



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

Written By: Sabrina Grover, Carrie Ann Starnes,  
Rafael Corral, Camille Ellison



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



[nmun.org](http://nmun.org)

17 - 21 March - Conference A  
24 - 28 March - Conference B

## POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

**Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2013**

### 1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed here. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st\_Cuba\_ConfA\_MarsCollege).

### 2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org or positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org. This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.  
*Note:* This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.
- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)
- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st\_Cuba\_Conf A\_Mars College).

### COMMITTEE

### EMAIL - CONFERENCE A

General Assembly First Committee .....	ga1.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee .....	ga2.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Fourth Committee .....	ga4.nya@nmun.org
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations .....	c34.nya@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary .....	ecosoc.nya@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women .....	csw.nya@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice .....	ccpcj.nya@nmun.org
Economic Commission for Africa .....	eca.nya@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia .....	escwa.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund .....	unicef.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Development Programme .....	undp.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Settlements Programme .....	unhabitat.nya@nmun.org
UN Conference on Trade and Development .....	unctad.nya@nmun.org
Human Rights Council .....	hrc.nya@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund .....	unfpa.nya@nmun.org
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues .....	unpfii.nya@nmun.org
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People .....	ceirpp.nya@nmun.org
Security Council A .....	sca.nya@nmun.org
Security Council B .....	scb.nya@nmun.org
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International Atomic Energy Agency .....	iaea.nya@nmun.org

### COMMITTEE

### EMAIL - CONFERENCE B

General Assembly First Committee .....	ga1.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee .....	ga2.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee .....	ga3.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Fourth Committee .....	ga4.nyb@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary .....	ecosoc.nyb@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women .....	csw.nyb@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice .....	ccpcj.nyb@nmun.org
Economic Commission for Africa .....	eca.nyb@nmun.org
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United Nations Children's Fund .....	unicef.nyb@nmun.org
United Nations Development Programme .....	undp.nyb@nmun.org
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Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People .....	ceirpp.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council A .....	sca.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council B .....	scb.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council C .....	scc.nyb@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency .....	iaea.nyb@nmun.org
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations .....	c34.nyb@nmun.org

### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers .....	positionpapers.nya@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue) .....	positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org
Secretary-General, Conference A .....	secgen.nya@nmun.org
Secretary-General, Conference B .....	secgen.nyb@nmun.org
Director(s)-General .....	dirgen.ny@nmun.org
NMUN Office .....	info@nmun.org

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2013 National Model United Nations Conference. As part of the volunteer staff for the General Assembly Second Committee, we are aiming to facilitate, to the best of our abilities, your educational experience at the conference in New York. This year's Directors are Sabrina Grover (Conference A) and Carrie Ann Starnes (Conference B), with Assistant Directors Rafael Corral (Conference A) and Camille Ellison (Conference B). Sabrina Grover holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science with a minor in Economics from the University of Calgary. Sabrina currently works at the Office of Research Services at the University of Calgary. This is Sabrina's fourth year on NMUN staff. Carrie Ann Starnes has also served on NMUN staff for four years, and she is a graduate of Georgia State University. She holds a Masters in International Business and another in Political Science. Carrie Ann currently works for a subsidiary of a European Management Consulting firm in Atlanta, Georgia. Rafael Corral graduated with a B.A. in International Relations with a minor in Political Science and Human Rights from Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador. He is currently working as a Program Assistant at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. This is Rafael's second year on staff for NMUN-NY. Camille holds a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from the Roosevelt University in Chicago. Camille is currently an intern through the University of Illinois, Chicago as a legal assistant. This is her second year on NMUN staff.

This year's topics under discussion for the General Assembly First Committee are:

1. The Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development
2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development
3. A Fair Globalization for All: The Effect of Job Creation on Sustained, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth

The General Assembly Second Committee serves as the core international forum for discussions on macroeconomic and financial topics affecting Member States, including international trade, economic growth and debt sustainability. The international economic system has faced a number of dynamic changes over the past years; we hope to see the resolutions in this committee reflect an understanding of those changes.

The background guide will serve as an introduction to the topics listed. Accordingly, it is not meant to be used as an all inclusive analysis for research, but rather the groundwork for your own analysis and research. The references listed for each topic will provide you with the resources you need to start your own research. Each delegation is requested to submit a position paper, which reflects your research on the topics. Please take note of the NMUN policies on the [website](#) and in the [delegate preparation guide](#) regarding [plagiarism](#), [codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment](#), [awards philosophy/evaluation method](#), etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions regarding your preparation for the committee and the Conference itself, please feel free to contact any of the substantive staff of the General Assembly Second Committee or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of the General Assembly, Kristina Mader (Conference A) and Daniel Leyva Jr. (Conference B). We wish you all the best in your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you in March!

*Conference A*  
Sabrina Grover  
Director

Rafael Corral  
Assistant Director

*Conference B*  
Carrie Ann Starnes  
Director

Camille Ellison  
Assistant Director



## Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN Conference

For NMUN-New York 2013, each delegation submits one position paper for each assigned committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, Non-Governmental Organization, etc. should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#).

Position papers should review each delegation's policy regarding the topics of 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. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in entirely original material. ***The NMUN Conference 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. 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 and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers may be given an award as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below and be of high substantive standard, using adequate language and showing in-depth research. While we encourage innovative proposals, we would like to remind delegates to stay within the mandate of their respective committee and keep a neutral and respectful tone. Similarly to the minus point-policy implemented at the conference to discourage disruptive behavior, position papers that use offensive language may entail negative grading when being considered for awards. Please refer to the sample paper following this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single-sided pages (one double-sided paper, if printed)
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at one inch for the whole paper
- Country/NGO name, school name and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page,
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf format required) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2012. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue, Conference A: [positionpapers.nya@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.nya@nmun.org) or Conference B: [positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org). This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2013 (GMT-5)**.

**Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st\_Cuba\_ConfA\_Mars College).**

*A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Hannah Birkenkötter, Director-General (Conference A), or Nicholas Warino, Director-General (Conference B), at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org). There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.*

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

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and it is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location, your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Conference A*  
Hannah Birkenkötter  
Director-General  
[hannah@nmun.org](mailto:hannah@nmun.org)

*Conference B*  
Nicholas Warino  
Director-General  
[nick@nmun.org](mailto:nick@nmun.org)

**Delegation from  
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by  
(Name of College)**

***Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary***

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

**I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion**

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent on the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest.

**II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions**

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico’s foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially

based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

### **III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa**

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

## Committee History

### *Introduction*

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative and representative organ of the United Nations (UN), and it is composed of all Members States, which currently totals 193 states.<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly's mandate is outlined in Article 10 of the *Charter of the United Nations*, which states that the body may discuss anything within the scope of the Charter, including issues related to the powers and functions of other UN organs.<sup>2</sup> It can also make recommendations, including measures for the peaceful resolution of a situation to the Members or the Security Council on any of these matters.<sup>3</sup> A limitation provided by the *Charter* is that the GA cannot issue recommendations in regard to any dispute or situation being considered by the Security Council without its request.<sup>4</sup> The GA, however, has the ability to refer to the Security Council any situations that affect international security, and the Secretary-General is further asked to keep the GA informed on any Security Council actions and discussion.<sup>5</sup>

Article 13 of the *Charter of the United Nations* tasks the General Assembly in carrying out studies and making recommendations in order to promote international cooperation in the political and economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields.<sup>6</sup> The GA also works on the progressive development of international law and in field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.<sup>7</sup> Other functions entrusted to the GA by the *Charter* include electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of other UN committees, as well as appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, following receipt of the Security Council's recommendation, and considering and approving the budget of the organization.<sup>8</sup> The General Assembly, in carrying out its duties, can also establish subsidiary organs, such as, for example, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People or the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>9</sup> Both of these Committees report directly to the General Assembly Plenary, and are not discussed within a Main Body, which is typical for subsidiary organs.<sup>10</sup>

While General Assembly resolutions are non-binding upon Member States, their international and collaborative effort gives them a high degree of legitimacy in the international community.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, many of the GA resolutions include the implementation of international declarations and conventions. Recent efforts to achieve consensus, rather than decide by formal voting, have been made in order to strengthen support for General Assembly resolutions.<sup>12</sup> Rule number 98 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure establishes six Main Committees of the General Assembly (in order): Disarmament and International Security (First); Economic and Financial (Second); Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (Third); Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth); Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth); and Legal (Sixth).<sup>13</sup> The General Assembly allocates its agenda items to the appropriate Committees, which follow through with discussions and recommendations. Each committee, with the help of the Secretariat, will develop an Organization of Work, which notes logistical issues and lays out the program of work for the year.<sup>14</sup>

The General Assembly works closely with the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 10.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 10.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 12.1.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 12.2.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 13.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 13.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 16-17.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 22.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly*.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*, 2007.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Organization of work of the Second Committee, Addendum, (A/C.2/66/L.1 Add. 1)*, 2011.



(ESCWA).<sup>15</sup> These Regional Commissions, all of which report to the Economic and Social Council, share the objectives of promoting regional economic cooperation, the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, and regional sustainable development.<sup>16</sup> This is done through “multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing, and networking at the regional level,” and collaborative efforts within and between regional organizations.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Second Committee – Economic and Financial***

The General Assembly Second Committee’s scope of work encompasses issues related to economic growth and development, such as international trade and development, primarily in its relation to macroeconomic policy, sustainable development, globalization, and poverty eradication.<sup>18</sup> In addition, the Second Committee follows up on numerous international conferences and agreements including:

- The UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) and the implementation of the outcome of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
- The World Summit on the Information Society
- The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
- The Mauritius Strategy on Small Island Developing States
- The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

Finally, the Second Committee is entrusted with considering topics that relate to groups of countries or special situations.<sup>19</sup> For example, one topic considered annually is the issue of the permanent sovereignty of Palestinian People over their natural resources.<sup>20</sup>

One of the primary topics within the Second Committee’s purview is sustainable development. Although various UN organs and agencies address the topic, the Second Committee has taken up much of the development of the normative framework for the topic.<sup>21</sup> The Second Committee, for example, drafted the resolution which called for the convening of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio Conference or “Earth Summit,” which resulted in the *Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development*, *Agenda 21*, the *Statement of Forest Principles*, the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, the *UN Convention on Biological Diversity*, and the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification*.<sup>22</sup> Likewise, the 1992 resolution which asked the Economic and Social Council to establish the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a follow-up mechanism to ensure implementation of the outcomes of the Rio Conference, originated in the Second Committee.<sup>23</sup> The decision to hold the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or “Rio +20” also originated the Second Committee, and was finally adopted as resolution 64/236 by the General Assembly Plenary in March 2010.<sup>24</sup> Following the conference, the Second Committee has been tasked with overseeing an intergovernmental process to evaluate different frameworks and instruments in order to prepare recommendations containing options for financing strategies to facilitate the effective mobilization of the resources needed to achieve sustainable development objectives.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *About the Regional Commissions*.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *About the Regional Commissions*.

<sup>17</sup> UN, *About the Regional Commissions*.

<sup>18</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial – Second Committee*, 2011.

<sup>19</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial – Second Committee*, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> UN General Assembly, *Economic and Financial – Second Committee*, 2011.

<sup>21</sup> UN General Assembly, *Second Committee List of Agenda Items and their Periodicity*.

<sup>22</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations conference on environment and development (A/RES/43/196)*, 20 December, 1988; United Nations, *UN Conference on the Environment and Development (1992)*.

<sup>23</sup> UN General Assembly, *Institutional arrangements to follow up the UN Conference on Environment and Development (A/RES/47/191)*, 29 January 1993.

<sup>24</sup> UN General Assembly, *Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Denise Mc Quade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.25*, 3 December 2009; United Nations General Assembly, *Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 31 March 2010.

<sup>25</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development. *Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/16)*, 22 June 2012, p. 255.

