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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PLENARY
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

Written By: Sarah Tulley, Director



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Message from the Deputy Secretary-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN•Korea Conference

At the 2013 NMUN•Korea Conference, each delegation or individual delegate submits one position paper for each committee assignment. The position paper reflects the state's overall policy and position within a particular committee. Therefore, the role that a state plays in a given committee should inform the writing of the paper.

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

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

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

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5 x 11 inches - US letter size).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 centimeters, for the whole paper.
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.
- Country name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections.
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 November 2013. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Cuba_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Deputy Secretary-General at dsg.korea@nmun.org.
2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed below. Please note, the email addresses will be active on 1 August.

Committee	Email Address (after 1 August)
General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen)	ga.korea@nmun.org
Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC Plen)	ecosoc.korea@nmun.org
Security Council (SC)	sc.korea@nmun.org
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change CoP (UNFCCC)	unfccc.korea@nmun.org

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

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents.
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints.
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations.
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide.
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate.

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

Sincerely,

Hannah Birkenkötter
Deputy Secretary-General
NMUN•Korea

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 the General Assembly Plenary

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

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

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

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through the Canadian Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. Canada views the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations under Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. Canada emphasizes the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight

Declaration on Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. Canada calls upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to the Canadian \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages states to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies and calls upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges states to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into state-specific strategies called for in the General Assembly Second Committee's report to the General Assembly Plenary on Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/62/419/Add.9) will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

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

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African states to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. Canada recommends Member States to cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/228, Canada believes developed states must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. Canada urges Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medication by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. Canada emphasizes the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2013 National Model United Nations held in the Republic of Korea (NMUN•Korea). Your director for the ECOSOC committee will be Sarah Tulley. We look forward to working with you during the week to ensure you have a fruitful educational experience in our committee, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Sarah studied Political Science and International Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, graduating in 2005. She currently works for Grantmakers In Health, a membership organization in Washington, D.C. that is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of organizations working in health philanthropy. She has been involved in NMUN for thirteen years, serving first as a delegate and then as a staff member in a variety of positions at a number of different NMUN conferences, including as Director-General of NMUN•New York in 2009.

This year's topics under discussion for ECOSOC are:

1. Mainstreaming Disability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
2. Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council is one of the primary organs of the United Nations and is dedicated to promoting economic and social development throughout the globe. As one of the primary organs, ECOSOC plays a leading role in a wide variety of issues that are of importance to all Member States and it is our hope that through the simulation you will be able to gain a greater understanding of the importance of ECOSOC and the work that it undertakes.

This background guide will help you gain a basic understanding of the committee and the topics that will be discussed throughout the week at the conference. It should be used as a starting point for your research, not your sole point of reference for the topics. We highly encourage you to move beyond the ideas discussed in the guide and further deepen your knowledge on the topics, especially regarding the positions of the Member State or organization that you will represent. The bibliography provides an excellent start for research. However, there exist a wide range of sources from the UN, scholarly journals, NGOs and other organizations that will help expand your research on the topics and we encourage you to use these sources to further develop your ideas and positions around the topic.

All delegations must submit a position paper. Specifications for position papers can be found on the NMUN•Korea website. Please take note of the NMUN plagiarism policy, which is available in this background guide and in the delegate preparation guide. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions regarding preparation, please feel free to contact your Director or the Deputy Secretary-General Hannah Birkenkötter. We wish you luck with your preparations for the conference and look forward to seeing you in Seoul in November!

Sarah Tulley
ECOSOC Director

Committee History

Introduction

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN). Within the UN system, ECOSOC is the principle organ dedicated to addressing economic, social, and cultural issues. Two chapters of the *UN Charter* relate to the work of ECOSOC: Chapter IX (articles 55-60), which details the work of the UN in promoting economic and social cooperation; and Chapter X (articles 61-72), which defines the composition, functions, powers, and voting procedure of ECOSOC.¹

Mandate

Composition

Initially, ECOSOC was composed of 18 Member States; however membership was increased twice by the General Assembly: First, in 1965 to 27 members, and again in 1971 to 54 Member States, a number that has since remained constant.² The 54 members of the Council are elected by the General Assembly, with 18 new members being elected each year, for overlapping three-year terms, and are allocated based on geographical representation.³ The current membership is divided up thusly: 14 are allocated to African States, 11 to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean States, and 13 to Western European and other States.⁴

Functioning

According to article 62, Chapter X of the *Charter*, ECOSOC “may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned.”⁵ Other responsibilities that fall to ECOSOC include “[making] recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights... prepar[ing] draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly... and entering into agreements with specialized agencies and mak[ing] arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organisations.”⁶

Up until 1992, ECOSOC would meet biannually to discuss the work of the Council. Since 1992, however, the Council has held one, substantive, four-week session in July, taking place alternately in Geneva and New York.⁷ This substantive session is divided into five segments: The High-level Segment; Coordination Segment; Operational Activities Segment; Humanitarian Affairs Segment; and the General Segment.⁸ At the beginning of each session, a Bureau, which is charged with proposing the agenda, drawing up a programme of work and organizing the session, is elected by the Council.⁹ The Bureau consists of a President and four Vice-Presidents.¹⁰ The current President of ECOSOC is Néstor Osorio of Colombia. For the purposes of the NMUN-Korea, ECOSOC Plenary serves as an amalgamation of the High-Level Segment and the General Segment.

