



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

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Katelyn Connell, Tanja Supranowitz



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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).

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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
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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
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Security Council C	scc.nya@nmun.org
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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.nya@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2013 National Model United Nations. As part of the volunteer staff for the United Nations Development Programme we are looking forward to participating and helping you in this incredible educational experience at the conference in New York. This year's Directors are Sara Leister (for the Conference A), and Livia Araujo Pérez (Conference B). Also Katelyn Connell (Conference A) and Tanja Supranowitz (Conference B) will be serving as your Assistant Directors. Sara Leister is currently working for an event design firm near Seattle, WA after graduating with a degree in Political Science and Economics. This is her third year as part of the NMUN staff. Livia Araujo Pérez is currently working in an Investment Fund in Madrid, Spain, after she had finished her studies in Political Sciences and Economics. This is her fourth year on NMUN Staff. Katelyn Connell is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Vanuatu after finishing a degree in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. Tanja Supranowitz is currently finishing her degree in International Studies/Diplomacy and International Organization.

This year's topics under discussion for the United Nations Development Programme Committee are:

1. Improving Access to Sustainable and Renewable Energy
2. Humanitarian and Disasters Relief Assistance by Improving Disaster Prevention and Management
3. Strengthening Development Cooperation for Poverty Reduction: Empowering Microfinance and Local Entrepreneurship

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an organization of the United Nations created to support the dialogue between countries in order to achieve development objectives. UNDP aims to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals internationally while promoting Democratic Governance. Further goals include the prevention and recovery of crisis and advocacy of environmental sustainability. Your work as a delegate of this committee should reflect these objectives in the resolutions the committee adopts. In fact, we hope to see this spirit not only during the conference, but also earlier in your position papers.

This background guide will give you an overview of the topics at hand and the work of the body. Nevertheless, it should only serve as an introduction to your research and preparation for the conference. The references listed for each topic provide a good starting point for your own research and we highly encourage you to deepen your knowledge further, especially while considering your country's position. Each delegation is requested to submit a position paper that 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 United Nations Development Programme or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Development Department, Meg Martin (Conference A) and Théo Thiéffry (Conference B). We wish you all the best in your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you in March.

Sincerely,

Conference A

Sara Leister
Director

Katelyn Connell
Assistant Director

Conference B

Livia Araujo Pérez
Director

Tanja Supranowitz
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 or Conference B: 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. 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

Conference B
Nicholas Warino
Director-General
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 14th 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

“UNDP aims to lift its performance from good to great. Our internal Agenda for Organizational Change is about being able to deliver more and better.”¹

History and Structure

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an agency within the United Nations (UN) dedicated to development and improving the lives of global citizens.² Present in 177 countries and territories today, UNDP promotes development through poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and energy for sustainable development.³ General Assembly (GA) Resolution 2029 (XX) established UNDP by combining the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund into one agency.⁴ UNDP additionally plays a vital role in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which coordinates the development objectives of 32 UN funds, departments, programs, and agencies in order to achieve more lucrative results.⁵ The Administrator of UNDP serves as the Group’s Chair and follows only the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General in UN rank.⁶

A 36-member Executive Board, established in 1993 by GA Resolution (A/RES/48/162), creates UNDP policy and oversees its work on the ground within Member States. Under direction from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to which it reports annually, the Board also coordinates the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS).⁷ The mandate of the Board includes implementation of GA resolutions and coordination of ECOSOC development efforts.⁸ It specifically receives information from and provides guidance to the heads of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS; ensures that these programs’ activities and strategies align with their responsibilities as given by the GA, ECOSOC, and the UN Charter; monitors program performance; approves country plans and budgets; encourages and examines new initiatives; and submits annual reports and recommendations to ECOSOC.⁹ The 36 members of the Executive Board include representatives from eight African States, seven Asian States, five Latin American and Caribbean States, four Eastern European States and twelve Western European and Other States.¹⁰ ECOSOC elects all members for three-year terms except those from the Western European and Other States group, as it may decide its own internal alternation.¹¹

Millennium Development Goals

As one of UNDP’s primary focus areas concerns achievement of the MDGs, UNDP programs have focused on MDG progress since the adoption of the *Millennium Declaration* in 2000. The UN subsequently established eight MDGs to improve global equality, health, and education through realistic and achievable development targets and a timeline stretching to 2015.¹²

Today, UNDP is one of the key agencies of the UN working to achieve the MDGs. It contributes by overseeing Member States’ progress in this regard, by giving policy and technical guidance, and reviewing negative and positive reports with Member States.¹³ Millennium Development Goal 8, namely to create a global partnership for development and address the special needs of least developed countries, is a goal created to ensure the achievement

¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Statement of Helen Clark UNDP Administrator*, 2012.

² United Nations Development Programme, *Frequently Asked Questions*, 2012.

³ United Nations Development Programme JPO Service Center, *A Beginner’s Guide to the United Nations Development Programme*, June 2011, P. 6.

⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme*, 1965. [A/RES/2029(XX)].

⁵ United Nations Development Group, *About the UNDG*, 2012.

⁶ United Nations Development Group, *About the UNDG*, 2012.

⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields*, 1993. (A/RES/48/162).

⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *The UNDP Accountability System*, 2008.

⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *The UNDP Accountability System*, 2008.

¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Members of the Executive Board*, 2012.

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS*, 2012.

¹² United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP at a Glance*, 2011.

¹³ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP at a Glance*, 2011.

of the first seven goals.¹⁴ While progress has been made, unpredicted circumstances such as the global economic crisis threaten progress and leave major gaps for improvement.¹⁵ Since 2008, UNDP, along with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), has become a head agency of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force established to ensure the achievement of MDG 8.¹⁶ Additionally, UNDP continues to support the MDGs through the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), a major result of the 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting at the UN General Assembly (more commonly known as the “MDG Summit”).¹⁷ Through the MDG Acceleration Framework, UNDP may observe existing programs within states and identify obstacles that prevent the programs from becoming effective in meeting the given MDG, whether the program involves agriculture, health, infrastructure, etc.¹⁸ When a given state receiving aid detects an MDG target not progressing sufficiently, the MDG Acceleration Framework will intervene using the following steps: identify the intervention needed to achieve the MDG, identify reasonable solutions, and create an action plan to achieve the solution.¹⁹ The contributions by UNDP to achieving the MDGs now will greatly impact the international development agenda following 2015.

The Human Development Report

UNDP has commissioned the annual publication of the Human Development Report (HDR) since 1990.²⁰ The HDR aims to return the focus of the development discourse to people as the “real wealth of the Nation.”²¹ Prior to this, the numerical values of a country’s wealth as defined by gross national product (GNP) determined its level of development.²² The in-depth reports changed the international perception of development by calculating a qualitative Human Development Index (HDI) based on a population’s average achievement of a “long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.”²³ The HDI expands the quantitative values of GNP to include qualitative measures of health and knowledge; it considers levels of equality, health, education, poverty and sustainability as well as income.²⁴ UNDP releases HDRs at the global, regional, national, and sub-national levels.²⁵

The HDR allows UNDP and the UN network to identify priority needs by more accurately determining which areas are more in need of what type of aid. For example, the most recent international report published in 2011 notes the relation between environmental degradation and economic growth and development.²⁶ Based on the findings, the HDR focused on the theme of sustainability and equity for regions particularly behind in the past decades.²⁷ Observing the HDI also helps UNDP determine the progress of the MDGs. International media have referred to the reports as “the authoritative measure of poverty and deprivation” and “the most influential piece of writing of the last decade” regarding governance.²⁸

Challenges and Critiques of UNDP

One of the central critiques of UNDP relates to its work in producing academic data and instruments focused on measuring and understanding development. The Human Development Report has been the subject of criticism in the academic community, and this criticism has challenged UNDP to be an active participant in dialogue to improve its programs. While the accessibility and ease of understanding of the HDR has been praised, it has also been criticized as representing an overly simplistic view of development, for being premised on flawed or incomplete methodologies, and for lacking external validity or for being insufficiently robust or redundant.²⁹ The Programme

¹⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Gap Task Force*, 2012.

¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Gap Task Force*, 2012.

¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Gap Task Force*, 2012.

¹⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Progress Reports*, 2012.

¹⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Acceleration Framework*, 2011.

¹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *MDG Acceleration Framework*, 2011.

²⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *History of the Human Development Report*, 2011

²¹ United Nations Development Programme, *History of the Human Development Report*, 2011

²² Youngs, *Review: United Nations Development Programme: A Better Way?*, 2007, P. 2.

²³ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Index Value*, 2011.

²⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Index Value*, 2011.

²⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *History of the Human Development Report*, 2011

²⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011

²⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011

²⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP at a Glance*, 2011.

²⁹ Klugman, Rodriguez and Choi, *The HDI 2010: New Controversies, Old Critiques*, 2011, Introduction.

made an effort to address criticisms of the HDI, and, by extension, the HDR process in 2010 in preparation for that year's HDR, and has examined the results of this review and modification of the index.³⁰ Modifications made by the UNDP in an effort to be responsive to criticism and to improve the work of the organization included broadened indicators of human development, and addition of a Gender Development Index (GDI).³¹ The GDI, introduced to the HDR in 1995 in an effort to recognize the gendered aspects of development, has also been criticized. Academics have encouraged modifications to the measure to increase its validity and usefulness, and raised concerns surrounding a perceived lack of difference in measured results between the HDI and GDI, a lack of data necessary for forming a valid instrument, and methodological concerns.³² Suggestions include a simplification of the GDI to make it more accessible to policymakers and non academics.³³

Conclusion

Both the United Nations Development Programme and the terms of international development have evolved greatly since UNDP was established in 1965. The organization continues to evolve its practices in response to changes in the global community and dialogue with both the academic community and key stakeholders in development at the state level and within civil society. The various focus areas of UNDP have made great contributions to many developing states, and, with the help of the Human Development Report/Index, UNDP has made an effort to broaden the conception of development. Considering the areas in great need of development and the fast approaching MDG deadline of 2015, direction given by UNDP Executive Board is of utmost importance.

³⁰ Klugman, Rodriguez and Choi, *The HDI 2010: New Controversies, Old Critiques*, 2011, Abstract.

³¹ Klugman, Rodriguez and Choi, *The HDI 2010: New Controversies, Old Critiques*, 2011, p. 36, 31.

³² Stanton, 2007, *Engendering Human Development: A Critique of the UNDP's Gender-Related Development Index*, 7.

³³ Stanton, 2007, *Engendering Human Development: A Critique of the UNDP's Gender-Related Development Index*, 7, 21.

Annotated Bibliography

Society for International Development. (2007). *Review: The United Nations Development Programme: A Better Way?* Retrieved August 7, 2012, from <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v50/n1s/pdf/1100392a.pdf>

A review of the book detailing the history of UNDP written by Craig N. Murphy. The author of this review focuses on the parallels of development and UNDP, as well as the role of UNDP's annual Human Development Report. The author discusses how the Report has impacted UNDP, and also the international community, since its creation. The writer draws certain conclusions that delegates may want to consider when researching policies and UNDP.

United Nations Development Programme. (June 2011). *A Beginner's Guide to the United Nations Development Programme.* Retrieved August 6, 2012, from

http://www.jposc.org/documents/UNDP%20for%20Beginners/UNDP_for_Beginners_en.pdf

The most recent guide detailing the purpose and goals of the United Nations Development Programme as directed toward UNDP staff or individuals working with the organization. The guide describes how UNDP began and its details involvement with the Millennium Development Goals and also the organization's four major areas of work.

United Nations Development Programme. (January 2011). *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund, and of the United Nations Office of Project Services.* Retrieved August 20, 2012, from

http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/Rules_of_Procedure_E.pdf

The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board is a vital source for understanding how the Board works and differentiating its role in UNDP, as well as in UNFPA and UNOPS. This document goes into detail on relevant information such as code of conduct, meetings and decision making processes. In order to accurately simulate the UNDP Executive Board, delegates should have a clear understanding of this document.