It is important to note that resolutions adopted by the Second Committee are not final outcomes, and need to be adopted by the General Assembly Plenary, which meets annually.<sup>26</sup> Notable draft resolutions adopted by the Second Committee during its 66<sup>th</sup> session, which were adopted by the General Assembly Plenary, include draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.80 on information and communications technologies for development; draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59 on the implementation of Agenda 21, the program for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.74 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence.<sup>27</sup>

The Second Committee routinely holds dialogues where the Executive Secretariats of the Regional Commissions act as panelists and interact with Member States on their presentations and issues of regional concern to them.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, the Second Committee, in addressing the issues on its agenda, utilizes a variety of different documents developed by the Regional Commissions including case studies, reports, and recommendations.<sup>29</sup> For example, during its 66<sup>th</sup> session, on the topic of macroeconomic policy questions, item 17 of its agenda, the Committee used ECLAC's 2010-2011 Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as ECE's basic background documents for discussion on *Economic integration in the ECE region: developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis*, and the ECA's 2011 Economic Report on Africa, among many others.<sup>30</sup>

It is also important to note that the Second Committee incorporates an overarching gender perspective across the issues in its agenda. Every five years, it discusses a World Survey on the Role of Women in Development prepared by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs.<sup>31</sup> The most recent report, for example, contributes to the discussion by providing Member States "an improved understanding of gender equality implications of economic development" and guiding "the design of gender-sensitive policy measures that will increase women's access to and control over economic and financial resources."<sup>32</sup>

During its 67<sup>th</sup> session, the Second Committee is currently (as of November 2012) following up on many of the aforementioned issues, seeking to adopt resolutions on, among others, information and communications technologies for development, financing for development, sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, the particular needs of landlocked countries, the eradication of poverty, and the sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory over their natural resources.<sup>33</sup> In mid-October 2011, early within the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, there were already draft proposals put forth to the body on over eight topics, highlighting the activity within the committee and the extreme interest in the topics under consideration.

## **Conclusion**

The Second Committee has a vast array of responsibilities related to economic and financial issues. The most notable responsibility is to work within the mandate allocated by the UN Charter. Due to its multidimensional nature, the Second Committee has the opportunity to connect its own extensive work with the work of various other UN bodies, agencies, programs and funds, which ensures the outcomes of its negotiations have the greatest impact and affect the lives of peoples around the world. During its 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Committee adopted important resolutions aimed at addressing and following up on the pressing issues in the international economic cooperation and development agenda. During its 67<sup>th</sup> session, it will continue to focus globally, following up on its previous work and the developments that occur in the context of the different international conferences and agreements pertaining to its mandate with a view towards progressing the development agenda forward and ensuring sustainable, fair and equitable development for all.

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<sup>26</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rules of Procedure II. Agenda*.

<sup>27</sup> UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 66<sup>th</sup> Session, 2012*.

<sup>28</sup> UN, *Concept Note: Dialogue of Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions with the Second Committee of the General Assembly*, 27 September 2011.

<sup>29</sup> UN, *Documents of Regional Commissions relevant to the agenda of the Second Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*.

<sup>30</sup> UN, *Documents of Regional Commissions relevant to the agenda of the Second Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*.

<sup>31</sup> UN Women, *About the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources, including Microfinance*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>33</sup> UN General Assembly, *Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee (A/C.2/67/1)*, 21 September 2012.

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<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/WorldSurvey2009.pdf>

*The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development is drafted by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs every five years providing a gender perspective to development. The Second Committee considers these reports in their regular sessions. This particular issue deals with women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, and considers issues such as access to employment, land and housing, financial resources, financial services and social protection.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, February 3). *Preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly*. Retrieved August 9, 2012 from:

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/67/50>

*This document provides a complete list of the topics that the United Nations General Assembly will discuss during its 67th session, which began in September 2012. It is a very valuable tool to understand the breadth of the work of the General Assembly and the interrelation of topics among its different Main Committees. The topics are distributed in nine main categories: promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, maintenance of international peace and security, development of Africa, promotion of human rights, effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts, promotion of justice and international law, disarmament, drug control, crime prevention, and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestation, and organizational and administrative matters.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2007). *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17)*. Retrieved August 9, 2012 from: <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/520/Rev.17>

*This is one of the essential documents for the General Assembly. The Rules of Procedure contain the modus operandi of the organ and provide the details of its work. It is very important to understand the detail of how the General Assembly carries out its functions and manages its powers. In particular, it is useful to develop an idea of the role of the Main Committees within the framework of the Organization. Delegates should be aware that NMUN's own rules of procedure apply to its committees.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Economic and Financial - Second Committee: Documents before the Committee*. Retrieved August 9, 2012 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/66/documentslist.shtml>

*This document provides the substantive background to all the topics currently being discussed in the Second Committee. It is here that delegates should start their research on the previous work of the various topics. The documents include, in particular, reports of the Secretary General.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2011). *Economic and Financial - Second Committee: List of Draft Proposals*. Retrieved August 9, 2012 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/66/proposals.shtml>

*This website provides a compilation of all the draft proposals presented before the Second Committee on the topics under its consideration. Delegates can understand the trends in the discussion of these topics by reading the different resolutions in this website. In particular, resolutions on this Committee's topics can shed light on the language the Committee uses and the different proposals it is currently working with in views towards its 67th session.*

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United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2009). *2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources, including Microfinance*. Retrieved September 4 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/WorldSurvey2009.pdf>

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## I. Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development

*“Sustainable development is the top priority of the United Nations and for my second term as Secretary-General. Corporate sustainability has gone mainstream. Now we must achieve critical mass. Only with your strong support and leadership we can change and shape the world we want and we can make this world better for all.”*<sup>34</sup>

### **Introduction**

Sustainable development has been a relevant issue at the global level since the early 1970s beginning with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference) held in 1972.<sup>35</sup> The outcome document, the *Stockholm Declaration*, outlined the importance of the human environment and was a significant point in establishing the responsibility of States and international organizations in protecting and sustaining that environment.<sup>36</sup> The Stockholm Conference also called for the creation of a global body to focus on environmental issues.<sup>37</sup> This led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the primary institution within the UN responsible for coordinating international environmental policies and activities.<sup>38</sup>

Building off the precedent set in Stockholm, the Brundtland Report, also known as “Our Common Future”, was released by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987.<sup>39</sup> The WCED was initiated through resolution 38/161 in 1983 under the umbrella of the Governing Council of the UNEP.<sup>40</sup> The Commission’s primary focus was on long-term environmental solutions, and cooperative environmental strategies, as well as defining sustainable development. The Brundtland Report outlined the core issues concerning environmental degradation and the need for multilateral cooperation and support in combating the effects of environmental problems.<sup>41</sup> The core of the Brundtland definition is such that “sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>42</sup> Within the context of economic development, the sustainable approach rests on the need for a multilateral, international approach, through business and government, to economic exchanges so that the “global commons” (the ecosystem) are protected.<sup>43</sup> Sustainable development itself can be addressed through a number of different lenses within the international system. One of the primary considerations for the topic is the recognition for the need for different approaches to the implementation of sustainable policies between states, which are in different stages of development, and how implementation can be facilitated through the UN system.<sup>44</sup>

The General Assembly Second Committee is responsible for the topic of sustainable development broadly as designated by the official General Assembly agenda.<sup>45</sup> The item itself contains several sub-topics, including following up on the implementation of agreements, such as *Agenda 21*, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, as well as specific sustainable development challenges, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the protection of global climate for present and future generations.<sup>46</sup> As of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly in December 2010, there were over 20 draft proposals on the floor of the second committee under the purview of sustainable development. The proposals included a wide range of topics such as: from plans and programs of action for upcoming international years of cooperation to issues such as the protection of coral reefs and development of Small Island States.

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<sup>34</sup> UN News Centre, *Remarks to "KPMG Summit: Business Perspective For Sustainable Growth"*, 2012.

<sup>35</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *The History of Sustainable Development in the United Nations*, 2011.

<sup>36</sup> UN Environment Program, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972.

<sup>37</sup> UN Environment Programme, *Organizational Profile*.

<sup>38</sup> UN Environment Program, *About the UNEP*.

<sup>39</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987

<sup>40</sup> UN General Assembly, *Resolutions Adopted on the report of the Second Committee*, 1983

<sup>41</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987, p. 18.

<sup>42</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987, p. 54.

<sup>43</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987, p. 54.

<sup>44</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Poverty, Demography, Economics and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from the Developed and Developing World*, 2002.

<sup>45</sup> UN General Assembly, Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee, 2010.

<sup>46</sup> UN General Assembly, Allocation of agenda items to the Second Committee, 2010.

## *The Historical Framework for Climate Change*

Within the context of the United Nations, the work on sustainable development has been intrinsically tied to the issue of climate change. The *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which was one of three so-called “Rio Conventions”, was adopted in 1992 during the Rio Earth Summit. The UNFCCC has been at the forefront of climate change issues over the last two decades.<sup>47</sup> The UNFCCC does not contain specific goals and targets, but rather a step in an overarching recognition and consideration of climate change, and the commitment to continue to work towards solutions in tackling the issue through more concrete commitments.<sup>48</sup> Currently, there are 195 parties to the Convention, which came into force in March of 1994.<sup>49</sup>

The first document to emerge from the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) was the *Kyoto Protocol* (KP), which was adopted in 1997.<sup>50</sup> The KP was legally binding upon ratifying states.<sup>51</sup> Furthermore, the KP was the first document to provide a framework for the implementation of policies and actions by governments of industrialized countries to effectively commit to specific targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The commitment was a 5% cut between 2008-2012, at which time the KP commitments will end.<sup>52</sup> The KP came into effect in 2005 and was based around three pillars: reporting and verification, market-based emission permits, and compliance.<sup>53</sup> The Protocol was the first treaty that linked the goals of sustainable development to the problems of climate change, and recognized that the solution for sustainable economic development relies on combating those problems.<sup>54</sup> Following the KP, the next substantial COP commitments emerged in 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, known as the “Bali Road Map.”<sup>55</sup> The Road Map, though not legally binding, was a more robust commitment and process to the actualization of the convention.<sup>56</sup> The Road Map, in contrast to the KP, was a first step in integrating developing countries into the UNFCCC, and it recognized that developing countries would need both incentives and means of funding their implementation of the convention.<sup>57</sup> In addition to reinforcing the commitment to the reduction of emissions, the Road Map also committed to cooperation on technology transfer and further development of environmentally friendly technologies, improved disaster reduction strategies, and capacity building for developing and small island states.<sup>58</sup>

Since Bali, there have been two more significant sets of agreements to emerge from the COP: the Cancun Agreements in 2010 and the Durban Agreements in 2011.<sup>59</sup> Similar to the Bali Road Map, the Cancun and Durban agreements contained specific goals and targets which stretch beyond simply a reduction of emissions, however none of the three plans create any binding obligations upon the Parties.<sup>60</sup> The Cancun Agreements made commitments to the creation of three new institutions: the Green Climate fund- a fund held under the convention and funded by the COP for low emission and environmentally friendly development projects; the Technology Mechanism- designed to facilitate tech transfer, with a focus on North-South and South-South cooperation; and lastly an adaptation framework.<sup>61</sup> The Cancun Agreements also noted the role of developing countries in contributing to climate problems, specifically with respect to rising temperatures and the emission of GHG and thus created obligations upon those states as well.<sup>62</sup> The Durban Agreements in 2011 committed the COP to the creation

<sup>47</sup> UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change*, 2012.

<sup>48</sup> UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change*, 2012.

<sup>49</sup> UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change*, 2012.

<sup>50</sup> UNFCCC, *Making those first steps count: An Introduction to the Kyoto Protocol*, 2012.

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<sup>54</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, *Kyoto Protocol- important tool for sustainable development*, 2005.

<sup>55</sup> UNFCCC, *Bali Climate Change Conference*, 2012.

<sup>56</sup> UNFCCC, *Bali Climate Change Conference*, 2012.

<sup>57</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Bali from 3 to 15 December 2007- Addendum 2*, 2007.

<sup>58</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Bali from 3 to 15 December 2007- Addendum 2*, 2007.

<sup>59</sup> UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change*, 2012.

<sup>60</sup> UNFCCC, *Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change*, 2012.

<sup>61</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010- Addendum One*, 2011.