One topic that is continually discussed within the international community is how ECOSOC can be strengthened to better address current development issues. In the 2005 *World Summit Outcome*, Member States mandated ECOSOC to implement two additional formats: 1) The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), and 2) The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).¹¹ The AMR and DCF function differently than other ECOSOC formats. The AMR is the only UN intergovernmental platform with multi-stakeholder involvement, with broad-based participation from civil society, the private sector and academia.¹² The functions and purposes of both were expanded upon in General

¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2012-2013*, 2012, p. 129.

² New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2012-2013*, 2012, p. 129.

³ UN Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*.

⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Members*.

⁵ UN General Assembly, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article 62.

⁶ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *United Nations Handbook 2012-2013*, 2012, p. 129.

⁷ UN Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*.

⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Substantive Sessions*.

⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Bureau*.

¹⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC Bureau*.

¹¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *New Functions of ECOSOC*.

¹² UN Economic and Social Council, *AMR FAQs*.

Assembly resolution 61/16, *Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council*.¹³ The General Assembly made the AMR process part of the High-Level Segment and it was tasked with reviewing the progress made in the implementation of major UN conferences and summits, and assessing ECOSOC's impact on the achievement of the goals of the various conferences and summits.¹⁴

The DCF is nominally charged with working to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed upon development goals (IADGs), such as those outlined in the Monterrey Consensus, as well as the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁵ The DCF undertakes its work in three main ways: 1) reviewing trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing; 2) promoting greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners; and 3) strengthening the normative and operational link in the work of the United Nations.¹⁶

While ECOSOC is the main organ within the United Nations dedicated to economic and social issues, the General Assembly also addresses these issues as part of its agenda. Many issues that are discussed within ECOSOC, especially the follow-up processes to major world summits, are also debated in the General Assembly. For example, this year's ECOSOC High-Level Segment is focused on "Science, technology and innovation".¹⁷ This topic is also a recurring topic on the General Assembly Second Committee's agenda, under the heading of "science and technology for development."¹⁸

Commissions, Specialized Agencies, and Other Organizations

Within the structure of ECOSOC, there are a number of different commissions that work to promote economic and social development and who report to or work with ECOSOC. There are two types of commissions that fall under the auspices of ECOSOC: functional commissions and regional commissions.¹⁹ Functional commissions address specific topics or issues, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) or the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, while the regional commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa or the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, address a myriad of issues relating to a particular region.²⁰ Several functional commissions are tasked with following up major international summits, for example the CSW and the Commission on Social Development.

Articles 57 and 63 of the *Charter* outline the role that Specialized Agencies have within the UN system and with ECOSOC.²¹ Specialized Agencies, such as the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, are intergovernmental organizations independent of the UN and with distinct membership that have entered into a special arrangement with ECOSOC. Specialized Agencies assist in the promotion of economic and social development throughout the globe and their work usually focuses on a broad issue or issues.²² Thus, Specialized Agencies, while independent organizations, are part of the wider "UN System" and there is strong institutional linkage between them and the UN.

Along with the commissions and Specialized Agencies, ECOSOC also serves as the entry point for Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). By gaining consultative status with ECOSOC, NGOs gain access not only to ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly.²³ There are currently 3,735 NGOs who have attained consultative status with ECOSOC.²⁴

¹³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Annual Ministerial Review Mandate*.

¹⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *Annual Ministerial Review Mandate*.

¹⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *Mandate of the Development Cooperation Forum*.

¹⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Mandate of the Development Cooperation Forum*.

¹⁷ UN Economic and Social Council, *2013 High-Level Segment Draft Programme*.

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Second Committee List of Agenda Items and their Periodicity*.

¹⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.

²⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC*.

²¹ UN General Assembly, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Article 62.

²² United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *Agreements Between Specialized Agencies and the United Nations*.

²³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Branch, *Basic Facts About ECOSOC Status*.

²⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Branch, *Basic Facts About ECOSOC Status*.

Conclusion

Within the UN system, ECOSOC plays a vital role. ECOSOC is responsible for roughly 70% of human and financial resources—highlighting the vast importance of the body.²⁵ In the coming years, ECOSOC will play a major role in shaping the post-2015 development agenda. This work will build on the work of the Council in reviewing the MDGs through the AMR, as well as its contributions to the UN development agenda in general. The DCF is initiating a dialogue “on the possible features of a renewed global partnership for development in the post-2015 setting, and characteristics of a monitoring and accountability framework.”²⁶ This year’s High-Level Segment saw a thematic discussion on ECOSOC’s contribution to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development.²⁷ ECOSOC’s strengthening process and the Council’s role coming out of the Rio+20 Conference in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should further bolster the Council’s role in the post-2015 era.²⁸

Annotated Bibliography

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2012). *United Nations Handbook 2012-2013*. Wellington: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Manatu Aorere.

This handbook, published annually by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, provides an excellent overview of the UN System, outlining the essential functions of the myriad of bodies that exist within the system. A beginning point for any research that is conducted about the UN, the Handbook is an essential resource for students. It includes a Chapter on the background of ECOSOC, its functional and regional commissions and other bodies associated with ECOSOC.

United Nations. (1945, 26 June). *Charter of the United Nations*. Retrieved on June 16, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>.

The Charter of the United Nations is the fundamental building block for the United Nations, laying out the duties and responsibilities of each organ of the UN, including ECOSOC. Chapter X of the Charter outlines the responsibilities of ECOSOC and as the UN has grown in membership and responsibilities, so has ECOSOC. Delegates should be familiar with the provisions of Chapter X in order to make full use of ECOSOC’s mandate in shaping innovative policies on the two topics under discussion.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (N.D.) *About ECOSOC*. Retrieved on June 16, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/>.