United Nations Development Programme. (August 2008). *UNDP Accountability System.* Retrieved August 20, 2012, from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/dp08-16Rev1.pdf>

This source offers a clear understanding of the role of the Executive Board to UNDP. The document also includes a diagram, which lays out the various actors from the General Assembly to UNDP project beneficiaries detailing the chain of command in carrying out UNDP projects. This source also includes information on ethics and preventing corruption when carrying out UNDP duties. Delegates should become familiar with this process when considering ways to improve the situations of the topics presented to the body.

United Nations General Assembly. (1965, November 22). *Resolution 2029 (XX).* Retrieved August 6, 2012, from [http://undocs.org/A/RES/2029\(XX\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/2029(XX))

This Resolution established in 1965, acknowledges the need to join both the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund into a single entity, referred to today as the United Nations Development Programme. The document describes reasons for combining the two groups, such as possible duplication of activities, and the direction UNDP is intended to take.

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I. Improving Access to Sustainable and Renewable Energy

*Energy poverty inhibits economic and human development. Lack of access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services contributes to a self-perpetuating cycle of poverty and problems of health, hygiene, gender inequality and environmental degradations.*³⁴

Introduction

Energy access is critical to all parts of social, economic, and environmental development.³⁵ Access drives development, creates jobs, and reduces poverty, while empowering women and disenfranchised communities to take control of their own development.³⁶ It provides light, mechanical power, process and space heating and power for transport.³⁷ Users can utilize energy to achieve higher rates of return from previously owned assets, such as by irrigating agriculture fields or using productive tools like sewing machines after daylight.³⁸ Nearly 1.4 billion people globally do not have access to electricity and nearly 3 billion people still depend upon traditional biomass heating and cooking fuels.³⁹ Progress continues - nearly 200 million people gained access to electricity from 2010 to 2011 alone – but developing countries continue to face challenges to achieving universal access.⁴⁰

Renewable energy becomes more important as the international community scales up efforts to achieve universal energy access. Modern renewable energy increases the quality and efficiency of necessities while decreasing the negative health side effects of traditional fuel usage.⁴¹ The effects are particularly significant for women and girls as they are primarily responsible for gathering fuel and cooking in many countries, thus limiting available time for school and enterprising activity and exposing them to higher rates of respiratory disease.⁴² Recent years have seen a significant growth in the renewable share of global energy consumption; wind, solar, and hydropower accounted for half the additional electric capacity gained during 2011.⁴³ The International Energy Association (IEA), an autonomous organization working to securing reliable, affordable, and clean energy for its 28 Member States, finds that every dollar currently invested in clean energy will generate three dollars in fuel savings by 2050.⁴⁴

Defining Sustainable and Renewable Energy

The IEA defines renewable energy as “energy derived from natural processes (e.g. sunlight and wind) that are replenished at a faster rate than they are consumed.”⁴⁵ Common renewable sources include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and some forms of biomass.⁴⁶ Many countries are increasingly relying on renewable energy as shown by recent growth rates: from 2007 to 2012, global wind power capacity grew an average of 25% and solar photovoltaic (PV) an average of more than 50%.⁴⁷ Due to the available supply of wind and solar energy, some independent estimates find that producing all global power through wind turbines, solar panels, and geothermal, tidal, and rooftop PV installations would cost less per kilowatt-hour than utilizing fossil fuel and nuclear power.⁴⁸

The Role of Energy Access in International Development Efforts

Energy access is critical to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is the primary stated goal of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).⁴⁹ The Programme holds that “poverty, energy, and environment are inextricably linked. Poverty reduction depends on the sustainable use of natural resources, and

³⁴ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an ‘Energy Plus’ Approach for the Poor*, p. 10.

³⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Sustainable Energy*, NA.

³⁶ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an ‘Energy Plus’ Approach for the Poor*, p. 10.

³⁷ UN-Energy, *Delivering on Energy*, 2010.

³⁸ United Nations Sustainable Energy for All, *The Objective: Universal Access*, NA.

³⁹ ESMAP, *Energy Access*, NA.

⁴⁰ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 81.

⁴¹ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 81.

⁴² ESMAP, *Energy Access*, NA.

⁴³ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 13.

⁴⁴ IEA, *Energy Technology Perspectives 2012*, 2012, p. 1; IEA, *About Us*, N.A.

⁴⁵ IEA, *FAQs: Renewable Energy*, NA.

⁴⁶ IEA, *FAQs: Renewable Energy*, NA.

⁴⁷ IEA, *FAQs: Renewable Energy*, NA.

⁴⁸ Jacobson, *A Path to Sustainable Energy by 2030*, 2009, p. 59.

⁴⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.i.

the sustainable use of natural and energy resources cannot be achieved without poverty reduction and accelerated progress towards MDGs.⁵⁰ Energy access directly contributes to achieving all seven goals. It increases incomes and thus reduces hunger (MDG 1) through enabling micro-enterprises and increasing agricultural productivity; it supports education (MDG 2) by powering schools, providing light for evening study, and reducing time that is needed to gather traditional fuel, typically a task executed by women; and it contributes to gender equality (MDG 3) both by allowing girls to attend school and freeing time for women to engage in enterprising activity.⁵¹ It contributes towards MDGs 4, 5, and 6 because energy improves health care by powering clinics, allowing for the refrigeration of drugs and vaccines, and it prevents disease related to the use of traditional solid fuels.⁵² The use of renewable and sustainable energy lastly addresses MDG 7 by promoting environmental sustainability through the reduction of forest degradation, soil erosion, air pollution, and emissions.⁵³

The Role of UNDP in Improving Access to Renewable Energy

Since 1992, UNDP energy projects have expended over US \$4 billion and have included more than 2,500 off-grid energy projects.⁵⁴ More than 10 million people gained energy access due to these efforts in the past decade alone.⁵⁵ UNDP focuses on “strengthening policy and institutional frameworks consistent with low-emission, climate-resilient development, mobilizing and expanding financing options aimed at achieving market transformation to catalyze public and private finance, and developing effective approaches for scaling up energy service delivery.”⁵⁶ It provides a variety of services to do so and takes an integrated approach by assisting with capacity building to ingrate energy issues into policy, innovative investment and financing, and strategies for scaling up energy delivery.⁵⁷ UNDP provides advisory and technical services, including documentation and dissemination of best practices, and encourages partnerships and coordination between national parties, donors, the UN Development Assistance Framework, UN Country Teams, and UNDP knowledge networks, as well as South-South Partnerships.⁵⁸ Based upon past project experience, UNDP has identified several ways to move forward with universal energy access. It has called for a two-part action plan embracing both global awareness and significant ground investment in clean energy.⁵⁹ To effectively scale up energy delivery, Member States and private donors should establish and enhance energy institutions.⁶⁰ Significant public investment can help overcome geographical issues that prevent central utility services and other traditional delivery services; public-private partnerships must play a critical role in project development and funding.⁶¹

International Framework on Renewable and Sustainable Energy Access

The UN and Energy Access Initiatives

The UN has long been concerned with sustainable development, including energy access. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), also known as the Johannesburg Summit, met in 2002 to follow up on the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment in Rio de Janeiro (Earth Summit).⁶² States gathered at the Earth Summit had adopted *Agenda 21*, a revolutionary global sustainable development plan with a focus on sustainable energy especially in connection to action foreseen on human settlements.⁶³ In June 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), more commonly known as Rio+20, convened to address environmental protection, social equity, and poverty reduction.⁶⁴ The outcome document entitled *The Future We Want* reiterates support for achieving energy access for all, including access for the 1.4 billion people who are currently without

⁵⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.7.

⁵¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

⁵² United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

⁵³ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

⁵⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Fast Facts: Universal Energy Access*, 2011.

⁵⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Fast Facts: Universal Energy Access*, 2011.

⁵⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Fast Facts: Universal Energy Access*, 2011.

⁵⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.22.

⁵⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.22.

⁵⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2011*, 2011, p. 98.

⁶⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.21.

⁶¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.21.

⁶² United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Johannesburg Summit 2002: Basic Information*, 2002.

⁶³ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Johannesburg Summit 2002: Basic Information*, 2002.

⁶⁴ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *About RIO+20*, NA.

electricity.⁶⁵ It specifically supports expanded electrical access, sustainable cooking and heating options, sharing of best practices, and government-facilitated private-public investment partnerships.⁶⁶ The conference also addressed green jobs and the potential synergy between employment, energy, and environmental issues.⁶⁷

International Institutional Framework

A wide variety of international institutions contribute to sustainable and renewable energy access. Established in 2004 after the WSSD, UN-Energy plays a significant role within the UN framework by coordinating energy-related work across all UN agencies.⁶⁸ UN-Energy thematically concentrates on the three clusters of access to energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.⁶⁹ UNDP co-leads the first two clusters with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) respectively.⁷⁰ UN-Energy subsequently established UN-Energy Africa (UNEA) to focus exclusively on African energy needs.⁷¹ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also plays a role in the UN's energy initiatives.⁷² UNEP's energy division focuses primarily on the integration of climate change mitigation policies into national frameworks and development strategies.⁷³ Most recently, the UN Secretary-General established a High Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All to administer and guide progress of the already mentioned Sustainable Energy for All initiative.⁷⁴ The High Level Group bridges public-private industry and works with UN organizations involved in energy issues to achieve universal and sustainable energy access.⁷⁵

Next to the abovementioned organizations and programs, the World Bank also plays a critical role within the UN system concerning universal energy access. World Bank divisions fight poverty through the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank fund focusing specifically on the world's poorest countries.⁷⁶ The IDA offers a variety of financing options to increase energy access, advises on energy policy, and facilitates public-private partnerships and knowledge transfers.⁷⁷ Outside the UN System, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) acts as a global forum for international leaders concerning the transition to renewable energy. REN21 participants include governments, international groups like the UN, and industry associations.⁷⁸ Its goals encompass energy policy, identification of priority renewable energy issues, advocacy and international communication, and knowledge exchange.⁷⁹

Recent UN Initiatives

UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 65/151 of February 16, 2011 proclaimed 2012 as the *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All*.⁸⁰ In doing so, the GA draws attention to international and domestic policy concerning energy access and asks Member States and the UN system to focus on clean technology, the sustainable use of traditional energy sources, and how to utilize new energy sources.⁸¹ Its call for the Secretary-General to plan the related activities of 2012 resulted in Ban Ki Moon's introduction of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative later in 2011 with the goal of achieving universal energy access by 2030.⁸² The three goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative are "ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix" by 2030.⁸³ Highlighted

⁶⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution A/66/L.56*, 2012, p. 25.

⁶⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution A/66/L.56*, 2012, p. 25.

⁶⁷ United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *RIO 2012 Issues Briefs: Green Jobs and Social Inclusion*, 2012.

⁶⁸ UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy*, NA.

⁶⁹ UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy*, NA.

⁷⁰ UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy*, NA.

⁷¹ UN-Energy, *About UN-Energy*, NA.

⁷² UN-Energy, *Members: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*, NA.

⁷³ UN-Energy, *Members: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*.

⁷⁴ UN Sustainable Energy for All, *The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All*.

⁷⁵ UN Sustainable Energy for All, *The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All*.

⁷⁶ UN-Energy, *Members: World Bank Group (WBG)*.

⁷⁷ UN-Energy, *Members: World Bank Group (WBG)*.

⁷⁸ REN21, *About REN21*.

⁷⁹ REN21, *About REN21*.

⁸⁰ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/65/151: *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All*, 2011, p. 2.

⁸¹ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/65/151: *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All*, 2011, p. 2.

⁸² United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/65/151: *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All*, 2011; UN Sustainable Energy for All, *About Us*.

