reliance on natural resources and how supply chains can affect the environment.[204] They have acknowledged the concerns regarding climate change, biodiversity, and energy and have recognized their environmental responsibility in these areas.[205] In order to encourage companies to mainstream greater environmental strategies throughout their business models, the Global Compact also developed the Environmental Stewardship Strategy (ESS).[206] The ESS provides an 8-step process, as part of the Global Compact's Management Model, for MNCs to include policies that allow them to self-regulate, comply with environmental regulations, and cooperate with local government.[207] It was designed to provide a "holistic and comprehensive strategy" for companies to use as a template for assessing environmental risks with a focus on the effects there might be on water, food, and climate.[208] An example of an MNC applying policy suggestions from the ESS was seen when Nokia in 2005 worked to establish greater sustainable business practices with its participation in the EU pilot program "IPP," which addressed the lifecycle impact of products on value chains.[209]

CSR and Human Rights

A 2011 report from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recognizes that in the course of business operations firms may ignore or be ignorant of human rights laws and that the state may have to require compliance and apply appropriate and effective corrective measures when human rights are violated by business entities.[210] The report, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework"* focuses on three pillars: the priority of the state to protect workers from human rights abuses perpetuated by businesses as well as third parties, encouraging corporate respect of human rights, and prioritizing accessibility of remediation through judiciary and non-judiciary mechanisms for victims.[211] These guiding principles were reinforced and highlighted in the *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*.[212]

As public awareness has increased regarding the responsibilities of MNCs with regards to humane working conditions and human rights, the international community has begun down the path of developing a comprehensive CSR strategy, especially around improving transparency regarding corporate compliance with human rights laws.[213] This can be seen in the adoption of resolution HRC 32/10 on "Business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy," which emphasizes the need for Member States to conduct reviews on the effectiveness and application of national human rights laws and the accountability and remedial solutions for anyone who is victimized by a corporation.[214] The HRC resolution recognized that Member States must work towards addressing

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[201] Ibid.

[202] Ibid.

[203] OECD, *Annual Report on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises 2015*, 2015, p. 16.

[204] Confino, Best practices in sustainability: Ford, Starbucks and more, *The Guardian*, 2014.

[205] UN, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 21.

[206] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 21.

[207] UN Global Compact, *Environmental Stewardship Strategy: Overview and resources for corporate leaders*, 2010, p. 10.

[208] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 21.

[209] UN Global Compact, *Environmental Stewardship Strategy: Overview and resources for corporate leaders*, 2010, p. 18.

[210] UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework*, 2011, p. 6.

[211] Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, *UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework and Guiding Principles*, 2011.

[212] UN HRC, *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human tights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*, 2011.

[213] UN HRC, *Business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy*, 2016.

[214] Ibid.

circumstances of abuse, although in some cases they lack the capacity to do so and in many cases lack adequate monitoring mechanism to ensure that MNCs uphold even minimal CSR standards; making global transparency and consumer pressure even more important.[215] The non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch (HRW) recently published the report *Follow the Thread*, which focused on concerns of corporations lacking transparency to consumers of the "opaque" global supply chain.[216] Emphasizing that transparency in the supply chain from MNCs would allow for greater corporate accountability, thereby allowing consumers to witness the level of respect MNCs apply to human rights.[217] HRW maintains that there is continued need for public information-sharing by MNCs to ensure labor rights, fair trade, living wages, reporting of abuse, and human health are maintained.[218]

Conclusion

MNCs will play a significant role in achieving the SDGs and CSR remain paramount in addressing the concerns of equitable economic growth and sustainability.[219] Member States and businesses must collaborate in order to protect communities and workers from abuse and ensure that individual freedoms and protections are not sacrificed for the sake of progress.[220] Successful CSR practices by MNCs encourage more active reporting methods in matters of environmental, social, and governance performance to ensure responsible investment and practices are undertaken in collaboration with governments and in line with the public interest.[221] MNCs upholding their CSR and utilizing business to support local development can help achieve many of the SDGs, including those related to: poverty, human health, sustainability of waters and forests, and quality of life.[222] Ensuring that UN bodies are supporting Member States and encouraging private enterprise to uphold human rights and respect the environment can help bring further progress regarding social responsibility at all levels.[223]

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> *The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights highlights the concerns of human rights violations that occur throughout the business models of MNCs. The report acknowledges the need to rectify and find a remedy in cases of violations by corporations and the responsibilities of Member States to ensure follow through is applied. Further, it places emphasis on ensuring effective remediation is available for cases of violations. Delegates should become familiar with how the UN has worked to promote human rights in the workplace and any specific policies enterprises are implementing to address abuses.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-sixth session. (2014). *Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises: Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/216)*. Retrieved 22 April 2017 from: http://undocs.org/a/70/216

> *This report focuses on applying corporate sustainability within business models and the effects MNCs can have on human rights in the name of economic growth. Additionally, it addresses the concern of implementation and gaps of coverage that can occur within human resource policies. The report also recognizes the concern of a more inclusive and legitimized process in the measurement of violations and success of CSRs. Delegates can utilize this document as a starting point to better understand some of the current needs in creating and sustaining a framework to measure and remedy violations.*

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[215] Ibid.

[216] Human Rights Watch, *Follow the Thread: The Need for Supply Chain Transparency in the Garment and Footwear Industry*, 2017.

[217] Ibid.

[218] Ibid.

[219] UN Global Compact, *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact*, 2017.

[220] UNCTAD, *Accra Accord*, 2008, p. 26.

[221] UNCTAD, *Investment and Enterprise Responsibility Review: Analysis of investor and enterprise policies on corporate social responsibility*, 2012, p. 3.

[222] UN Global Compact, *Guide to Corporate Sustainability*, 2014, p. 21.

[223] Ibid.

United Nations Global Compact. (2010). *Environmental Stewardship Strategy: Overview and resources for corporate leaders* [Report]. Retrieved 15 June 2017 from: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/Environmental_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

> *This report addresses three key principles in achieving greater environmental stewardship for businesses and highlights four pillars for successful environmental stewardship by MNCs. The strategy reinforces the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and introduces sustainable measures into businesses models. Delegates should utilize this document to gain greater familiarity with UNCTAD's relationship to corporations.*

United Nations Global Compact. (2014). *Guide to Corporate Sustainability* [Report]. Retrieved 22 April 2017 from: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/publications/UN_Global_Compact_Guide_to_Corporate_Sustainability.pdf

> *The Guide to Corporate Sustainability recognizes key measures necessary for successful and sustainable business practices that align with the SDGs. By applying key principles for MNCs to mainstream throughout their business model to ensure equitable and ethical practices. The Guide works with the Ten Principles and is focused on humanitarian and environmental issues such as quality of life, education, and sustainable resourcing. This guide is of great asset to delegates in order to better understand how MNCs and CSR fits into the SDGs. Delegates should use the source to hypothesize how MNCs can support the SDGs and continue to contribute to global economic growth.*

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Thirty-second session. (2016). *Business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy (A/HRC/RES/32/10)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 May 2017 from: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/155/72/PDF/G1615572.pdf?OpenElement

> *This HRC report highlights the growing concerns of human rights violations that can occur within large MNCs throughout their supply and value-chain. It highlights that MNCs must ensure human rights violations do not occur as part of their business practice and that Member States must also work to ensure the potential of abuse and exploitation do not occur. The report clearly notes that maintaining the accountability of MNCs in upholding their CSR and voluntarily reporting remain paramount. It is important for delegates to understand the various aspects of MNC accountability; delegates should use this report as a start for further research into the issues of keeping companies accountable across the globe.*

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