This section of the ECOSOC Web site provides links to all the relevant information about the body, including the current membership, hot topics up for debate by ECOSOC and subsidiary bodies. Understanding the basic functions of ECOSOC and how and what topics it can address are essential to delegates understanding their role in committee. Delegates should keep informed over the summer, as the Substantive Session is taking place in Geneva at this very moment.

²⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *About ECOSOC*.

²⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.

²⁷ UN Office at Geneva, *Economic and Social Council discusses its contribution to the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

²⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.

I. Mainstreaming Disability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Introduction

In the world today, there are an estimated one billion people, or roughly 15 % of the world's population, who live with some form of disability—making them the largest minority group in the world.²⁹ More importantly, 80 % of those one billion disabled persons live in developing countries.³⁰ Case studies in developing countries show that higher disability rates are associated with higher rates of illiteracy, poor nutritional status, lower immunization coverage, lower birth weight, higher rates of unemployment and underemployment, and lower occupational mobility.³¹ Of these one billion, it is estimated that between 110-190 million people have severe disabilities that impair their functioning on a daily level.³²

Overall, the number of people with disabilities is increasing and the international community, particularly the United Nations, has recognized the importance of addressing the multifaceted concerns that face people with disabilities, particularly within the development agendas that have formed much of the scope of UN development work through the years.

History of Disability Rights at the UN

Since its inception in 1945, the UN, particularly ECOSOC, has taken an active role in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. During its first decade, the UN was focused on the welfare of persons with disabilities, starting with the promotion of the rights of persons with physical disabilities; it focused primarily on disability prevention and rehabilitation.³³ However, beginning in the late 1950s, there was a shift in how the UN addressed disability issues, moving from a state welfare perspective to a social welfare perspective.³⁴ This shift moved the work of the UN away from its focus on prevention to de-institutionalization and “spurred a demand for fuller participation of persons with disabilities in an integrated society.”³⁵

In the 1970s, the UN saw another shift in how disabilities were viewed and treated—this time with a focus on the human rights of persons with disabilities.³⁶ The UN General Assembly adopted two important declarations: 1) the *Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons* of 20 December 1971, which offered a framework for protecting the rights of people with disabilities through both national and international action; and 2) the *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons*, adopted on 9 December 1975, which encouraged national and international protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.³⁷ In 1976, the General Assembly also declared the year 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYPD).³⁸

The major outcome of the IYPD was the *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons* (WPA), which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1982.³⁹ The WPA is a “global strategy to enhance disability prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities, which pertains to full participation of persons with disabilities in social life and national development. The WPA also emphasizes the need to approach disability from a human rights perspective.”⁴⁰ Following the adoption of the WPA, the General Assembly declared 1983-1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in order to enable governments to enact the provisions of the WPA.⁴¹

²⁹ World Health Organization, *World Report on Disability*, 2011, p. 261.

³⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda*, 2012, p. 1.

³¹ UN Enable, *Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda*.

³² World Health Organization, *World Report on Disability*, 2011, p. 261.

³³ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - The early years: 1945 – 1955*.

³⁴ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - The social welfare perspective: 1955 – 1970*.

³⁵ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - The social welfare perspective: 1955 – 1970*.

³⁶ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - A human rights approach: the 1970s*.

³⁷ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - A human rights approach: the 1970s*.

³⁸ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - A human rights approach: the 1970s*.

³⁹ UN Enable, *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons*.

⁴⁰ UN Enable, *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons*.

⁴¹ UN Enable, *United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons 1983-1992*.

During the 1990s, the UN General Assembly furthered its work on disabilities by adopting the *Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities*.⁴² The Rules consist of 22 rules summarizing the WPA and four chapters on various aspects of disability rights: preconditions for equal participation, target areas for equal participation, implementation measures, and the establishment of a monitoring mechanism.⁴³ The General Assembly also appointed a Special Rapporteur on Disability, who monitors the implementation of the Standard Rules and who reports yearly to the Commission on Social Development.⁴⁴

At the beginning of the new millennium, it was recognized that there was a need for a comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. In 2001, Mexico proposed the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee that would be tasked with drawing up such a convention.⁴⁵ The outcome of the committee was the adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)* and its *Optional Protocol* in 2006, the most important international conventions to date related to the rights of people with disabilities.⁴⁶

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

The adoption of the CRPD was a culmination of the decades of work that the UN had undertaken in relation to the rights of the disabled. The CRPD was opened for signature on March 30, 2007, and on its first day, there were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention—the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day.⁴⁷

Monitoring and coordination of the principles of the CRPD fall to two main entities. The first, the Secretariat of the CRPD, serves as the main focal point within the UN system on issues related to disabilities and is charged with advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in society and development, through the three key global instruments: the CRPD, the Standard Rules, and the World Programme of Action.⁴⁸ The second is the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is comprised of over 25 UN agencies, funds, and programmes and is tasked with promoting compliance with the principles of the CRPD among the various bodies who work on disability issues as well as increasing the scale and effectiveness of the United Nations' involvement in disability issues on the ground.⁴⁹

The CRPD touches on a wide number of issues relating to the rights of the disabled. However, there are eight guiding principles that form the basis of the CRPD: Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons; Non-discrimination; Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; Equality of opportunity; Accessibility; Equality between men and women; Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.⁵⁰ The CRPD serves as the basis of action for much of the work that the UN and its subsidiary bodies undertake with respect to disabilities to this day.

Integrating the Rights of Disabled Persons into the Development Agenda

The CRPD, while serving as a human rights treaty, is also an important instrument for promoting development throughout the globe.⁵¹ As the largest share of people living with disabilities live in the developing world, mainstreaming disability into wider development agendas needs to become a priority. Research has shown that the most important issue for people living with disabilities is not the disability itself but rather poverty resulting from

⁴² UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - The decade of the nineties*.