⁸³ The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *A Global Action Agenda*, 2012, p. 2.

benefits of energy access within the initiative are improved health and agriculture productivity, empowerment of women, creation of businesses and jobs, and progress towards economic development, and the Millennium Development Goals.⁸⁴ The Global Action Agenda published by the Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All identifies 11 Action Areas to meet the Sustainable Energy for All goals.⁸⁵ Seven sectoral areas encompass modern cooking appliances and fuels, distributed electricity solutions, grid infrastructure and supply efficiency, large-scale renewable power, industrial, and agricultural processes, transportation, and buildings and appliances.⁸⁶ The four enabling Action Areas address energy planning and policies, business model and technology innovation, finance and risk management, and capacity building and knowledge sharing.⁸⁷

Regional Focus: Access Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have distinct development disadvantages due to low energy access rates.⁸⁸ Asia and the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) regions have the lowest rates of energy access globally: While only 28% of people in all developing countries lack access, 70% in these specific regions are not able to use light, safe cooking practices, or engage in more productive economic activity.⁸⁹ SSA has the lowest electricity access rates in the world.⁹⁰ With the exception of South Africa, all 47 countries within the region generate an amount of energy equivalent to that of Argentina.⁹¹ In the Asia-Pacific region, close to 800 million people lack electricity access and 2 billion use traditional biomass cooking fuel.⁹² Most LDCs and SSA countries will not meet the MDGs with current efforts.⁹³ Only 68 out of 140 developing countries surveyed in 2008 had established energy access targets, while only 17 had targets concerning modern fuel access.⁹⁴

However, SSA countries have made progress towards universal energy access. Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Cameroon, and Malawi provide examples of recent successful domestic electrification projects.⁹⁵ African initiatives, such as the Ghana Energy Development and Access Programme (GEDAP) are working together with the World Bank to create legal and financial frameworks that encourage private sector investment in development.⁹⁶ LDCs within Asia have progressed as well. More than one-third of the electrical capacity added in China in 2011 was from renewable sources, while India and Japan are world leaders in renewable electric capacity.⁹⁷ Even with these advances, 80% of the Asian population lacking access to electricity is concentrated within Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan.⁹⁸ The UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre published a recent collaborative review highlighting how the “dissemination of low-emissions technologies, financing, market development, entrepreneurship, institutional strengthening and policy development” have increased energy access in Asia.⁹⁹ The most successful projects combined energy access projects with initiatives to generate income, such as business development and capital access.¹⁰⁰ Termed ‘Energy Plus,’ these approaches have a more significant impact on development and poverty reduction than initiatives that solely focus on basic needs such as lighting, heating and cooking.¹⁰¹

⁸⁴ The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *A Global Action Agenda*, 2012, p. 6.

⁸⁵ The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *A Global Action Agenda*, 2012, p. 2.

⁸⁶ The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *A Global Action Agenda*, 2012, p. 8.

⁸⁷ The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *A Global Action Agenda*, 2012, p. 8.

⁸⁸ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.1.

⁸⁹ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

⁹¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

⁹² United Nations Development Programme, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, 2011, p. 10.

⁹³ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁴ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.2.

⁹⁵ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 82.

⁹⁶ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 81.

⁹⁷ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 14.

⁹⁸ Rehman, *Understanding the Political Economy and Key Drivers of Energy Access in Addressing National Energy Access Priorities and Policies*, 2012, p. 27.

⁹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, p. 10.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, p. 10.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, p. 13.

Strategies for Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

Modern Cooking Fuels and Tools

Three billion people worldwide currently rely on traditional fuels like wood, dung and coal for cooking and heating.¹⁰² Solid fuels cause indoor air pollution and, next to chronic lung disease and lung cancer, are responsible for almost two million related deaths from pneumonia every year.¹⁰³ Negative effects are concentrated among women and children due to their role as cooks.¹⁰⁴ Updating cook stoves and fuel would save 800,000 lives of children every year who die from indoor smoke exposure.¹⁰⁵ Traditional cooking fuel usage is particularly concentrated in the SSA and Asia regions: 56% of people in all developing countries rely on solid cooking fuels as compared to 89% in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 82% in SSA.¹⁰⁶ Citizens of developing countries have a 40% access rate to modern cooking fuels while only 17% of SSA has similar access; there is furthermore a significant discrepancy between rural and urban access of 5% versus 42%.¹⁰⁷ The urban poor face particular challenges, such as the prohibitive cost of the tools, meters, and appropriate stoves required for obtaining and using electricity.¹⁰⁸ Other restrictions include the illegal status of slum dwellers, lack of education and knowledge, lack of trust between the poor communities and electricity providers, and lack of infrastructure.¹⁰⁹

Off-Grid Sustainable Energy in Rural Areas

Energy infrastructure poses a particular challenge in Africa. Power plants and power grid interconnections are frequently cost-prohibitive in rural areas, thus causing an increase in decentralized power options.¹¹⁰ Off-grid energy access is cheaper than extending the electricity grid and has been successful in bringing sustainable electricity to these communities.¹¹¹ Successful financing of clean energy solutions like solar portable lights and home systems and household biogas units consist of a partnership between significant public resources and investments funded by domestic budgets and public finance with private financing used as scale-up leverage.¹¹² Modern conditions are making rural energy projects more appealing as energy technology costs are decreasing, slow demand in developed countries are provoking manufacturers to turn to technology needed in developing countries, and private companies who have benefited from high return are looking to repeat their energy projects in other areas.¹¹³ The primary actors in rural renewable energy are end-users; governments at the national, regional, and local levels; private utility providers; private donors; installation and manufacturing agents; a wide variety of NGOs, international agencies, development banks and multilateral organizations; and investment agencies, micro-finance institutions, and local industries.¹¹⁴

Decentralized and integrated energy initiatives are cheaper and more environmentally friendly options for rural communities who cannot afford typical centralized power plants due to high costs and low demand.¹¹⁵ Nepal provides a particular example of the benefits of off-grid power initiatives. One of the poorest and least-developed countries worldwide, only 34% of rural households in Nepal have access to electricity while 93% rely on traditional biomass fuel for cooking and heating.¹¹⁶ Investments in decentralized micro-hydropower systems within more

¹⁰² United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

¹⁰³ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.2.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.2.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Sustainable Energy for All, *The Objective: Universal Access*, NA.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries*, 2009, p.1.

¹⁰⁸ ESMAP, *Innovative Approaches to Energy Access for the Urban Poor*, 2011, p. 2.

¹⁰⁹ ESMAP, *Innovative Approaches to Energy Access for the Urban Poor*, 2011, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ Khennas, *Understanding the Political Economy and Key Drivers of Energy Access in Addressing National Energy Access Priorities and Policies: African Perspectives*, 2012, p. 21.

¹¹¹ Glenarec, *Financing Off-Grid Sustainable Energy Access for the Poor*, 2012, p. 87; REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 16.

¹¹² Glenarec, *Financing Off-Grid Sustainable Energy Access for the Poor*, 2012, p. 87.

¹¹³ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 81.

¹¹⁴ REN21, *Renewables 2012: The Global Status Report*, 2012, p. 81.

¹¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Decentralized Energy Access and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2011, p. 4.

¹¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Decentralized Energy Access and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2011, p. 5.

remote mountainous areas have benefited the local communities and the financial benefits far outweigh the installation costs of these systems.¹¹⁷ Emphasizing skill enhancement within such projects allowed for income generating activity that takes advantage of newly available electricity and increased household income by US\$912.¹¹⁸

Financing

Financing provides a major barrier to achieving energy access for the states in SSA and Asia.¹¹⁹ As the region with the lowest electricity access rates worldwide, SSA is in a unique position to develop energy access systems that are sustainable and have a low-carbon output if funding can be secured.¹²⁰ Most financing currently goes to existing project maintenance rather than new investments and progress towards the MDGs.¹²¹ UNEP estimates the region needs US\$41 billion per year, which is equivalent to 6.4% of its GDP, in order to meet the energy access goals of 2030.¹²² Current financing comes from a combination on national income; national budgets; public-private partnerships (PPPs); international sources including grants, loans, Official Development Assistance, and technology transfers; and international and non-governmental funding from groups like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, African Development Bank, and other bilateral development banks.¹²³ Private funding is necessary to close the gap between these sources and the needs of the SSA region, but this requires energy access projects to have appealing risk-return profiles.¹²⁴ These profiles determine whether the amount of risk a private firm would face by entering the venture is sufficiently balanced against the risk of failure.¹²⁵ PPPs currently focus on projects with high-expected returns that do not actually improve energy access for citizens, such as in the oil industry.¹²⁶ UNDP finds that good financing practices require a balance of funds from the national budget, international aid, and private investments.¹²⁷ An estimated 0.5% of world GDP needs to come from developing countries themselves in order to achieve universal energy access.¹²⁸ Furthermore, consumers need to access appropriate subsidies, end-user financing, and microfinance in order to scale up access after project initiation while utilizing income-building activities built into the project.¹²⁹ Other suggested financing options include debt, equity, venture and consumer financing; revolving funds; targeted small and medium-business funding; and combined financing instruments.¹³⁰

Current Initiatives

A variety of international assistance programs focus specifically on energy access in Asia and SSA. For example, the Africa Renewable Energy Access program (AFRAE) started in 2009 under the World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) to help more SSA countries provide energy services.¹³¹ AFRAE has sponsored several initiatives focusing on energy access, green growth, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.¹³² These include the Biomass Energy Initiative for Africa (BEIA), which focuses on developing and managing wood-based biomass energy resources; Light Africa and the spread of clean off-grid lighting technologies; the Gender and Energy Program; and the Africa Electrification Initiative (AEI), which facilitates cooperation between African government entities, non-profits, and research centers.¹³³ The Asia Sustainable and Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE), sponsored by UNDP, began in 1992 under the World Bank to aid South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific Regions in increasing their sustainable and alternative energy sources.¹³⁴ Its efforts focus on three pillars: renewable

¹¹⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Decentralized Energy Access and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2011, p. ixx.

¹¹⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Decentralized Energy Access and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2011, p. ixx.

¹¹⁹ Gujba, *Financing Low Carbon Energy Access in Africa*, 2012, p. 71.

¹²⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

¹²¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

¹²² United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

¹²³ Gujba, *Financing Low Carbon Energy Access in Africa*, 2012, p. 72.

¹²⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

¹²⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries*, 2012, p. 9.

¹²⁶ Gujba, *Financing Low Carbon Energy Access in Africa*, 2012, p. 72.

¹²⁷ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, p. 14.

¹²⁸ UNDCSD, *World Economic and Social Survey 2011*, 2011, p. xxii.

¹²⁹ United Nations Development Programme, 2011, *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor*, p. 14.

¹³⁰ Gujba, *Financing Low Carbon Energy Access in Africa*, 2012, p. 73.

¹³¹ AFRAE, *Meeting Africa's Energy Needs and Widening Access to Sustainable Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2012.

¹³² AFRAE, *Meeting Africa's Energy Needs and Widening Access to Sustainable Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2012.

¹³³ AFRAE, *Meeting Africa's Energy Needs and Widening Access to Sustainable Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 2012.

¹³⁴ ASTAE, *About ASTAE*, NA.

energy to reduce environmental degradation and increase reliance on domestic over imported resources; energy efficiency to enhance the sustainability of existing resources; and access to modern energy services, including new access and improved access, such as biogas over charcoal stoves.¹³⁵

Conclusion

Energy access is critical for achieving development and progressing towards the MDGs. UNDP has identified a variety of ways to strive towards both these goals and those established by the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The Asia and SSA regions exhibit the largest global gap between access and population energy needs, but at the same time have the opportunity to install sustainable energy access. Several current strategies have the potential to expand and help new communities, especially those concerning modern cooking fuels and tools, off-grid energy production in rural areas, and innovative financing. Future projects can further focus on the specific needs of other differential populations, such as urban versus rural needs and the biggest, most vulnerable populations lacking energy access in SSA and Southeast Asia. Concurrent care for regional considerations can help adapt successful past projects, as there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to expanding energy access. UNDP also promotes gender equality pursuant to MDG 3 and can further focus on how energy access enables women and girls to save time and instead focus on school and income-generating activities.¹³⁶ Gender-disaggregated data concerning program outcomes can help UNDP track this progress.¹³⁷

International cross-actor partnerships and cooperation plays a critical role in energy access expansion. Both UNDP and middle-income partner States can assist in national and regional capacity development, a critical part of achieving sustainable long-term energy access.¹³⁸ South-South partnerships and national-level leadership form a foundation for UNDP to provide access through its Assistance Framework, UN Country Teams, and its information networks, such as the Environment and Energy Network.¹³⁹ The Executive Board can explore new ways to facilitate public-private investment and finance partnerships, especially in the expansion of off-grid energy networks. After successful execution in Asia, UNDP should consider energy access projects that combine access with income generating opportunities to provide more real poverty alleviation. Future projects particularly have an opportunity to focus on how increased energy access can also contribute to UN sustainability goals.

