



SPECIAL SESSION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

Written By: Harald Eisenhauer and Roger H. Tseng, Directors



NMUN·CHINA

nmun.org/nmun_china12.html

18 - 24 November 2012





Message from the Director-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN-China Conference

At the 2012 NMUN-China Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. 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.

Delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN-China 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. 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.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations 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, as well as how to best construct a position paper. 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 8.5x11).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch 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/NGO 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 e-mail in .pdf or .doc formats by **1 November 2012**. As proof of submission, include yourself as an e-mail recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Cuba_Mars College).

Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Director-General at dirgen.china@nmun.org. If you have any questions, please email the Director-General.

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.

Sincerely,

Sarah Tulley
Director-General
NMUN-China

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
Canada

Represented by
University of Jupiter

Position Paper for 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 Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage 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. We call 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. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/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 Kimberly 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 our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view 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 Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to 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. We emphasize 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 Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call

upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$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. We call 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 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. We recommend Member States 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 Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/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. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines 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. We emphasize 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.

I. Public-Private Partnerships in Rural Development

Introduction

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been determined to be one of the most popular reforms in public financial and public infrastructure management; for example, between 1990 and 2005, more than €200 billion worth of these agreements have been signed within the European Union alone.¹ As a result of the successes experienced in developed countries, numerous developing countries are also developing sustainable PPPs to stimulate growth in rural areas.²

A PPP, as its name suggests, involves cooperation between a public agency and a private enterprise, and is most prevalent in the fields of energy, water, transport, and telecommunications and information technology (ICT).³ While there is no established definition, it is widely acknowledged that a PPP refers to a medium- or long-term arrangement whereby a private enterprise procures the assets, provides services, and absorbs the associated risks usually associated with public sector projects.⁴ In these agreements, the public agency and the private enterprise also set out clear objectives in regards to service delivery.⁵ The impetus to enter into a PPP is different in each case; a development agency may work in tandem with a private company to realize a project, the public sector may partner with a company as a means of securing financing for a public works project, or the requirements of a project calls for collaboration between the public, non-governmental, and private sectors.⁶ In addition to boosting investment in the economy, PPPs may also introduce innovation and increase operation efficiency, ensure that projects and services are delivered on time and within budget, establish the necessary framework and environment to develop the local private sector, and diversify a country's economy.⁷

The benefits of PPPs were first witnessed during the 2008- 2011 global financial crisis; as governments faced fiscal constraints, the private sector became a viable partner in the maintenance of public infrastructure and in the rebuilding of economies.⁸ In a period in which governments seek to stimulate growth through public spending, "PPPs offer the opportunity to roll out projects with minimal impact on the public purse whilst simultaneously supporting private sector recovery and generating employment."⁹ Countries such as France, Belgium, and Portugal have introduced *state guarantee schemes* to build up confidence and demonstrate government commitment to spending renewal and to protect the credibility of each country's infrastructure programming.¹⁰ Other Member States of the European Union have simply realigned their public procurement processes to facilitate the inclusion of the private sector in public projects.¹¹ On the supranational level, the European Union decided to improve access to PPP financing to both Member States and the private sector, conduct pilot PPP projects of its own, and disseminate expertise and best practices amongst Member States.¹²

While the public and private sectors may compliment each other in these arrangements, several criticisms have nonetheless been leveled against PPPs. The most vocal of these criticisms is the fear that governments may use PPPs as a means to outsource and eventually privatize basic services and infrastructure, which may be against the interests

¹ International Monetary Fund Public Financial Management Blog, *A primer on Public-Private Partnerships*, 2008.

² International Monetary Fund Public Financial Management Blog, *A primer on Public-Private Partnerships*, 2008.

³ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

⁴ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

⁵ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

⁶ InfoResources, *Rural Development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)?*, 2005.

⁷ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *Government Objectives: Benefits and Risks of PPPs*.

⁸ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *Government Objectives: Benefits and Risks of PPPs*.

⁹ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Harnessing the Power of Public-Private Partnerships: the role of hybrid financing strategies in sustainable development*, 2012.

¹⁰ Commission of the European Communities, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships*, 2009.

¹¹ Commission of the European Communities, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships*, 2009.

¹² Commission of the European Communities, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships*, 2009.

of the rural population.¹³ Especially in developing countries, where the rule of law and accountability may not be part of the routine political process, the combination of government funds and private interests may lead to compromises in the intent of the project and ultimately corruption.¹⁴ Private participation in public projects may also lead to violations of fair and equitable procurement standards and distort normal trading conditions.¹⁵ Nonetheless, as developed and developing countries alike turn to PPPs, Member States have begun to formulate laws on PPPs to regulate both state and private sector behaviors.¹⁶

Public-Private Partnerships and International Institutions

The World Bank, in its role as an important Bretton Woods institution, has developed numerous frameworks to help countries and the private sector engage in PPPs in the energy, transportation, and ICT industries.¹⁷ The PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center (PPPIRC) assists countries with their public-private projects by providing consultations on business needs of the project, legal frameworks, contracting, financing and risk analysis, and the maintenance of good governance throughout a PPP.¹⁸ While the focus of the PPPIRC is not development-centric, its consultation and advising functions serve as catalysts to allow countries, especially developing countries, to establish that enabling environment to attract investment and projects.