<sup>62</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010- Addendum One*, 2011.

of a legally binding instrument on climate change by 2015, and for such a treaty to come into effect by 2020, in addition to reaffirming the commitments and reporting guidelines previously established.<sup>63</sup>

### ***Current International Framework***

#### *Rio+ 20*

In the last decade, building on the historical framework, there has been an expansion of implementation activities and initiatives within the international system on climate change and sustainable development. The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), held in June 2012, was one of the most prominent conferences held on sustainable development, outside of the UNFCCC COP annual meetings. The mandate for Rio+20 was created through General Assembly Resolution 64/236.<sup>64</sup> The conference worked towards implementation of actual sustainable policies and best practices which have arisen as a result of climate change, and provided a forum for stakeholders to transform existing knowledge into solutions. Participants of the conference included members of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), members of the private sector, and members of civil society.<sup>65</sup> Two main themes were focused on: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.<sup>66</sup>

The green economy is a harmonization between economic development and environmentally friendly policies to ensure sustainable growth and successful future outcomes.<sup>67</sup> As stated by the UNEP, it is “one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.”<sup>68</sup> One focus under this topic has been the push for “green jobs”. Green jobs, while not officially defined, advocates for a push for jobs that are not only in themselves sustainable, but further support sustainable activities.<sup>69</sup> While the full-scale benefit of the push for green jobs is not entirely evident at this stage, the commitment to the program further develops the commitments of employment envisioned under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Agenda 21.<sup>70</sup> Developing countries stand to gain substantially from the transition to a green economy, with respect to both “natural capital” (sustainable resource management) and “built capital” (transportation and infrastructure).<sup>71</sup>

The second theme of the conference, the institutional framework for sustainable development, focused on bridging the gap between global, national, and local policies centered on the social, economic, and environmental pillars.<sup>72</sup> One of the most important challenges which emerged from the High-Level meetings indicated that there is currently a gap in the integration between the three pillars of sustainable development- environment, economic and social- and the UN system.<sup>73</sup> Some of the participants noted key recommendations and solutions to implementing policies, notably the strengthening of UN systems of delivery within the UN Development Program and the UNEP, and balancing the bottom up and top down approaches within the system.<sup>74</sup> Improving the framework of the UNEP was one of the key goals of the parties at the conference, because of the organization’s key role in the international implantation in environmental policies, and the role of the environmental pillar as a core component of successful sustainable development.<sup>75</sup> Specific recommendations for improvement included expanding the membership of the Program from the current 58 states to a universal membership, improving the ability of the organization’s science-policy initiatives in developing states, and increasing the allocation of the budget. Important to note is the suggestion

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<sup>63</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011- Addendum One*, 2012.

<sup>64</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *About Rio+20*, 2011.

<sup>65</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *About Rio+20*, 2011.

<sup>66</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *About Rio+20*, 2011.

<sup>67</sup> UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011.

<sup>68</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective*, UNDESA DSD, UNEP, UNCTAD, 2011, p. 4.

<sup>69</sup> UNCSD, *Issue Brief no.7 Green Jobs and Social Inclusion*, 2011, p. 1.

<sup>70</sup> UNCSD, *Issue Brief no.7 Green Jobs and Social Inclusion*, 2011, p. 1-5.

<sup>71</sup> UNEP, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, 2011.

<sup>72</sup> UNCSD, *Institutional Framework for Sustainable development*, 2011.

<sup>73</sup> UNCSD, *Chair’s Summary High Level Dialogue on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development*, 2011.

<sup>74</sup> UNCSD, *Chair’s Summary High Level Dialogue on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development*, 2011.

<sup>75</sup> UNSCD, *Inclusive Green Economy Given Go Ahead by Heads of State at Rio+20*, 2012.



for increased coordination between existing regional commissions and groups and the UN system, primarily the UNEP and the UNDP.<sup>76</sup>

Part of the conference also focused on a new set of goals, parallel to the Millennium Development Goals, entitled the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).<sup>77</sup> The motivation behind the development of the SDGs was to encourage progress and achievement towards specific and targeted objectives, similarly to the MDGs in the year 2000.<sup>78</sup> The basis of the goals was to be off of *Agenda 21* and the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, focus on both environmental and sustainable development and work in parallel to the MDGs.<sup>79</sup> By developing sustainable development indicators, projects and programs in the field of sustainable development can be better targeted for specific countries and specific priorities.<sup>80</sup>

### *Financial Investment*

One important implementation tool of the current framework surrounding sustainable development and climate change is the financial investment by developed states, locally and globally. One such initiative has been the Climate Investment Fund (CIF).<sup>81</sup> The CIF was developed through the UNFCCC and is funded jointly by the World Bank, and Regional Development Banks.<sup>82</sup> Currently the CIF funds 46 countries, and has 14 contributing countries.<sup>83</sup> The funds are designed to provide extra financial assistance to developing states for the creation of programs and tools to mitigate climate change effects.<sup>84</sup> The CIF is broken into two primary funding categories: the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF).<sup>85</sup> The funds are disbursed largely in the forms of grants, loans and concessional funds.<sup>86</sup> The CIF has been greatly instrumental in giving developing states the opportunity to plan and execute their own programs and plans for combating climate change, and these programs have had real and effective results.<sup>87</sup> The 2011 Annual Report emphasizes the links between funding sustainable development and the reduced impact of climate change: “An estimated 1.6 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is projected to be reduced or avoided in the 13 funded CTF Investment Plans, the equivalent of Russia’s annual emissions. Every CTF dollar invested means one-third ton of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced or avoided.”<sup>88</sup> Some examples of implemented projects include Indonesia, where the country can finally actualize its ability to harness geothermal power, and effectively reduce 33 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of a single project, in addition to greater access to electricity for its citizens.<sup>89</sup>

### *The Effects of Climate Change*

In achieving sustainable development within the international system, the understanding of the manifested effects of climate change on states, and what those changes have meant both environmentally and economically, is key. Some of the specific effects of climate change have been manifested in changes in the global freshwater resources, land and forestry resources, food and agriculture production, and an increase in large-scale environmental disasters such as storms and drought.<sup>90</sup> According to the fourth and most recent assessment (2007) on climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading international expert body on climate change, “observational evidence from all continents and most oceans shows that many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases.”<sup>91</sup> The Fourth Assessment notes, that though there has been some progress in implementing change since the IPCC Third Assessment in 2001, the longer whole scale adaptation is put off, the greater the costs will be to implement change and the chance for success is reduced.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>76</sup> UNCSD, *Issue Brief no. 10 Regional, national and local level governance for sustainable development*, 2011.

<sup>77</sup> UN Economic and Social Development, *Sustainable Development Goals*.

<sup>78</sup> UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>79</sup> UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>80</sup> UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 Agenda, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>81</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *History*, 2012.

<sup>82</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate Investment Funds*, 2012.

<sup>83</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *2011 Annual Report*, 2011, p. 10.

<sup>84</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *History*, 2012.

<sup>85</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *History*, 2012.

<sup>86</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate Investment Funds*, 2012.

<sup>87</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *2011 Annual Report*, 2011, p. 10.

<sup>88</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *2011 Annual Report*, 2011, p. 16.

<sup>89</sup> Climate Investment Funds, *2011 Annual Report*, 2011, p. 18.

<sup>90</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 8.

<sup>91</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 8.

<sup>92</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 19.

### *Freshwater*

With respect to resources, water is one of the most essential and basic requirements for human life, and the access to “safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights” was officially recognized in General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010).<sup>93</sup> Thus, any effect of climate change on freshwater resources fundamentally affects the human life, and the chance for successful sustainable development.<sup>94</sup> According to the Fourth Assessment from the IPCC, some of the significant changes in freshwater resources include a reduced water holding capacity of the atmosphere (leading to increased variability of perception and more intense droughts), greater variability in stream flow resulting in decreased water supply in many regions (such as the Andes), and decreasing water levels.<sup>95</sup> Each of these effects, combined with the stresses of water use, in turn, will affect human activity relating to water, as well as the ability for that activity to remain self-sustaining.<sup>96</sup> For example, one of the most integral human uses of water is irrigation, accounting for 90% of global consumptive water use, which has seen an increase in recent years due to decreased precipitation (in some areas) and increasing temperatures.<sup>97</sup>

These changes in water consumption have been one of the first times in recorded history that the increase in water use is related to climatic events and not general human activity or population expansion.<sup>98</sup> Further, with a greater proportion of the current freshwater supply being used for irrigation, and a decreasing trend in the natural replenishment of water resources, future water supply becomes compromised and affects the chance for successful sustainable development, specifically sustainable agriculture.<sup>99</sup> These effects have already become evident in some water-scarce areas, including the Huanghe River basin in China and the Murray-Darling river basin in Australia.<sup>100</sup> However, with the recognition of these effects, compounded with international efforts in creating solutions, there have been some successes in rethinking irrigation and agriculture processes. One such example of a cross-cutting success story has been the Empowerment of Women in Irrigation and Water Resources Management for Household Food Security (WIN Project) in Nepal, conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization between 2000 and 2003.<sup>101</sup> The project was aimed at increasing local economic diversification activities, particularly with women, while at the same time ensuring that the activities and local production remained sustainable and environmentally effective.<sup>102</sup> By increasing the capacity for locally grown food, and decreasing the cost at which it was produced, the project increased sustainable resource management, and allowed women, who were previously marginalized, entry into the marketplace. Through access to low-cost irrigation technologies, it allowed for year round food production, lending to the food security of these groups.<sup>103</sup>

### *Food Production*

Similar to water, food production has faced tumultuous effects as a result of global climate change. Agriculture and food production are indispensable to human survival. Currently, 40% of land is managed as cropland and pasture to support that livelihood, yet that land is increasingly faced with the stresses of climate change including soil erosion, over-extraction of ground water, the buildup of pest resistance, and the loss of biodiversity amongst others.<sup>104</sup> In addition to land resources, currently 2.6 billion of the world’s population relies on fisheries as a part of daily nutrition, but “three-quarters of global fisheries are currently fully exploited, over-exploited or depleted.”<sup>105</sup> One of the most pressing issues facing the future of agriculture is balancing the increase in agriculture output, a projected 55% increase in crop output by 2030 and 80% by 2050, with the delicate environment in which much of the output is forecasted to take place (Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America).<sup>106</sup> Though increased crop production means improvements in tackling global malnourishment, areas where the land is severely degraded or over-utilized, such as

<sup>93</sup> UN News Centre, *General Assembly declares access to clean water and sanitation is a human right*, 2010.

<sup>94</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 175

<sup>95</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 175-178.

<sup>96</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 175.

<sup>97</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 179.

<sup>98</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 179.

<sup>99</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 179-182.

<sup>100</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 179.

<sup>101</sup> Eckman, *Lessons Learned by the WIN Project on Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development*, 2005.

<sup>102</sup> Eckman, *Lessons Learned by the WIN Project on Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development*, 2005.

<sup>103</sup> Eckman, *Lessons Learned by the WIN Project on Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development*, 2005, p.14.

<sup>104</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 276-278.

<sup>105</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 276.

<sup>106</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 280-281.

in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America, will continue to suffer the effects of food and water scarcity.<sup>107</sup> As such, the challenge the international community faces is striving for new environmentally friendly methods of food production, while at the same time maintaining consistent levels of output.<sup>108</sup> In addition to the sustained effects of climate change on agricultural production, some of the most substantial impacts arise due to extreme weather events, which while currently remaining rare, have seen a steady increase, with long lasting effects.<sup>109</sup>

### ***Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS)***

One example of coordination amongst governments outside of regional commissions has been between Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the “BRICS” states. The Delhi Declaration of March 2012, which was the outcome of the Fourth BRICS summit, reaffirmed the commitment of the BRICS states to sustainable development, as well as briefly outlining the challenges that these countries face in implementation of successful development models.<sup>110</sup> One of the important points to note in the declaration was the affirmation of the commitment by developed states party to the UNFCCC in their commitment to enhanced financial support, as well as technology transfer and capacity building strategies.<sup>111</sup> In tune with the Rio+20 themes, the declaration also affirmed a commitment to the ensuring the development of a green economy, and the avoidance of barriers with respect to trade and investment.<sup>112</sup> One of the significant, unique challenges which the BRICS states face is with respect to the ways in which foreign aid will affect their commitment to sustainable development.<sup>113</sup> Essentially, states need to choose between investing in the global effort through traditional aid mechanisms reminiscent of the early 1990s, which lacked any strategy for sustainable development and largely over exploited the resources of the land (this was the type of aid the BRICS states themselves received); or opting to provide aid vis-à-vis sustainable development mechanisms and environmentally friendly policies and development.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Going Forward***

The international momentum in pushing sustainable development and mitigating the effects of climate change has strongly increased in the last decade.<sup>115</sup> Largely, the push has been for a collaborative and supportive international community, such that all interested stakeholders are able to access technical resources, and further, that developing states are provided with the investment necessary to undergo sustainable projects. One unique initiative that has come out of the international community has been through the UN Global Compact.<sup>116</sup> The Global Compact goes beyond government involvement and action, and pushes for the private sector and business to take up their own tools and frameworks to combat climate change at the front end.<sup>117</sup> The Caring for Climate program is the most recent Global Compact plan, and commits business leaders to effectively reducing their carbon footprint, through employing low impact technologies and increasing energy efficiency.<sup>118</sup> These types of initiatives encourage a dissemination of responsibility amongst relative stakeholders, and create obligations upon the private sector to combat climate change from the start, which mitigates the number of retroactive tasks that must be completed once damage has already taken place, and allow states to focus on sustainable infrastructure as a whole.<sup>119</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The overarching progress that has been made in the realm of sustainable development has been monumental over the last twenty years, starting with the global recognition that climate change not only exists, but poses a significant threat to the livelihood of the international system. The IPCC Fourth Assessment notes, “[t]here has been an

<sup>107</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 280.