¹³⁵ ASTAE, *About ASTAE*, NA.

¹³⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

¹³⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

¹³⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

¹³⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010, p.20.

Annotated Bibliography

Gudjba, H. (2012). Financing Low Carbon Energy Access in Africa. *Energy Policy*, 47 (1): 71-78. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/issue/271097-1-s2.0-S0301421512X00065>

Published in a recent special supplement of Energy Policy focusing on universal energy access, Gudjba's article is a valuable resource for delegates looking for funding choices for energy access initiatives. Focusing on the Sub-Sahara African region, the article outlines current funding tools including public-private funding partnerships; national budgets; international sources including grants, loans, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and tech assistance; and international options such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, and the African Development Bank. It continues on to describe a variety of financing options that are not traditionally used in energy access initiatives, included debt, equity, venture and consumer financing; revolving funds; small- and medium-business funding; and combined financing instruments.

The Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All. (2012, April). *A Global Action Agenda: Pathways for Concerted Action toward Sustainable Energy for All*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/sustainableenergyforall/shared/Documents/SEFA-Action%20Agenda-Final.pdf>

This Global Action Agenda is an excellent starting point for delegates when considering what policies and actions they will support and propose during the meeting of UNDP Executive Board. It delineates the Secretary-General's High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All's plan and priorities to address the three priorities of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative by 2030. The Agenda identifies 11 Action Areas to achieve these priorities, including practical sectoral areas and a few enabling areas addressing policy, management, and capacity building. The sectoral areas are a great resource for potential resolutions in UNDP as they identify seven addressable sub-topics for energy access, such as distribution, infrastructure, transportation, and cooking fuels. The Agenda further outlines an implementation roadmap broken into immediate, short, and long-term actions the international community can take to achieve the goal of Sustainable Energy for All.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011). *World Economic and Social Survey 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/2011wess.pdf>

The 2011 Survey provides a resource for defining what a green, or sustainable, economy is and how it fits into development projects over the next fifty years. The terminology of green energy and green development are poorly-defined; this Survey clarifies the terms by providing a brief history of energy use, explaining how a shift in energy production is needed to achieve sustainable development, and outlining a variety of challenges and possible paths to doing so. It additionally outlines an action plan for accelerating a transition to green economic practices. Emphasis is placed upon the necessity of technology transfers, financial support, and governance structures as well as possible paths to strengthen these tools. Delegates can use this to guide specific development of their position and possible solutions to discuss in committee.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Towards an 'Energy Plus' Approach for the Poor: A Review of Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Asia and the Pacific*. Retrieved August 24, 2012, from

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Sustainable%20Energy/EnergyPlusReport.pdf>

This report explains and empirically supports the 'Energy Plus' approach to electrification, or the combination of energy access programs with income-building initiatives to cause real development. Perhaps most usefully, it breaks down the MDGs and explains how energy access specifically impacts each one. It provides a variety of examples of successful energy projects in the Asia Pacific region and is an excellent resource for delegates to refer to when creating resolution proposals. The paper also significantly details lessons learned for financing energy access programs, including national budgets, provision of start-up capital, and the use of micro-credit. Furthermore, it outlines a variety of good practice for energy access programs, including institutional partnerships and stakeholder engagement at all levels.

United Nations Development Programme. (2010). *Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals: UNDP's Work in Environment and Sustainable Development*. Retrieved August 4, 2012 from content.undp.org/go/cms-service/download/publication/?version=live&id=2900450

This report provides a broad and comprehensive overview of the recent work of UNDP concerning energy and UNDP. It first provides an extensive overview of how UNDP's work fits within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and how energy access is critical to development. The report discusses and outlines UNDP's work within its five thematic areas, including energy access. It explains why energy access contributes to the MDGs, what previous projects and lessons have taught the organization in order to accelerate future progress, and how UNDP supports countries within the thematic area. It provides an overview of UNDP's active portfolio and provides specific case study examples from Burkina Faso and Nepal.

The United Nations Development Program and World Health Organization. (2009). *The Energy Access Situation in Developing Countries: A Review Focusing on the Least Developed Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa*.

Statistically heavy, this report notes in detail the energy access situation as of 2009. Though slightly outdated, the data provides a useful picture of discrepancies between LDCs in general and the specific regions of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. It provides great detail into the issue of cooking stoves and traditional versus modern fuel sources, as well as the impact of traditional fuel on user health. It explains how this problem specifically affects women, as well as how global warming requires and provides an opportune moment to address sustainable measures within development. It concludes with three possible paths through the next few years to possibly meet the MDGs.

United Nations Energy. (2010, February). *Delivering on Energy: An Overview of Activities by UN-Energy and its Members*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from: <http://www.un-energy.org/publications/169-delivering-on-energy>

This report describes the mission and efforts of UN-Energy and goes into detail about its cluster activities specifically relating to energy access. It describes how access is problematic and identifies UN-Energy member activities in the area, including capacity building, creating access-enabling environments, issues of financing, knowledge sharing, and research and technology development. Delegates can learn what the UN has accomplished so far concerning energy access and identify weakness and areas of improvement to address in committee. Furthermore, the report annotates and links a variety of UN-Energy member publication relating to energy access over the past few years and provides further topical resources.

United Nations Energy. (2012, February). *Financing Renewable Energy in Developing Countries: Drivers and Barriers for Private Finance in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from: http://www.un-energy.org/sites/default/files/share/une/financing_renewable_energy_in_subsaharan_africa.pdf

This document provides an excellent and detailed case study of encouraging private financing of energy access in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. It explains why the region needs renewable energy and illustrates recent energy trends. Barriers to renewable energy development are identified, as well as national and international policy possibilities. The report is fairly technical in some parts, but it also provides a basic introduction and overview to the significant barrier of financing to renewable energy access. It provides a specific example of how a barrier identified within the overall Action Agenda for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative can be methodically addressed and solved, setting an example for possible proposals during the meeting of UNDP. Reading this study is most useful for parties interested specifically in the challenges of finance after understanding how it fits into the broad problem of energy access.

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, July 24). *Resolution A/Conf/216/16*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from <http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/814UNCSD%20REPORT%20final%20revs.pdf>

The Report of The Future We Want from the RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is necessary reading for understanding where the international community currently stands on sustainable development issues related to energy. It succinctly summarizes the outcomes of RIO+20 held in June 2012, including the goals of the conference, a summary of past documentation and international agreements concerning sustainable development, assessment of relevant efforts to date, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The section

on energy emphasizes the need to increase access, identifies policy regions that need strengthening, and supports the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

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II. Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance by Improving Disaster Prevention and Management

“More effective prevention strategies would save not only tens of billions of dollars, but save tens of thousands of lives. Funds currently spent on intervention and relief could be devoted to enhancing equitable and sustainable development instead, which would further reduce the risk for war and disaster. Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in the distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did NOT happen.”¹⁴⁰

Introduction: The Link between Human Development and Natural Disasters

The increasing frequency and scale of natural disasters pose mounting challenges to human well-being, security, and are connected to the course of human development.¹⁴¹ Proportionality, neutrality, impartiality, and independence have been the principles of humanitarian aid, but increased frequency and destructiveness of natural and man-made hazards over the last years have come to question these principles.¹⁴² In addition, relief and development sectors have largely failed in the past, accentuating the link between human development and natural disasters.¹⁴³ A closer look reveals that development choices made by humans, their communities, and countries increase the risk of new disasters. Nevertheless, sources indicate that human development choices by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made in the interest of disaster prevention and post-disaster recovery can help in disaster risk reduction.¹⁴⁴ On closer scrutiny, the links between natural disasters and human development could reveal to what degree human development is tied to the damage of natural disasters, and how disaster prevention and post-disaster management can be improved to minimize natural disaster impact. The United Nations Environment Programme highlights the connection between humanitarian and disaster relief assistance in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁴⁵ As such, it would be remiss to discuss human development and natural disasters without elaborating on Millennium Development Goals and the four key aspects according to the UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis and Recovery (BCPR). These are: 1. Prevention of disasters and conflicts; 2. Strengthening development in post crisis countries by reinforcing governance, the rule of law, and livelihoods; 3. Rapid response to emerging unexpected crisis, supported through an innovative UNDP trust fund mechanism for crisis prevention and recovery; 4. Strengthening the coherence of the UN and the international community as a whole to better respond to crisis and build peace of the UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in mind.¹⁴⁶ The relationship between human development and natural disasters is a reciprocal one. Examining the economics of natural disasters, one sees natural disasters cause damage to nations of varying socio-economic statuses differently¹⁴⁷ as human development influences the impact and damages of a natural disaster.¹⁴⁸

Terminology

Following is a list of terms that will be used in discussion of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance by Improving Disaster Prevention and Management. Part of the BCPR’s study defines the terms disasters and conflict. Disasters are defined as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material, economic, or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.¹⁴⁹ The disruption of community is caused by the exposure of a vulnerable social

¹⁴⁰ UN Secretary General, *Introduction to Secretary-General’s Annual Report on the Work of the Organization of United Nations*, 1999, (Document A/54/1)

¹⁴¹ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Contribution to Disaster Prevention and Recovery – Reducing Vulnerabilities*, 2010, p. v

¹⁴² United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 2

¹⁴³ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 2

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Contribution to Disaster Prevention and Recovery – Reducing Vulnerabilities*, 2010, p. xi

¹⁴⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *Environment and Disaster Risk – Emerging Perspectives*, 2008, p. 4

¹⁴⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p. 2

¹⁴⁷ The World Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters- Concept and Methods*, 2010, p. 2

¹⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Contribution to Disaster Prevention and Recovery – Reducing Vulnerabilities*, 2010, p. xi

¹⁴⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 13

asset to a natural hazard. A conflict is a natural part of human interaction and is necessary for social change; though, conflicts may become violent without proper dispute management in a given countries.¹⁵⁰ According to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center ADRC, natural disasters can be classified into geo-physical, hydro-meteorological, and “other” disasters.¹⁵¹ In this framework, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, earthquake-induced tsunamis and landslides are categorized as geo-physical disasters. Windstorms, floods, extreme temperatures, droughts and heavy rain-induced landslides are categorized as hydro-meteorological disasters. Other disasters, such as famines and epidemics fall under the category of “other.”¹⁵²

UNDP

UNDP Executive Board and Involvement

The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from 36 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis.¹⁵³ Through its Bureau, consisting of representatives from five regional groups, the Board oversees and supports the activities of UNDP, ensuring that the organization remains responsive to the evolving needs of programme countries.¹⁵⁴

The UNDP – BCPR is actively advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life.¹⁵⁵ UNDP is currently active in 166 countries and works with countries to find their own solutions to global and national development changes.¹⁵⁶ Its goal is to support disaster-prone countries in the development of legislative frameworks, operational systems and coordination mechanisms to ensure the integration of risk reduction into human development, through the BCPR.¹⁵⁷ The UNDP Strategic Plan urges UNDP in its strategic coordinating and assistance for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), building the resilience for nations and communities to disasters, in the increasingly urgent area of disaster risk reduction.¹⁵⁸ Further, the BCPR has developed a 2007-2011 strategy which identifies two outcome areas: Prevention and risk reduction, and Recovery.¹⁵⁹ UNDP focuses on the national and sub-national levels, where UNDP assists national and local governments in implementing Disaster Risk Reduction DRR activities.¹⁶⁰ BCPR has created positions for full-time senior regional disaster reduction advisors in all five regions in which UNDP operates.¹⁶¹ These advisors help provide technical advice and advocate for implementing new ideas at the national and sub-national levels.¹⁶² Based on the demand for UNDP support from countries, a number of key thematic areas have emerged, which have been formulated by the UNDP: The Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP), Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), Climate Risk Management, Urban Risk Management, International Recovery Platform (IRP), Global Mainstreaming Initiative (GMI), and Gender Sensitive Disaster Reduction and Recovery.¹⁶³ In accordance with HFA the UNDP has five priority areas, namely, 1. Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority and institutional strengthening; 2. Risk assessment and early warning systems, 3.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 13

¹⁵¹ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁵² Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁵³ United Nations Development Programme, *Executive Board*, 2012, p. n.d.