In addition to the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) has also played a prominent role in establishing PPPs as a viable development mechanism. The linkages between rural development and the private sector first arose during the 2003 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Two notable documents were introduced in ECOSOC that year: the *Report of the Secretary-General on Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development*¹⁹ and the related *Ministerial Declaration*.²⁰ Both documents highlight the importance of having an enabling environment for rural development; such an environment includes good governance, accountable institutions, robust growth on both the national and international levels, and human development to combat poverty and the lack of education.²¹ The *Report of the Secretary-General* further highlights liberalized trade in agriculture and the World Trade Organization “development round” negotiations as enabling factors for rural development.²² More importantly in the context of PPPs is the recognition in both documents that the UN and national governments must equally be engaged with the private sector to encourage it to be involved in civil society and the delivery of non-profit services.²³

The UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA) was thus created to realize the goals set out in the *Report of the Secretary-General* and the *Ministerial Declaration*. The core functions of the UNPPA is to identify and promote successful public-private policies and processes that lead to economic advancement in rural areas, to promote entrepreneurialism in local areas and on the governmental level, and to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are incorporated in the development and implementation of PPPs.²⁴ The UNPPA is unique within the UN system in that membership is not confined to Member States; non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other entities who are stakeholders to the rural development process are all

¹³ InfoResources, *Rural Development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)?*, 2005.

¹⁴ InfoResources, *Rural Development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)?*, 2005.

¹⁵ InfoResources, *Rural Development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)?*, 2005.

¹⁶ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

¹⁷ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

¹⁸ World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center, *About Public-Private Partnerships*.

¹⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2003/51)*, 2003.

²⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development*, 2003.

²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development*, 2003.

²² United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2003/51)*.

²³ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2003/51)*.

²⁴ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

eligible to participate in the activities of the UNPPA.²⁵ Furthermore, the UNPPA itself does not operate in any Member State; it acts as a hub to network various stakeholders and consolidate these partnerships into viable strategies for economic growth in rural areas.²⁶ To date, the UNPPA is involved in two countries, Madagascar and the Dominican Republic.²⁷ In both cases, the national governments have identified their respective priorities and established the necessary public agencies, with the UNPPA acting as a catalyst to allow the national governments to liaise with the local and international private sector.²⁸ Development programming also remains the task of the national governments, but the UNPPA is also in a position to promote the Millennium Development Goals with the national governments and brief the international community on the progress made by these pilot countries.²⁹

Case Study – Water Supply in Rural Rwanda

In a World Bank report in 2004, Rwanda was found to have inadequate rural water systems, with 50% of the systems underperforming; this inefficiency would have profound effects in a country where economic growth and social development still take place in rural areas.³⁰ As the Government of Rwanda had made a commitment to incorporate decentralization and PPPs in its infrastructure projects, it invoked a 1998 policy in which infrastructure and development would be rolled out on a decentralized and participatory basis, moving away from the top-down programming approach from the early 1990s.³¹ In the spirit of this decentralized approach, the Government of Rwanda set out the objectives of developing a rural water supply sector that is responsive to the usage demands of the communities it serves, is managed at the district level, supports the private sector as the main provider of rural water supply, and that redefined the Ministry of Water as a facilitator between the stakeholders.³²

Prior to this national strategy, Rwanda had limited but enabling exposure to PPPs, as several districts had contracted out the operations and maintenance of their water supply system to local companies.³³ The Government of Rwanda received assistance from the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program in the form of technical assistance, grants, and policy support to enable donor coordination and capacity building for private operators.³⁴ The Government of Rwanda continued the local approach by contracting local operators on a district level; given that both the national government and numerous private entities were not experienced in PPPs in such a specialized industry, these contracts offered simple terms, were short-term, and did not expose one side or the other to additional liability.³⁵ Furthermore, acknowledging that this was a novel approach, the Government of Rwanda did not restrict its contracting criteria to only firms with experience in water and sanitation; many operators were contracted as a result

²⁵ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

²⁶ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

²⁷ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

²⁸ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

²⁹ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

³⁰ World Bank Water Sanitation Program, *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*, 2011.

³¹ World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

³² World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

³³ World Bank Water Sanitation Program, *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*, 2011.