<sup>108</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2007, p. 279.

<sup>109</sup> IPCC, *Summary for Policymakers. In: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, 2012.

<sup>110</sup> Fourth BRICS Summit, *The Delhi Declaration*, 2012.

<sup>111</sup> Fourth BRICS Summit, *The Delhi Declaration*, 2012.

<sup>112</sup> Fourth BRICS Summit, *The Delhi Declaration*, 2012.

<sup>113</sup> Frayssinet, *Inter Press Service News Agency, RIO+20: The Two Faces of BRICS Development Aid*, 2012.

<sup>114</sup> Frayssinet, *Inter Press Service News Agency, RIO+20: The Two Faces of BRICS Development Aid*, 2012.

<sup>115</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change*, 2007.

<sup>116</sup> UN Global Compact, *New Caring for Climate Web Portal to Advance Role in Business*, 2012.

<sup>117</sup> UN Global Compact, *New Caring for Climate Web Portal to Advance Role in Business*, 2012.

<sup>118</sup> UN Global Compact, *New Caring for Climate Web Portal to Advance Role in Business*, 2012.

<sup>119</sup> UN Global Compact, *New Caring for Climate Web Portal to Advance Role in Business*, 2012.

evolution in our understanding of how SD and climate change mitigation decisions are taken by societies.”<sup>120</sup>

However, challenges still remain in achieving success both with respect to sustainable development policies at the local and national level, as well as meeting the targets set in the international system. One of the key questions faced by this committee is what the evolving role of the GA Second will be in effectively ensuring that states commit to actualizing the goals which they have set. Further, how can the resolutions put forth in the committee translate into action on a wider scale, especially with respect to the financial commitments that the COP has committed to under the UNFCCC? Additionally, what types of capacity building strategies will be required by other cooperating UN bodies such as the UNDP and ECOSOC, and what will these strategies look like with respect to local and national policy? How will GA Second adapt to more effectively work within the current set-up of the environmental bodies and committees within the UN System? One of the important points of understanding for the topic both within and outside the UN system is education on climate change, and how small local and regional actions can have substantial impacts. Within that context then, what is the role for the GA Second in providing a greater grassroots education to citizens, in collaboration with other UN bodies in climate change and local solutions to sustainable development problems? The last core point of consideration will be evaluating the role of the private sector within the issue and understanding what benefit this sector can provide both nationally and transnationally.

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<sup>120</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change*, 2007, p. 125.

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*This Declaration is from the fourth BRICS summit and describes the BRICS future pledges to sustainable development, as well as their concerns with gaps in current international sustainable development related agreements, especially from states belonging to the G20. Additionally, the Declaration expresses concern with the current commitments and structure of the World Bank and IMF, which will play an important role in supporting the capacity for governments to meet the standards set with respect to sustainable development. Delegates will find this declaration useful in understanding sustainable development within the context of developing states, and the path that emerging economies are attempting to follow.*

Eckman, Karlyn (2005). *Lessons Learned by the WIN Project on Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development*. Retrieved Sept 5, 2012 from: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/j5404e/j5404e00.pdf>

*This case study is one which delegates will find useful when examining the cross cutting nature of sustainable development between business and environmental policies. Further, the WIN project covers three unique situations and will provide delegates with both the successes and failures of each, allowing for critical thinking on future solutions. Lastly, the project offers an excellent gender perspective on integrating women into the sustainable development framework and demonstrates the successes in reducing marginalization.*

International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2004). *National Strategies for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved August 10, 2012 from: [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/measure\\_nat\\_strategies\\_sd.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/measure_nat_strategies_sd.pdf)

*This document from the Institute for Sustainable Development lays out analysis of challenges, approaches and strategies to sustainable development within 19 specific, countries.. The case studies cover both developing and developed countries, and provide a wide ranging arena for delegates to access specific examples of sustainable development in action. Further, delegates will find the case studies useful as a cross-country and cross-regional comparison, as well as a guide to good practices for future international resolutions.*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007). *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from:

[http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_ipcc\\_fourth\\_assessment\\_report\\_wg2\\_report\\_impacts\\_adaptation\\_and\\_vulnerability.htm](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_fourth_assessment_report_wg2_report_impacts_adaptation_and_vulnerability.htm)

*This is the most recent comprehensive evaluation of the effects of climate change on the global environment and land resources. The report does an excellent job of evaluating both the environmental effects of climate change as well as providing an economic analysis with respect to those changes. Further, the report makes comparisons and evaluations to the Third Assessment, conducted in 2001, which allows delegates to understand how far solutions on climate change have come and where they are still lacking.*

UN Environment Programme (2011). *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*. Retrieved Sept 5, 2012 from:

[http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/ger\\_final\\_dec\\_2011/Green%20EconomyReport\\_Final\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/ger_final_dec_2011/Green%20EconomyReport_Final_Dec2011.pdf)

*This report developed by the UNEP is substantial and comprehensive overview of the concept of a green economy. The report breaks down sustainable development and the green economy within the specific different contexts including natural and built capital, and the different sectors within those overarching umbrellas. Further, the report breaks down the context of the green economy with respect to both developed and developing states.*

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (n.d.) *Case Studies for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved Sept 6, 2012 from: <http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/caseStudy/public/Welcome.do>

*This resource is developed by the UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development and is a searchable database of case studies under the overarching umbrella of sustainable development. The database allows individuals to select the specific scopes (global, national, local) and topics to search under. This is a phenomenal resource for delegates to reference case studies and investigate what policies have resulted in success or failure at the different levels.*

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2010). *The Cancun Agreements: An assessment by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved August 10, 2012 from: <http://cancun.unfccc.int/index.php%20title=>

*This is an excellent site developed by the UNFCCC that provides the basic details on the Cancun agreements and the overarching objectives of the agreements. The Cancun Agreements were developed in 2010 and outlined specific targets for the governments to meet in 2011. The site also contains a progress tracker as well as the latest updates on the implementation of the agreement. Additionally, the site lays out the specific commitments of governments for 2011, which will be useful for delegates as a tool for measurement on what has been done so far, and where the UN General Assembly Second Committee still has room for development.*

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. (August 15, 2011). Submissions on information from: developed country Parties on the resources provided to fulfill the commitment referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 95. Retrieved August 10, 2012 from: [http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/inf\\_fsf.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/inf_fsf.pdf)

*This document was requested during the Conference of the Parties 16, held in 2010 as a follow up by developed countries on their commitment to fund and provide new resources for sustainable practices in developing countries. Ten states submitted their reports to the COP Secretariat, which outlined their sources of funds and resources (public v. private), the international agencies by which they expected developing states to access the resources, and any new information regarding the funding. Delegates will find this useful as a stepping stone for understanding what mechanisms developed states are using within the international context to promote sustainable development, and further, for evaluating progress within those commitments.*

UN General Assembly. (October 25, 2011). *Panel Discussion on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved August 9, 2012 from:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&nr=439&type=13&menu=23>

*This summary from the Rio+20 side events briefly describes the meeting of the UN General Assembly Second Committee. The meeting of the Second Committee focused specifically on the issue of sustainable development and covered the details from key presentations and speakers. Some of the main points, which emerged, were the strengthening of the UN Environmental Program, as well as important issues including technology transfer and the development of new private-public financial mechanisms. This is a useful summary for delegates upon which to build a foundational understanding of the role of GA 2nd in the context of Rio+20, which occurred from 20-22 June 2012.*

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*This resolution by the UNGA Second Committee outlines the report in 2009 to the General Assembly on the recent history of the implementation of Agenda 21 and sets the request for the Rio+20 UN CSD in 2012. This is an excellent reference resolution for delegates as it provides a background to the issue area, as well as an understanding on the need of the 2012 follow up conference. Lastly, it allows delegates to see the progress of setting up Rio+20 between the Second Committee and the General Assembly itself.*

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## II. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development

*"Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies."*<sup>121</sup>

### **Introduction**

As the world continues to become increasingly interconnected, access to and the use of technology has become an important and necessary tool for all countries, both developed and developing. Technology and the ability to communicate across borders has the power to create jobs, facilitate education, educate, and transform obsolete industries by giving countries the ability to integrate new business, bring information to the masses in an instant, and at its basic level allow friends and family around the world to stay connected.<sup>122</sup> Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development is a way for communities to see endless potential. This United Nations body and other agencies try to focus on what an ICT is and how ICT can help enhance education by, for example, allowing students through the collegiate level to have access to information in an instant through the Internet.<sup>123</sup> Technology and communication can create new businesses and allow agricultural industries to enhance their productivity.<sup>124</sup> There will be some focus on the challenges associated with these technologies, such as investing in infrastructure and assessing if the new and growing use of technologies is good for the environment.<sup>125</sup> On a sociological level, ICTs are seen as a way to help eradicate poverty, level the technological discrepancies among nations and improve the economic status of developing nations.<sup>126</sup>

### **Key Concepts**

When discussing ICTs, it is important to understand the fundamental concepts and key issues underpinning the field. ICT are services provided by a telecommunications company to an individual customer, household or business.<sup>127</sup> These services are mainly discussed in three categories: the Internet, fixed telephone lines, and cell phones.<sup>128</sup> Once these services are provided, public and private companies use indicators to track how much and where these services are being used. There are specific indicators which measure access to and usage of ICT, such as internet availability, number of cell phones per capita in a particular region or portable radio usage. With the Internet, availability is commonly broken down into wireless Internet, broadband internet, and dial-up internet.

A new emerging specialty is Public Internet Access Centers (PIAC's). Communication, such as cell phones, land lines, radios, is commonly divided into how many people have access to wireless cellular phones and landline phones. The Internet can, at times, be included in the communications category to include the use of internet to voice and video conference.<sup>129</sup> Each category has multiple indicators that are used to keep track of the frequency and availability of these ICT. With the Internet, one data indicator is how many households per capita have the internet or broadband connections or availability of internet connections within the community. Some of the indicators used to collect data about the widespread use include: definitions of terms and concepts (e.g. *computer, the Internet*), derivation of indicators (e.g. use of appropriate denominators for proportions), model questions that can be included on national survey vehicles, classification variables (e.g. business size and age ranges for individual ICT users are core indicators), collection scope (e.g. by business size or industry, age of individuals), and statistical units (e.g. household, individual).<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Stiglitz, Joseph E. *Making Globalization Work*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007.

<sup>122</sup> United Nations Committee on Trade and Development, *Measuring ICT for policy making*, 2006

<sup>123</sup> United Nations Committee on Trade and Development, *UNCTAD Helps to Highlight ICT's as key Drivers for Sustainable Future at Rio+20*, 2012

<sup>124</sup> United Nations General Assembly. *Science and technology for development*, 2012, A/RES/66/211.

<sup>125</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Agricultural Technology for Development*, 2012, A/RES/66/195.

<sup>126</sup> UNESCO, *The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All. A Report by the Broadband Commission*, 2012.

<sup>127</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). *Information and Communications Technology Development Indices*. 2003.

<sup>128</sup> International Telecommunication Union, Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 5.

<sup>129</sup> International Telecommunication Union Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 53.

<sup>130</sup> International Telecommunication Union Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 18.

The Internet is an important component to the success of businesses while availability in households is also very important. The main source of the data on the Internet comes from telecommunications authorities and private companies.<sup>131</sup> This data is collected from telecommunication providers so the information is available to any country to better track where these technologies are, who needs them, and what specific technologies need expansion.<sup>132</sup> This data is collected from two main sources, businesses and individuals. Individuals tend to use these technologies for personal information such as home internet, and personal cell phones, while businesses give a better understanding of which technologies are being used for specific purposes.<sup>133</sup> Only the data from businesses and individuals with legal subscriptions can be used. For instance, only individual and households with a cellular or landline contract with a legitimate cell phone or landline provider can be used.<sup>134</sup> There is a growing trend of cell phone and internet users in developing countries being provided with coverage through illegitimate contracts. This can lead to incomplete understanding of collected data.<sup>135</sup>

### ***International Framework***

There have been numerous international pieces of legislation dealing with ICT for development. Notably, the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) released the *Declaration of Principles* adopted in 2003, and the *Tunis Commitment* of 2005.