⁴³ UN Enable, *Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities*.

⁴⁴ UN Enable, *Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development*.

⁴⁵ UN Enable, *History of United Nations and Persons with Disabilities - The first millennium decade*.

⁴⁶ UN Enable, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

⁴⁷ UN Enable, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

⁴⁸ UN Enable, *United Nations Enable*.

⁴⁹ UN Enable, *Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

⁵⁰ UN Enable, *Guiding Principles of the Convention*

⁵¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda*, 2010, p. 1.

their disability.⁵² The poverty that people with disabilities face can be attributed “direct[ly] and indirect[ly] to exclusion and marginalization due to stigma and prejudice about disability.”⁵³ Stigma and prejudice often lead to social marginalization and exclusion, which in turn leads to a lack of equal access to educational, employment and social support mechanisms.⁵⁴ It is therefore important that disability policies are mainstreamed into development policies to ensure that the needs of disabled persons are recognized and addressed.

The Millennium Development Goals

The adoption of the *Millennium Declaration* and the subsequent Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 set ambitious targets for the international community in relation to development. However, neither the Declaration and the MDGs nor its 21 Targets or 60 Indicators specifically mention people living with disabilities.⁵⁵ The lack of specific targets in the MDGs for the disabled “represents a lost opportunity to address the pressing social, educational, health and economic concerns of millions of the world’s most marginalized citizens.”⁵⁶ However, since the adoption of the *Millennium Declaration*, there have been more concerted efforts by the UN and the international community to address the specific concerns faced by the disabled in the framework of development agendas. In 2010, the General Assembly recognized “that policies and actions must focus on the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, so that they may benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”⁵⁷ The same resolution further linked disability to the issues of full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as to equitable access to economic opportunities and social services.⁵⁸ Without the inclusion of policies that specifically target the disabled it will not be possible to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The post-2015 Disability Agenda

With the MDGs drawing to an end in 2015, there is a renewed opportunity for the international community to place a specific emphasis on issues faced by the disabled. It has been recognized that the UN has a unique opportunity to build a development agenda that both includes a disability lens and is also equitable and socially inclusive of persons with disabilities.⁵⁹ One essential aspect of this is to include persons with disabilities in the ongoing UN processes as a means to reinforce the disability perspective in the discussions.⁶⁰

There are already a number of different methods by which the UN and the international community are working to mainstream disability policies into the new development agenda. In 2011, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting to be held on September 23, 2013, on the theme of “The way forward: a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.”⁶¹ The high-level meeting will be comprised of a plenary session and two interactive roundtables and participation will come from all sectors: Member States, observers, representatives of entities of the UN system, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private

⁵² UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability Issues in Millennium Development Goal Efforts*, 2011, p. 7.

⁵³ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability Issues in Millennium Development Goal Efforts*, 2011, p. 7.

⁵⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability Issues in Millennium Development Goal Efforts*, 2011, p. 7.

⁵⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability Issues in Millennium Development Goal Efforts*, 2011, p. vii.

⁵⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability Issues in Millennium Development Goal Efforts*, 2011, p. 1.

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, para. 28.

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010.

⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 13.

⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 13.

⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 6.

sector.⁶² In addition, the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda recently issued a report, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, in which it recognized that “no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities”, which is just one of many references to people with disabilities in the entire report.⁶³

In his report, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond*, the UN Secretary-General discussed a number of challenges faced in including disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda.⁶⁴ One hindrance that is widely recognized is the lack of domestic policy and legislative frameworks, particularly in states that have not yet ratified the CRPD or have not harmonized domestic laws and policies with those of the CRPD.⁶⁵ Another challenge faced by all stakeholders is the need for greater capacity “to overcome the gaps frequently encountered in knowledge and understanding about the situation of persons with disabilities in society and development.”⁶⁶

The Secretary-General, also in his report, highlighted a number of priority areas for a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda. Some of the most important areas of concern include: “Accessibility to the physical environment, to transportation, information and communications; the need for capacity-building on disability issues at all levels and empowerment of civil society organizations; and the need for an enhanced human rights-based approach to development that address[es] both the causes and effects of poverty and inequality.”⁶⁷ Additional priority areas include, among others, the need for collection and dissemination of reliable data on disabled persons, the promotion of early education for children with disabilities, and the need for greater collaboration with the private sector to enhance work and employment opportunities for disabled persons.⁶⁸

Conclusion

The mainstreaming of disabilities with the post-2015 development agenda is an essential aspect in achieving greater development for all people throughout the globe. While there are still steps that can be taken within the MDG framework to promote development for people with disabilities, much is already being done by the international community to move beyond the MDGs into the next phase of development policies. Of primary importance is the need to ensure that the disabled are included within all development policies as the challenges and situations they face are unique. The ECOSOC Plenary is at the heart of shaping this new post-2015 development agenda. This includes a responsibility to include the rights of persons with disabilities into the agenda and to mainstream disability issues into the development agenda.

As the Member States move forward, there are a number of important aspects to consider. How can disability policies be better integrated into development policies, particularly in the post-2015 development agenda? What role do civil society and the private sector play in promoting the rights of the disabled? How can disability rights organizations and people with disabilities have their voices heard at a local, national and international level? What

⁶² Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development, *High-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development*.

⁶³ High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 1.

⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 6.

⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 12.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 12.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 13.

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond--Report of the Secretary-General*, 2012, p. 13.

steps must the UN take to further the inclusion of disability rights in the development agenda? What role must states play in implementing and promoting the rights of the disabled?