³⁴ World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

³⁵ World Bank Water Sanitation Program, *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*, 2011.

of their business acumen and ability to engage in entrepreneurialism.³⁶ By 2010, 65 PPP contracts had been signed for 235 water supply systems, serving about 1 million people.³⁷

Rwanda has experienced tremendous success with its implementation of PPPs in rural water supply. The country is on track to meet MDG of increasing potable water access to 85% of its population by 2015;³⁸ 71% of its rural population now has access to potable water.³⁹ In addition, customers have also expressed satisfaction with the level of service received after rural water supply systems came under the management of the private sector, and with entrepreneurialism also contributing to local economies, the living standards of large parts of Rwanda increased as a result of PPPs. Rwanda's successes are largely contributing to its objectives and its contracting means: simplicity, engagement, and flexibility.⁴⁰

Conclusion

The Rwanda experience highlighted the importance of having buy-in from all stakeholders: the government, the private sector, and the population. The fact that PPPs in the rural water supply systems had existed prior to the national strategy was without a doubt a contributing factor to the success thereof. The World Bank has further proven its abilities in advising Member States in regards to the scope and nature of PPPs. Despite the prevalence of PPPs in rural development, the UN has not been nearly as active as it used to be when the UNPPA was first initiated; the UN has demonstrated, with Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, that it is capable of acting as a hub connecting national governments, development agencies, and companies, but more recent information and reports are lacking.⁴¹

Numerous questions should be looked at in researching the role of PPPs in rural development. First and foremost, how has your country utilized PPPs in public infrastructure projects? Does your country have an institutionalized approach towards PPPs and the engagement of the private sector in public affairs? As a developed country, how does your government stand to benefit in development work through the state development agency or the private sector? As a developing country, what are some safeguards your government needs to implement to protect your interests while still attracting partners for rural development? How can the UN capitalize on the popularity of PPPs in rural development? Should a more formal framework be established within the UN to help facilitate Member States with the planning and implementation of PPPs? How can the UN hold the private sector more accountable in PPPs?

II. Gender and Rural Development

*Women are key agents of change, and this is as true for rural women, if not more so, than for any women anywhere. Their leadership and participation are essential in shaping the responses to development challenges and recent global crises.*⁴²

Gender-specific problems in rural development

It is evident that women play a critical role to key development goals, such as food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.⁴³ The complete empowerment of women would significantly and directly improve the situation of many people around the world. Especially in rural development, women are at the center of sustaining

³⁶ World Bank Water Sanitation Program, *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*, 2011.

³⁷ World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

³⁸ World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

³⁹ World Bank Water Sanitation Program, *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*, 2011.

⁴⁰ World Bank International Finance Corporation, *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*, 2010.

⁴¹ United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*, 2004.

⁴² Bachelet, *A Comprehensive Response to Rural Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment*, 2012.

⁴³ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 23.

households and communities through food and nutrition security, the generation of income, and the improvement of rural livelihoods.⁴⁴ Yet their contributions could be even greater if they had equal rights and equal access to productive resources.

Rural women and girls are often confronted with gender-specific constraints, which deny them the chance to realize their full potential as agricultural workers or entrepreneurs and as stakeholders in rural development.⁴⁵ Thus, rural women lack equal and secure access to land, financial resources, information and training, extension services and technologies, and have less decision-making powers.⁴⁶ Since rural women are the backbone of agricultural labor, their unrealized potential productivity reduces the overall agricultural performance of entire economies, which has far-reaching implementations for the development of many regions across the globe.⁴⁷

Rural Development

In order to understand gender-specific problems of rural development, it is useful to outline rural development as the relevant setting. Rural development is defined as follows:

“Rural development is a regional and comprehensive approach to development [which] includes and even focuses on the agricultural sector but also covers all other sectors of the rural space. In a modern context, rural development includes the development of off-farm activities: Contribution of agriculture to sustainable development, securing proper management of the rural areas, protection of natural resources and of the environment, food safety and consumer protection and animal welfare.”⁴⁸

Thus, rural development includes agricultural development, which focuses on “the improvement of agricultural production and the role of agricultural producers [and] aims at increasing and improving agricultural production, links economic growth to income distribution with priority on the lower income groups, especially small farmers.”⁴⁹ Agriculture is one of the most fundamental human activities, and is of particular relevance for most developing countries. It provides a livelihood for 86 percent of the global rural population and employment for about 1.3 billion smallholder farmers and landless workers around the world, of whom 43 percent are women.⁵⁰ Moreover, rural and agricultural development have been given more attention recently, due to the persistence of hunger, the ongoing food crisis which has led to spikes in food prices, and the recognition of its increased importance for overall sustainable and economic development.

Successful and sustainable agriculture is of crucial importance to solve these problems. Yet it is still constrained by structural and deeply rooted factors, such as emerging global demographic trends, increased competition for natural resources, or detrimental national and international agricultural production policies. This results in the fact that in 2010, a total of 925 million people were considered chronically hungry, 60 percent of whom were women.⁵¹ In addition, the food crisis of 2006-2008 and the ongoing extreme volatility of food prices, caused between 130 and 155 million to fall into extreme poverty.⁵² These and other alarming trends have led to renewed international attention to rural development, including a particular focus on the role of women in rural areas. While it is now

⁴⁴ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 1.