The *Declaration of Principles* asserted the common desire and commitment to, “build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life.”<sup>136</sup> Furthermore, the declaration went on to note, in article 4, that the freedom of expression through information across frontiers is a human right afforded to all.<sup>137</sup> Also, the declaration asserted that ICT development should seek to benefit individuals in all aspects of life.<sup>138</sup> This meant that ICT should be used not only to relay and gather information, but also to use ICT to benefit the areas of business, agriculture, and education. However, an underlying factor in achieving this is through cooperation regionally and internationally—as outlined in articles 60-64.

To supplement the *Declaration of Principles*, in 2005, the WSIS adopted the *Tunis Commitment*. The *Tunis Commitment*, along with the *Declaration of Principles* and the *Tunis Agenda*, “reaffirm a global willingness to secure the cyber-commons in order to stimulate a digital information society.”<sup>139</sup> While the *Tunis Commitment* itself reaffirmed a lot of the values found in the *Declaration of Principles* of 2003, the commitment did go on to further note the need of ICT for sustainable development.<sup>140</sup> Article 13 states: “...the ICT revolution can have a tremendous positive impact as an instrument of sustainable development. In addition, an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels could prevent increasing social and economic divisions, and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries, regions, and individuals—including between men and women.”<sup>141</sup> The commitment also noted the special situation of indigenous peoples and the need to preserve their heritage and cultural legacy.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> International Telecommunication Union. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. *Core ICT Indicators 2010*, 2010.

<sup>132</sup> International Telecommunication Union. Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. *Core ICT Indicators 2010*, 2010.

<sup>133</sup> International Telecommunication Union Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 36.

<sup>134</sup> International Telecommunication Union Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 17.

<sup>135</sup> Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 17.

<sup>136</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Declaration of Principles*, 2003.

<sup>137</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Declaration of Principles*, 2003.

<sup>138</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Declaration of Principles*, 2003.

<sup>139</sup> Yannakogeorgos, *Cyberspace, the New Frontier – and the Same Old Multilateralism*, 2010.

<sup>140</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Tunis Commitment*, 2005.

<sup>141</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Tunis Commitment*, 2005.

<sup>142</sup> World Summit on Information Society, *Tunis Commitment*, 2005.

## ***UN System Involvement***

The UN has taken special note of ICT for development in the Second Committee. Two recent documents to have been considered within the Second Committee are A/67/66 and A/67/207. They contain reports on some of the action taken in following up not only with the work done by the UN itself, but also reviewing the WSIS conferences at the behest of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>143</sup> ECOSOC monitors the implementation of the WSIS commitments as requested in the Tunis Outcome and in doing so, works in collaboration with UNCTAD, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as well as the Commission on the Status of Women. It reports to the General Assembly Second Committee. As of November 9, 2012, the General Assembly Second Committee started debating the issue of ICT for Development, and it is expected that a draft resolution will be communicated to the General Assembly Plenary for adoption later this year.<sup>144</sup>

A/66/67 is a report of the Secretary-General on *Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*. It notes the boom which has taken place in ICT. Of importance, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took note that mobile subscriptions have trebled to 6 billion worldwide, and smart phones have transformed the face of ICT to multi-purpose devices that pervasive in developed countries.<sup>145</sup> Furthermore, in 2008 the proportion of people with a computer was 1 in 50, but by 2020 it expected to dramatically move forward to 1 in 3.<sup>146</sup> Dealing directly with development, the Secretary-General illustrated that mobile devices, for example, have increased capacity to monitor environmental change, help to manage weather crises, and have adjusted to evaluate climate change impacts.<sup>147</sup> Similar to the *Tunis Commitment*, Secretary Ban's report noted the impact for human prosperity with ICT can be "profound".<sup>148</sup> This view is shared by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), who noted in his report A/67/207 to the Second Committee the importance of ICT for development programmes used worldwide, and "how to demonstrate the potential of communication for development principles and practice in enhancing and acceleration United Nations programming efforts."<sup>149</sup> One area of importance for ICT is in Africa, and regional initiatives have been placed, in conjunction with the ITU, by the UN to advance ICT on the continent.

According to the Secretary-General, African countries have made positive steps in the access of ICT and their role in development.<sup>150</sup> The continent has seen the installation of submarine cables and there have also been investments in terrestrial broadband infrastructure to improve connectivity, increase bandwidth, and reduce costs.<sup>151</sup> Furthermore, the UN and ITU developed Connect Africa.

Connect Africa is a: "global multi-stakeholder partnership to mobilize the human, financial and technical resources required to bridge major gaps in ICT across the region, with the aim of supporting affordable connectivity and applications and services to stimulate economic growth, employment, and development throughout Africa."<sup>152</sup> Connect Africa developed out of a Summit of Leaders which took place in Rwanda in 2007. The summit outcome outlined five goals which where to connect African capitals and major cities, connect villages, adopt key measures, support the development of skilled labor for ICT, and adopt e-strategies to regulate this new development.<sup>153</sup> As noted by Secretary Ban, this initiative is making significant progress in developing ICT on the continent and can be used as a model to implement ICT development in other areas in need of the technology.

## ***Technology and Education***

Education is seen as one of the foremost benefactors of new technologies. These technologies can be luxuries for many poor or developing countries. Some governments have little to no access to technologies for primary and

<sup>143</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>144</sup> United Nations Press Release, *Full access to information and communications technology would boost developing world's participation in global economy, second committee told (GA/EF/3353)*, 2012.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>146</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>147</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>148</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>149</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>150</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/207, 2012.

<sup>151</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General Assembly Report 66/67, 2012.

<sup>152</sup> International Telecommunication Union, *Connect Africa*, 2011

<sup>153</sup> *Connect Africa, Outcomes Report*, 2007

secondary education; however, for example, 90% of students in Africa have never touched a computer.<sup>154</sup> Many developing states have little to no budget to dedicate to their schools in turn creating a budget to expand education tools to include computers and internet access can be nearly impossible, especially for poor and rural schools that do not have access to landline telephones or computers.<sup>155</sup> Technology expansion programs can include installing or upgrading computers in schools, providing internet for computer labs, and/or hiring teachers who specialize in teaching students about everyday computer programs that can benefit the classroom.

There are communities trying to provide these important technological advantages to students.<sup>156</sup> One of the most applauded programs is from the Chilean government. *Enlaces*, which is Spanish for 'links', has been one of the great success stories of emerging nations and technology.<sup>157</sup> Started almost two decades ago, this program not only provides students with access to technology such as the internet, but teacher development including training teachers to become more computer literate and build strong relationships with universities.<sup>158</sup> The Ministry of Education now oversees this program and the prediction was that by 2010, the student to computer ratio would be ten students to one computer. Chile has been the model for many South American states and countries around the world including the Philippines and the United States.<sup>159</sup> Uruguay now has a one student to one computer ratio for its students.<sup>160</sup> Singapore is another example of the benefits of widespread ICT/education integration. Their program, entitled *Masterplan for ICT*, was initially developed to create an infrastructure for computers and digital technology that would be available to students and would have the capacity to expand as technological needs grow.<sup>161</sup> Singapore's last tier of *Masterplan for ICT* was implemented to strengthen integration of ICT into the curriculum and to create more practice based business development.<sup>162</sup>

One major initiative for expanding ICT in education is the Education for All (EFA) program sponsored by UNESCO. It consists of six pillars, in line with the Millennium Development Goals, that are applied to education including early child care and increasing adult literacy.<sup>163</sup> Its goal of providing primary and secondary education for everyone stresses the importance of integrating technology based curriculum into the classrooms.<sup>164</sup> Staying progressive on the subject of technology, the EFA program issued a challenge to countries to come up with an initiative to enhance education in the classroom with mobile phones.<sup>165</sup> The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) established the Train for Trade program, which dedicates itself to promoting trade by enhancing knowledge of ICT technologies while paying special attention to developing countries.<sup>166</sup>

### ***Business and Agriculture***

ICT are integral for today's business.<sup>167</sup> Business is being conducted with less extensive travel because the internet and other technologies provide businesses with multiple communication options. Many business transactions are done over the phone and with the increase of video conferencing technologies, you can talk to anyone, anywhere at any time. Businesses hoping to flourish can look to technology and communication as primary or complimentary product offerings.<sup>168</sup> Many businesses are expanding to locations outside of their borders. A company located in the United States may have a factory in Mexico and a flagship location in India. The necessity of communication between all of these business units is only successfully supported through advanced communication technologies.

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<sup>154</sup> Perez, *Technological Revolutions, Paradigm Shifts and Socio-Institutional Change*, 2004, pp. 217–242

<sup>155</sup> Partnership on Measuring ITC for Development. *Core ICT Indicators for 2010*, 2010, p. 69

<sup>156</sup> Watkins, Amanda, *ICTs In Education For People With Disabilities*, 2011

<sup>157</sup> Trucano, Michael, *Linking up with Enlaces (Chile)*, 2009

<sup>158</sup> Trucano, Michael, *Linking up with Enlaces (Chile)*, 2009

<sup>159</sup> Trucano, Michael, *Linking up with Enlaces (Chile)*, 2009

<sup>160</sup> Trucano, Michael, *Linking up with Enlaces (Chile)*, 2009

<sup>161</sup> Trucano, Michael. *ICT & Education: Eleven Countries to Watch -- and Learn From*, 2012.

<sup>162</sup> Trucano, Michael. *ICT & Education: Eleven Countries to Watch -- and Learn From*, 2012.

<sup>163</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All: Beyond 2015 Mapping Current International Actions to Define the Post-2015 Education and Development Agendas*.

<sup>164</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All: Beyond 2015 Mapping Current International Actions to Define the Post-2015 Education and Development Agendas*.

<sup>165</sup> UNESCO. *UN-backed prize honours mobile communication initiatives to advance education*.

<sup>166</sup> UNCTAD, *Train for Trade*, 2010

<sup>167</sup> UNESCO. *Report by the Broadband Commission. The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All*, 2012

<sup>168</sup> UNESCO. *Report by the Broadband Commission. The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All*, 2012

For poor and developing countries, agriculture is often an important part of the states Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In many rural areas, farming is the only food source or way of creating income. Farming practices in these areas may lack the proper infrastructure to be sustainable for long periods of time or current practices may have become obsolete in other parts of the world as a result of enhanced efficiency.<sup>169</sup> The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) provides models on infrastructure development using past planning ideas from different regions. This can help governments with policy making and to plan strategically for the future.<sup>170</sup> Information and communication technologies are integral to the agricultural sector to inform farmers with information about pricing, prospective buyers, and agricultural innovations that can optimize business.<sup>171</sup> ICT also link farmers to policies, government assistance programs and possible government subsidies.<sup>172</sup> For the poor in these rural areas, this information can be vital to owning and operating a viable business. Perhaps the largest benefit is gaining visibility of competitors, peers, and potential partners while promoting their business. With these opportunities, farmers are exposed to biodiversity and best practices about how to grow their crops. Farmers may still use harmful pesticides and land stripping harvest techniques.<sup>173</sup> With the proper technology and information, many farmers could grow fewer modified crops, synthesized fertilizers and tend to crops and livestock in a way that has less of an environmental impact. These innovations can potentially lead to increased production, more profitable business, and a lower impact on the environment. The FAO is central in promoting policies to improve linkages between public and private businesses. Through new training materials and strategies to disperse new technological knowledge, advancements and business strategies are implemented which target small-scale farmers.<sup>174</sup>

### **Challenges**

When creating and integrating new technologies, there are many challenges and factors that can stall progress such as crime, lack of proper infrastructure or lack of monetary funds. For example, cell phones are less expensive and more readily available to people so with the spread of cell phone service to rural areas, this may be the first modern technology, besides a television and a land line telephone, that many rural residents own. This does not, however, cross over to internet access.<sup>175</sup> There is a deficiency of teachers, trained information technology workers, and professionals in business whom can go into the community and help train students and other professionals. Obstacles to building infrastructures include: the absence of electrical power, running water, and many insufficient roads, etc.<sup>176</sup> Minimal availability of health services effectually enables diseases like HIV, TB, and malaria making them more prevalent.<sup>177</sup> There are few jobs in marginalized rural areas, which lead to low employment. Another obstacle is public funding; there are no means to maintain a public works project, therefore projects may be left to deteriorate over time. A deficit of support from the government or corruption can also hamper production and completion of ICT projects in rural areas. Training must be given only during suitable times for farmers and other agricultural workers to accommodate workday schedules. When providing training on new technologies, teachers must be mindful that applications can be perceived as not user-friendly.<sup>178</sup>

Other major challenges to expanding access to ICT include financing, as well as scaling up and identifying existing good practices and ways in which to ensure projects are implemented fully, with adequate follow-up and maintenance.<sup>179</sup> Countries have been plagued with, at great cost, programs being put together only to find out that they need further funding to be viable. A large number of developing nations can't afford to invest millions of dollars to fix existing infrastructure problems and provide for new projects. Developing countries have been striving to secure more private sector business investment. These funds can be invested in new technologies within their

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<sup>169</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable energy sources*, 2012, A/RES/66/206.