¹⁵⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Executive Board*, 2012, p. n.d.

¹⁵⁵ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 26

¹⁵⁶ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 26

¹⁵⁷ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 26

¹⁵⁸ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 26

¹⁵⁹ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 26

¹⁶⁰ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 27

¹⁶¹ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 27

¹⁶² International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 27

¹⁶³ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 28

Education, information, and public awareness, 4. Reducing underlying risk factors, 5. Preparedness for effective response.¹⁶⁴

The Economics of Natural Disasters

Disaster Classification and the Impact of Development Characteristics

Levels of human development in different regions or countries often correlate with specific natural disasters. African countries are more at risk for hydro-meteorological disasters, especially droughts.¹⁶⁵ The Americas, Asia, Oceania, and Europe experience hydro-meteorological disasters most frequently.¹⁶⁶ Countries defined as low, lower middle income, and low and medium human development often experience hydro-meteorological disasters, but are also moderately vulnerable to geo-physical disasters.¹⁶⁷ Hydro-meteorological disasters tend to be annual events, causing more damage to low and medium human development countries than geo-physical disasters, which occur less frequently.¹⁶⁸

The ADRC concludes from present data that the extent of damage caused by some natural disasters is clearly connected to a country's socio-economic level.¹⁶⁹ ADRC statistics show that disaster management and post-disaster activities are crucial to sustainable development.¹⁷⁰ Impacts of natural disasters were closely related to poverty, education, quality of health, gender related issues and hanging policy scenarios in relation to global socio-economic characteristics and stakeholder partnerships.¹⁷¹ Thus, human development prior to the onset of natural disaster and the management of such post-disaster must be examined in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Economic assessment of natural disasters

The economic research on natural disasters and their consequences is unfortunately very limited. In fact, no single definition of a disaster exists; however, an economic perspective defines natural disasters as natural events that cause a perturbation to the functioning of the economic system with significant negative impact on assets, production factors, output, employment, and even consumption.¹⁷² Though capable of producing negative consequences of great severity, natural disasters are common, and their incidence continues to increase.¹⁷³ Data presented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) charts the incidence of natural disasters growing overtime worldwide.¹⁷⁴ Using Asia Pacific as an example, the region with the most of such events, the incidence of natural disasters has grown from an average 11 events per country in the 1970s to over 28 events in the 2000s.¹⁷⁵ In other regions, the trend holds but less dramatically, with the sidebar that IADB data fails to define a time trend for any specific subset in a region.¹⁷⁶

To observe trends pertaining to the economics of natural disasters, established terminology provides a framework through which data can be assessed and conclusions can be made.¹⁷⁷ An IADB survey utilized the typology of direct and indirect damages. Direct damages are defined as damages to fixed assets, capital, raw material and extractable natural resources, as well as mortality and morbidity attributed to natural phenomenon.¹⁷⁸ Indirect damages are defined as those impacting economic activity, namely the production of goods and services not directly attributed to natural phenomena.¹⁷⁹ Indirect damages may be caused by direct damages to physical infrastructure, or indirectly as

¹⁶⁴ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nation – Roles, Mandates, and Areas of Work of Key United Nations Entities*, 2009, p. 28 - 32

¹⁶⁵ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.47

¹⁶⁶ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.47

¹⁶⁷ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.47

¹⁶⁸ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.47

¹⁶⁹ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.54

¹⁷⁰ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.54

¹⁷¹ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p.54

¹⁷² The World Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters- Concept and Methods*, 2010, p. 2

¹⁷³ The World Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters- Concept and Methods*, 2010, p. 2

¹⁷⁴ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 9-10

¹⁷⁵ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 9-10

¹⁷⁶ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 10

¹⁷⁷ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁷⁸ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 6

¹⁷⁹ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 6

reconstruction pulls resources away from production.¹⁸⁰ Indirect damages include the additional cost incurred through inferior means of producing and providing everyday goods and services that exist in the aftermath of disaster.¹⁸¹

The impact of disaster-related damage and income levels are closely connected. Statistics by the ADRC find the majority of individuals affected in low and lower middle income countries.¹⁸² Although the trend could be specific to natural disasters characteristic to the region (e.g., flooding), the data provided by the ADRC is consistent with longer-term trends.¹⁸³ Generally, high-income countries have more significant real economic losses from disasters due to the value of developed infrastructural framework and economic establishment with accumulated social capital, especially when viewed as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) of those countries.¹⁸⁴ Comparatively, in developing and lower-income countries, disaster-related losses are more substantial: the data shows that when human loss and suffering are considered, the low and lower middle-income countries suffer to a greater degree.¹⁸⁵ While quantifying human suffering and losses poses challenges, the socio-economic impacts of disasters can be differentiated by type of disaster, the duration of a disaster, and the post-disaster recovery period.¹⁸⁶ Naturally, a country's socio-economic level plays a significant role in the speed of recovery.¹⁸⁷ Though all countries see negative effects from disasters, GNI and magnitude of the socio-economic impacts of a disaster are proportionally related: the ratio of socio-economic impact to GNI portrays the negative effects of disasters upon low and lower middle-income countries.¹⁸⁸

Prevention of and Recovery from Natural Disasters

Traditionally, response to humanitarian crises around the world is focused on the immediate needs of population by providing shelter, food, and water.¹⁸⁹ Recent development however, has changed by emphasizing early recovery and help to restore and rebuild communities.¹⁹⁰ Natural disasters such as floods, droughts, storms, etc., are unavoidable events. Deaths and damage resulting from human acts of omission and commission however are not natural and therefore not necessarily inevitable.¹⁹¹ Every disaster is exceptional, but each needs actions by individuals and governments to be mitigated.¹⁹² (DRR) is therefore an important factor and can result in fewer deaths and less destruction.¹⁹³ Appropriate development actions such as the systematical reduction of exposure of natural hazards and reduction of vulnerability of people can prevent disasters.¹⁹⁴ In this context the correlation between conflicts and disasters plays a significant role and needs to be examined.

Correlation between Conflicts and Disasters

Developing countries often experience both disasters and conflict at the same time.¹⁹⁵ The relationship between the two produces vulnerability, often leading to poverty and inequality.¹⁹⁶ Within the limited contextual evidence, the

¹⁸⁰ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 6

¹⁸¹ Inter-American Development Bank, *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 7

¹⁸² Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁸³ Cavallo, E., Nay, I., *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 19

¹⁸⁴ Cavallo, E., Nay, I., *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*, 2010, p. 19

¹⁸⁵ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁸⁶ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁸⁷ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 47

¹⁸⁸ Asian Disaster Reduction Center, *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*, 2008, p. 54

¹⁸⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.23

¹⁹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.23

¹⁹¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.10

¹⁹² United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.10

¹⁹³ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.10

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*, 2011, p.10

¹⁹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 7

¹⁹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 7

argument can be made that both worsen a crisis.¹⁹⁷ Recently, however, it has been recognized that disaster and conflicts do not necessarily exist in reclusive and independent vacuums from each other, but rather are integrally linked to the broader national development context, in which they take place.¹⁹⁸ In this context, the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) initiated a case study on exploring the correlation between conflict and disasters; defining disaster-conflict interface as settings where disasters have a relationship with conflicts and/or vice versa, beyond simple geographical/demographic co-location.¹⁹⁹ According to the BCPR, disasters and conflicts do not follow a simple logic of "disaster X leads to conflict Y" or vice versa.²⁰⁰ Each interface is a complex phenomenon of its own.²⁰¹ With each individual country comes a unique sociopolitical climate; the incidence of any event, disaster or conflict, may contribute to a system of complex and potentially antagonistic relationships between conflicts and disasters.²⁰² Concomitant disasters and conflicts increase risk of and vulnerability to future crises by diminishing infrastructure and increasing poverty.²⁰³

After analysis of case studies, the UNDP released the following observations on common tendencies of different disaster types and the manner in which they lead to conflict: Disasters related to the absence of limited natural resources, and large scale, long term disasters, e.g., desertification, can cause conflict due to poverty and dearth of resources characteristic to these types of disasters.²⁰⁴ Small, rapid onset disasters can spark local conflicts, though only contributing to national conflicts. Recurrence of these types of disasters exacerbates negative impact on the region and poverty, increasing potential for conflict.²⁰⁵

The UNDP also expounded upon the common tendencies of different types of conflicts and the manner in which they lead to natural disasters: persistent conflicts lead to disaster by putting strain on the environment and deprioritizing (DRR) and prevention activities.²⁰⁶ Further, the risk or any actual onset of conflict deprioritizes DRR with all resources and attention diverted to the conflict and its pacification.²⁰⁷ Unsustainable conflicts and/or unsustainable disaster assistance increase risk by worsening community vulnerabilities.²⁰⁸

BCPR case studies illustrate myriad instances of disaster-conflict interfaces wherein disasters reduced vulnerable social assets such as limited natural resources. Disasters and conflicts already do, or have the potential to make situations worse.²⁰⁹ However, case studies portray the relationship between conflict and disasters diverge widely between countries.²¹⁰ The BCPR points out that correlation between conflict and disasters is highly influenced by key factors such as governance, climate change, environmental issues, etc.²¹¹ The BCPR emphasizes on the importance of development agencies understanding the interface between these two in order to respond to crisis and to improve aid.²¹² BCPR case studies focuses, for instance on crisis response in Indonesia, Sudan, or Kyrgyzstan.²¹³

Conclusion

Current research on humanitarian and disaster relief assistance by improving disaster prevention and management emphasizes the link between human development and natural disasters. Analysis of this research as well as that pertaining to prevention and recovery of natural disasters illustrates that these strategies for humanitarian and

¹⁹⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 7

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 11

¹⁹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 7

²⁰⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰² United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰³ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 8

²⁰⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 23

²¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 23

²¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 24

²¹² United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 24

²¹³ United Nations Development Programme, *Disaster-Conflict Interface – Comparative Experiences*, 2011, p. 24

disaster relief assistance are gaining more prominence in current trends of development thinking.²¹⁴ Even though sources accentuate the need to work continues, it is evident that efforts have been made.

On the other hand, sources clearly highlight that several conclusions on this topic can be made. The UNDP's Development Report points out that development and relief need to be incorporated rather than to work next to each other, meaning that early recovery requires adequate and timely deliberation with UN agencies and countries.²¹⁵ The report accentuates the global political commitment to reduce the possibility of risk.²¹⁶ Further, humanitarian initiatives must hold true to their founding principles.²¹⁷ Equivalent standards of entitlement afforded to the humanitarian sector need to be applied to DDR.²¹⁸ The internationally accepted rights that every individual is due, as for example the right to clean water, shelter, etc., must be insured even in the event of disaster.²¹⁹ It is an imperative that the international community must meet through the provision of disaster assistance and aid. As such, DRR should receive the entitlements given to non-disaster related humanitarian assistance.²²⁰ This mentality is encapsulated in the UNDP statement, "humanity bears the responsibility to protect those among us who are vulnerable to disasters."²²¹ Therefore, delegates should ask themselves whether or not the UNDP disaster risk reduction needs revision. Does the UNDP risk reduction strategy need a better improvement in order to create effective programs in natural disasters? Further, does the UNDP need to clarify its principal area of focus in disaster prevention and recovery efforts to assist countries on development dimensions, as well as risk reduction?