Annotated Bibliography

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (30 May 2013). *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*. Retrieved June 24, 2013 from: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>.

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons was created by the Secretary-General to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015. The panel is comprised of members of civil society, private sector, and government. This report represents the culmination of their work so far and contains the key recommendations that they believe should shape the development agenda in a post-2015 world. As the document that will likely shape discussion on the post-2015 agenda moving forward, it is important to understand what types of policies are being discussed and how a disability lens can and should be considered.

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011). Disability and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review of the MDG Process and Strategies for Inclusion of Disability UN Economic and Social Council, Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda. Retrieved June 24, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/review_of_disability_and_the_mdgs.pdf.

The lack of specific mentions of people living with disabilities within the MDGs continues to be a concern to disability advocates across the globe. This report provides an excellent overview of how disabilities can still be integrated within the MDGs as well as strategies for integrating disabilities into the post-2015 development agenda. As a comprehensive review of the MDGs and disabilities, this report is an essential aspect of research on the topic at hand.

United Nations. (2006). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Retrieved June 24, 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=14&pid=150>.

As one of the central international documents on the rights of the disabled, knowledge of all the principles of the CRPD is essential. The convention forms the cornerstone for much of the work that is undertaken both by the UN and by national governments. It contains a wide range of obligations that national governments should implement as a means to ensuring the rights of the disabled are met in all facets of life. The convention is legally binding upon all states that have ratified it. Delegates should be aware of whether or not their state has signed and ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

United Nations General Assembly. (30 July 2012). Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, Report of the Secretary-General. Retrieved June 24, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/gadocs/a_67_211.doc.

This report by the Secretary-General is an excellent resource on how the rights of the disabled can and should be incorporated into the MDGs and other development goals set by the international community. The lack of inclusion of the disabled in the MDGs was a step back for the promotion of the rights of the disabled and the UN has been working to amend this by including the rights of the disabled specifically in various discussions and reviews of the MDGs, as well as in the discussions on the post-2015 agenda. The report also serves as a basis for discussion at the High-Level Meeting on disability and development in September 2013.

World Health Organization. (2011). *World Report on Disability*. Retrieved June 24, 2013 from: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html.

The World Disability Report is the first report since the adoption of the CRPD to provide a comprehensive overview of the status of the disabled throughout the globe. It provides an extensive global picture of the situation of people with disabilities, their needs, and the barriers they face to participating fully in their societies. As such, it is an excellent starting point for research on the issues that the disabled throughout the globe face.

II. Science and Technology for Development

Introduction

Science and technology can play a vital role in the promotion of development throughout the globe and can help facilitate efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, and improve productivity and competitiveness.⁶⁹ ECOSOC, recognizing the importance of this topic, is organizing the work of its 2013 Annual Ministerial Review around the topic of “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”⁷⁰ This is only one of the many efforts within the UN system that are currently undertaken to give science and technology a more prominent role. The topic has its followers in the highest ranks of UN Secretariat Staff: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has taken an active role in promoting greater use of information and communication technologies in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations and has stated that “[w]e already do a great deal, but we know we can do more... much more.”⁷¹

The importance of science and technology for the international development agenda

The integration of science and technology into development policies and programs has long been a priority for the United Nations. *Agenda 21*, a comprehensive plan of action agreed upon at the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, provides numerous recommendations for governments on a variety of topics, including: environmentally sound technology management of biotechnology (Chapter 16); the role of the scientific and technological community (Chapter 31); the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, and capacity-building (Chapter 34); and how science can be used for sustainable development (Chapter 35).⁷² At the 2002 follow-up summit to UNCED in Johannesburg, Member States adopted the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, which further extrapolates on the issues raised above, putting a particular emphasis on how technologies can be used to further development.⁷³

The achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) relies heavily on the use of science and technology. When used appropriately, science and technology can help to combat poverty through job creation and enhanced market efficiency.⁷⁴ Access and application of science and technology in agriculture can lead to higher crop yields, more efficient irrigation, and better management of soil.⁷⁵ Furthermore, science and technology play a huge role in achieving MDGs 4, 5, and 6 on child and maternal health and major diseases and are an essential aspect of improving health across the globe.⁷⁶ The MDGs reflect the importance of science and technology: Target 8F, which is part of MDG 8 (“Develop a global partnership for development”), specifically states that there is need to “make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.”⁷⁷ Science and technology will continue to play an essential role in the post-2015 development agenda. The *Bali Communiqué* of the Meeting of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda puts a particular emphasis on the use of data exchange and using the full array of technical means to implement development agenda targets.⁷⁸

The major international conference that addressed the role of science and technology in development was the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Held in two parts, the first in Geneva in 2003 and the second in Tunis

⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Science and Technology for Development*, 2012, p. 1.

⁷⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Science, Technology and Innovation*.

⁷¹ UN News Centre, *Information technology plays critical role in achieving UN objectives, says Ban*, 2011.

⁷² United Nations Environment Programme, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

⁷³ World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 1992.

⁷⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration*, 2004, p. 3.

⁷⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration*, 2004, p. 3.

⁷⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration*, 2004, p. 3.

⁷⁷ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals – Goal 8*, 2013.