<sup>170</sup> United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). *Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division*.

<sup>171</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Agricultural development and food security*, 2012, A/RES/66/220.

<sup>172</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Agricultural development and food security*, 2012, A/RES/66/220.

<sup>173</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable energy sources*, 2012 A/RES/66/206

<sup>174</sup> United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). *Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division*

<sup>175</sup> Thinyane, M., *A preliminary investigation into the implementation of ICT in marginalized communities*, 2006.

<sup>176</sup> Thinyane, M., *A preliminary investigation into the implementation of ICT in marginalized communities*, 2006.

<sup>177</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable energy sources*, 2012, A/RES/66/2006.

<sup>178</sup> Thinyane, M., *A preliminary investigation into the implementation of ICT in marginalized communities*, 2006.

<sup>179</sup> UN General Assembly, *Towards global partnerships (A/RES/66/223)*, 28 March 2012.

borders.<sup>180</sup> Governments are further confronted with the question of how commerce and e-commerce can be created and balanced to ensure the greatest possible availability to both the private business sector and fellow citizens.<sup>181</sup> Providing citizens with these technologies can raise the status of society by helping to foster a stronger workforce, create better schools, for example<sup>182</sup>

Another pressing issue is associated with electronic waste. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has estimated the contribution of ICT to climate change is between 2% and 2.5% of the total global carbon emissions.<sup>183</sup> Information technology can provide a negative carbon footprint, but it can also be an opportunity to reduce other carbon emissions. It's shown that information technologies can reduce carbon emissions in some industries by 12 percent a year.<sup>184</sup> The majority of electronic waste is non-biodegradable and in some areas, waste is burned in order to use the leftover metal, however, in doing so, toxic fumes are released into the air.<sup>185</sup> The disposal of these materials including circuit boards, plastic, and computer chips can cause major health concerns among the communities living within poor and or rural communities located within the vicinity of these waste sites. Chemicals such as mercury, cadmium and lead can be present in large numbers.<sup>186</sup>

### **Women's Role in ICT**

There is a growing push for women to be more involved in the ICT sector.<sup>187</sup> The *Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women* sets the normative framework for the realization of women's rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) dedicates itself to providing access to education and vocational training, including access to education in technology to women and girls.<sup>188</sup> This includes increasing literacy rates as well as promoting mathematics and science for women. Integrating gender sensitive training so that education and job opportunities are represented by positive male and female teachers and non-stereotypical ideas of women's traditional professions is another complimentary goal.<sup>189</sup> The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, adopted at the Fourth World Conference in 1995 in Beijing and the landmark document with regards to comprehensive action and commitments on women and integrating gender perspectives recognizes the considerable difference between men and women in commerce. Women in certain parts of the world are almost absent from the economic market.<sup>190</sup> Some steps taken in regards to business include providing female-owned businesses with low cost options for cell phones and encouraging more women into science fields including computer programming and statistics. As women's role in the global economy continues to expand, the potential to contribute to overall economic growth as well as progress towards achieving gender equality also increases.<sup>191</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Regardless of the challenges that ICT, could potentially bring, it is universally seen as essential for the viability of a country in terms of its socioeconomic future, therefore it is imperative that ICT are embraced. The importance of access to the growing number of information and communication technologies cannot be exaggerated. There is growing belief that in order to be competitive economically, a country's population must be educated on what these

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<sup>180</sup> Zemblyas, M., *Globalization, information and communication technologies, and the prospect of a 'global village': promises of inclusion or electronic colonization?*

<sup>181</sup> Chib, A., *Linking Research to Practice: Strengthening ICT for Development Research Capacity in Asia.*

<sup>182</sup> Graham, M., *Warped Geographies of Development: The Internet and Theories of Economic Development.*

<sup>183</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Promotion of new and renewable energy sources*, 2012, A/RES/66/2006.

<sup>184</sup> Heeks, Richard. *The ICT4D 2.0 Manifesto: Where Next for ICT's and International Development?*

<sup>185</sup> Graham, M. *Time Machines and Virtual Portals: The Spatialities of the Digital Divide*, *Progress in Development Studies*, 2011

<sup>186</sup> Greyling, *Content development in an indigenous digital library: A case study in community participation*, 2010

<sup>187</sup> Sylvia, *Empowering Women Through ICT-Based Business Initiatives: An Overview of Best Practices in E-Commerce/E-Retailing Projects*, 2008

<sup>188</sup> Commission on the Status of Women Report on the fifty-fifth session. 12 March 2010, 22 February-4 March and 14 March 2011.

<sup>189</sup> Commission on the Status of Women Report on the fifty-fifth session. 12 March 2010, 22 February-4 March and 14 March 2011.

<sup>190</sup> United Nations Fourth Conference on Women. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

<sup>191</sup> The World Bank, *Transform, Innovate, and Connect: A New Strategy for Information and Communication Technology*, 2005



technologies are, how they work and how using technology can enhance personal and professional lives.<sup>192</sup> There are many questions to consider with the endless frontier that technology brings to the world. Some countries approach these questions from a basic level of trying to provide internet access to its population. Other nations are dealing with the complexities that result from building a technologically vibrant population and economy. How can the world begin to help all countries gain access? Are the systems in place to record the data we collect which effectively pinpoint technological deserts? As citizens in more developed states are given access to newer and more advanced technologies, is their way to facilitate fair policies in poor and developing countries which focus on integrating these technologies into governments, private and public sectors? Are there enough qualified teachers in classrooms educating students on ICT so they might be competitive candidates in their nation's workforce in the future? Can technology expand and co-exist with the planet and not do irreversible environmental harm in the process?

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<sup>192</sup> Zemblyas, *Globalization, information and communication technologies, and the prospect of a 'global village': promises of inclusion or electronic colonization?*, 2005 p. 65-83.

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C. Perez, "Technological Revolutions, Paradigm Shifts and Socio-Institutional Change" in E. Reinert, *Globalization, Economic Development and Inequality: An alternative Perspective*. 2004, pp. 217–242. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from <http://www.carlotaperez.org/papers/basic-technologicalrevolutionsparadigm.htm>

*This article discusses the importance of technology and with the growing globalization how countries without access to internet, cell phone, and other digital technologies will have a very hard time keeping up with other countries especially developing countries looking to compete with more developed nations. This includes business and education. It goes on to describe the social change technologies can have on a society. With the emergence of social networking and blogging, more and more people gather information through these channels and the empowerment that comes with that*

Heeks, Richard. *The ICT4D 2.0 Manifesto: Where Next for ICTs and International Development?* Retrieved August 25, 2012 from [http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/research/publications/wp/di/documents/di\\_wp42.pdf](http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/research/publications/wp/di/documents/di_wp42.pdf)

The article talks about the future of what information and communication technologies can do. It discusses the benefits of what integrating new technology structures can do for businesses and communities. It touches on new technologies such as smart phones and tablets and the new versatility of wireless internet available everywhere through regional or city-wide "hot spots." How more and more schools and teachers will move toward using the computer with their lesson plans and how college educations can be complete without having to move away from ones home country.

Trucano, Michael. *ICT & Education: Eleven Countries to Watch -- and Learn From*. Retrieved August 14, 2012 from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/edutech/countries-to-watch-and-learn-from>

*This discusses some of the programs school boards and systems are implementing to increase students access to information and communication technologies. These programs include developing a professional teachers program to enhance the effectiveness of their teachers. To make available as many computers, including laptops students can take home, so students can use the internet and have information available to them at their home. The goal of these programs to create computer-literate students, which will in turn make them more prepared for college. The strength of the workforce coming out of local colleges will hopefully bring commerce to these countries allowing strong students to stay in their home countries and continue to build a strong workforce.*

Trucano, Michael, 2009, *Linking up with Enlaces (Chile)*. Retrieved on September 1, 2012 from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/edutech/linking-up-with-enlaces-chile>

*This article discusses the programs established by the government of Chile to integrate ICT technology into its school systems. Started almost two decades ago it outlines what technologies it made available to students from K-12 education and the partnerships it created with universities across the country. It discusses the future plans of the program and how this program was an inspiration and a model form many Latin American countries and other countries such as the United States and countries in Africa and southeast Asia.*

United Nations Committee on Trade and Development. *Measuring ICT for policy making*. Retrieved on August 6, 2012 from [http://new.unctad.org/templates/Page\\_698.aspx](http://new.unctad.org/templates/Page_698.aspx)

*The report discussed the importance of policy making and implementing ICT technologies. Making it law to have access to the internet, low cost cell phones, and to have policies specifically aimed at bringing new technologies or supporting the technology community in the country or region. Its details specific ITC's and how policies may be put into place for each in an attempt to create and infrastructure with these technologies built into things such as government planning and private sector investment.*

United Nations Committee on Trade and Development. (June 19 2012). *UNCTAD helps to highlight ICTs as key drivers for sustainable future at Rio +20*. Retrieved on August 6, 2012 from

[http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=138&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=Commission%20on%20Science%20and%20Technology%20for%20Development:#1450:#Technology and Logistics:#1660:#UNCTAD and Rio +20:#20:#UNCTAD Home](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=138&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Commission%20on%20Science%20and%20Technology%20for%20Development:#1450:#Technology and Logistics:#1660:#UNCTAD and Rio +20:#20:#UNCTAD Home)

*During the Rio+ 20 summit in Brazil June of 2012, UNCTAD presented the importance of ICT technologies and how they promote and sustain development. UNCTAD discussed the importance of leveling the playing field when giving access of new technologies to developing countries as a way of giving them the edge they need in a global market.*

United Nations General Assembly. (March 28 2012). *Agricultural development and food security (A/RES/66/220)*. Retrieved August 5, 2012 from

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/220&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/220&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E)

*The importance of modernizing farming practices. Old farming practices can have the damaging effect of destroying top soil, toxifying land and local water supplies through the use of pesticides, especially pesticides not regulated in rural areas. This can lead to erosion of the soil and desertification in some areas. The use of communication technology can lead farmers to produce alternatives to their current practices by making them aware of more efficient farming equipment and crops. They can also find non-effasive alternatives to traditional pesticides and specialized fertilizer that can be used to maximize output of crops while not hurting the environment.*

United Nations General Assembly. (February 28 2012). *Agricultural technology for development (A/RES/66/195)*. Retrieved on August 8, 2012 from

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/195&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/195&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E)

*Discussion of how advances in technologies can help agricultural wise. Old agricultural practices can at times lead to harmful and permanent damage to the landscape including desertification. Just to have access to the internet can give agriculturalist around the world access to other agriculturalist who can give them tips or access to technologies that can prolong the use of their land, cut back on waste and use of pesticides and access to promote their goods and services. Increasing that access beyond just internet access could have very positive and wide spread results.*

United Nations General Assembly. (March 15 2012). *Science and technology for development (A/RES/66/211)*. Retrieved on August 7, 2012 from

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/211&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/211&referer=http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/resolutions.shtml&Lang=E)

*This resolution passed by the General Assembly discusses how progress in science and technology is directly correlated to development. It uses past reports on technology advancements and the countries that have access to these developments and the increase in trade and GDP. It focuses on how technologies implemented can increase a business production and created more investment in the business and greater trade with said county.*

The World Bank. (July 25 2012). *Transform, Innovate, and Connect: A New Strategy for Information and Communication Technology*. Retrieved on August 5 2012 from

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSDNET/0,,contentMDK:23247104~menuPK:64885113~pagePK:7278667~piPK:64911824~theSitePK:5929282,00.html>

*The report deals directly with internet and cell phone technology. It discusses the work being done to create greater access to available and affordable internet and cell phones. These technologies can bridge a gap in business, education, and socially among developing nations. It is becoming a fast consensus that without access to technology a country has no way to be viable in the world market whether it's on a global scale or within its countries borders. Countries with lack of access to these technologies will always lose business to outside competitors.*

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### III. A Fair Globalization for All: The Effect of Job Creation on Sustained, Inclusive, and Equitable Economic Growth

*“Free trade may be the best solution in a perfect world, but we don’t live in that world, and for the sake of the poorest people, ideological straightjackets must be dropped and facts acknowledged.”<sup>193</sup>*

#### **Introduction**

The recent job crises all over the globe, in developed and developing countries alike, have resulted in a more critical view of globalization and its reportedly negative impact. Globalization refers to economic integration and the transfer of policies across borders and the transmission of knowledge. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) definitions both refer to growing economic interdependence through trade.<sup>194</sup> The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General points out, “while this has brought a large array of new opportunities and benefits, the increased interdependence that has accompanied these movements has left countries and their populations more vulnerable to external shocks and economic insecurity [and] globalization has also been accompanied by rising inequality both within and among countries.”<sup>195</sup> In the past twenty years the crisis in Scandinavia in the 1990s, Asia and the Russian Federation in 1997-1998, Brazil in 1999, Ecuador in 2000, Argentina and Turkey in 2001 and Uruguay in 2002 have shown that the risks associated with economic and financial integration pose potential dangers for developing countries especially, where poverty levels can rise to pre-economic gain status very quickly.<sup>196</sup> In the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis, the right to work has been compromised as employment opportunities stagnate and in some cases diminish.<sup>197</sup> The international community is thus facing the question of how to boost economies. One strategy focused upon is job creation.