²¹⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 30

²¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 31

²¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 31

²¹⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 31

²¹⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 32

²¹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 32

²²⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 32

²²¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2007/2008 – Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective*, 2007, p. 32

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center. (2008). *Natural Disaster Data Book 2007 – An Analytical Overview*. Retrieved August 31, 2012 from http://www.adrc.asia/publications/databook/DB2007_e.html

The 2007 publication analyzes natural disaster developments in order to accelerate and strengthen global and regional socio-economic frameworks. The analysis focuses heavily on published data in an effort to minimize the consequences of natural disasters through designing effective disaster reduction mechanisms. Due consideration is given to national socio-economic disparities and environmental structures.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2001). *Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development: Understanding the Links between Development, Environment, and Natural Disasters – Background Paper No 5*.

Retrieved August 31, 2012 from

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/backgrounddocs/unisdr%20report.pdf>

Prepared to contribute to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, this 32-point background document explains disaster reduction policies and measures. Disaster measures aim to function in 2 principal ways: enabling societies to be resilient to natural hazards all the while ensuring that development efforts do not increase vulnerability to these hazards. As such, disaster risk reduction and associated measures are emerging as important requisite for sustainable development.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund. (2011, January 6). *Evaluation DP/2011/5 (2011)*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from [http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/
http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/202/68/PDF/N1120268.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/202/68/PDF/N1120268.pdf?OpenElement)

This evaluation analyzes the UNDP's contribution to disaster prevention and recovery, and the importance of its mandate on operational activities on prevention and preparedness for natural disaster mitigation, emphasizing the UNDP's credibility with governments, as well as in assisting partners. The evaluation points out that the UNDP has developed capacity in particular areas, such as disaster recovery, governance, risk identification, climate risk management, etc. that are crucial for building effective national disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity. In addition, the evaluation focuses on the UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-2013, in which the UNDP identified DRR as an important factor for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Ferris, E. (2010). *Natural Disasters, Conflict, and Human Rights: Tracing the Connections*. Retrieved August 31, 2012 from

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/speeches/2010/3/03%20natural%20disasters%20ferris/0303_natural_disasters_ferris.pdf

The presentation explores relationships between sudden-onset natural disasters, conflicts, and human rights. The presentation emphasizes the necessity of incorporating of human rights into natural disaster response. Highlighting human rights acts not only to confirm the rights and dignity of vulnerable individuals but also to prevent conflicts among populations in the aftermath of disasters.

United Nations Development Programme. (2004). *A Global Report: Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from http://www.planat.ch/fileadmin/PLANAT/planat_pdf/alle/R0285e.pdf

This report of the UNDP focuses on development choices made by individuals, communities and countries that increase the risk of new disasters. The report illustrates that human development is capable of contributing to disaster risk, and highlights examples of best practices in the context of disaster risk reduction, which can be part of future and ongoing development planning policies.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Disaster-Conflict Interface: Comparative Experiences*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/DisasterConflict72p.pdf>

This UNDP report based on case studies conducted in nine different countries focuses on the intersections between conflicts and disasters. The study analyzed tendencies and experiences from the correlation between conflicts and disasters. Furthermore, the study recognized the successes of programs adopted in disaster- and conflict-prone countries, and identified useful and good approaches.

United Nations Development Programme. (2010). *Evaluation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Contribution to Disaster Prevention and Recovery*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from <http://erc.undp.org/evaluationadmin/manageevaluation/viewevaluationdetail.html?evalid=4782#>

Conducted by the UNDP Evaluation Office, this report examines the work and contribution of the UNDP in disaster risk management and recovery since 2000, specifically the relevance and effectiveness of achieving development results, as well as the efficiency of institutional and programming arrangements. The evaluation gives insights into and an analysis of UNDP policies and strategies on national and international levels, including case studies of several nations. The report also evaluates the cooperation of the UNDP with other United Nations agencies, including UNDP managerial and technical support in disaster prevention and recovery.

United Nations Development Programme. (2007). Human Development Report 2007/2008: Links between Natural Disasters, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Critical Perspective. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-8/papers/Seck_Papa.pdf

This critical report questions the links between natural disasters and human development, and argues that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a critical component of sustainable development. Most important the report highlights the dualistic nature of hazards: natural and man-made, with man-made hazards often intensified by the development process. The paper argues that a set of barriers related to political and strategic incentives following the onset of natural disasters often complicates DRR financing and influences the perceptions and financing of DRR strategies.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Preventing Crisis, Enabling Recovery: Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Annual Report 2011*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/preventing-crisis--enabling-recovery--bcpr-annual-report-2011/>

The 2011 Annual Report focuses on the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), an entity of the UNDP, which enables communities and nations to prevent and reduce the risk of crisis, and provides help and support during crises. The report emphasizes the BCPR's four key comparative advantages: prevention of disasters and conflicts; strengthening of development in post-crisis countries; rapid response; and strengthening coherence of international response.

United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Human Dimension of Environmental Change - Vulnerability of People and the Environment: Challenges and Opportunities*. Retrieved August 31, 2012 from http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/07_Vulnerability_of_People.pdf

Thusly, vulnerability is a source of environmental and socio-economic challenges not limited by national boundaries, cultural demarcation, and industrial innovation a multidimensional paradox the gravity of which cannot be overstated. Overall, addressing the presented challenges will contribute to the human well being and help to meet the MDGs. Further, implementation ranging from basic human rights to development aid and such would ultimately reduce vulnerability and increase human well-being.

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III. Strengthening Development Cooperation for Poverty Reduction: The Empowerment of Microfinance and Local Entrepreneurship

“Microfinance is one of the practical development strategies and approaches that should be implemented and supported to attain the bold ambition of reducing world poverty by half”²²²

Understanding Development Cooperation

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seriously committed, first to fighting against poverty (MDG1), and second to promoting development around the world through global partnership (MDG8), as these are two of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²²³ These goals have been present in many of UNDP’s projects, especially in recent times when countries have experienced increased financial and economic difficulties.²²⁴ Given that the MDGs should be achieved by 2015, it is relevant that UNDP deals with Development Cooperation in order to put an end to the boundaries that prevent some countries in the world from achieving sustainable growth and prosperity.²²⁵ In the year 2004, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan emphasized the urgent need to achieve the MDGs since 20% of the world’s population was living daily with less than 1\$.²²⁶ He therefore established the Commission on the Private Sector and Development to deal with the empowerment of entrepreneurship and the engagement of the private sector in promoting development.²²⁷ Composed of experts from various countries, the Commission has helped tremendously in clarifying how important and intrinsically connected the private sector is to achieving the alleviation of poverty.²²⁸ Since then, UNDP has worked even more intensively on projects and programs that include the partnership of countries and enterprises. Indeed, from the multi-lateral approach, in the year 2012, it was possible for the United Nations to state that poverty rates in all developing countries had fallen for the first time in the world.²²⁹ Secretary-General Ban-Ki-Moon confirmed that Global Partnership was being achieved and that other MDGs were being achieved well ahead of 2015, despite the economic crisis.²³⁰

The dialogue between different development partners was first affirmed as essential when the Development Cooperation Forum was established in 2005 (DCF).²³¹ With this, not only cooperation between different sectors was recognized to be important, but also countries’ multi-level cooperation.²³² The UNDP has been present in the DCF as a member of its Advisory Group, and has especially helped the forum to foster both South-South and Decentralized Cooperation (DC).²³³ In 2012, the UNDP, along with the Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development (ART Initiative), supported the growing relevance of this type of cooperation in the DCF, and the “Going Local: the Potentiality of Decentralized Cooperation” was created.²³⁴

The local-level approach has been essential in UNDP’s work to promote development and fight against poverty.²³⁵ Indeed, the Thematic Trust Funds (TTFs) are a tool created within the UNDP’s 2008-2013 Strategic Plan to allow

²²² United Nations Millennium Project, *Investing in Development*, N.D./N.A.

²²³ United Nations Millennium Development Goals, *Web site*, 2012.

²²⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Towards Human Resilience: Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty*, 2011, p. xi.

²²⁵ United Nations Development Programme’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. i.

²²⁶ United Nations Development Programme’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. i.

²²⁷ United Nations Development Programme’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. i.

²²⁸ United Nations Development Programme’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 5.

²²⁹ United Nations News Centre, *Global Partnership Key to Achieving Millennium Development Goals by 2015*, 2012.

²³⁰ United Nations News Centre, *Global Partnership Key to Achieving Millennium Development Goals by 2015*, 2012.

²³¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council’s Development Cooperation Forum, *Web site*, 2012.

²³² United Nations Development Programme Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development, *Side Event Report*, 2012.

²³³ United Nations Development Programme Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development, *Side Event Report*, 2012.

²³⁴ United Nations Development Programme Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development, *Side Event Report*, 2012.

²³⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. i.

contributors to give extra support to global, regional, and country programs, according to different topics.²³⁶ With the TTFs, the topics that UNDP considers priorities receive better attention. The Poverty Thematic Trust Fund (PTTF) is an example of these works, and it has been working since 2001 in the implementation of policies and strategies to benefit market development in local areas by giving support to small enterprises and to low-income households.²³⁷ According to its Annual Report from 2011, through the provision of technological and commercial analysis, the PTTF has been able to strengthen the production of small farmers in Georgia, and to improve the living conditions of the 19 poorest small cities of Nicaragua.²³⁸ With scale-up logic, the PTTF has achieved to identify successful local pilot projects and extend them to other areas spreading development sustainable over time.²³⁹

Another factor linked to cooperation is the emergence of innovative financing for development. Although Financing for Development was defined in the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, in the present there is no concrete definition for innovative financing.²⁴⁰ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) considers 'innovative financing' a vast range of mechanisms connected to the private sector to stimulate actions and/or raise funds to aim international development.²⁴¹ For this, the UNDP has been equally engaged in projects related to microfinance. Microfinance has proven to be an important innovative means to fund development and end poverty.²⁴² It has been evident that through financial services, families have seen their lives improved, and communities have renewed themselves.²⁴³ In fact, in 2005 great benefits were observed when the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Microcredit: 48 % of those with access to microcredit loans in Bangladesh rose from the poverty line; some clients doubled their income in Bolivia in just two years; and 93% of Brazilian micro entrepreneurs boosted profitable business.²⁴⁴

Unfortunately, basic financial services are available to only a small part of the 4 billion people in the world living with less than \$1400 a year.²⁴⁵ Although there is demand, microfinance institutions have to be strengthened in those communities where poverty blocks entrepreneurial enthusiasm of its citizens.²⁴⁶ Indeed, in some parts of the world, the cooperation between the private and the public sectors is seriously desired as it means the first step towards the end of poverty.²⁴⁷ The OECD estimates that nearly \$31 billion has been raised for innovative financing from 2002 and 2011, but a lot more can be achieved with the extension of Development Cooperation.²⁴⁸

Trade Capacity for Human Development

The UNDP has observed that well-succeeded development cooperation led countries' transformational change expand to other sub regional levels.²⁴⁹ Transformational Change is defined by the UNDP as the process in which positive results related to development are accomplished and carried out over time while being sustainable and compatible with national strategies.²⁵⁰ This means it is not related to a temporary achievement but consists of a long-term investment that enables development cooperation to settle.²⁵¹ In order to achieve growth sustained over time, the UNDP has given special attention to developing countries so that they can trade and negotiate with other

²³⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund – Annual Report*, 2010, p. 2.

²³⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. i.

²³⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 9.

²³⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 10.

²⁴⁰ United Nations, *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*, 2002.

²⁴¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Discussion Paper – Innovative Financing for Development: A New Model for Development Finance?*, 2012, p. 7.

²⁴² International Year of Microcredit 2005, *Web site*, 2012.

²⁴³ International Year of Microcredit 2005, *Web site*, 2012.

²⁴⁴ United Nations Department of Public Information, *International Year of Microcredit 2005 – Fact Sheet*, 2004.