⁷⁸ High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Bali Communiqué*, 2013.

in 2005, the WSIS addressed a myriad of issues relating particularly to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and development, including how countries can best address the digital divide.⁷⁹ The *Geneva Plan of Action* lays out a number of action lines on a variety of issues including: the role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; capacity building; access to information and knowledge; and the role of ICTs in all aspects of life, such as E-health, E-learning, and E-business.⁸⁰ As a follow-up to the commitments in the *Geneva Plan of Action*, the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society* further develops recommendations and actions to be taken by various stakeholders, placing a particular emphasis on the financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICTs for development and Internet governance.⁸¹ 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the WSIS, whose follow-up will continue on through 2015 and beyond.⁸²

Science and technology for development within ECOSOC and the UN System

Within the UN System in general and ECOSOC in particular, there are a number of subsidiary bodies that play an essential role in promoting science and technology throughout the globe.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a functional commission of ECOSOC established in 1993, provides the General Assembly and ECOSOC with advice, analysis, and policy recommendations on issues relating to science and technology for development in order to enable these organizations to guide the future work of the United Nations, develop common policies, and agree on appropriate actions.⁸³ CSTD undertakes this work by serving as a discussion forum for: the examination of science and technology questions and their implications for development; the advancement of understanding on science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries and; the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system.⁸⁴

Following the conclusion of the WSIS in 2005, CSTD was further mandated by ECOSOC to “serve as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS and advise the Council thereon, including through the elaboration of recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes.”⁸⁵ CSTD meets on an annual basis, with the meetings focused on a central theme or themes. The most recent meeting, held from 3-7 of June, 2013 in Geneva, had two main themes it discussed: science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities; and internet broadband for an inclusive digital society.⁸⁶

The CSTD has a unique organizational relationship relative to the other functional commissions of ECOSOC. While it serves as a commission of ECOSOC, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) administers the day-to-day operations of CSTD.⁸⁷

Regional Commissions

Along with CSTD, the regional commissions within ECOSOC also play an active role in promoting science and technology as a method of promoting development. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has established an Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) to help further the regional and national efforts around ICTs.⁸⁸ At the national level, the ICTD aims to further the capacity of Member States to utilize ICTs effectively for development.⁸⁹ On a regional level, the ICTD promotes cooperation and coordination between various parties working on ICT development activities in the region, as well as working to

⁷⁹ World Summit on the Information Society, *Basic Information: About WSIS*.

⁸⁰ World Summit on the Information Society, *Geneva Plan of Action*, 2003.

⁸¹ World Summit on the Information Society, *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, 2005.

⁸² World Summit on the Information Society+10: WSIS Review Process, *2013 Events and Outcomes*.

⁸³ Commission on Science and Technology for Development, *Mandate and Institutional Background*.

⁸⁴ Commission on Science and Technology for Development, *Mandate and Institutional Background*.

⁸⁵ Commission on Science and Technology for Development, *Mandate and Institutional Background*.

⁸⁶ Commission on Science Technology for Development, *Commission on Science and Technology for Development, sixteenth session*.

⁸⁷ Commission on Science and Technology for Development, *Mandate and Institutional Background*.

⁸⁸ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Information and Communication Technology Division*.

⁸⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Information and Communication Technology Division*.

establish a sustainable ICT sector throughout the region.⁹⁰ In April 2013, ESCWA convened an Expert Group Meeting on the Role of ICT in Socio-Economic Development, focusing on the role of ICTs in areas such as governance, economic competitiveness, social relationships, and education.⁹¹

In the Asia and Pacific region, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through their Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), is working to promote the use of technology to aid development and further disaster risk reduction efforts.⁹² The ICT and Development Section of the IDD focuses its work around three main areas: economic connectivity, social connectivity, and the use of ICTs for Disaster Risk Reduction.⁹³ To further the use of ICTs for development in the Asia/Pacific region, ESCAP established in 2006 the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, whose mission is to strengthen the efforts of ESCAP's Member States to use ICT in their socio-economic development through human and institutional capacity building.⁹⁴

Technology and innovation has been a priority area for the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for a number of years. The work of the ECA on technology and innovation is largely driven by the principles of the African Information Society Initiative, an initiative launched in 1996 and that serves as a comprehensive ICT-for-Development framework for the continent.⁹⁵ ECA is focusing on helping African countries and regional economic communities in formulating, adopting, and implementing new technology and innovation policies as a means to improve the welfare of their citizens.⁹⁶ ECA has established the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST), which is tasked with “reviewing challenges and issues pertaining to the ICT, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Geo-Information as well as Libraries and Information Services sectors; formulate policies and strategies to address Africa’s development challenges; and determine priorities to be reflected in the work programme of the ICT, Science and Technology Division of ECA.”⁹⁷

Other Bodies and Organizations within the UN System

Along with the various commission of ECOSOC, there are a number of bodies within the UN system that address issues around science, technology, and development. UNCTAD has a particular focus on the role of technology and innovation in trade logistics and has established a Division on Technology and Logistics that “aims to enhance the economic development and competitiveness in developing countries through efficient trade logistics services and transit transport systems; science, technology and innovation, including increased access to and sustainable use of information and communication technologies; and training and capacity-building programmes for local institutions.”⁹⁸ UNCTAD’s work on science, technology, and innovation (STI) and ICTs is centered on the idea of increasing the development perspective to international discussions around STIs, as well as supporting consensus-building and capacity building for development policies.⁹⁹

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is a Specialized Agency of the UN that is focused on the use of ICTs throughout the globe.¹⁰⁰ The ITU is charged with promoting the use and development of ICTs, with one of their primary focuses being to improve the access of ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.¹⁰¹ ITU is an active participant in the promotion of MDG 8, Target F which calls for the international community to work with the private sector in order to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies.¹⁰² ITU is also an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for

⁹⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Information and Communication Technology Division*.

⁹¹ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *Expert Group Meeting on the Role of ICT in Socio-Economic Development*.

⁹² Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division*.

⁹³ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *ICT and Development Section*.

⁹⁴ Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, *About Us*.