⁴⁵ It is noteworthy that the concept of “gender” refers to socially constructed roles and identities, which are shaped by ideological, religious, ethnic, economic, and cultural factors. Gender roles determine allocations of responsibilities and resources between men and women, but unlike biological categories of “sex”, they are socially determined and can be changed by conscious social and political action. Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 4.

⁴⁶ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 67.

⁴⁷ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 9.

⁴⁸ Münkner, *Co-operation as a Remedy in Times of Crisis*, 2012, pp. 23-24.

⁴⁹ Münkner, *Co-operation as a Remedy in Times of Crisis*, 2012, p. 23.

⁵⁰ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 3.

⁵¹ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 16.

⁵² UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 16.

widely recognized that agrarian policies and reforms up until the 1990s mostly ignored the special role of women, more recent efforts were made to identify persistent gender-specific problems, understand their implications for overall productivity, and find out how to solve them.⁵³

The Situation of Rural Women

Rural women fare worse than both rural men and urban people of both sexes and have lower chances of fully realizing their potential for development. In order to provide background on this, indicators measuring their progress and gender-specific constraints towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can illustrate their situation. Rural women are typically working at the forefront of achieving MDG 1, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Women represent an integral share of agricultural workers in developing countries and carry a great part of the burden to provide their households and communities with food, water, and fuel. In rural areas of Malawi, for instance, women spend more than eight times more time per week fetching wood and water than their male peers.⁵⁴ Women typically undertake water collection, which places a high burden of energy and time on them, as it tends to coincide with poor access to water.⁵⁵ Overall, rural women in Sub-Saharan Africa spend about 40 billion hours a year collecting water, which is equivalent to the annual worth of labor of the entire workforce in France.⁵⁶ Such wasteful allocation of rural women's labor places a disproportionate strain on them but also reduces their overall agricultural productivity, exacerbates their burden of unpaid care work, and limits their potential contributions for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.⁵⁷

Similar disadvantages of the female rural population of developing countries come to light examining progress towards achieving other MDGs. Even though progress has been made, rural girls are still less likely to attend primary education than rural boys and they are 50 percent more likely to be out of school than their urban peers, impacting the ability of countries to achieve MDG 2, Achieving Universal Primary Education.⁵⁸ This translates into the still prevailing disproportionately high illiteracy among the female rural population. Women make up two thirds of the about 800 million illiterate people worldwide, and many of them tend to live outside urban areas.⁵⁹ Literacy and education have a direct effect on development goals, as higher educated girls and women tend to obtain higher wages, marry later and have less children, are less likely to experience violence, are more likely to be healthy, have greater decision-making powers in their households, and generally are better equipped to fight poverty and sustain better livelihoods.⁶⁰ Data on MDGs 4 and 5, aimed at reducing child mortality and improving maternal health respectively, also suggests that the situation for rural women is worse than for their urban peers. A number of factors, including less access to skilled health personnel and lower levels of education, result in the fact that rural areas in developing countries have disproportionately high rates of child mortality and lag behind urban areas in maternal health, even though there has been overall progress in absolute terms.⁶¹ A look at MDG 6 – combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases – shows that the rural youth in developing countries, particularly young women, have a more limited understanding of how HIV spreads, which is the first step for effective prevention.⁶² Rural areas also tend to provide fewer opportunities for comprehensive medical treatment of infected people for diseases including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and others.⁶³ In addition, it is typically women and girls who are designated or volunteering to give care and assistance to AIDS-infected family members, adding to their overall burden, especially in epidemic areas.⁶⁴ The persistence of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases exacerbate the already difficult situation for the female rural population and negatively affects their progress in almost every other development indicator.

⁵³ UN Research Institute for Social Development, *Land Tenure Reform and Gender Equality*, 2006.

⁵⁴ UN Development Programme, *Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All*, 2011, p. 58.

⁵⁵ UN Development Fund for Women, *Who Answers to Women? Gender & Accountability*, 2008, p. 36.

⁵⁶ UN Development Fund for Women, *Who Answers to Women? Gender & Accountability*, 2008, p. 37.

⁵⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 67.

⁵⁸ UN, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, 2012, p. 18.

⁵⁹ UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Adult and Youth Literacy*, 2011.

⁶⁰ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, pp. 3-4.

⁶¹ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, pp. 5-7.

⁶² Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 7.

⁶³ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 8.

⁶⁴ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 9.

These brief facts on rural women's progress towards MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 make evident that their situation is marked by severe disadvantages. However, when measuring their progress towards MDG 3 – promoting gender equality and empowering women – it becomes clear that rural women also suffer from gender-specific constraints and discrimination. Although gender inequality varies considerably between different regions or sectors, and rural women are not a homogeneous group, there is evidence that the female population of rural areas in many developing countries suffers from socially constructed inequality in statutory and customary rights.