#### **Underlying concepts: Trade integration as a strategy to economic development**

One strategy used to boost economies and create jobs is trade integration. Though economic integration is an organic process due to the vicinity of states in some cases, in other cases these arrangements are contrived to capitalize on competitive advantages, factor endowments, and political leverage.<sup>198</sup> This concept, derived from the Heckscher-Ohlin model which is based on David Ricardo’s comparative advantage theory, asserts that in international trade, states will work together to maximize benefits available in each state.<sup>199</sup> Though there are benefits of trade agreements and free trade areas, in terms of employment, the short-run and long-run impacts will vary.<sup>200</sup> Economists have asserted that opening trade means an increase in the variety of goods available to consumers. This concept held when the Monopolistic Competition model was built as well. The Gravity Equation in Trade considers this as well at the distance between the two countries and size relative to demand and production.<sup>201</sup> For example, between 1990 and 2000, the variety of agricultural products exported from Mexico to the U.S. increased by 9 % (though in other industries it grew even faster). This is comparable to decreasing import prices by 1.2 %, which translates to \$1.1 billion per year in consumer savings.<sup>202</sup> Following the model of the new theory of monopolistic competition, developed in the 1970s by Helpman, Lancaster, and Krugman, some firms would shut down and exit the market causing short-run adjustment costs due to worker displacement.<sup>203</sup> In the long run, the unemployed would

<sup>193</sup> Ruffle, G., *Is Free Trade Fair?*, 2008.

<sup>194</sup> Bonturi and Fukasaku, *Globalisation and intra-firm trade: an empirical note*, 1993, p.146.

<sup>195</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable for all, including job creation (A/66/223)*, 2011.

<sup>196</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable for all, including job creation (A/66/223)*, 2011.

<sup>197</sup> International Labor Organization, *Rights at work in times of crisis: Trends at the country level in terms of compliance with international labour standards*, 2012.

<sup>198</sup> Ruffle, G., *Is Free Trade Fair?*, 2008

<sup>199</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, *Factor endowments: the Heckscher-Ohlin theory*, 2012

<sup>200</sup> Agénor and Masson, *Credibility, Reputation, and the Mexican Peso Crisis*, 1999, p.70-84.

<sup>201</sup> Anderson, J., *The Gravity Model*, 2011.

<sup>202</sup> Doyle, C. , *New Trade Theories*, 2009.

<sup>203</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

find work in a different industry or firm so these costs can be considered temporary and consumers would benefit from increased variety and lower priced imports.<sup>204</sup>

### ***UN System Involvement and the Millennium Development Goals***

There is no economy without the human inputs. Labor, work force, or human capital is an essential gear of the economy.<sup>205</sup> Article 23 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* explains that everyone has the right to work. Article 23 further articulates that everyone has the fundamental human right to choose their place of employment, receive equal pay for the same work being performed by others (which is further commensurate with cost of living in their country), and also to join unions as a way to ensure their rights are protected in the workplace.<sup>206</sup> As such this underpins the work of the GA 2<sup>nd</sup> on this topic in striving for inclusive and equitable growth through job creation.

The topic of job creation is discussed by GA 2<sup>nd</sup> annually under the purview of “role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence.”<sup>207</sup> The GA 2<sup>nd</sup> frequently works with other economic and trade agencies to assess the international economic development and financial issues, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labor Organization, and the WTO. Since the beginning of the Doha round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, balancing the economic disparity between developed and developing countries have been a priority for the GA 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>208</sup>

Job creation in order to boost economic development is intrinsically tied to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially MDG 1, Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger, MDG 3 to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, and MDG 8, to Develop a Global Partnership for Development.<sup>209</sup> A subsection of MDG 1 explicitly calls the international community to focus on women and youth populations, while MGD 8 points to ICTs as an integral part of development.<sup>210</sup> The issues of ICT as well as focusing on women and youth form thus an integral part of any debate on economic development.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is equally addressing these issues through committees that report to it, and the Secretary-General highlighted unemployment issues in his report to this year’s Annual Ministerial Review at the ECOSOC Plenary Session, entitled *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*.<sup>211</sup> The report points out that because the job deficit is ongoing, it is especially “damaging the economic and social fabric of countries” and has been exacerbated by the crisis.<sup>212</sup> ECOSOC has highlighted a focus on encouraging employment and economic empowerment for youth and women and filling gaps in ICTs.<sup>213</sup>

The United Nations has initiated several programs to assist policy makers as states try recover from the crisis. The General Assembly Second Committee supports the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) efforts to decrease unemployment through the Global Jobs Pact. The pact was concluded in 2009 between Member States, workers’ and employers’ organizations as a tool to enable states to create a “set of balanced and realistic policy measures that countries, with the support of regional and multilateral institutions, can adopt to ease the impact of the crisis and

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<sup>204</sup> Doyle, C. , *New Trade Theories*, 2009.

<sup>205</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

<sup>206</sup> United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 2012.

<sup>207</sup> United Nations, General Assembly Second Committee, *List of agenda items and their periodicity*, 2012.

<sup>208</sup> United Nations, *Second Committee: Past Sessions*, 2012.

<sup>209</sup> United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals: Background*, 2012.

<sup>210</sup> United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals: Background*, 2012.

<sup>211</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>212</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>213</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

accelerate recovery in employment.”<sup>214</sup> The policies focus on five key actions: generating employment, extending social protection, respecting labor standards, promoting social dialogue, and shaping fair globalization.<sup>215</sup> In his report to the General Assembly A/66/223, the Secretary-General specified that implementation of such measures is contingent on “national plans and priorities.”<sup>216</sup>

### **ICTs**

ICTs are an imperative component to equitable development and job creation.<sup>217</sup> The United Nations is currently involved in several projects that aim to use ICTs to increase employment and stimulate economic growth.<sup>218</sup> One such project, under the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, is the ICT Model Village in Madagascar. This community-based program, modeled after a program in Tunisia, provides Internet and innovative technologies to a multiple sites in a single village.<sup>219</sup> Another broad step emphasizing the importance of ICTs and job creation was the creation of the Global Alliance for ICTs and Development in 2006. Since its creation, the program has tried to promote development through access to ICTs.<sup>220</sup> Lastly, one of the most prominent efforts within the UN to connect ICTs and Development are the series of World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS). The first WSIS summit took place in 2003 in Geneva, a second phase started with the adoption of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society in 2005, and 2013 will feature a ten-year review, with states currently preparing reports on implementation measures.<sup>221</sup> In the 2005 Tunis Agenda, states had committed to “promoting the use of ICTs to enhance flexible ways of working, including teleworking, leading to greater productivity and job creation.”<sup>222</sup> The 2013 review will examine how far countries have come in implementing ICTs to boost job creation.

### **Women’s economic empowerment**

The UN defines women’s economic empowerment as the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognize the values of their contributions, respect their dignity, and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth.<sup>223</sup> Though the international community as whole has sought to improve the status of women, economic empowerment for women is an area that still needs attention.<sup>224</sup> In the workplace, women still often face discrimination. The international community adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and recently revisited it in 2010. The Beijing Platform for Action aims to increase women’s participation in society.<sup>225</sup> The United Nations recognizes the efforts of international institutions, individual states, multilateral agreements, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in this area.<sup>226</sup> For instance, the World Bank monitors states and identified 33 developing countries where women are especially vulnerable to the effects of the global economic crisis. A successful multilateral agreement that can be modeled is India and its Management of Enterprise and Development of Women (MEADOW) program, which focus on promoting the role of women in business. The program transitioned from a government initiative to a private women-run enterprise, cultivating a sense of ownership and

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<sup>214</sup> International Labor Organization, *The Global Jobs Pact: About the Pact*, 2012.

<sup>215</sup> International Labor Organization, *The Global Jobs Pact: About the Pact*, 2012.

<sup>216</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable for all, including job creation (A/66/223)*, 2011.

<sup>217</sup> United Nations, *Global Alliance of ICT and Development*, 2012.

<sup>218</sup> United Nations Committee on Trade and Development, *Measuring ICT for policy making*, 2012.

<sup>219</sup> United Nations, *ICT Model Village in Madagascar*, 2005.

<sup>220</sup> United Nations, *Global Alliance of ICT and Development*, 2012.

<sup>221</sup> International Telecommunications Union, *World Summit on the Information Society*, 2012.

<sup>222</sup> World Summit on the Information Society, *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, 2005.

<sup>223</sup> United Nations Development Fund, *Innovative Approaches to Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: Paper for the Partnership event on September 25, 2008 : MDG3 - gender equality and empowerment of women - : A prerequisite for achieving all MDGs by 2015*, 2008.

<sup>224</sup> Golla, A., Malhotra, A., Nanda, P., & Mehra, R., *Understanding and Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment: Definition, Framework, and Indicators*, 2011, p. 1-10.

<sup>225</sup> United Nations, *Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing Platform of Action*, 1995.

<sup>226</sup> The World Bank Group, *Global Private Sector Leaders Forum: An Initiative of the World Bank Group Gender Action Plan: Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment*, 2010, p.1-24.



entrepreneurial skills.<sup>227</sup> Another initiative, the Goldman Sachs, 10,000 Women Initiative identifies women in developing and emerging markets provides business and management education.<sup>228</sup>

### ***Youth Unemployment***

The United Nations (UN) defines Youth as people between the ages of 15 and 24 years old.<sup>229</sup> This population, reaching over 1 billion in the past ten years, is growing and facing an increasingly difficult world and are rarely included in the decision making process or seen as a target group in the fight to eradicate poverty.<sup>230</sup> The economic and financial crisis has a particularly negative impact for youth population.<sup>231</sup> Unemployment and underemployment rates are astronomical for young people in developed and developing regions. In 2009, 81 million, or 13% of youths were unemployed globally.<sup>232</sup> The sad reality is that the population of youth living in poverty exceeds 500 million.<sup>233</sup> The potential human capital in the worldwide youth population is as of yet an untapped resource and as the next generation, youth are the pivotal to alleviating this ongoing global problem: poverty.<sup>234</sup> Two schools of thought dominate the current discourse on fighting youth poverty. The first is tactical and includes training programs, micro finance projects, an employment initiative targeted at youth populations, and other direct resource management strategies. The second is philosophical in nature; it considers the value of youth perspective, civic participation, and how other ideals might play a role in poverty reduction. The United Nations, Member States, private sector partners, and other non-governmental actors are increasingly involved in both approaches.<sup>235</sup>

While economic empowerment of women is being addressed in several United Nations committees in different ways, coordinated through the newly founded United Nations Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is overseeing several projects that target youth Poverty.<sup>236</sup> The Rural Youth Poverty Reduction Project for Jamaica is set to last just 2 years and has a budget of \$1M. This project will enable youths in rural areas to generate income through agriculture, thereby, in theory, lowering the incidence of poverty. The idea is to provide skills, training and “increased access to post harvest production facilities to improve the agriculture value added” to youths that are not in school. Similarly, the UNDP’s policy support in Liberia centers on youth-focused community-based recovery and development. In an effort to more closely consider the youth populations, several UN organizations have created programming and released reports in this regard.<sup>237</sup> UNESCO honored the Year of the Youth in 2010-2011, which sought to engage youth populations in community activities and increase commitment and public and private investment in youth education and participation. To compliment these efforts, the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (UNIFAD) has released articles to the press emphasizing the importance of investing in youth populations specifically in rural areas to mitigate poverty.<sup>238</sup>

The multilateral project Tackling Poverty Together called together the The National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations, DESA, and several youth organizations from the countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana and Liberia and represents a cross-functional approach, a hybrid of the tactical and the philosophical. The goal was to promote the influence of young people on national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). The resulting policy recommendations in the PRSPs of the seven countries not only engaged youth populations in the decision making process, but also provided them with hands on experience.<sup>239</sup> Impoverished youth are likely to

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<sup>227</sup> United Nations Development Fund. *Innovative Approaches to Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: Paper for the Partnership event on September 25, 2008*, 2008.