⁹⁵ Economic Commission for Africa, *The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) A decade's perspective*.

⁹⁶ Economic Commission for Africa, *About Innovation & Technology*.

⁹⁷ Economic Commission for Africa, *What is Codist?*

⁹⁸ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Technology, Innovation, and Trade Logistics*.

⁹⁹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Science, Technology & Innovation and ICTs*.

¹⁰⁰ International Telecommunications Union, *About ITU*.

¹⁰¹ International Telecommunications Union, *About ITU*.

¹⁰² UN Statistics Division, *Official List of MDG Indicators*.

Development, which is a joint effort of 13 organizations to improve the availability and quality of ICT statistics as a means to enable countries to develop benchmarks and track progress on the use of ICTs as well as implementation of the WSIS targets.¹⁰³

Information and Communication Technologies and Development

As outlined in the *Geneva Plan of Action*, ICTs can play an important role in a myriad of issues linked to development, including health, environment, agriculture, education and learning, governance, and business.¹⁰⁴ In health, for example, ICTs can be used to link rural health clinics with specialist diagnostic centers both in the countryside and outside, leading to improvements in maternal and child health outcomes.¹⁰⁵ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been an active participant in supporting E-governance programs, providing assistance for over 222 projects that cover a wide range of services, including modernization of public institutions, using ICTs to enhance citizen access to public information and participation, and using ICTs to deliver public services more effectively.¹⁰⁶

One of the most important roles that ICTs have played in promoting development has been the increased dissemination of mobile technologies, particularly in developing and least developed countries. The latest estimates show that there are around 5.4 billion global mobile phone subscriptions, with over 483 million of those coming from low-income countries and 2.6 billion coming from lower-middle-income countries.¹⁰⁷ This increased dissemination has led to many positive developments. In Niger, for example, mobile technologies are enabling farmers to compare market prices from across the country, allowing them to reduce their cost of travel and increase their profits.¹⁰⁸ In Burkina Faso, UNDP, in partnership with the Government of Luxembourg, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Burkina Faso, the Shell Foundation, and Aarhus United, has worked to provide rural women farmers with 441 diesel-run generators, which are being used to power mills, alternators, and as battery chargers.¹⁰⁹ Access to this technology has enabled the women to increase revenues, by selling increased quantities of products such as rice, and allowed their daughters, who often are essential partners in household tasks, to have more time to attend school.¹¹⁰ In 14 villages in Eastern Burkina Faso where the generators have been installed, literacy rates have risen from 29 % to 39 %.¹¹¹

Mobile technology has also played a vital role in the aftermath of natural disasters. Following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, mobile phones played an essential role in recovery efforts. Text messaging was “used extensively by a variety of groups not only to deliver first-response emergency aid to people trapped in the rubble or with critical medical conditions but also to share information about shelter, food supplies and general sanitation advice.”¹¹² A variety of mobile tools have been utilized during disasters to address the needs of populations affected. In Haiti, FrontlineSMS used Facebook and Twitter to recruit Creole-speaking volunteers to sift through and prioritize text messages.¹¹³ Ushahidi, a crisis-mapping organization, utilized SMS technology to develop real-time information on where aid was still needed.¹¹⁴ While mobile technology penetration is not as high in developing countries, it has proven in countless instances to be an essential aspect of recovery from natural disasters and in promoting development, particularly in traditionally underserved areas.

Another crucial aspect of increasing access to mobile technology in the developing world is the development of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Public investment and public-private partnerships are becoming essential tools

¹⁰³ International Telecommunications Union, *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*.

¹⁰⁴ World Summit on the Information Society, *Geneva Plan of Action*, 2003.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Technology Fosters Development says UN Development Chief*, 2011.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Fast Facts: e-Governance and Access to Information*, 2011.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Mobile Technologies and Empowerment: Enhancing human development through participation and innovation*, 2012, p. 12.

¹⁰⁸ Eulich, *Developing countries lead the way in deploying mobile technology*, 2012.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Rural technology for development in Burkina Faso*, 2010.

¹¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Rural technology for development in Burkina Faso*, 2010.

¹¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Rural technology for development in Burkina Faso*, 2010.

¹¹² Bulkley, *Mobile Technology takes centre stage in disaster relief*, 2010.

¹¹³ Bulkley, *Mobile Technology takes centre stage in disaster relief*, 2010.

¹¹⁴ Ramirez, *‘Ushahidi’ Technology Saves Lives in Haiti and Chile*, 2010.

for extending connectivity, services and information for people living in the developing world.¹¹⁵ The development of PPPs enables governments and organizations to overcome some of the limitations currently faced in developing countries, particularly related to access and coverage. Given that 40 % of people in Least Developed Countries do not have mobile network coverage, public-private partnerships are necessary to extend coverage, particularly to rural areas, and to ensure not only connectivity but also access to services and information.¹¹⁶

Conclusion

The role of science and technology in development encompasses a wide range of topics and issues that are important to the international community as a whole and to developing countries in particular. Increasing usage of mobile technology has enabled citizens with greater access to information than ever before in human history. Mobile technology has shown to be an essential link in the promotion of development and in recovery from natural disasters. However, while mobile technology has spread rapidly throughout the globe, those in developing countries, particularly in rural areas, have yet to benefit as fully from the technology as others. The World Summit on the Information Society laid out a number of key priorities for the international community and while progress has been made in achieving these goals, there is still much work that needs to be done in order to fulfill the targets set in 2003 and 2005.