Persistent Gender Inequalities

Gender-based discrimination becomes evident as women's legal rights to land, other property, productive resources, and access to markets is often less secure than for men; and where women's rights are formally equal, they often end up with less than equal assets. As a report by the Secretary-General on the empowerment of rural women states, “[c]ultural norms, and traditions and discriminatory formal and informal laws often restrict, exclude or unfavourably affect rural women's access to and control over land, finance, extension services, information and new technologies.”⁶⁵ Most 20th-century land and titling reforms, though considered a progressive tool for rural development, were unable to provide universal and equal rights for women. While their original intent was to formalize the ownership of land, a theoretically useful step for economic development, the method of individualization of land titles often resulted in male ownership and the discrimination of women.⁶⁶ These reforms can formalize inequality “by fixing land distributions where they were earlier flexible and negotiable through customary law.”⁶⁷ Overall, there is vast evidence that rural women and girls face more difficulties than their male peers in agricultural production, carry a higher burden of unpaid care work, and have limited opportunities to earn independent incomes.⁶⁸ In addition, there is a persistent gender gap in women's access to power, as they are less involved in decision-making and their leadership remains low at all levels, including rural councils.⁶⁹

Although the role of women – and their inequality – is often influenced by cultural contexts, the international community has pledged to realize gender equality and is determined to:

“[p]romote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes uneconomic, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services.”⁷⁰

Nevertheless, the current situation of rural women and girls shows that gender equality has not been fully achieved. Today it is accepted that this goal is not only desirable out of respect for women and the principle of universal equality and justice, but also to overcome gender-based limitations of rural development and agricultural production.⁷¹

Empowering Rural Women for Development

Rural development and agricultural growth are held back by the fact that women and girls are unable to fully realize their potential as economic agents. If women had equal opportunities and secure access to productive resources, many rural regions would fare significantly better. Closing the gender gap would reduce unnecessary costs on developing countries' agricultural sectors, economies and societies, as well as for women themselves.⁷²

This becomes most remarkably evident when looking at the estimated effect of women's empowerment for food production. If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they would be enabled to increase total

⁶⁵ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 24.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, 2009, paras. 187-195.

⁶⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*, 2012, para. 30.

⁶⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, pp. 3-5.

⁶⁹ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 5.

⁷⁰ Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995, para. 26.

⁷¹ Bachelet, *A Comprehensive Response to Rural Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment*, 2012.

⁷² Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, pp. 5-6.

farm yields by 20 to 30 percent, which would raise developing countries' agricultural output by 2.5 to 4 percent.⁷³ As result, the number of chronically hungry people in the world could be reduced by 12 to 17 percent – ending hunger for between 100 and 150 million people.⁷⁴ In addition to this immediate effect, higher overall productivity would also have additional mid to long-term impacts such as increased demand by farmers for rural labor, goods, and services.⁷⁵ When women have control over additional income, they spend a larger share of it on food, health, clothing, and their children's education than men.⁷⁶ This positively influences overall development and immediately improves human well-being.

In addition, empowering rural women would be beneficial for environmental sustainability, as there is evidence for causal linkages between gender inequality and environmental degradation. Research suggests that women “express more concern for the environment, support policies that are more beneficial to the environment[,] and tend to vote for leaders who care about the environment.”⁷⁷ Women's empowerment is moreover likely to directly and positively influence many other development goals, such as higher primary school enrolment, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, or reducing risks of infections with HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.⁷⁸

Strategies and Policy Recommendations

The recognition that the empowerment of rural women has a direct and positive influence for development is widely accepted today.⁷⁹ Decades of rural development strategies have neglected or even harmed women's potential in agriculture and rural development.⁸⁰ Today, however, it is recognized that gender equality is good for agriculture, food security, and society. To realize gender equality, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has formulated a number of key strategies and policy recommendations to show how the international community, government actors, civil society, the private sector, and individuals can work towards this goal.⁸¹

According to the FAO,

- Stakeholders must eliminate discrimination against women under the law, to ensure that government-controlled institutions and laws are fully supportive of equality;
- Rural institutions must be strengthened and made gender-aware, so that women and men are equally served by them;
- Women must be freed to participate in rewarding and productive activities, by means of eliminating inefficient and disproportionately burdensome activities such as fetching water over great distances; and
- The human capital of women and girls must be build up, as more education, skills, and influence “makes them better farmers, more productive workers, better mothers and stronger citizens.”⁸²

Policymakers are moreover advised by the FAO to follow a holistic approach, by identifying and circumventing gender-specific constraints in a dynamic and sequential way to ensure that gender equality is realized in a sustainable fashion.⁸³ Also, policies have to be based on, and measured by, effective analysis and reliable sex-disaggregated data, so that problems can be better understood and the success of interventions can be assessed.⁸⁴ Finally, the FAO recommends that successful gender-aware agricultural and rural policy decisions must be location-specific and tailored to the specific needs, constraints and opportunities of the targeted area.⁸⁵

⁷³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, pp. 5-6.