²⁴⁵ International Year of Microcredit 2005, *Web site*, 2012.

²⁴⁶ International Year of Microcredit 2005, *Web site*, 2012.

²⁴⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Discussion Paper – Innovative Financing for Development: A New Model for Development Finance?*, 2012, p. 22.

²⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Discussion Paper – Innovative Financing for Development: A New Model for Development Finance?*, 2012, p. 22.

²⁴⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 8.

²⁵⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 7.

²⁵¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 7.

countries, and be better integrated in the global economy.²⁵² The UNDP has closely monitored countries' trade capacity to articulate their policies and partnerships to strengthen strategies for their mutual exchange.²⁵³

The work done by the PTF together with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a multi-donor program supporting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) created within the WTO, and the Geneva Trade and Human Development Unit (GTHDU), which is in charge of managing UNDP's contribution to the EIF, has been particularly relevant to many countries.²⁵⁴ These organizations have been present in most of the LDCs in the world, and have successfully supported capacity building activities in these countries aiming to implement and improve the future trade relations between them.²⁵⁵ This implementation of trading has at the same time contributed to human development and poverty reduction.²⁵⁶ Indeed, Development Cooperation is dependent on significant investment in human resources to be sustained in time. In 2012, the UNDP has expressed how important it is to recognize the link between human development and sustainability.²⁵⁷ Investing in individuals' capacities and empowering their mutual trade is necessary to boost entrepreneurship and achieve development.²⁵⁸

Empowering Microfinance

Because the role of human investment is essential in sustaining development throughout time, it is equally important that people have access to financial services in order for them to manage their own economic resources.²⁵⁹ By promoting the private sector and creating wealth, microfinance encourages self-sufficient activities in terms of funding that turn out to be a great solution to poverty in low-income countries.²⁶⁰ Microfinance has made it possible for some families to cope with economic fluctuation such as periods of drought or of unemployment threats.²⁶¹ Communities more vulnerable to economic difficulties and crises were enabled to save money for future proper years, start new small companies, and improve and/or innovate old ones, even in rural and least-proper areas.²⁶² Moreover, since in some societies loans are preferable when given to women for membership in groups that support their solvency, microcredits have contributed to female participation in businesses.²⁶³

For many countries, microfinance is the single means left to achieve most of the MDGs by 2015.²⁶⁴ By deepening and widening their financial structures, countries finally have at their disposal the tools to carry out a long-lasting productive environment for their people.²⁶⁵ The United Nations Millennium Project, commissioned by the Secretary-General in 2002 to develop a concrete action plan to achieve the MDGs, presents some strategies to accelerate the accomplishment of the MDGs by building strong financial sectors in the most impoverished countries.²⁶⁶ Through this, millions of families are abandoning the poverty line, and successfully walking towards its eradication.²⁶⁷

It is important to notice that microfinance and entrepreneurship are closely related. The Women's World Bank for example is an institution that has empowered the role of women entrepreneurs in countries like India and Morocco by facilitating their access to microcredits.²⁶⁸ Microfinance is not only about conceding loans, but also building an entrepreneurial environment to help people start their business.²⁶⁹ It also changes society as microfinance impulses a

²⁵² United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trusty Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 10.

²⁵³ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trusty Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 11.

²⁵⁴ Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for trade-related assistance for Least Developed Countries (LDC), *Web site*, 2012.

²⁵⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trusty Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 11.

²⁵⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Poverty Thematic Trusty Fund – Annual Report*, 2011, p. 12.

²⁵⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Reports Web site*, 2012.

²⁵⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Reports Web site*, 2012.

²⁵⁹ United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals*, 2005, p. 14.

²⁶⁰ United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals*, 2005, p. 6.

²⁶¹ United Nations Millennium Project, *Investing in Development - A Practical Plan to Achieve the MDGs*, 2005, p.182.

²⁶² United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals*, 2005, p. 6.

²⁶³ Novogratz, J., *The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and the Poor in an Interconnected World*, 2009, p. 8.

²⁶⁴ United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals*, 2005, p. 3.

²⁶⁵ United Nations Capital Development Fund, *Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals*, 2005, p. 5.

²⁶⁶ United Nations Millennium Project, *Web site*, 2012.

²⁶⁷ United Nations Millennium Project, *Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the MDGs*, 2005, p.135.

²⁶⁸ Women's World Bank, *About Women's World Bank Web site*, 2012.

²⁶⁹ Women's World Bank, *Meat Clients of Our Network Members Web site*, 2012.

broader system of financial products, and gives support to those in need to come out of poverty creating a safe economic net.²⁷⁰

Local Entrepreneurship

People who aim to improve their living situations should always give special attention to entrepreneurship. Some consider entrepreneurship to be the heart of a market.²⁷¹ An entrepreneur is after all the person who decides how to combine resources in order to make a business profitable for a longer time.²⁷² Entrepreneurship is therefore indispensable in the promotion of development since it allows investments to flourish, and the creation of capital goods for further production.²⁷³ Local entrepreneurship can create employment, boost economic growth, and make firms more productive with fewer costs. Indeed in developing countries, small and medium businesses are the ones with greater capacity to set a strong private sector, as they are more flexible and prone to innovation.²⁷⁴ Although global companies can also be important in creating a rigid entrepreneurial environment in developing countries, impoverished people are usually the ones recognized as the real entrepreneurs of a society.²⁷⁵ Because of extreme necessity and lack of opportunities, although sometimes operating informally, a great amount of very poor people make use of their creativity to start new enterprises.²⁷⁶ These firms, if endowed with the correct investment and incentive, are often capable of reaching people and places that governments commonly don't get to, and changing a whole community by bringing economic growth.²⁷⁷

Entrepreneurship furthermore plays a role in gender equality. Women are in many developing countries the majority of micro-entrepreneurs.²⁷⁸ In the Philippines for example, women own almost half of the microenterprises, and this rate even increases to 80% if only rural areas are taken into consideration.²⁷⁹ On the other hand though, disparity between sexes might be strongly reflected in entrepreneurial activities; in Zimbabwe, where women are on the lead of two thirds of the micro and small enterprises in the country, men still earn significantly more than women and can more likely hire more employees.²⁸⁰

Threats and Difficulties

Although it is very difficult to estimate its magnitude, it is known that the present economic and financial crisis has an impact in terms of global investment all around the world.²⁸¹ Food shortages that started in 2007 and are still present nowadays have given a new beginning to protectionist swings that led to volatile prices and even stronger reduction of the world supply.²⁸² In 2008, the Doha Round (also known as the Doha Development Agenda) took place as an attempt to strengthen multilateral trade negotiations especially with developing countries, hoping to offer a way to overcome the crisis through global commerce and partnership.²⁸³ The Doha Round was launched by the

²⁷⁰ Women's World Bank, *About Women's World Bank Web site*, 2012.

²⁷¹ Murphy, R., *Lessons for the Young Economist*, 2012, p. 145.

²⁷² Murphy, R., *Lessons for the Young Economist*, 2012, p. 147.

²⁷³ Murphy, R., *Lessons for the Young Economist*, 2012, p. 397

²⁷⁴ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 9.

²⁷⁵ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 8.

²⁷⁶ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 8.

²⁷⁷ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 9.

²⁷⁸ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 9.

²⁷⁹ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 9.

²⁸⁰ United Nations Development Programme's Commission on the Private Sector and Development, *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, 2004, p. 9.

²⁸¹ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 71.

²⁸² United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 24.

²⁸³ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 23.

World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2001 to establish negotiations, especially between developing countries, to discuss topics related to agriculture, intellectual property, and agreements related to free trade implementation, as well as their issues and services.²⁸⁴ Nevertheless this initial plan of the Doha Round failed as negotiations collapsed and protectionist sentiments increased.²⁸⁵ Moreover, the economic and financial crisis hindered the achievement of the MDGs as the gap between the current situation and the aim of the Doha Round on reinforcing the international trading system has widened.²⁸⁶ As a component of the MDG-8, the empowerment of private-public partnerships is a necessary means to market access and to help all countries, in particular developing ones, getting over the crisis and grow.²⁸⁷

Moreover, investment in human capital is also an important factor when it comes to entrepreneurship and development. In 2001, the OECD followed up Nobel Laureate Theodore Schultz's classic study on how education and training are linked to economic efficiency and growth.²⁸⁸ The OECD confirmed that education seems to be an incentive for work results and productivity not only in the labor-market, but that it also brings non-economic benefits as expertise is passed over in families and communities.²⁸⁹ Indeed, the most important part of an economy is given by the added value from its people, by the skills and knowledge implicit in their work.²⁹⁰ Through labor, human beings are the determinant factor for a positive outcome in all countries' wealth.²⁹¹ To have its people educated and instructed is a goal that all countries should seek to achieve.

Similarly, entrepreneurs cannot ignore the role that savings play in development.²⁹² For an economy to grow sustainably, it is important that its enterprises, especially those whose funds come from microcredits, focus on increasing capital goods.²⁹³ In order to achieve financial independence from economic aid, enterprises need adequate technological know-how so that they improve and expand their production.²⁹⁴ Capital accumulation through savings is an indispensable factor in the achievement of long-term market-driven expansion.²⁹⁵ Since savings are the means to both paying back microcredit loans and investing in capital goods for future sustainable productions, countries should stimulate this action for the production of wealth and development.²⁹⁶ The intimate connection between savings and development has long been known in the economic science.²⁹⁷ It is only possible to create future consumption and financial independence through policies that look to conserve productive power.²⁹⁸

Case Study: Microfinance in Mongolia

Since Mongolia's move towards democracy in 1991 the country has aimed to invest in human development through implementing a market economy and its entailed institutional changes.²⁹⁹ Since 1997, the UNDP has helped Mongolia in creating a sustainable financial structure to guarantee a sound provision of microcredits to the most impoverished people. With the creation of XacBank, low-income people had the opportunity of experiencing economic growth as the private sector increased to 75% of the country's GDP.³⁰⁰ The XacBank is a non-bank financial institution (NBFI) created by the UNDP to independently give support to its projects operating on a market

²⁸⁴ World Trade Organization, *The Doha Round Web site*, 2012.

²⁸⁵ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 25.

²⁸⁶ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 36.

²⁸⁷ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, 2009, p. 68.

²⁸⁸ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Economics Department Web site*, 2012.

²⁸⁹ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Economic Outlook and Analysis Forecasts*, N.D., p. 3.

²⁹⁰ Schultz, T., *Investment in Human Capital*, 1961, p. 3.

²⁹¹ Schultz, T., *Investment in Human Capital*, 1961, p. 2.

²⁹² Murphy, R., *Lessons for the Young Economist*, 2012, p. 163.

²⁹³ Mises, L., *Human Action*, 1998, p. 292.

²⁹⁴ Mises, L., *Human Action*, 1998, p. 293.

²⁹⁵ Böhm-Bawerk, E., *The Positive Theory of Capital*, 2007, p. 119.

²⁹⁶ Böhm-Bawerk, E., *The Positive Theory of Capital*, 2007, p. viii

²⁹⁷ Böhm-Bawerk, E., *The Positive Theory of Capital*, 2007, p. 100 and 116.

²⁹⁸ Böhm-Bawerk, E., *The Positive Theory of Capital*, 2007, p. 101

²⁹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 18.