With this increased access to information and technology come a number of key questions. How can ever evolving technologies be best used to promote development? How can the wide range of actors, including the UN and its various organs, NGOs, national governments, and the private sector, work together to promote further dissemination of technologies for development? What role can technology play not only in rural areas of developing countries but how can they be utilized within urban communities as well? What types of follow-up steps are needed in order for the international community to meet the various goals laid out at the WSIS? How can efforts to use science and technology for development better be streamlined within the UN system and integrated into the post-2015 development agenda? As the main organ charged with development issues, ECOSOC is ideally placed to devise strategies in order to make science and technology a major factor in advancing development.

Annotated Bibliography

Commission on Science and Technology for Development. (N.D.). *Mandate and Institutional Background*. Retrieved June 20, 2013 from: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD/CSTD-Mandate.aspx>.

The CSTD is the main body within the UN system that is dedicated to promoting the issues around science and technology for development. It will be important for delegates to understand how the commission functions in relation to ECOSOC and UNCTAD and what types of work it can undertake in relation to the topic. Understanding the basic functions of the CSTD is important to understanding what type of actions can and cannot be taken on the topic.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Mobile Technologies and Empowerment: Enhancing human development through participation and innovation*. Retrieved June 20, 2013 from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Access%20to%20Information%20and%20E-governance/Mobile%20Technologies%20and%20Empowerment_EN.pdf.

A wide range of actors within the international community, including the UN, NGOs and the private sector have worked to develop mobile capacities in developing and least developed countries. These initiatives have focused on a wide range of issues, including agriculture, health and education, and have transformed the lives of people who have been given access to these technologies in both small and large ways. Increasing access to mobile technology has become an important priority within development strategies and these technologies will play an important role for the poor in developing countries moving forward. This document provides an excellent

¹¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Mobile Technologies and Empowerment: Enhancing human development through participation and innovation*, 2012, p. 8.

¹¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Mobile Technologies and Empowerment: Enhancing human development through participation and innovation*, 2012, p. 14.

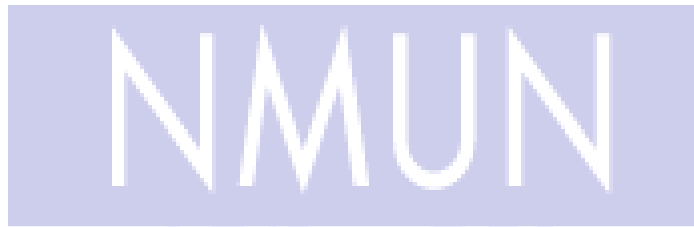
overview of a number of different programs that have been developed and are successfully improving the lives of people throughout the globe.

World Summit on the Information Society. (12 December 2003). *Geneva Plan of Action*. Retrieved June 20, 2013 from: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html>.

The World Summit on the Information Society produced two key outcomes of importance. The first is the Geneva Plan of Action (POA), which outlines a wide range of opportunities for better utilization of information and technology throughout the globe. The PoA highlights a number of areas within the development sphere where technology and information can play a leading role in advancing goals and ideas and should serve, along with the Tunis Agenda, as the main starting points for research on the topic. Both documents also contain the main commitments states have made in the field. Delegates should be familiar with the commitments contained in the PoA, and the steps their countries have undertaken in order to live up to these commitments.

World Summit on the Information Society. (18 November 2005). *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*. Retrieved June 20, 2013 from: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>.

The second major outcome of the WSIS is the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. Focusing more on financial mechanisms for the information society and internet governance, it lays out a number of key recommendations for the international community to strive to attain as a means to improving development prospects in developing countries. As one of the two major outcomes, this document helps form the backbone for much of the work that has been undertaken since 2005 in developing and enhancing the information society and is a crucial element for research.



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Rules of Procedure

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC Plen)

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the United Nations Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC Plen) (hereinafter referred to as “the Plenary”) and shall be considered adopted by the Plenary prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director and the Assistant Director are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Plenary, which can be any Member of the Secretariat or their designate.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

The Plenary shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - Place of sessions

The Plenary shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Deputy Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Plenary at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

The agenda provided by the Deputy Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Plenary not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night's meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Plenary may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Plenary so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Plenary decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a commission has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Deputy Secretary-General, or his or her designate, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Plenary to

be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Plenary.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Plenary and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Plenary, and shall distribute documents of the Plenary to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Plenary may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Plenary concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Plenary for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Plenary.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Plenary are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Plenary shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, members of the Plenary means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Plenary, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Plenary and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Plenary the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 – Authority of the Plenary

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Plenary.

Rule 17 – Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a majority of the members present and voting in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). There is no possibility to abstain on procedural votes.

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative may address the Plenary without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the President at his/her discretion. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not

be entertained by the President.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Plenary, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Plenary.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Plenary. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Plenary and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Plenary by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Plenary shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Plenary's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Plenary.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Plenary favors the closure of debate, the Plenary shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all

proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Plenary [sponsors]. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Plenary unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Plenary for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Plenary by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Plenary. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Plenary and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Plenary, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Plenary shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Plenary for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Plenary may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the

President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Plenary shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain on substantive votes.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Plenary shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass must, on the second time through, respond with either a yes or no vote. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Plenary votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Plenary shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication amongst delegates, and if any delegate leaves the committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Plenary has convened voting procedure.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Plenary decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE PLENARY

Rule 41 - Participation of non-Member States

The Plenary shall invite any State it wishes to hear to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A sub-committee or sessional body of the Plenary shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Plenary considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Plenary according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For

educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Plenary is no longer required.

Rule 42 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Plenary may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 43 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Plenary and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Plenary or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 44 - Participation of non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Plenary on the recommendation of the Secretariat, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Plenary on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.