<sup>228</sup> Goldman Sachs, *10,000 Women*, 2012.

<sup>229</sup> United Nations, *World Programme of Action for Youth*, 1995.

<sup>230</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction*, 2010.

<sup>231</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>232</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable for all, including job creation (A/66/223)*, 2011.

<sup>233</sup> United Nations, DESA Department for Social Affairs, *Youth education, employment and empowerment key to global progress*, 2012.

<sup>234</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *Youth education, employment and empowerment key to global progress*, 2012.

<sup>235</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction*, 2010.

<sup>236</sup> UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *Economic Empowerment*, 2012.

<sup>237</sup> United Nations, *UNESCO: Social and Human Sciences: UNESCO: Acting with and for Youth*, 2012.

<sup>238</sup> United Nations, *UNESCO: Social and Human Sciences: UNESCO: Acting with and for Youth*, 2012.

<sup>239</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction*, 2010.

become impoverished adults. Because this age group supplies the labor force and future leaders soon to replace an aging population, Member States and Countries should focus on ending the cycle of poverty in vulnerable populations. In the wake of the recent global economic crisis, unemployment is widespread and investment is low. No economy is immune from the effects of the crisis and youth in developing as well as developed countries or Member States both face unfavorable circumstances.<sup>240</sup> In cases where employment opportunities are low or income is insufficient, youth are forced to abandon education early to secure additional household income. Other youths are biding time in the academic system to avoid the reality of endemic underemployment (the leading cause of brain drain). For these reasons it is important that Member States or countries work together to encourage communities and educational institutions to cooperate.<sup>241</sup>

### ***Unequal Benefits: Free Trade Areas are not always fair***

One of the targets outlined under MDG 8 is to “develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.”<sup>242</sup> As economic integration deepens the risks for uneven gains is ever present.<sup>243</sup> Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.<sup>244</sup> States, for example the European Union, form economic unions and free trade areas to capitalize on the benefits of a common market, like lower prices on consumer goods and competitive advantages of member states. States see that the benefits of membership outweigh the costs and act in their self interests.<sup>245</sup> There are, however, times when policies provoke different responses and have varying economic outcomes from the states that are involved. Often trade systems are not representative of economic realities of its members. In the case of the European Union, states must also adopt the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to become members. This policy is partial to the economic situation of one state, but is seen as an obligatory compromise, accepted by states in order receive the other benefits of membership. One of the responsibilities of the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU), is to set the budget and determine the Common Agricultural Policy.<sup>246</sup> Since states belong to a supranational organization and operate as a single market one might assert that this policy and food standards would be met with little opposition, since within the European Union there are no tariffs. The response to some proposed legislation is dramatically different, because although the European Union is a single market, with no interstate tariffs and liberal labor laws not all gains from trade are shared equally and states maintain divergent interests internally. The CAP is a concession to the few rather than in the interests of the many.<sup>247</sup> The adoption of CAP also brings about short-term and long-run adjustment costs in regards to employment rates.<sup>247</sup>

Another example of supra-national agriculture and trade laws that produce unequal benefit is NAFTA. In relative terms, Mexico has benefitted the least from NAFTA, with the U.S. and Canada benefitting the most. In 1993, Economist Paul Krugman asserted that the creation of NAFTA was “essentially a foreign policy rather than an economic issue” as the results would not have mutually negative effects in the short-term and few positive effects in the long-run.<sup>248</sup> After nineteen years of analysis on the short-run and long-run employment effects of NAFTA, evidence shows that not everyone in the United States, Canada, or Mexico has equally benefitted or lost since its inception.

In the case of the United States, this was measured by analyzing claims filed under the U.S. Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides assistance those who lost manufacturing jobs because of new import competition. Between 1994 and 2002, of the 4 million (444,000 per year) manufacturing workers that were displaced, 525,000 (about 58,000 per year), became unemployed and were filed as being negatively affected by

<sup>240</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *Youth education, employment and empowerment key to global progress*, 2010.

<sup>241</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *Youth education, employment and empowerment key to global progress*, 2010.

<sup>242</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>243</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable for all, including job creation (A/66/223)*, 2011.

<sup>244</sup> United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 2012.

<sup>245</sup> Marek, K., *Public Opinion in Central and Eastern Europe on EU Accession: The Case of The Czech Republic*. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 1999, p.32-62.

<sup>246</sup> Francesco, D., *Between Efficiency and Sovereignty: Transnational Actors, the European Union, and the Regulation of Bankruptcy*, 2009..

<sup>247</sup> McNamara, K., *The Currency of Ideas: Monetary Politics in the European Union*, 1999.

<sup>248</sup> Krugman, *The Uncomfortable Truth about NAFTA: It's Foreign Policy*, 1993, p.13-19.

trade under the NAFTA-TAA program. This estimate indicates that roughly 13 % experienced job loss because of NAFTA. Two thirds of these were employed within three years. If the average yearly income of each is multiplied by three, the lost wages total \$5.4 billion dollars. Although these are accurate accounts of the short-term employment costs and lost wages, they are underestimated figures because both only include account for those who filed claims in the assistance program.<sup>249</sup> This loss of \$5.4 billion compared to the \$5.5 billion gains savings to the consumer over the same five year period, supports Krugman's proposition that NAFTA would "produce only a small gain in overall U.S. real income."<sup>250</sup> Because the United States has so many trading partners, the effects of NAFTA on U.S. productivity have not been measured.<sup>251</sup>

In Canada, projected increases in productivity prompted much of the support for entering into a free trade agreement with the U.S. The larger market would increase the lead to economies of scale in certain industries and lower production costs.<sup>252</sup> Data collected from 1988 to 1996 indicated that the short-run adjustment costs totaled about 5 % of manufacturing employment (100,000 jobs). There is a direct correlation between the amount of tariff reduction in an industry and the number of jobs lost. In some industries, unemployment due to tariff cuts was as large as 12 %.<sup>253</sup> Just as in the United States, however, this unemployment was only temporary as displaced workers began to work for other manufacturing firms.<sup>254</sup> Additional jobs in manufacturing were also created. Therefore, it can be said that NAFTA caused no increase in unemployment in the long run, but drastically increased productivity by an estimated 1.2 % annually resulting in a rise in real income of 3 %.<sup>255</sup>

Because of the distinctly different composition of the work force and industry in Mexico, the effects of NAFTA were also different. Mexico began economic reforms in the 1980s.<sup>256</sup> Joining NAFTA would be the capitulation of a scheme to advance growth and increase incomes.<sup>257</sup> Tariffs on U.S. goods declined 13 % over a ten-year period, while U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods also declined. The impact of NAFTA on the maquiladora plants, characterized by their vicinity to the U.S. border and production predominantly for export to the U.S., differed from the effect observed in other types of manufacturing in Mexico. The productivity of the maquiladora plants increased about 4.1% annually with employment reaching its climax at 1.29 million in 2000. In contrast the non-maquiladora grew little more than half that. To mitigate adjustment costs when Mexico joined NAFTA, the agricultural tariffs would be decreased incrementally over the course of fifteen years.<sup>258</sup> Production rose and because of subsistence farming and subsidies the corn industry was not as negatively affected as predicted.<sup>259</sup> Both types of manufacturing, maquiladora and non-maquiladora, experienced a reduction in real wages of more than 20 %.<sup>260</sup> Again the historical context becomes significant. The peso crisis caused significant inflation as the currency lost value.<sup>261</sup> The economy did not fully recover in terms of real wages until 2003. With high wage earners of the maquiladoras being the exception, real wages did not exceed the 1994 value; therefore increases in productivity, unlike the case in Canada, did not benefit workers. Other states that have entered into free trade agreements in an effort to improve their economy have used policies that work as social safety nets as protection from temporary disruptions and shocks. The report, *Pro-Poor Macroeconomic Policy: Lessons from the Asia Pacific Region*, published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) highlights this strategy.<sup>262</sup>

In addition to the creation, maintenance and amendment of free trade areas and other trade agreements, the international community is also focused on ensuring fair and equal development through gender equality, youth engagement and information communication technologies (ICT) skills development has also proven a successful approach to creating an environment conducive to job creation.

<sup>249</sup> United Nations Department for Social Affairs, *Trade Liberalization and Employment*, 2005.

<sup>250</sup> Krugman, *The Uncomfortable Truth about NAFTA: It's Foreign Policy*, p.13-19.

<sup>251</sup> Teslic, L., *NAFTA's Economic Impact*, 2009.

<sup>252</sup> Harris, *North American linkages: opportunities and challenges for Canada*, 2003.

<sup>253</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

<sup>254</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

<sup>255</sup> Trefler, *The Long and Short of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*, 2004, p.870-895.

<sup>256</sup> Cornelius, *The Political Economy of Mexico under De la Madrid: Austerity, Routinized Crisis, and Nascent Recovery*, 1985, p.83-124.

<sup>257</sup> Esquivel, G. and Rodriguez-Lopez, J., *Technology, Trade, and Wage Inequality in Mexico before and after NAFTA*, 2003.

<sup>258</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

<sup>259</sup> Doyle, *New Trade Theories*, 2009.

<sup>260</sup> Marshall, F.R., *The Implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Workers*, 1993.

<sup>261</sup> Agénor and Masson, *Credibility, Reputation, and the Mexican Peso Crisis*, 1999, p.70-84.

<sup>262</sup> United Nations Development Fund, *Pro-Poor Macroeconomic Policy*, 2008.

## ***Conclusion***

As the committee discusses the job creation in the context of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, all collective policies and programs should be scrutinized from the same perspective. How have trade agreements impacted employment? What improvements can be made to stimulate the global economy while increasing job creation efforts? How might the economic role of women be expanded through more inclusive job markets? What are the implications of ICTs and how specifically could this lead to more jobs?

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*This report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development provides substantive support for the discussion of how free trade areas and agreements affect economic stability. This is the most current report section C, which starts on page 25 is a must read for delegates. This section addresses "rebalancing" and "assessing cooperation."*

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*This press release also underscores just how significant this topic is for the General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> committee. Delegates should read this document first to establish the tone and priorities of the committee. The Committee History and this document will be a spring board to more in depth policy questions.*

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*This press release, published on May 4, 2012 draws attention to the ongoing issues of youth poverty. The content in this article really make the issue of youth poverty relevant for delegates and reiterate that it is a current event. It also explicitly introduces ECOSOC as the forum of discussion for the topic.*

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*Ban Ki Moon, former Secretary General on the United Nations, gave this speech at the Global Colloquium of University Presidents at Columbia University is entitled 'From Youth Explosion to Global Transformation: Unleashing the Power of Youth People.' Although it is not specifically*

*mentioning the youth role in eradicating poverty, the charge of considering the youth an untapped resource is strong. This is a good source for opening quotes to use in position papers.*

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*This is the UNESCO Page provides a succinct overview of the role UNESCO is playing in raising awareness about the importance of engaging the youth population. The links on this page will give delegates an idea of more of the projects that target youths. The information on the year of the year is linked to this page.*

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## **Rules of Procedure General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

### ***Introduction***

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the General Assembly Second Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) and shall be considered adopted by the Committee prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-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 Committee, which can be any Member of the Secretariat or their designate; “Bureau” shall refer to the chairperson(s) and rapporteur(s).

### I. SESSIONS

#### **Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment**

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

#### **Rule 2 - Place of sessions**

The Committee 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 Director-General and communicated to the Members of the Committee at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

#### **Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda provided by the Director-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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Committee decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee 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 Director-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 Committee 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 Committee.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Committee 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 Committee, and shall distribute documents of the Committee to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee.

***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 Committee are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Committee shall be required for any decision to be taken.

*For purposes of this rule, members of the Committee 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 Committee, 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee**

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

**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 Committee 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 Committee, 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 Committee.

*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 Committee. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

*As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Committee'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 Committee.*

***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 Committee favors the closure of debate, the Committee 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 Committee [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

Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Committee 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 Committee, 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 Committee 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 Committee for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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. CREDENTIALS

**Rule 41 - Credentials**

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

**Rule 42 - Authority of the General Assembly**

The Committee shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

**Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States**

The Committee shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Committee and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.

A sub-committee or sessional body of the Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee is no longer required.*

**Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements**

The Committee 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 46 - 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 Committee 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 Committee or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

***Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations***

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Committee on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Committee on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.