³⁰⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 18.

basis, through microfinance.³⁰¹ Through XacBank, small and medium industries, especially those related to mining, received considerable sums. The liberalization of the market in the country was accompanied by its political change, by the restructuring of its currency, and by the geographic spread of its financial structure.³⁰²

Mongolia's transformational change was nevertheless not easily implemented as the access to microcredit services, mainly in rural areas, needed to be extended and improved. A change in the relationship between Mongolia's government and its financial sector was also necessary as regulations had to be adapted into more adequate ones. Interest rates for example had to be set to more realistic and commercial levels to facilitate the provision of microcredits; this enabled Mongolians to both make loans and to implement microcredit practices (like the customs of saving and the further paying back of loans).³⁰³ With access to financial resources, Mongolians were able to express their entrepreneurial skills and create a better environment for the future of their communities.³⁰⁴ Both in rural and urban areas, MDG indicators in the country have significantly improved, as for example the HDI.³⁰⁵ Moreover, development that had been first pushed in the financial sector spread to other sectors in an always-increasing progress cycle.³⁰⁶

UNDP's support stopped in 2001 recognizing the successful work it had achieved, although also admitting there was still a lot to be done.³⁰⁷ Not only in Mongolia but all over the world peoples' impoverishment is an issue that still needs constant attention. Because of this, more and more worldwide NGOs are using the investment model to fight poverty in emerging countries. Nowadays, there are at least 199 organizations internationally promoting microfinance.³⁰⁸ In Mongolia, it is estimated that at least 126 non-bank financial institutions are present in the country.³⁰⁹ There is no doubt that the implementation of microfinance contributed to a better quality of life for thousands of inhabitants.³¹⁰ Rural workers (47 % of XacBank's clients) were the most favored ones as their living conditions improved; loans increased in the country 43 times, and savings 25 times.³¹¹

Microfinance in Mongolia originated a program called MicroStart that was further incorporated to the UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in the Special Union for Microfinance (SUM).³¹² This program has been present in many other countries like Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Egypt, and has collaborated with 68 microfinance institutions (MFIs).³¹³ Indeed, the UNDP is not only related to MicroStart but it has also carried out some very important microfinance projects in countries like Jamaica, Ethiopia, Syria, etc.³¹⁴ In some of these countries, entrepreneurship was clearly pushed by the entrance of microcredits into the country. In Armenia for example, over 600 start-up entrepreneurs were trained and financed by the UNDP.³¹⁵

³⁰¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p.20.

³⁰² United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p.18.

³⁰³ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 20.

³⁰⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 21.

³⁰⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 23.

³⁰⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 25.

³⁰⁷ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 20.

³⁰⁸ Koh, H., A. Karamchandani, R. Katz, *From Blueprint to Scale*, 2012, p. 2

³⁰⁹ United Nations Development Programme, *Microfinance in Mongolia Web site*, 2012.

³¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 20.

³¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 23.

³¹² United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 25.

³¹³ United Nations Development Programme, *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*, 2011, p. 25.

³¹⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Empowered lives. Resilient nations. People-centred Development. Web site*, 2011.

³¹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Empowered lives. Resilient nations. People-centred Development. Web site*, 2011.

Conclusion

It is undeniable that microfinance is been helping countries to end poverty and achieve most of the MDGs all around the world. It is also proven that microfinance has helped entrepreneurship, what is been leading to countries' economic growth and development in the long-run. Although the access to countries' financial sector is sometimes complicated, in fact, microfinance has grown rapidly in the last years.³¹⁶ Therefore, in the UNDP Committee delegates should ask themselves what countries can do to facilitate its further expansion and successful support, and what policies they can take to enable and encourage small and medium enterprises to grow prosperously. Can the Doha Round be reinvigorated and reinforced? What can countries do to provide the adequate environment so that partnerships between the private and public sectors help further eradication of poverty?

³¹⁶ Koh, H., A. Karamchandani, R. Katz, *From Blueprint to Scale*, 2012, p. 2

Annotated Bibliography

Böhm-Bawerk, E. (1930). *The Positive Theory of Capital*. New York City, New York: G. E. Strechert.
Despite the year it was written, this book is a classic and very useful one to understand the use of money in investments in developing countries, and the empowerment of entrepreneurship. It describes the appropriate environment and background necessary for an economy to grow and for development in a country to be achieved. It also gives particular attention to society's work and the role of human labor in fighting controversial periods of the history.

International Year of Microcredit Web site. (2005). *Year of Microcredit*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from: http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/pages/reslib/reslib_inthenews.asp#070805

2005 was chosen by Kofi Annan to be the International Year of Microcredit. Because of this, this Web site was created and it is an important source of information for microfinance since then. In this Web site delegates will find a great amount of articles from all over the world, sharing different experiences countries and enterprises had with microcredits. It also includes relevant research from universities, NGOs, independent agencies and celebrities.

Mises, L. (1998). *Human Action*. Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute.

This is a very relevant document in economics and an essential one to comprehend entrepreneurship in depth. Although there are some theoretical parts, the book is a very practical one in all related to human cooperation. It is an extensive work of the relation between human beings and the financial world, and in this last revised edition it also counts with the participation of other well-known professors, as Hans H. Hoppe and Joseph T. Salerno.

Murphy, R. (2012). *Lessons for the Young Economist*. Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute.

This is a manual thought to young university students who are interested in economics. Its author is a PhD professor well-known in financial economics. The book explains important concepts related to entrepreneurship and the market, in a very simple way. Delegates not so experienced with the topic can therefore use it.

Novogratz, J. (2009). *The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World*. New York. Rodale.

This is the true story of Jacqueline Novogratz, a great supporter of microfinance in the world, who has shown how development can be sustainably achieved. This book describes difficulties and issues to have in mind once dealing with the promotion of development in some parts of the world. It is a very interesting book in order to have a global view of how cooperation and financial support should be like.

United Nations Capital Development Fund. (2005). *Microfinance and the Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved August 5, 2012 from www.yearofmicrocredit.org/docs/mdgdoc_MN.pdf

This paper explains how microfinance plays a key role in many MDG strategies, especially those related to the end of poverty. It therefore addresses many issues connected to the promotion of microfinance that could be easily used as subtopics: the problem of informal economy; the necessity of micro-saving; the participation of women in the market; local investment and entrepreneurship; etc. This document could give delegates a great range of innovative ideas to achieve the MDGs from the perspective of microfinance and entrepreneurship.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2004). *International Year of Microcredit 2005 – Fact Sheet*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/docs/MF_MDGs.pdf

Although this is a short document, it can be very useful for delegates. This fact sheet gives a general picture of what the International Year of Microcredit has done around the world. It describes some of the successful projects implemented in different countries and it gives a global perspective of what microcredit makes countries capable to achieve.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Case Studies of Sustained and Successful Development Cooperation - Support Transformational Change*. Retrieved August 6, 2012 from <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Cross-Practice%20generic%20theme/Supporting-Transformational-Change.pdf>

This is a document that focuses in Development Cooperation. Not only the complete definition of Development Cooperation is given, but also many examples and case studies of countries around the globe. This is therefore an essential text for a deep research on Mongolia's microfinance case. Indeed, not only microfinance is presented in the document as a tool for Development Cooperation, but many other ones, beyond the financial sector.

United Nations Development Programme. (2004, March 1). *Commission on the Private Sector & Development Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations*. Retrieved August 5, 2012 from <http://web.undp.org/cpsd/documents/report/english/fullreport.pdf>

This is a very important source of information for delegates to have a broad perspective of all contents of this topic. It shows how intrinsically connected are Development Programmes and the Private Sector in the fight against poverty. This document also explains how the promotion of entrepreneurship is essential in order for countries to grow, since it consists in higher employment for many countries. It mentions also "three basic pillars" for entrepreneurship that are worth discussing: the necessity of the rule of law as the protection of enterprises and workers; the access to financing based on the importance of investment and domestic savings; and finally, the access to skills and knowledge, as human capital is a prerequisite for economies to grow.

United Nations Development Programme. (2012). *Innovative Financing for Development: A New Model for Development Finance?*. Retrieved August 5, 2012 from http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/Development%20Cooperation%20and%20Finance/InnovativeFinancing_Web%20ver.pdf

The cooperation between the public and the private sector and other market-based mechanisms countries could take, proved to be efficient accelerating development and improving economic growth. It has also resulted in a more sustainable type of development, expanding throughout time. The text gives many examples of well-succeeded public-private actions. It aims to explore different ways to achieve countries' development by the partnership between governments and enterprises.

United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Poverty Thematic Trust Fund: 2011 Annual Report*. Retrieved August 5, 2012 from www.undp.org/.../Poverty%20Reduction/PTTF2011draft8_web.pdf

The Poverty Thematic Trust Fund is dealt in this document, and the actions it has taken in order to promote projects and initiatives to support of local level policies and strategies of the private sector and market development. It also gives many examples of countries where these policies were extremely well-succeeded that could be used as case studies. The most valuable idea behind this paper is the importance it gives to same-level cooperation and dialogue, important in the promotion of local entrepreneurship. It expresses how trading capacity depends on human development and investment.

United Nations Development Programme Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development. (2012). *Side Event Report – Third Biennial High Level Development Cooperation Forum*. Retrieved August 18, 2012 from http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf12/DCF_art_report.pdf

This is a very recent document that deals with the cooperation between different territorial levels in terms of development. This document expresses UN's intention of promoting partnerships between international actors not only beyond governmental level, but also towards local approaches inside the countries. Moreover, it explains the works of the Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development (ART) Initiative that is present nowadays in 18 countries.

United Nations Development Programme's Bureau for Development Policy. (2011). *Towards Human Resilience: Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty*. Retrieved August 17, 2012 from http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/Towards_SustainingMDG_Web1005.pdf

This document from 2009 is a key to understand what the financial sector can do to promote development in countries, especially in difficult economic times. It shows how investment can be carried out, even in least developed countries. It deals with very important issues in what investment for development is concerned, like South-South Partnerships, Foreign Direct Investment, Remittances, etc. It is a very good text for going more in depth in the topic.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. (2009). *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*. Retrieved August 21, 2012 from https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_Gap_%20Task_Force_%20Report_2009.pdf

The Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force was created by UN Secretary- General to coordinate the work of the UN different agencies, and promote their mutual collaboration in pursuing the MDG. This document's perspective also focuses in the difficulties brought by the economic and financial crisis. It is very useful and important source in matters of partnership, market access and trade.

United Nations Millennium Project. (2005). *Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved August 18, 2012 from <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/MainReportComplete-lowres.pdf>

The United Nations Millennium Project was created to find means for the best accomplishment of the MDGs. Because of this, and working with total independence from other bodies of the UN, this Project is an attempt of giving a sincere and feasible solutions to the difficulties in the pursuit of the MDGs. The relevance of this text is the comprehension of the importance of public and private cooperation.

United Nations News Centre. (2012). *Global Partnership Key to Achieving Millennium Development Goals by 2015 – UN Report*. Retrieved August 18, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42372&Cr=mdg&Cr1=>

The United Nations News Centre is the main source of information within everything that happens inside the UN. This web site can be therefore the main tool for delegates to be updated. Also, it tracks previous articles related to certain topics for what it is very easy to have an outstanding perspective of what has been published. Lastly, with this particular article in the MDGs, delegates are able to see Secretary-Generals' opinion related to their achievement by 2015.

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Rules of Procedure

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the Executive Board”) and shall be considered adopted by the Board 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 Executive Board.
5. All substantive decisions taken by the Executive Board shall be communicated to the Economic and Social Council Plenary Session for review.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

The Executive Board shall meet in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - Place of sessions

The Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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, every member is required to 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Executive Board 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 Executive Board, and shall distribute documents of the Executive Board to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board.

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

For purposes of this rule, members of the Executive Board 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 Executive Board, 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board

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

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. 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board, 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 Executive Board.

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

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Executive Board'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 Executive Board.

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 Executive Board favors the closure of debate, the Executive Board 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 Executive Board [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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Executive Board 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 Executive Board, 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Executive Board 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 - Consensus

1. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged.
2. In the case of a vote, decisions of the Executive Board shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting, unless specified otherwise in these rules.
3. 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 Executive Board 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 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

Any State member of UNDP or UNFPA who is not a member of the Executive Board may attend Board meetings and may participate in its deliberations without the right to vote. The Executive Board may invite, when it considers it appropriate, representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and any other organizations of the United Nations system to participate in the deliberations, in particular for questions that relate to their activities or those involving coordination questions.

If the Executive Board 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 Executive Board according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the Executive Board 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 Executive Board when his or her presence in the Executive Board is no longer required.

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

The Executive Board may invite, when it considers it appropriate, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate in its deliberations for questions that relate to their activities.