⁷⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, pp. 42-43.

⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, 2009, paras. 34-39.

⁷⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 45.

⁷⁷ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012, p. 9.

⁷⁸ Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

⁷⁹ Bachelet, *A Comprehensive Response to Rural Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment*, 2012.

⁸⁰ UN Research Institute for Social Development, *Land Tenure Reform and Gender Equality*, 2006; UN General Assembly, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, 2009, paras. 187-195.

⁸¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 61.

⁸² Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 61.

⁸³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 62.

⁸⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 62.

⁸⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Women in Agriculture*, 2011, p. 62.

Conclusion

The previous paragraphs have shown the current situation of women and girls in rural development, explained how gender-based constraints limit overall agricultural productivity, and outlined avenues for improving the situation. The international community has understood that in order to fully realize the potential contributions of the female rural population, gender aspects must play a central role in rural and agricultural development policies. It is evident that work towards the goal of gender equality must continue not least because the empowerment of rural women and girls has a direct and positive influence on many development goals.

Yet is there is still room for debate about how policy-makers could and should approach the topic, and which concrete steps need to be taken. How can rural societies be helped to unlock the bottlenecks for the economic empowerment of women? Should bilateral and multilateral donors adjust their development assistance to further promote gender-equitable rural development? What are the obstacles to overcoming outcome gaps between de jure and de facto rights of women? How can the ownership of land be reformed, to reach a more just and equitable allocation? How can socially constructed discrimination of women be overcome? Which methods are most suitable to measure progress accurately? How can global knowledge and awareness of the opportunities stemming from rural women's empowerment be further increased? Answering these questions would constitute an important step towards gender equity and rural development.

Annotated Bibliography

I. *Public-Private Partnerships in Rural Development*

Commission of the European Communities (2009). *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships*. Retrieved on August 15, 2012 from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0615:FIN:EN:PDF>

In light of the global economic crisis, the European Union embarked on a very ambitious recovery plan to stabilize the financial sector and to limit the effects of a recession economy on European citizens. Like many parts of the world, the European Union and its Member States engaged in deficit spending and infrastructure investment, similarly to how economies recovered after the Great Depression of the 1930s. In this communiqué, the European Commission identified PPPs as an effective means of engaging the private sector in these recovery efforts. It highlights how certain Member States have already engaged in PPPs and sets out how the European Union as a whole will address PPPs in economic recovery.

InfoResources. (2005). *Rural Development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)?*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from http://www.inforesources.ch/pdf/focus_1_05_e.pdf

InfoResources was a Swiss non-governmental organization that focused on providing research on natural resources in international development. While no longer operational, its Web site continues to serve as a repository for articles on development and natural resources. In this particular article, the authors present PPPs from a policy orientation, highlighting past international endeavors and how governments should approach the private sector. It further presents numerous case studies which will contextualize how PPPs functions in various sectors.

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2012). *Harnessing the Power of Public-Private Partnerships: the role of hybrid financing strategies in sustainable development*. Retrieved on August 15, 2012 from http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2012/harnessing_ppp.pdf

The IISD, based in Canada, is a public policy research institute with a specialization in sustainable development. This publication is also an excellent starting point for research regarding how PPPs work in general and how such projects operate with a development scope. While its focus is on sustainable development and not rural development, the case studies this publication presents highlights how development work can be done with PPPs and the nature of these projects can be found in every country, especially those engaged in rural development.

International Monetary Fund Public Financial Management Blog. (2008). *A primer on Public-Private Partnerships*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from <http://blog-pfm.imf.org/pfmblog/2008/02/a-primer-on-pub.html>

Managed by the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund, the Public Financial Manage Blog seeks to assist Member States in budget preparation, financial controls, fiscal reporting, audits, and debt management. The blog is authored by IMF staff but, unlike official publications, does not represent the IMF in any official capacity. In addition to providing background information on PPPs, this blog post also analyzes PPPs from a fiscal perspective; it is intended for government officials or those with a sound understanding of government budgetary processes.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2003). *Ministerial declaration Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/declarations/ministerial_declaration-2003.pdf

2003 was a significant year for PPPs and development as the UN had, on several occasions, affirmed its commitment to a holistic approach to development work. This ministerial declaration is one of two cornerstone documents that initiated the UN's interests in PPPs. In this declaration, Member States of the Economic and Social Council vowed to uphold the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, to liberalize trade to promote commerce in developing countries, and to encourage developed countries to adopt measures that create an enabling environment in which developing countries may successfully implement plans for rural development.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2003). *Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/2003/51)*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from [http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance/documents/website/E-2003-51\(eng\).pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance/documents/website/E-2003-51(eng).pdf)

This Report, in conjunction with the Ministerial Declaration, created the impetus for the UN to establish the UNPPA and to advocate for PPPs as a viable strategy for rural development. Having an integrated approach to rural development requires not simply improvements in economic and social indicators, but also a comprehensive strategy that involves governments, the private sector, and residents. Private sector involvement is of particular importance as it can bring efficiencies and capital to rural development projects that the government or a development agency to which would not have access.

United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development. (2004). *Implementation of UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development: Progress in Partnerships*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance/implementation.htm>

The UN established the UNPPA shortly after it and its Member States affirmed that private sector involvement in rural development is instrumental. The UNPPA acts as an interlocutor between governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations doing development work abroad. The site summarizes the development in the UN that led to the creation of the UNPPA and discusses the progresses made in the two pilot development projects in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic.

World Bank International Finance Corporation. (2010). *Improving Rural Water Service in Rwanda with Public-Private Partnerships*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from http://smartlessons.ifc.org/uploads/smartlessons/20110124T165018_Water%20-%20PPPs%20in%20RWS-Rwanda_FINAL.pdf

SmartLessons is a repository of lessons learned on development projects collected by the International Finance Corporation. These lessons learned are not written by the institution but rather by development practitioners who offer first-hand accounts of the best practices they have encountered. In this particular report, the practitioners reflect on Rwanda's successes with its rural water supply systems renewal.

World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center. *About PPPIRC*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from <http://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/about-pppirc>

The World Bank runs a comprehensive resource center for governments and the private sector interested in utilizing the PPP process for infrastructure projects. While this Web site is not tailored to PPPs and rural development, its resources are nonetheless applicable for developing countries. The PPPIRC is jointly operated by three directorates of the World Bank and approaches PPPs from a legal framework. In addition to legal resources, it also discusses the progresses of numerous PPPs in various sectors.

World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center. *About Public-Private Partnerships*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from <http://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/overview>

This Web site offers further discussion on PPPs but unlike other overview sources, its discussion are more focused on the legal enabling environment and contracting practices in establishing a PPP with the private sector. Country-specific resources are also available; the page “PPP Unites Around the World” could be particularly useful for delegates as it provides links to the government agencies around the world who have mandates to oversee PPP projects within their jurisdictions.

World Bank PPP in Infrastructure Resource Center. *Government Objectives: Benefits and Risks of PPPs*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from <http://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/overview/ppp-objectives>

This Web site highlights the benefits and risks of PPPs. The benefits, as mentioned in the background guide and in this source, became evident during the 2008-11 global financial crisis; as countries around the world sought to improve their infrastructure as a means of economic recovery, the private sector became a very attractive partner in public works projects. In a rural development context, PPPs can create local capacity and improve the socioeconomic standards of the residents the project serves.

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program. (2011). *Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rwanda's Rural Water Supply: Lessons Learned*. Retrieved on July 27, 2012 from http://water.worldbank.org/sites/water.worldbank.org/files/publication/WSP_Rwanda-PPP-Short-Paper-RWSN_FINAL.pdf

This paper was published at the 6th Rural Water Supply Network Forum held in Uganda and was presented by World Bank officials to follow up on the organizations' 2004 field report on Rwanda's rural water supply systems. While much of the information here is parallel with the article by InfoSources, this paper provides further context and data which solidify the claim that the Rwanda experience was a success. This paper also offers more recommendations on achieving policy coherence and goal convergence between the public and private sectors.

II. Gender and Rural Development

Bachelet, Michelle. (2012). *A Comprehensive Response to Rural Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment*. Speech delivered by UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet's at CSW Side Event on 'Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women', co-organized by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP, Tuesday 28 February 2012. Retrieved September 2, 2012, from <http://www.unwomen.org/2012/02/womens-leadership-and-participation-is-essential-in-shaping-responses-to-development-challenges-and-recent-global-crises/>.

Michelle Bachelet is Executive Director of UN Women, the UN body in charge of women affairs, since September 2010; previously she was President of Chile. With this speech she addressed a special side event of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the empowerment of rural women. Ms. Bachelet is regarded as a devoted feminist and known for arguing that women's empowerment makes economic sense, too.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2011). *Women in Agriculture. Closing the gender gap for development*. The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11. Retrieved September 4, 2012, from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>.

The State of Food and Agriculture is the major annual flagship publication of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The 2010-11 issue analyses the role of women in agricultural and rural development, highlighting their persistent disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities. The report argues that gender equality is crucial for the advancement of agricultural development and food security. Delegates are encouraged to peruse this timely and comprehensive publication for their further research.

Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved September 2, 2012, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, sets as goals gender equality, development, peace, and the empowerment of all women. It is one of the most fundamental international documents for gender-specific policies and goals. Delegates are advised

to refer to it for their research and for formulating their Member State's positions, as its main objectives serve as the foundation for the topic at hand.

Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women. (2012). *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*.

Retrieved September 3, 2012, from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/an479e/an479e.pdf>.

This fact sheet is a product of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, which is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP), and has several more major international agencies and bodies as members. Readers can find a concise overview over rural women's advances towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Especially useful are the sources and references used by the authors, as they provide a good starting point for further research.

Münkner, Hans-H. (2012). *Co-operation as a Remedy in Times of Crisis. Agricultural Co-operatives in the World; Their Roles for Rural Development and Poverty Reduction*. Marburg Studies on Cooperation and Cooperatives (58). Marburg: Institut für Genossenschaftswesen an der Philipps-Universität Marburg.

This study by Hans-H. Münkner, Professor at the University of Marburg, deals with the opportunities of agricultural cooperatives for rural development and poverty reduction. Since 2012 is the International Year of Co-operatives, this source has been included in the bibliography. Delegates can find scientific background on the potential of agricultural co-operatives and ways to combine economic viability and social responsibility.

United Nations. (2012). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*. Retrieved September 13, 2012, from

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>.

The annual Millennium Development Goals report is a compilation of the most comprehensive international assessment of the progress towards these goals. Most UN agencies and bodies devoted to development policy make contributions to it, and it receives great attention throughout the world. Delegates are encouraged to use it as reference and starting point for further research.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. (2012). *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges. Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2012/3)*. Retrieved September 2, 2012, from

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2012/3.

The UN Secretary-General presented this report to the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It provides an overview of gender and rural development, examines the global context, and gives concrete policy recommendations for advancing rural women's and girls' empowerment. Delegates will find a plethora of useful information and references to other sources in this document.

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (2008). *Who Answers to Women? Gender & Accountability*.

Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009. Retrieved September 4, 2012, from

http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/media/POWW08_Report_Full_Text.pdf.

Before being incorporated into UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in 2010, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), was in charge of producing the major biennial flagship publication "Progress of the World's Women". The 2008/2009 issue concentrates on the persisting lack of accountability to women and on ways to realize gender-responsive accountability. Researchers of international gender policies should not miss using this and other issues of the series.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All*. Human Development Report 2011. Retrieved September 3, 2012, from

http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_EN_Complete.pdf.

The Human Development Report is regarded as one of two essential annual publications on international development (next to the World Bank's World Development Report). It is produced by the UN Development Programme, a key partner for the international development policy system. Delegates find a comprehensive assessment of people-centered development indicators that evaluates regions' and countries' progress in development.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2011). *Adult and Youth Literacy*. UNESCO Institute for Statistics Fact Sheet (16). Retrieved September 3, 2012, from http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/pdf/FS16-2011-Literacy-EN_01.pdf. UNESCO, tasked with promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture, regularly publishes information on education and policy targets. This fact sheet presents its latest data on literacy, as of September 2011. Researchers will find a quick overview over global statistics on literacy, including sex-disaggregated data.

United Nations General Assembly. (2009). *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. Report of the Secretary-General; Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance (A/64/93)*. Retrieved September 12, 2012, from <http://undocs.org/A/64/93>. This document is the formal version of the 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, produced by the UN Secretary-General and presented to the General Assembly. It examines women's access to economic and financial resources in a broad sense and shows that progress on gender equality has been slow and uneven across regions and countries. The overall message of the survey is that women's economic empowerment is essential to fight poverty, for economic growth and development, and for the welfare of families and communities.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. (2006). *Land Tenure Reform and Gender Equality*. UNRISD Research and Policy Brief (4). Retrieved September 4, 2012, from [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=64FF792CAE6DF527C1257108003F59AA&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpAuxPages%29/64FF792CAE6DF527C1257108003F59AA/\\$file/RPB4e.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=64FF792CAE6DF527C1257108003F59AA&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpAuxPages%29/64FF792CAE6DF527C1257108003F59AA/$file/RPB4e.pdf). The UN Research Institute for Social Development regularly publishes scientific studies on the social dimension of contemporary development issues. This 2006 research and policy brief presents a concise study of agrarian reforms in the 20th and 21st centuries. It finds that women's rights were at first mostly ignored, before only slowly gaining in importance.

World Bank. (2011). *Gender Equality and Development. World Development Report 2012*. Retrieved September 4, 2012, from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2012/Resources/7778105-1299699968583/7786210-1315936222006/Complete-Report.pdf>. The World Development Report is, along with UNDP's Human Development Report, the essential annual publication on the status of international development. First published in 1978, each issue of the report concentrates on an overarching development theme. The 2011 issue is most recommendable to delegates, as it addresses the topic of women's roles in development in a comprehensive and timely manner.